



An **inspired** school

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOL 2022-2023 HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE

<p>Costa Rica Street Address From the Multiplaza Escazú intersection, 1.2 km northwest on the right side, Guachipelín, Escazú, San José, Costa Rica.</p> <p>US Mailing Address Star Box 092, P.O. Box 025292, Miami, Florida 33102</p> <p>Main Office: +506-2215-2204 Counseling Office: +506-2215-2204 ~ Ext. 124</p> <p>Entire School Enrollment: 857 Middle & High School Faculty: 36 High School Enrollment (9A to 12A): 190 Seniors 11B & 12A: 61 es 11b+12a+12b Average class size: 19 Average Teacher Student Ratio: 23:1</p> <p>Webpage: www.bluevalley.ed.cr www.inspirededu.com</p>	<p>Administration</p> <p>General Director, Kathryn Scanlan Secondary School Principal, Irene Ortega irene.ortega@bluevalley.ed.cr</p> <p>Deputy Principal for High School & IB Diploma Coordinator Stuart Millar stuart.millar@bluevalley.ed.cr</p> <p>Deputy Principal for Middle School, Gisele Cordero gisele.cordero@bluevalley.ed.cr</p> <p>College Counselor, Silvia Moreno collegecounselor@bluevalley.ed.cr</p>	<p>Accreditations, Affiliations & Memberships</p> <p>New England Association of Schools and Colleges Ministerio de Educación Pública de Costa Rica International Baccalaureate Organization Association of Private Education Centers in Costa Rica National Honor Society Model United Nations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Visitation Policy</p> <p>Meetings scheduled with the respective counselor or director.</p> <p>CEEB Code: 834170 IBO Code: 001486 SAT Test Center: 89917 UCAS Center: 46755</p>
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SCHOOL, COMMUNITY AND STUDENTS

Founded in 1989, BVS is a private, co-educational, bilingual Pre-K to 12th grade school which offers a challenging integrated curriculum of Costa Rican and international curricula. Student nationalities: 67.2% are Costa Rican and 32.8% are international. While English is the language of instruction for the majority of the curriculum, Spanish is the social language and our students switch effortlessly between the two.

VISION

Become the school of choice for parents who expect and appreciate an excellent bilingual, holistic education for their children.

MISSION

To offer cutting-edge academic preparation and ensure that our students become individuals guided by a strong moral compass. A proper balance between the Humanities and the Sciences will support our academic goals, guided by the principle of a sound mind in a sound body. Blue Valley School models and teaches students to become architects of their destiny, wise decision makers, prudent risk takers, and active participants in local and global communities, safeguarding individual and collective rights and responsibilities inherent to a free society.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & DIPLOMAS

Costa Rica National Diploma (CRND) | Bachillerato en Educación Media: is earned at the end of 11B. Students must fulfill additional BVS requirements in order to graduate with this diploma.

High School Diploma (HSD): students must complete 2 semesters of United States History, complete 12th grade, and fulfill BVS standard requirements. Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP): prerequisites for this bilingual diploma commence in 10A and the formal 2-year program in 11A, culminating in 12B upon successful completion of the IB exams. Accredited by the International Baccalaureate Organization.

TWO SEMESTER CALENDAR SYSTEM: SPRING AND FALL

There are two graduating classes per year, one per semester: *June* for Spring and *December* for Fall. Semester promotion allows flexibility when determining a student's class placement and facilitates advancing or retaining students to better suit their needs.

HIGH SCHOOL ORGANIZATION / CLASS SCHEDULE

The academic year consists of 2 semesters: Spring (Feb. – June) and Fall (July – Dec.), which is approximately 185 days per year. There are 18 weeks in one semester and 19 weeks in the other for a total of 37. The instructional day starts at 7:15 and ends at 2:45, except for Wednesdays, when students are dismissed at 12:45.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Under school policy, any disciplinary infraction that results in an off-campus suspension or dismissal shall be reported to the institutions abroad to which our students apply.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

As in the majority of Costa Rica's secondary schools, BVS's academic curriculum is designed for students to graduate with a National Diploma after successfully completing 11th-grade. Students begin earning High School credits in 9A (High School), one weekly 60-minute period yields one credit. English, Spanish, Math, Science, and Social Studies are considered core courses. The

students are required to take at least one course from 3 different areas: Technology, Arts, and Vocational Development.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

All High School students are required to complete 60 hours of community service to graduate with any one of the 3 academic programs offered.

CORE COURSES

Students are required to have a selection of the following core courses in order to be awarded any one of the 3 diploma options.

DIPLOMA OPTIONS	YEARS REQUIRED		
	CRND	HSD	IBDP
English	3	3	3.5
Spanish	3	3	3.5
Math	3.5	3.5	4
Science	3.5	3.5	4
Social Studies	3.5	3.5	4
P.E.	3	3	3
Technology	2	2	2
US History (Elective)	0	1	0

SCIENCE

All students take one semester of each science course (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics). The fourth-semester course combines all three sciences together.

STATE UNIVERSITIES IN COSTA RICA PRE-CAL & CALCULUS

Mathematics (since FS2020) follows the UK National Curriculum, key stages 3 and 4. Key stage 3 in Middle School, and Key stage 4 in ninth and tenth. In tenth grade students are offered the opportunity to enroll in the national program MATEM for Precalculus and Calculus, each a one-year university-credit-granting curriculum provided by the TEC, and taught by BVS teachers. In eleventh grade, students will be divided into two groups according to the IB courses "Analysis and Approaches" or "Applications and Interpretation". Those students enrolled in MATEM Calculus should take "Analysis and Approaches". In twelfth grade, each student chooses the level, standard or higher, of their corresponding IB course.

BVS GRADING SCALE

BVS has a rigorous curriculum and stringent grading scale. Adapting BVS's grading system to a 4.0 GPA scale does not do justice to the effort students make in fulfilling the rigor of each course. Performance is stated in averages on a 100% scale to show the percentage of knowledge acquired per course. A 70 or higher is a passing grade.

Coursework taken solely at BVS from grades 9A (in Algebra, Biology, and English (8A & 8B) to 11B is used to calculate a per year cumulative GPA. Students who elect the bilingual IB Diploma continue on to 12B where the courses are solely part of the IB curriculum. To calculate a weighted grade, college courses (Pre-Calculus/calculus) and IB courses, which also fulfill national curriculum requirements, receive additional credit.

BVS Scale	4.0 Scale	Letter Grade	% Grade	IB Diploma Scale
100 +	4.0	A+	97-100	7 Excellent
90 - 100	4.0	A -	93-96	6 Very Good
	3.7	A	90-92	5 Good

85 - 89	3.3	B+	87-89	4 Satisfactory
	3.0	B	83-86	
75 - 84	2.7	B-	80-82	3 Mediocre
	2.3	C+	77-79	
70 - 74	2.0	C	73-76	2 Poor
	1.7	C-	70-72	
0 - 69	1.3	D+	67-69	1 Very Poor
	1.0	D	65-66	

4.0 scale based on the College Board conversion chart. IBD Scale is based on grade descriptors provided by the IBO and a variety of university grade conversion scales.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION PER 11B SEMESTER GRADUATION

The following grade distribution per 11B graduating class is formatted using the cumulative GPA earned from 9A to 11B. It does not include 12A IB course scores nor final IB Diploma course scores, which must be provided by the IB organization.

Grade Range	FS 2020 26:11B	SS 2020 23:11B	FS 2019 17: 11B	SS 2019 28:11B	FS 2018 32:11B	SS 2018 25: 11B	FS 2017 38: 11B	SS 2017 25: 11B	FS 2016 30: 11B	SS 2016 17: 11B
90-100	5	7	6	4	12	7	7	7	8	4
85 - 89	8	6	8	12	9	8	12	12	9	4
75 - 84	13	10	3	12	11	9	19	6	13	9
70 - 74	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
0 - 69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM SEMESTER GUIDE

KEY	SEMESTER COURSE TYPE	LEVEL OF RIGOR
MS	Initiated in Middle School (8A and/or 8B)	Middle School
A 1	1 st Semester	Standard
B 2	2 nd Semester and/or IB course	Challenging
C 3	3 rd Semester and/or IB course	Demanding
D 4	4 th Semester and/or IB course	Rigorous
I & II	1 st / 2 nd semester	N/A

MATHEMATICS

COURSE	GRADE LEVEL	SEMESTER	YEARS	L.O.I
Algebra I & II	8A, 8B	MS, I, II	1	E
Geometry I & II	9A, 9B	I, II	1	S
Pre-Calculus I & II	10A, 10B (University)	I, II	1	S

Algebraic Principles I & II	10A, 10B	I, II	1	S
Analysis & Approaches	11A, 11B, 12A, 12B	I, II	1	S
Applications & Interpretations SL	11A, 11B, 12A, 12B	4	2	S
LANGUAGES				
English Composition	8B	MS	5	E
English	9A, 9B, 10A, 10B, 11A, 11B	B, C, D	3	E
Spanish	9A, 9B, 10A, 10B, 11A, 11B	I, II	3	S
IB English A (Lg. & Lt.)	11A, 11B, 12A, 12B	4	2	E
IB Spanish A (Lt.)	11A, 11B, 12A, 12B	1, 2, 3, 4	2	S
IB Extended Essay			2	E S
SCIENCE				
Biology (+ labs)	8B, 9A, 11B	MS, A, B, C	1	E
Physics (+ labs)	9B, 10A, 10B, 11A, 11B, 12A	A, B, C, D 4	5 to 2.5	E
Chemistry (+ labs)	9B, 10A, 10B, 11A, 11B, 12A	A, B, C, D 4	5 to 2.5	E
Programming	9A, 9B, 10A	A 1	5	E
SOCIAL STUDIES				
Social Studies	9A, 9B, 11A, 11B		2	S
US History	9A, 9B, 10A, 10B		1	E
Civics	10A, 10B, 11A, 11B		2	S
IB Economics	11A, 11B, 12A, 12B	1, 2	1	E
IB Business Management	11A, 11B, 12A, 12B	1, 2	1	E
Physical Education	9A, 9B, 10A, 10B, 11A, 11B, 12A, 12B		3	S
ART				
IB Visual Arts	11A, 11B, 12A, 12B	1, 2, 3, 4	2	E
IB TOK	11A, 11B, 12A, 12B	1, 2, 3, 4	2	S
IB CAS	11A, 11B, 12A, 12B		2	S
ACADEMIC COURSES				
Career GPS (Vocational Guidance)	9A, 9B, 10A	A 1		E S
Peacebuilding Leadership (Conflict Mediation)	10A, 10B, 11A, 11B	A 1		E S
College Prep	10A, 10B, 11A, 11B	A 1		E S

AVAILABLE ELECTIVES

Electives change every semester based on the student interest and registration; Spanish is the most common language of instruction.

Math Olympics	Model United Nations	Amigos del Aprendizaje
Entrepreneurship	Design Technology	Programming

Model United Nations	PE	Dance
Art Attack	Music	Guitar
Career Development	College Prep	Peacebuilding Leadership

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE BILINGUAL DIPLOMA

Initiated in 2003, BVS's Bilingual IB Diploma program is open admission and optional. At the end of 10B, students decide to enroll in the full diploma program or to take a few IB courses. Seniors enrolled in the Bilingual IB Diploma program graduate at the end of 11B having earned the CRND and return for 12A to complete their IB courses and earn the Bilingual IB diploma at the end of 12B.

All of our students benefit from a more rigorous curriculum as the IB standards are taught cross-curricular. Students are **rarely** separated into "Bachillerato" and IB-specific classes and only when an IB course is not compatible with the goals of the CR national curriculum. Both MEP and IB exams are offered each semester.

Subject Groups	Available IB Diploma Courses	L.O.I.	Levels
1. Spanish	Language A: Spanish Lit.	S	SL / HL
2. English	Language A: English Lg. & Lt.	E	SL / HL
3. Individuals & Societies	Business & Management	E	SL / HL
	Psychology	E	SL/HL
4. Sciences	Physics	E	SL / HL
	Biology	E	SL / HL
5. Mathematics	Analysis & Approaches	S	SL / HL
	Applications & Interpretations	S	SL/HL
6. The Arts and other available subjects	Visual Arts	E	SL / HL
	Economics	E	SL / HL
	Chemistry	E	SL/HL
7. Core	TOK, CAS and Extended Essay	E S	
Online	Variety: provided by Pamoja Education	E	SL/HL
Courses	All subjects can be taken as IB courses.	E S	SL/HL

AVERAGE BILINGUAL IB DIPLOMA POINTS PER SEMESTER

SS 2018 = 34	SS 2017 = 31	SS 2016 = 32	SS 2015 = 36
FS 2017 = 31	FS 2016 = 35	FS 2015 = 30	FS 2014 = 31
HIGHEST DIPLOMA POINT EARNED TO DATE			42

SUMMARY & TREND OF IB STUDENT REGISTRATION T1A-12B

Semester	IB Diploma	IB Course	Total *	Overall % Diploma
FS2020	38	5	43	88.37
SS2020	45	5	54	83.33
FS2019	39	15	54	79.59
SS2019	26	23	49	53.06
FS2018	49	29	78	62.82%
SS 2018	41	15	56	73.02%
FS 2017	47	27	74	63.5%
SS 2017	51	41	92	55.4%
FS 2016	43	41	84	51.1%
SS 2016	60	32	92	65.2%
FS 2015	55	26	81	67.9%
SS 2015	45	32	77	58.4%
FS 2014	47	29	76	61.8%

SAT REASONING TEST SUMMARY

The highest section score per each student's score report is used to calculate averages. BVS does not provide standardized test preparation. Students prepare on their own time.

2 Years	2020-2019	2018 - 2017 * NA Students	2016 - 2015 46 Students	2014 - 2013 30 Students	2012 - 2011 19 Students
CR/WR	NA	NA	565	571	541
MA	NA	NA	607	619	559
WR	--	--	** 547	578	529
PSAT 10A/10B	FS 2019	FS 2018	FS 2017	FS 2016	FS 2015
	31 students	51 Students	52 Students	63 Students	65 Students

* Expected to increase as test scores are yet to be reported.

** Score conversion used for New SAT scores to report with Old SAT scores.

TOEFL

The majority of our students regularly score 100+ on the iBT, however, occasionally a handful score below 100.

NUMBER OF GRADE 11A SENIORS PER DIPLOMA EACH SEMESTER

KEY: IBD = IB Diploma; IBC = IB Course; CRND = Costa Rican National Diploma, HS = High School Diploma

F2020 25: students	FS2019 2: students	FS 2018 32: students	FS 2017 25: students	FS 2016 25: students	FS 2015 16: students
IBD 38	IBD 39	IBD 13	IBD 13 39	IBD 12	IBD 6
IBC --	IBC 13	IBC 13	IBC 11	IBC 13	IBC 10
CDN D 25	CRN D 2	CDN D 32	CRN D 25	CRN D 25	CRN D 16
HS 3	HS 3	HS 27	HS 22	HS 17	HS 5
SS2020 19: students	SS2019 10: students	SS 2018 32: students	SS 2017 38: students	SS 2016 30: students	SS 2015 42: students
IBD 45	IBD 37	IBD 13	IBD 8	IBD 15	IBD 22
IBC --	IBC 10	IBC 13	IBC 27	IBC 10	IBC 20
CDN D 19	CRN D 10	CRN D 32	CRN D 38	CRN D 30	CRN D 42
HS 5	HS 3--	HS 27	HS 34	HS 18	HS 30

CR NATIONAL DIPLOMA

All students are encouraged to take the government high school-leaving exams and traditionally all earn the CR National Bachillerato Diploma.

NUMBER OF CURRENT SENIORS APPLYING ABROAD PER YEAR

FS 2020	16 (+4 alumni)	FS 2019	16 (+4 alumni)
FS 2018	26 (+2 alumni)	FS 2015	20 (+4 alumni)
FS 2017	20 (+2 alumni)	FS 2014	12 (+5 alumni)
FS 2016	17 (+4 alumni)	FS 2013	22 (+4 alumni)

EXCITING CHANGES AT BLUE VALLEY SCHOOL

- ❖ In SS 2018, Blue Valley joined INSPIRED, a co-educational, non-denominational, independent school group with premium schools located in Europe, Australia, Africa, and Latin America.

Grading Scales

The BVS curriculum was not subject to change. The students are evaluated according to our regular grading system.

Schedules and Course Offerings

The student community is following the regular full-day schedule. Therefore, they have not missed lessons from the school year.

BVS continues to offer the same number of courses. The IBO recently published adaptations to the assessment components of each IB course for the May 21, 2021 session due to the disruption caused by the global pandemic.

LIFE AFTER BVS

Students graduating with the CRNd normally enroll in national universities before deciding to study abroad. Depending upon which semester our seniors graduate, they frequently take a GAP semester/year before enrolling in a university.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

100% of BVS graduates traditionally pursue higher education within 6-12 months of graduation; 75% will attend a Costa Rican university and +/- 25% enroll abroad. BVS students are routinely admitted to Costa Rica's highest-ranked public and private universities.

COLLEGES ATTENDED BY BVS GRADUATES FROM THE LAST FEW YEARS

American University
Arizona State University (AZ)
Boston University (MA)
California College of the Arts (CA)
University of California – Davis (CA)
Universidad CEU Cardenal Herrera (Spain)
Clemson University (SC)
University of Cincinnati (OH)
City, University of London (UK)
University of Connecticut (CT)
Creighton University (NE)
DePaul University (IL)
Elon University (NC)
ESADE Business and Law School (Spain)
Florida State University (FL)
Florida Institute of Technology (FL)
Florida International University (FL)
Universidad Francisco de Vitoria (Spain)
Georgia Institute of Technology (GA)
Georgia State University (GA)
University of Greenwich (UK)
University of Groningen (NL)
Hanze University of Applied Sciences (NL)
Hofstra University (MA)
Hult International Business School
IE University (Spain)
University of Illinois at Chicago (IL)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (IL)
University of Kent (UK)
Universidad de La Sabana (Colombia)
Lancaster University (UK)
Lehigh University (PA)
Loughborough University (UK)
Loyola University Chicago (IL)
Loyola University New Orleans (LA)
University of Massachusetts Amherst (MA)
University of Massachusetts Boston (MA)
University of Miami (FL)
University of Michigan (MI)
Michigan Technological University (MI)
University of Minnesota (MN)
Marquette University
Missouri State University (MO)
Universidad de Navarra (Spain)
New York University (NY)
Oklahoma State University (OK)
Pennsylvania State University (MA)
New York Institute of Technology (NY)
Purdue University (IN)
Universidad Pontificia Comilla (Spain)
Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Colombia)
Politecnico di Milano
Politecnico di Torino

Rochester Institute of Technology (NY)
Rockhurst University (MO)
University of San Diego California (CA)
Universidad CEU San Pablo (Spain)
Savannah College of Art and Design (GA)
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (IL)
St. Bonaventure University (NY)
Stonehill College (MA)
University of San Diego (CA)
University of Strathclyde (UK)
SUNY Stony Brook University (NY)
Syracuse University (NY)
University of Tampa (FL)
Tecnológico de Monterrey (MX)
University of Texas Austin (TX)
Texas A&M University (TX)
Texas Tech University (TX, CR)
University of Vermont (VT)
Villanueva Centro Universitario (Spain)
Wake Forest University (NC)
University of Westminster (UK)
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (MA)
Xavier University (OH)