

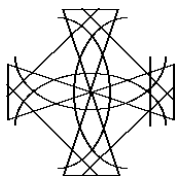


Explanation of School Logo

Parts of the Logo:

The High School of the Pacific derives its present logo from three primary elements. One part consists of two curved outside arrows drawn in complimentary semi-circles. These form an outer border which surrounds the depiction of a heart. Superimposed on the heart is a visually striking set of line drawings. This chart, along with the arrows and the heart, denote important symbolism for the High School of the Pacific (HSP).

The arrows are representative of the goals of give-and-take. Or, put in another way, they express the necessity of reciprocity in human relationships that is required by all societies in order to form the foundation of peaceful interaction.



Inside the arrows are the set of lines and the heart. The lines have two-fold symbolism. First, these lines form a central diagram, a “stick chart”. This part is actually a line drawing representation of a system of ocean navigation widely recognized by many Pacific cultures. Men of the sea traditionally relied on this type of “map” for safe navigation to and from other islands throughout Oceania. This specific diagram is from the Marshallese stick chart system of navigation.

Four Position Representation of the Family:

The choice and continued use of this specific chart within the HSP logo has to do with the fact that its system of intersecting lines forms four outer positions that could be seen to characterize the roles and relationships within an ideal human family. The four positions of top, bottom, right and left indicate grandparents in the upper position with father and mother on the right and left. Then the fourth position is that of children. The heart within the logo symbolizes God’s true love that fosters and grows so as to encompass the entire family. This harmonious expression is realized when the grandparents, parents, and children are successfully united in mutual love, trust and respect.

Further Significance of the Stick Chart:

What is largely unknown outside Pacific island seafaring cultures is that stick charts were at the heart of a very sophisticated understanding of natural sciences. To be a trained navigator required extensive knowledge of sailing through the utilization of the stars, weather, and ocean currents. Moreover, highly developed skills of analysis were required to interpret the naturally occurring patterns of: ocean bioluminescence, moon phases, tides, and a veritable host of other mechanisms. This included the ability to identify a variety of bird species (along with general knowledge of their migratory routes and general travel habits) so as to approximate distance to land.

The complexity of integrating the diverse array of data into precise navigational aids required knowledge skills that are also deeply rooted in mathematics, e.g., for travel approximations, load calculations, provisioning estimates, distance assessments, and so forth. Navigators held sway over the lives of all on board and so their word was akin to law when it came to deciding what would be allowed on long voyages. There were exacting needs for water, foodstuffs and other cargo. Caution was at the extreme in making calculations for the long journey. Even a small mistake could be catastrophic since there was no margin for error once the voyage had begun.

The Position of Navigator:

To be a navigator was a highly prized position in Pacific island cultures. To hold such a prestigious title required rigorous seamanship training, excellent health, the honing of organizational abilities and character-building. That is, being “smart” and in top physical form was simply not enough. Given the need to control crew and passengers, such a position meant that this person must be able to exhibit strong leadership in order to overcome any crisis that might occur at sea.

The Role of Faith:

One other representative aspect of the stick chart has to do with the fact that the island peoples have always been religious. Regardless of particulars in the variety of beliefs that could be found within Oceania, the simple fact of the matter is that long voyages required a great deal of ceremony, which culminated in the bestowing of a blessing by the local priest.

This blessing was not a casual affair and was necessary to instill confidence in the travelers that they would be protected. In a very real sense, the courage to launch a vessel and ride the ocean still came from faith in powers unseen. When Christianity was introduced to the island nations there was little difficulty in migrating their religious disciplines to the new ways. It was this deep sense of spiritual connectedness to the vast oceans and island groups around them that gave them uncompromising power to sail as no other peoples had done.

With adequate training, faith, and using the earlier-described system of navigation, the Pacific islanders were able to transport people, livestock, agricultural products and a variety of goods across thousands of miles of open waters successfully. The fact that such voyages were fairly routine makes the island peoples’ long-distance seafaring all the more extraordinary.

The Ocean as a Connector of Peoples:

Western peoples often saw the ocean as a barrier, an obstacle to be conquered. To island peoples, the ocean was like a wide highway that stretched as far as the eye could see and beyond. It could take you wherever you might wish to go. So the ocean did not separate and divide, rather it was the medium connecting families, tribes and nations.

Granted, to an untrained eye, the vast Pacific seemingly had no discernable points of reference. Yet to the trained eye of the island navigator the various stick charts were like road maps showing island locations along with the wave patterns and currents that helped determine how to arrive at their destination. Without such a chart -- and an understanding of all the elements involved in setting a correct course -- then taking a craft out on the open ocean would be very foolhardy. Frankly, the feats accomplished by these ancient mariners remain unparalleled by western standards.

Implications of the Stick Chart in terms of History and Family Values:

It was through the unique mechanisms of islander social order that these “ocean roadmaps” were handed down from generation to generation. As the most basic of “societal building blocks”, families form the foundation of healthy societies. The island youth trusted in their elders that the training they received could mean the difference between life and death on the ocean. Respect for social authority was ingrained at an early age in the training regimen. For the most part, information was passed down orally through the ages by way of local “language arts”. Trust came about by way of strong relationships in the family wherein the traditions taught in the island communities bonded one generation to the next. Values were further cemented by religious beliefs.

Our use of the stick chart emphasizes the importance of education and tradition in shaping the future. That is, the stick chart connotes the significance of understanding, respecting, and maintaining the cultural values inherent in cohesive families and tribes to promote knowledge. The chart is therefore a symbol of the power of education in shaping history for the greater good, and history is what links the present to our roots in the past. So all things considered, the stick chart represents much more than a simple line drawing.

It is the best representation of oceanic peoples’ solid faith and character. The chart in the logo of HSP therefore represents the highest order of self-discipline, leadership ... and, by way of contemporary expression made manifest in islanders’ religious beliefs and ceremonies ... trust in God. It further represents the importance of attaining knowledge in the fields of science and mathematics manifest in their phenomenal abilities as expressed in their navigational and seamanship skills.

As an icon of history, the chart further represents the importance of imparting wisdom -- from those with life experience -- to the next generation, so that young people will have the essential advantage of a broad knowledge base as they start out their adult lives.

Symbolizing a Pathway to World Peace:

Yet even the full symbolism of the chart, in itself, is not enough. That is, faith, character and knowledge still require a means of practical application in this world. For this reason, the arrows of the logo indicate the importance of ethical interaction as well as harmonious giving and receiving. They also symbolize meaningful discussion and the communication necessary for achieving the goal of unity among all peoples. Moreover, give-and-take arrows speak to our belief that peoples of all racial,

national, and religious persuasions must continually endeavor to find ways for resolving conflicting differences peacefully, and do so based on unselfish thinking and behavior.

Our logo, having three distinct parts of a heart, internal chart and external arrows, therefore serves as a threefold metaphor symbolizing the need to train our youth in the importance of ethics, academics and the value of a loving family as the cornerstone of a successful society. This is necessary in order that the students one day be able to navigate “safely” on their own in life.

Logo is Central to School Philosophy:

The three aspects of the logo are therefore indicative of our commitment to insuring that “Today’s Students, Tomorrow’s Leaders”; gain critically essential social skills and academic training. The values we seek to impart during our students’ educational experience should ensure that that these young people will be able to master academic and social challenges as they embark on “life’s voyage”. Moreover, as future alumni of HSP, one can easily imagine that they will be able to network with one another so as to leverage their collective abilities.

It is our earnest hope and prayer that one day, as leaders within their respective nations, these fine individuals will succeed in establishing a model of prosperity and peace. Although their nations may be comparatively small in population size, each nation still has one full vote in the United Nations ... just like the largest countries. Should these future leaders choose to create a unified voting block -- for example a “United Island States of Oceania” -- then they will be able to make positive social change for the greater good of all humanity.

