



# American International School of Costa Rica

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

## School Profile 2022-2023

### 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 180 students from more than 25 countries and offers a comprehensive college preparatory educational program from Pre-school to 12<sup>th</sup> 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

We are dedicated to creating a community of fulfilled and successful students, through personalized education that promotes initiative, collaboration, and perseverance.

### 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, (the largest accrediting agency in the U.S.) and the Costa Rican Ministry of Education.

### 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 30 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), band, art club, violin, gymnastics, martial arts, and ballet. The Athletic Program includes basketball, volleyball, and soccer.

**CEEB 834152**

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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 robotics, and information and technology. Formal **Advanced Placement** courses are offered in 5 classes, **AP Spanish Literature, AP English Literature and Composition, AP English Language, AP Calculus, and AP US Government and Politics.**

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 26 credits is required for graduation.

**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 (including U.S. History and U.S. Government), two units of a foreign language, four units of Math, four units of Science, one of Physical Education and 7 units of Electives (Fine Arts and Technical Arts) .

**To obtain the Costa Rican High School Diploma**, eleventh grade students will be evaluated by the Public Ministry of Education (MEP), with four exams: Mathematics, Spanish, Sciences (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) and Social Studies (not yet implemented by the MEP). A combined average of these classes (grades 11-12) is valued at 40% which will be combined with 60% of the MEP exams to calculate the final grade for each of these subjects. Additionally, they will present a language proficiency test (English) to be classified according to their command of this language.

Applicant students for this diploma must also complete a Community Service of at least 30 hours, and submit in writing, for approval by MEP, a written project of this Community Service at the end of their first semester of senior year.

## Standard Secondary Academic Sequence by Curricular Areas

Departments	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<b>English Language Arts</b>	English 9	English 10	US Literature I 11	US Literature II 12
	English Honors 9	English Honors 10	AP Language and Composition	AP Literature and Composition
<b>Spanish Language Arts</b>	Spanish 9	Spanish MEP 10	Spanish MEP 11	Spanish MEP 12
	Spanish Honors 9	AP Spanish Literature and Composition		
<b>Math</b>	Geometry 9	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus 11	Calculus 12
	Geom. Honors 9	Algebra II Honors	Pre Calculus Honors 11 Math MEP 11	AP Calculus 12
<b>Social Studies</b>	Geography 9	US History I 10	US History II 11	US Govt/Econ 12
			US History II 11 Honors	

	Geography Honors 9	US History I Honors 10		AP US Government and Politics
<b>Science</b>	Science 9 Science Honors 9	Physics I 10 Chemistry I 10 Chemistry I 10	Chemistry II 11 Science MEP 11	Biology II 12 Physics II 12

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
≤69	F 0.0	0.0	0.0

#### 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  
Texas Tech University 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  
Minot State University  
University of California-San Diego  
Kettering College  
Long Island-Brooklyn Campus  
Emerson College  
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  
Trinity College  
Syracuse University  
Kenyon College  
University of North Dakota  
New School in New York  
University of South Florida  
University of Kentucky  
Frostburg State University  
Middle Georgia State University

### Other Countries

ESADE Business and Law School  
CEU-Valencia  
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 Internacional de Catalunya

The Baltic International Academy

University of Groningen

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Montessori Institute of San Diego

New York Institute of Technology

Yonsei University

Universidad CEU San Pablo

Asian Pacific University

University of Toronto

University of Victoria

John Calbot University – Rome

Brock University

University of Calgary

Handong-Dae University