

# LA PAZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL

SELF - FAMILY - COMMUNITY - WORLD



## MISSION

**Our mission is to cultivate informed, mindful citizens of the world**

Our innovative, bilingual, experiential learning program empowers students to develop the analytical skills, cross-cultural empathy, and creativity necessary for fostering harmony within our local and global communities.

## ABOUT

La Paz Community School is a two way dual immersion, private, non-profit, preK-12 International Baccalaureate school located in rural Guanacaste, Costa Rica and accredited by the International Baccalaureate Programme ([www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)) and the Costa Rican Ministry of Education. Through the IB Program and the La Paz Peace Practices, we prepare students to be multilingual global citizens who think creatively and analytically, and thus can thoughtfully address diverse challenges. At La Paz, students approach their learning experience through the authentic discovery of their SELF, FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND WORLD.

## THE LA PAZ PEACE PRACTICES

- ◆ Develop the **self** into a peaceful, lifelong learner by improving physical and mental well being through creative, critical thought and extension of comfortable limits.
- ◆ Cultivate peace amongst **family** and community by disseminating and sharing love and compassion.
- ◆ Create peace within the **community** by preserving the environment and respecting the delicate balance between local and foreign cultures.
- ◆ Spread peace throughout the **world** by effectively communicating thoughts and ideas as well as actively listening to all perspectives.

### ENROLLMENT

**320** students  
grades preK-12

**78** students in  
grades 9-12

**17** Seniors

### ORIGINS

**50%** Costa Rican  
**30%** North American  
**10%** European  
**5%** South American  
**5%** African, Asian and  
Oceania

### FACULTY

**45** lead educators from  
Argentina, Australia, Canada,  
Costa Rica, Spain and  
United States

**90%** with Master's Degree



Guanacaste  
Costa Rica

(506) 2654-6087

[www.lapazschool.org](http://www.lapazschool.org)

## ADMISSIONS

Our selective admissions process is based on the student's family support network, academic and social abilities, entrance interview, willingness to engage in intercultural exchange, and willingness to participate in the IB Diploma Programme.

### School Admissions Director:

Karen Harris

[admissions@lapazschool.org](mailto:admissions@lapazschool.org)

## INFO

### School Director:

Abel McClennen

[mrabel@lapazschool.org](mailto:mrabel@lapazschool.org)

### College and Career Counselor:

Audrey Baker

[abaker@lapazschool.org](mailto:abaker@lapazschool.org)

**THE STORY OF A PARADIGM SHIFTING SCHOOL:**

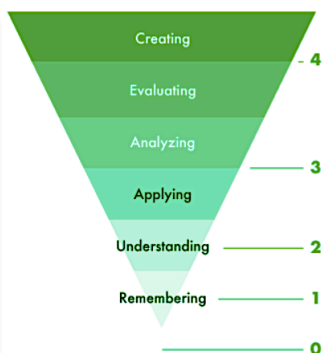
**Imagine** a preK-12 learning experience in a rural, ecologically and ethnically diverse Central American country where all cultures, ethnicities, and socioeconomic levels are openly embraced and celebrated. Founded in 2007, La Paz Community School addresses fundamental socioeconomic and cultural gaps prevalent in a regional economy struggling to cope with the influx of a global economy that has transformed the local communities from agriculture to tourism. Growing from 50 to 320 students in thirteen years, La Paz represents a microcosm of sustainable globalization where students from Costa Rica and the rest of the world come together to learn how to be creative, multilingual, compassionate and responsible global leaders. As an IB World School offering the Bilingual Diploma Program, La Paz Community School provides a rigorous academic program that is fundamentally rooted in the La Paz Peace Practices and the IB community profile. Through paradigm challenging intercultural discourse with members of the school, community, and world, **La Paz students are equipped to fundamentally transform the world into a better place.**

**GRADING SYSTEM**

The La Paz grading system rewards the process as well as the product of the learning experience. La Paz student GPAs are based on a 0-4 scale where a 4 is superior to an A+, 100%, or 4.0 in traditional grading scales. The La Paz student understands that achieving an exemplary mark signifies that they have not only demonstrated mastery of higher order thinking skills but they have also creatively developed an entirely unique and rational thought, connection, idea, or innovation during the learning process.



**Bloom's Taxonomy**  
As it relates to the La Paz grading scale



Revised edition by Larin Anderson  
(a student of Bloom)

**OUR GRADUATES:**

La Paz has graduated seven generations of students with the Costa Rican "Bachillerato", including the fifth International Baccalaureate generation in June of 2019. Our alumni are attending, have attended, or have graduated from the following universities (\*University Graduates)

American University of Paris, France	*Siena University, USA
*Antelope Valley Community College, USA	Stenden University of Engineering, Holland
Clarkson University, USA	Tecnológico de Costa Rica
Colorado Northwestern Community College, USA	UNIBE, Costa Rica
Concordia University, Canada	University of California, Berkeley, USA
Franco-American University of France	*University of Costa Rica
*Franklin University, Switzerland	University of Madrid, Spain
*Le Sobornne, France	University of Montreal, Canada
Maastricht University, Holland	Universidad Latina, Costa Rica
*Marymount Manhattan College, USA	Universidad Veritas, Costa Rica
Northern Kentucky University, USA	University of Wyoming, USA
Oxford College at Emory, USA	

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

As an IB World School, all 9th and 10th grade students engage in IB Preparatory classes and **all 11th and 12th grade students engage in the IB Bilingual Diploma Program.** Certain IB courses may be substituted with IB recognized Pamoja Online coursework.

**La Paz IB Statistics**

- > IB Bilingual Diploma Average passing score = 28
- > IB Bilingual Diploma High Score = 36

**Reference IB Statistics**

- > Percentage of global IB Diplomas that are bilingual = 31% (2018)
- > Average IB Diploma Score in Latin America = 25



- > 4 English Language and Literature (11-12 IB Language and Literature HL)
- > 4 Spanish Language and Literature (11-12 IB Language and Literature HL)
- > 4 Social Studies/History (In Spanish) (11-12 IB Historia HL or Global Politics SL)
- > 4 Mathematics (11-12 IB Math SL or Math Studies SL)
- > 4 Sciences (9 Phys, 10 Chem, 11-12 IB Bio HL, SL)
- > 4 Co-Curricular (Fine Arts, Theatre, Musical Arts, PE,) (11-12 IB Visual Arts or Business SL, HL)
- > 1 Creativity, Activity, Service (1/3 for grades 10-12)
- > 1 College and Career Prep (1/3 for grades 10-12)
- > 1 IB Theory of Knowledge (½ for grades 11-12)
- > 1 IB Extended Essay (½ for grades 11-12)
- > 1 Costa Rica Civics (1/3 for 9-11)