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.

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.
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