



American International School of Costa Rica

*"To prepare responsible, confident leaders who embrace challenges and
succeed in a global society"*

School Profile

School and Community

The American International School of Costa Rica (AIS) was founded in 1970 as a private, co-educational, non-profit day school. Today, AIS serves approximately 210 students from more than 25 countries and offers a comprehensive college preparatory educational program from Pre-school to 12th grade. AIS serves the international business and diplomatic community of San Jose, as well as local students seeking an English language, US-style education. Current enrollment is composed of approximately 80% Central and South American students, 13% US and 7% other nationalities. All classes are taught in English except Spanish language classes, which are required at all grade levels from kindergarten to grade 12, and those offered as part of the local MEP (Costa Rican Public Ministry of Education) program. AIS offers special classes to support non-native English speakers and non-native Spanish speakers. However, entrance to middle and high school require prerequisite levels of English proficiency. AIS offer special programs for children with basic remediation needs as well as support programs for academically challenged students.

Mission Statement

The American International School of Costa Rica provides small-school instruction in a caring environment. Through student-centered instruction, we strive to meet the social, emotional, and intellectual needs of our students. We encourage character building, respect, and leadership. We value cultural diversity and the students' varied learning styles. AIS prepares students to succeed in higher education and the world at large.

Calendar

The academic year comprises of two semesters extending from August to December and mid-January to June. There is a five-week semester break during the months of December and January, and summer vacation extends from mid-June through early-August.

Accreditation

The American International School of Costa Rica is fully accredited by both Cognia (Previously known as AdvancED/ SACS, the largest accrediting agency in the U.S.) and the Costa Rican

Governance

AIS is a non-profit organization, governed by a Board of Directors consisting of eight members and the School's Director. All members must be parents of current AIS students. The Governing Board is "self-perpetuating" in nature, meaning that openings are filled by elections for a two-year term, and members may be re-elected.

Faculty and Administration

The Director supervises an instructional staff of 38 teachers, which includes specialists in guidance, music, art, computer, English as a second language, gifted, library, mild learning disabilities and classroom teacher aides.

Extracurricular Activities

AIS offers a variety of enrichment activities that supplements the regular instruction program. Community service projects, clubs based on student interest, and sports are among them. These include activities such as National Honor Society, Student Council (STUKO), music, MUN, gymnastics, martial arts, and ballet. The Athletic Program includes basketball, volleyball, and soccer.

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Curriculum / Diplomas

The educational program is that of a traditional United States college preparatory school. The language of instruction is English, with required courses for students seeking the Costa Rican Diploma taught in Spanish (**MEP classes**). The school program consists of five core subjects -Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Spanish, and Math- with additional classes in physical education, music, art, computers and robotics. Formal **Advanced Placement** courses are offered in 5 subjects, **AP Spanish Language, AP English Literature and Composition, AP English Language, AP Calculus AB, AP World History.**

Although the emphasis in the High School is on preparation for entrance to United States colleges or universities, many graduates are also admitted to universities in Costa Rica and other countries. **Students planning on pursuing post-secondary education in Costa Rica or who are undecided about where they will study (Costa Rica or abroad) are encouraged to take the MEP Program, which offers very rigorous courses in Spanish. Students without the Costa Rican Diploma will not be able to continue post-secondary education in Costa Rica.**

Graduation Requirements

The American International School of Costa Rica follows a typical U.S. college preparatory curriculum. A minimum of 25 credits is required for graduation.

To earn the Costa Rican Baccalaureate Diploma, twelfth-grade students will be tested by the Public Ministry of Education (MEP) in Math, English, Social Studies, Civics, Biology and Spanish. A combined average of these classes (grades 11 – 12) is valued at 40 % that will be combined with the 60% of the MEP exams to calculate final grade in the MEP exam. Students aspiring for this diploma must also submit, in writing, to be approved by MEP, a Community Service project of at least 30 hours by the end of their senior first semester.

To earn the U.S. High School Diploma, students must meet a minimum of twenty-six credits in grades 9-12. Four units of English, four units of Social Studies, two units of a foreign language, four units of Math, four units of Science, four units in practical and technical arts, three units in fine and performing arts, one unit of Physical Education, Social or Emotional safety and additional elective courses.

Standard Secondary Academic Sequence by Curricular Areas

Departments	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English Language Arts	English 9 English Honors 9	English 10	US Literature	US Literature II
		English Honors	AP English Language and Composition	AP English Literature and Composition
Spanish Language Arts	Spanish 9 Spanish Honors 9	Spanish 10 MEP AP Spanish Literature	Spanish 11 MEP	Spanish 12 MEP
Math	Geometry 9 Geom. Hon 9	Algebra II Algebra II Honors	Pre-Calculus Pre-Calculus Honors Math MEP	Math 12 MEP AP Calculus AB Calculus 12
Social Studies	Geography Geography Honors	Social Studies MEP US History I US History I Honors	US History II US History II Honors Estudios Sociales MEP	Civics MEP US Govt/Econ AP Psychology
Science	Science 9 Science Hon 9	Physics 10 Chemistry 10 Biology 10	Chemistry II Science MEP Pre-AP Biology	Physics II Biology MEP II Biology II

MEP – Costa Rican Ministry of Education courses.

All science courses include 1 hour of laboratory per week, equivalent to 20% of the class content.

Grading and Class Rank

The grading scale is based on a 0 - 100 points system. Students must earn a 70 or higher in order to pass a course. AIS weights advanced and honors courses and **do not rank its students**. Additionally, grade point average (GPA) is based on a 4.0 scale, and it's computed based only on the course work completed at AIS. Courses completed at other institutions are not listed on the transcript; however, a copy of the previous schools' documents are provided when available.

GPA Grading Scale

Effective Fall 2015

Grade	GPA		Honors Classes	AP Classes
99-100	A+	4.33	4.83	5.33
96-98	A	4.00	4.5	5.00
93-95	A-	3.67	4.17	4.67
90-92	B+	3.33	3.83	4.33
87-89	B	3.00	3.5	4.00
84-86	B-	2.67	3.17	3.67
81-83	C+	2.33	2.87	3.33
78-80	C	2.00	2.5	3.00
75-77	C-	1.67	2.17	2.67
73-74	D+	1.33	1.87	2.33
71-72	D	1.00	1.5	2.00
70	D-	0.67	1.17	1.67

GPA Grading Scale

Prior to Fall 2015

Grade	GPA		AP Classes
99-100	4.33	A+	5.33
96-98	4.00	A	5.00
93-95	3.67	A-	4.67
90-92	3.33	B+	4.33
87-89	3.00	B	4.00
84-86	2.67	B-	3.67
81-83	2.33	C+	3.33
78-80	2.00	C	3.00
75-77	1.67	C-	2.67
73-74	1.33	D+	2.33
71-72	1.00	D	2.00
70	0.67	D	1.67

Colleges and Universities

Traditionally, 100% of AIS graduates pursue higher education, either in Costa Rica or abroad. Shown below are the colleges and universities where our graduates have been enrolled.

Costa Rica

Universidad de Costa Rica

Universidad Earth

Universidad Latina

Universidad Veritas

Universidad ULACIT

Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica

United States

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Purdue University

Drexel University

Manhattan College

University of North Colorado

Kendall College

Georgia Southern University

Northern Arizona University

Florida International University

Saint John's University

Eastern New Mexico University

Long Island-Brooklyn Campus

Rollins College
Shenandoah University
University of Louisville
Mount Holyoke College
Kalamazoo College
The University of Arizona
Baylor University
The University of Central Florida
Florida International University
Eastern Arizona College
Mississippi State University
Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology
Westminster College
Virginia Military Institute
Webster University
Grace Bible College
Columbia College Chicago
Trevecca Nazarene University
Penn State
Boston University
Johnson and Wales University
Ithaca College
Syracuse University
Trinity College
Montessori Institute of San Diego
New York Institute of Technology
Florida Institute of Technology
Emerson College
University of North Dakota
Kenyon College

Other Countries

Universidad Antonio de Nebrija
The Hague University of Applied Sciences
University of Ontario Institute of Technology
University of Evansville
The University of the West Indies
Universidad de Navarra
Les Roches International School
Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey
Universidad Anáhuac
IE University
CEU Cardenal Herrera University
Universidad CEU San Pablo
Universidad Internacional de Catalunya
The Baltic International Academy
University of Groningen
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
Yonsei University
ESADE
Asian Pacific University
Brock University
University of Toronto