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School Board:

President - Mrs. Inge Puschendorf
Vice president - Mr. Werner Bansbach
Treasurer - Mr. Peter Ossenbach
Secretary - Mr. Roberto Bonilla
1st Deputy - Mr. Enzo von Saalfeld
2nd Deputy - Mrs. Karin Puschendorf
3rd Deputy - Mrs. Liesel Liebhaber
Prosecutor - Mr. Michiel van Rossum



**COLEGIO HUMBOLDT
HUMBOLDT - SCHULE**
SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

School Profile 2023

About Us

Humboldt Schule is a trilingual and bicultural private institution spanning from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. The legal representative is the *German-Costa Rican Cultural (ICGC) Institution*.

The school is accredited by the *National Ministry of Education* in Costa Rica (MEP) as well as by *The Permanent Council of Culture Ministers of the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK)*. Therefore, it is authorized to award the *Costa Rican Bachillerato* and the *German Abitur*.



Institutional Values

Humboldt Schule is an educational institution of academic excellence. In a multilingual environment, it promotes holistic learning and intercultural encounter. In addition, the school is committed to a broad spectrum of values and offers generous scholarship programs to promote diversity and high performance levels.

Humboldt Schule offers a humanistic education relevant to contemporary life, that promotes social plurality. It is a private, non-profit organization which receives financial support and teaching staff from the German government, alongside its local staff.

Contact Us

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Contiguo a la Iglesia Nuestra
Señora de Loreto, Pavas,
San José, COSTA RICA



**KULTUSMINISTER
KONFERENZ**



**Exzellente
Deutsche
Auslandsschule**

Student Body

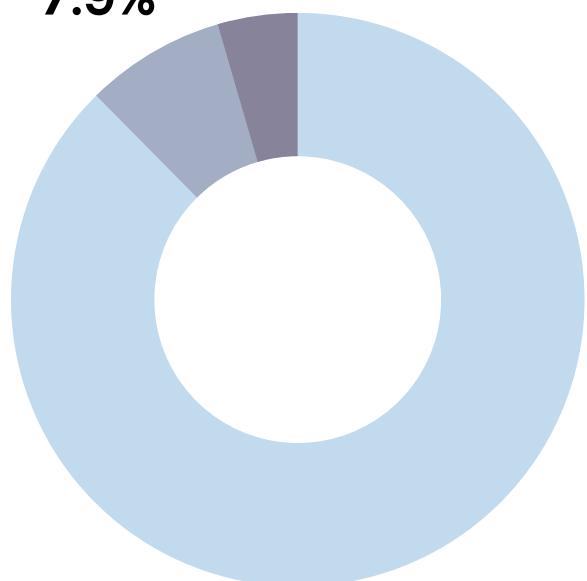
1027 students

- Kindergarten: 193
- Primary School: 344
- Secondary School: 490



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German
7.9%



Costa Rican
87.6%

Other Nationalities 4,5%:

- Venezuelan (9)
- Swiss (8)
- Colombian (7)
- US American (6)
- Spain (4)
- Nicaraguan (2)
- Salvadorian (2)
- Japanese (2)
- Austrian (1)
- Norwegian (1)
- Italian (1)
- Chinese (1)

Curriculum

Secondary school begins in the 7th grade and consists of three to four parallel class groups. In the 11th grade, all students graduate with a Costa Rican *high school diploma*. Students who choose to attend 12th grade additionally receive a German high school diploma, The *Abitur*.

Students who complete the Costa Rican *National Diploma* generally complete their post secondary studies in Costa Rica, with some studying in the United States

The vast majority of students that receive a *German Abitur diploma*, complete their post secondary education in Germany.

Language Certificates

Students are able to take the **Sprachdiplom I** and the **Sprachdiplom II** between the 8th and 11th grade. The competencies acquired after finishing the *German Abitur* include standards at level C2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR).

TOEFL is offered at the end of 11th grade and 12th grade to students who have maintained a grade point average higher than 80 in their English classes.

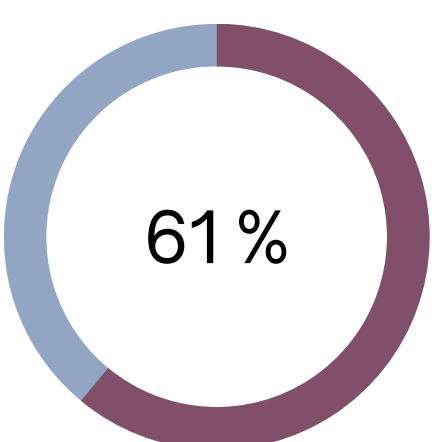
School Year

The school year begins at the end of January and ends in mid-December. The main vacation period of the year is between December and February. In addition, Humboldt School has two weeks of spring break, four weeks in July, and one week of vacation in October.



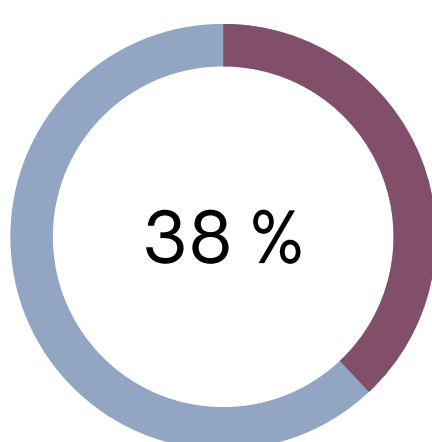
Teaching staff

There are 104 teachers (1:10 student teacher ratio) with three native languages :



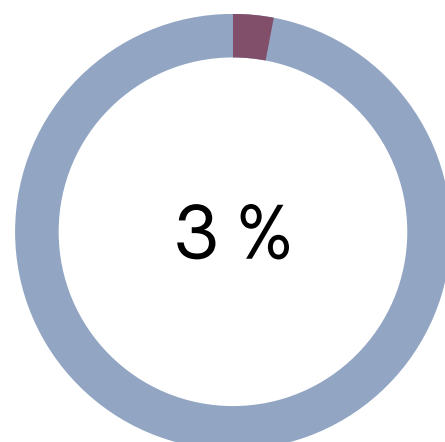
61 %

Spanish



38 %

German



3 %

English



Tuition & Fees

For all grades:

- US **\$8,417** annually (on average)



COLEGIO HUMBOLDT
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Costa Rican Grading System

Excellent	100–93
Above average	92–84
Average	83–75
Below average	74–70
Failure	69 or below

Scholarship programs

The annual tuition is US **\$8,417** for every grade level (from kindergarten to 12th grade).

Humboldt Schule has a scholarship fund financed by the German government and by contributions from parents. This scholarship fund removes the financial barrier to a quality education experienced by many underprivileged students. The amount of financial aid a student receives depends on their socioeconomic level, academic performance and conduct.

German Grade system

Grades by education		Description
Primary & lower secondary	Upper secondary	
(1st - 10th grade)	(11th - 12th grade)	
1	15 points 14 points 13 points	" <i>sehr gut</i> " (very good/ excellent: an outstanding achievement)
2	12 points 11 points 10 points	" <i>gut</i> " (good: an achievement that exceeds the average requirements considerably)
3	9 points 8 points 7 points	" <i>befriedigend</i> " (satisfactory: an achievement that fulfills average requirements)
4	6 points 5 points 4 points	" <i>ausreichend</i> " (adequate: an achievement that fulfills the requirements despite flaws)
5	3 points 2 points 1 point	" <i>mangelhaft</i> " (unsatisfactory: an achievement that does not fulfill requirements due to major flaws)
6	0 points	" <i>ungenügend</i> " (insufficient: a completely inadequate achievement)

Cultural Experience & Exchange Programs

As a multicultural school, Humboldt Schule seeks to educate its students in different cultures. Our school focuses on a solid impartation of classes in three languages (German, Spanish & English) and an objective representation of Germany and Costa Rica and the U.S.

During the summer of the 10th grade, there's a mandatory foreign exchange trip with schools in Germany. Students embark on this journey alongside their entire class, accompanied by six to eight teachers (1:10 student teacher ratio). This exchange program spans two weeks, encompassing various regions of Germany such as Berlin and Leipzig. Additionally, two weeks are spent in guest homes while attending school in different towns such as Munich, Augsburg, Stuttgart, and Ansbach. In February of the following year, the German exchange students come to Costa Rica and stay with their previous houseguests.

In addition to the German exchange program, we also offer the opportunity for a group of around 25 students to go to New York for two 2 weeks. During this trip, we visit New York City and then spend a week and a half with students from Shaker High School in Albany, New York. This trip is not obligatory, yet this immersion experience is a great way for them to learn about the culture in the United States.



Facilities

Without a doubt, the Humboldt Schule is one of the best-equipped schools in the country. This applies to all of its modern information technology equipment, such as: smart boards, iPads, laptops, science laboratories, and sports facilities, including a 25-meter-long swimming pool. Since the year 2000, the school has its own cultural center where all the art, music and industrial arts lessons are taught.

Sustainability

Sustainability is a big concern at Humboldt Schule. The vegetable garden on the premises teaches students how to grow and care for their own fruits, vegetables and herbs. The solar panels installed provide the majority of the energy used including the heating of the swimming pool. Recycling and reutilizing are concepts ingrained in the children from a young age and disposal of garbage is organized accordingly throughout the school.

★★★★★

2021



Bandera Azul Ecológica
COSTA RICA / CENTROS EDUCATIVOS

Colegio Humboldt





Covid-19 Response

On March 8th, 2020, Humboldt Schule closed its doors to students due to the Covid-19 pandemic. After a day-long teacher training, the school began full-time classes via ZOOM on March 10th until December 10th, 2020. During this time, students continued online learning with the same rigorous schedule as they had had at school. The teachers and students were equipped with tablets and laptops.

The students from first to ninth grade were given specific projects instead of exams, and the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades wrote all of their exams online via ZOOM. The *Sprachdiplom* (the German language diploma), the *Zentrale Klassenarbeiten* (10th grade achievement exams), and the final *Abitur* oral exams took place at school in October and November.

For the 2021 school year, we taught using a hybrid classroom format in which we had two groups of students who alternated coming to school every other week. At the beginning of 2022, only 4% of our students were learning virtually, while the rest had returned to in-person lessons.

Extracurricular Opportunities

- Arts & Animals
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Business Kids
- Career Skills & the Work of the Future
- Catholic religion (Catechesis)
- Cello
- Central American Sports Competitions
- Chess
- Chemistry
- Clarinet
- Cooking and Manual Work
- Dancing
- Double Bass
- Electronic guitar
- Einstein Club (Math Club)
- Evangelical religion (confirmation)
- Gardening
- German Reading
- Guitar
- Gymnastics Club
- Handicrafts
- Karate Club
- Literature & Drawing
- Model United Nations (Debate Club)
- Olympic gymnastics
- Orchestra
- Painting
- Percussion
- Philosophy
- Piano
- Robotics (programming)
- Rockband
- Saxophone
- Scratch (Programming)
- Sculpture
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Swiss Club
- Trumpet
- Theater
- Traditional and recreational games
- University Math
- Violin & Viola
- Volleyball
- Yoga and Art Therapy

DAAD Scholarships & acknowledgement of the Abitur

Since the year 2000 the DAAD Institute has offered a full ride university scholarship for study in Germany to one distinct Abitur graduate. The importance of the Abitur is also acknowledged by the fact that it entitles the holder to apply to all universities in Europe. Graduates who decide to pursue university studies in the United States are often given credits for their Abitur courses.



Abitur Enrollment

Year	Graduated/Admitted	Average
2007	17/17	2,8
2008	24/24	2,3
2009	18/18	2,4
2010	28/28	2,4
2011	20/20	2,5
2012	29/29	2,3
2013	19/19	2,6
2014	17/18	2,4
2015	18/18	2,5
2016	26/26	2,7
2017	29/29	2,4
2018	32/32	2,3
2019	32/32	2,3
2020	39/39	2,3
2021	36/36	2,3
2022	37/37	2,4



Universities (Enrollement 2018 to 2022)

COSTA RICA

- Tecnológico de Costa Rica (TEC)
- Universidad Autónoma de Centro América (UACA)
- Universidad de Ciencias Médicas (UCIMED)
- Universidad Latina (ULatina)
- Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR)
- Universidad VERITAS

GERMANY

- Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
- Berlin School of Popular Arts
- Cologne Business School
- Freie Universität Berlin
- Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)
- Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität
- Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf
- Hochschule Albstadt-Sigmaringen
- Hochschule Augsburg
- Hochschule Düsseldorf
- Hochschule Fulda
- Hochschule Furtwangen (HFU)
- Hochschule Hannover

- Hochschule Osnabrück
- Humboldt-Universität Berlin
- Constructor University Bremen
- Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT)
- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU)
- Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg
- Phillips-Universität Marburg
- Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg
- Ruhr-Universität Bochum
- Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen (RWTH)
- Technische Hochschule Wildau
- Technische Universität Berlin
- Technische Universität Dortmund
- Technische Universität Dresden
- Technische Universität Hamburg (TUHH)
- Technische Universität München (TUM)
- Universität Bayreuth
- Universität Hamburg
- Universität des Saarlandes

- Universität Leipzig
- Universität Osnabrück
- Universität Potsdam
- Universität Ulm
- Universität zu Köln

USA

- Blinn College
- Colorado State University
- Lindenwood University
- North Carolina State University
- Purdue University
- Suffolk University
- Southern Methodist University
- University of Florida
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of New Orleans (UNO)
- University of Texas (Austin)

Other

- Universidad de Navarra (Spain)
- University of Toronto (Canada)
- Universität St. Gallen (Switzerland)