

📍 Guanacaste, Costa Rica
☎ (+506) 2654-6087
🌐 www.lapazschool.org



LA PAZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROFILE 2022-2023

MISSION

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

Through enriching learning experiences based on experiential projects and reciprocal immersion, students acquire and strengthen the skills necessary to face the challenges of the 21st century, such as creativity, multilingualism, compassion and critical thinking.

La Paz Community School is a **two way dual language immersion, private, non-profit, PreK-12 IB school** located in Guanacaste, Costa Rica. Accredited by the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and the Costa Rican Ministry of Education, La Paz students are multilingual global citizens who think compassionately, 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**.

ABOUT

PEACE PRACTICES



Develop the **self** into a peaceful, lifelong learner by enhancing physical and mental well-being through critical thinking and stretching comfortable boundaries.



Cultivate **peace** between family and community by spreading 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 communicating thoughts and ideas effectively, and actively listening to all perspectives.

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

General Director

Abel McClennen / mrabel@lapazschool.org

Admissions Director

Melissa Villegas / mvillegas@lapazschool.org

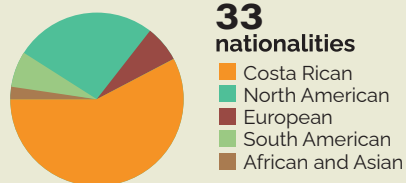
Vocational Counselor

Audrey Baker / abaker@lapazschool.org

Enrollment

615 students grades PreK-12th
120 students in grades 9th-12th

Origins



Faculty



Graduation requirements

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

IB Statistics

2021-2022

IB Bilingual Diploma Average passing score **33**
IB Bilingual Diploma High Score **42**
Percentage of graduates earning IB Diploma **96%**

- **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**
(11-12 IB Global Politics HL, SL)
- **4 Mathematics**
(11-12 IB Mathematics: Applications and Interpretations, Analysis and Approaches HL and SL)
- **4 Sciences**
(9 Physics, 10 Química, 11-12 IB Biology HL, SL)
- **2 Co-Curricular**
(Fine Arts, Theatre, Musical Arts, PE)
- **2 Visual Arts/Business**
(11-12 IB Visual Arts or Business HL, SL)
- **1 Creativity, Activity, Service**
(1/3 for each grade 10-12)
- **1 College and Career Preparation**
(1/3 for each grade 10-12)
- **1 IB Theory of Knowledge**
(1/2 for grades 11-12)
- **1 IB Extended Essay**
(1/2 for grades 11-12)
- **1 Costa Rica Civics**
(1/3 for each grade 9-11)

THE STORY OF A PARADIGM SHIFTING SCHOOL

La Paz Community School was founded in 2007 in order to address the socio-cultural challenges and gaps of a region with an agricultural and touristic economy. By integrating young people from various cultures and socioeconomic levels, **La Paz transforms diversity into strengths.** The **educational model** of La Paz differentiates itself through its **communitarian vocation and forward-looking approach.** Families, teachers and the community at large represent the socioeconomic and cultural diversity of Guanacaste and the world, while being part of a learning laboratory and benefiting from a rigorous program rooted in the mission, peace practices, and attributes of the IB learner. During their school life, La Paz **students dedicate time, talent, energy and other resources** to carry out projects **benefiting the local and global community**, and preparing them to become active and responsible citizens. In 2021, the new campus in Tempisque was inaugurated with the goal to expand the educational and sociocultural impact of La Paz in the province of Guanacaste.

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 not the equivalent of 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.

La Paz has graduated **10 generations** of students with the **Costa Rican "Bachillerato"**, including the **8th IB generation** in June of 2022. Our alumni are attending or have graduated* from the following universities

US & Canada

- Antelope Valley Community College*
- Azusa Pacific University
- Brandeis University
- Colorado Northwestern Community College
- Columbia University, Teachers College
- Concordia University*
- Emory University
- George Washington University
- Gonzaga University
- Lewis and Clark
- Loyola University
- Maastricht University*
- Marymount Manhattan College*
- Northern Kentucky University
- Oxford College at Emory
- Point Loma Nazarene University
- Siena University*
- University of Alabama
- University of California-Berkeley
- University of Colorado
- University of Montreal
- University of Oregon
- University of the Ozarks
- University of Toronto
- Western University

Costa Rica

- Earth University
- UNIBE
- Tecnológico de Costa Rica
- Universidad de Costa Rica
- Universidad Escuela Libre de Derecho
- Universidad Latina
- Universidad Nacional
- Universidad Veritas

European

- ESCP Business School, France
- Franklin University, Switzerland*
- IE University, Spain
- Le Sorbonne, France*
- Manchester Metropolitan University, England
- MICU University, Spain
- University of Madrid, Spain
- Valencia CEU, Spain