

School Profile 2016 - 2017

Mission

The mission of Colegio Los Nogales is to holistically educate exemplary citizens committed to Colombia and leaders in service to a changing, global and multicultural society.

School Information

Founded in 1982, Colegio Los Nogales, a bilingual Colombian private, non-profit, coeducational day school provides students in grades PK-12 with the fundamental knowledge, skills, values, and processes essential for lifelong learning. The school promotes the development of the intellectual, emotional, physical, moral, aesthetic, and spiritual dimensions. In the process, students receive religious instruction in the Catholic faith. Our primary goal is to prepare students to become the future leaders of Colombia. This year Colegio Los Nogales accepted 48% of all applicants. The average class size is 24 in elementary school and middle school, and 18 in high school. The teacher student ratio is 1:7. The school year begins in August and ends in June.

Student Body

Currently there are 968 students enrolled in the school: 182 in high school, 287 in middle school, 281 in elementary school, and 218 in preschool. This year's senior class has 59 students. The school celebrated the graduation of its first senior class in June 1992. Students are mostly Colombians who come from families that value a rigorous bilingual education for their children. The school has been working hard in the last years to diversify its student body, especially in regards to nationality. Our objective is to attract students and families who value an educational experience in a Colombian school with an international curriculum and global awareness.

Curriculum

The curriculum in grades 1-9 runs in a bimester system and is taught in English and Spanish. English, Math, Science, and some Social Studies courses are taught in English while other courses are taught in Spanish. The curriculum in grades 10-12 runs in a semester system and meets rigorous requirements. Most Math and Science classes are taught in English while some Social Studies and Latin American and Spanish Literature classes are taught in Spanish. The school offers seventeen Advanced Placement (AP) courses in different academic areas. The school requires students to take at least two AP classes in different areas. Students can take AP courses since grade 11. The number of AP courses each student can take depends on the schedule and approval by academic departments. In 2016, 106 students took 182 examinations in 14 subjects. 49% scored 4 and 5, and 73% scored 3 or better. All graduates attend four-year college programs in Colombia or abroad.

Graduation Requirements

The following requirements are to be met in the last three years of school in grades 10-12 (a credit corresponds to a course).

English	6 credits	Physical Education and Sports	6 credits
Fine Arts	4 credits	Religion and Pastoral	2 credits*
French / Portuguese	5 credits	Spanish / Philosophy I	6 credits
Health (CAV), Ethics and Community Service	4 credits	Science	5 credits
Leadership (12th Grade)	2 credits	Social Studies	6 credits
Mathematics	6 credits	Science or Technology and Computer Science Elective	1 credit
Performing Arts	2 credits	Third Language or Humanities Elective	1 credit

*Parents may ask to be included in the corresponding class according to the faith they profess.

Faculty

All 142 faculty members hold university degrees in education and/or their field of specialty, of these 49% hold a Master's degree. The teaching staff is mainly Colombian. This year the school has eighteen foreign faculty members with excellent teaching experience. Colegio Los Nogales promotes the continuing education of faculty, administrators, and staff through its Professional Development Department.









Ian Crossland Head of School

Camilo Camargo *Dean of Faculty*

Patricia Valenzuela Academic Dean

Natalia Pardo Preschool Principal and Admissions Director

Paula Castillo Elementary School Principal

Manuel Romero Middle School Principal

María Mercedes Casas High School Principal

Vanessa Buitrago Admissions Coordinator

Diana Behar

College Counselor and International Programs Coordinator

Accreditations and Memberships

Colombian Ministry of Education Council of International Schools (CIS) New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

International Association for College Admissions Counseling (International ACAC)

Round Square Global Connections Ashoka

College Counselor and International Programs Coordinator Info:

Diana Behar

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Community Service Programs

Every sophomore and junior participates in the school's community service programs. They must meet a minimum of 80 hours to graduate. Students can participate in the following programs: Best Buddies, *Techo, Viajes de Papel Foundation* and Alianza Educativa Schools. These programs serve the needs of several populations such as rural children, low-income families, and students in public schools with limited resources.

Learning Support Programs

The school offers learning support services to students who need them. These services include academic help in all the required subjects, an after-school tutoring program, the Cognitive Learning Support Program (PAC), and a supervised homework assistance program. The school also provides orientation, assistance and intervention through the psychology department's involvement in areas related to emotional well-being and early detection and remediation of learning difficulties. Finally, and as a result of the above mentioned programs, the school also provides learning accommodations to students who need them in order to advance in their learning process.

Math and Science Olympiads

Our students participate in regional and national Math and Science Olympiads every year. We have a significant participation of students in grades 4 - 12. The school has won for five consecutive years the *Concurso Futuros Olímpicos de Primaria*. Last year, we had nine finalists in middle school and twenty-eight semi-finalists in high school in the Colombian Mathematics Olympiads.

Model United Nations

The school promotes the participation of students in grades 6-12 in Model United Nations as an extra-curricular activity and leadership group for seniors. Last year, the school participated in seven MUN conferences and obtained eight presidencies and thirteen awards. As a breakthrough event, we had our first Colegio Los Nogales MUN conference (CLNMUN) with more than 200 participants.

Leadership Programs

The school's goal is to educate leaders who serve society and who are committed to a better future for their country and the world. Students have opportunities to participate in student-government activities such as House Captaincy, Student Council, and mediation; media and publication activities such as the school's fanzine and the literary magazine, the yearbook, community service activities such as the food bank, the environmental committee, the tutoring program, Project Kindness; and competitive activities such as Model United Nations and the marching band, in which the students represent the school externally.

Houses

Students are grouped into three houses that bear the names of the school values. **Eudikia** stands for honesty, **Politeia** for responsibility, and **Filia** for respect. Each house is led by two senior captains who have the profile of positive leaders and outstanding individuals. Competitions in sports, academics, and the arts are enthusiastically organized by the House Captains each year.

Sports

Colegio Los Nogales students are required to complete 6 credits in physical education and sports. Students also participate in interscholastic and intramural team sports (soccer, volleyball, basketball, and hockey). The school has excellent sports facilities, which include basketball and volleyball courts, a hockey rink, two professional soccer fields, and several outdoor playing fields. Students participate in other intramural and varsity athletics such as track and field events, gymnastics, dance, chess, and ping pong.

Fine Arts

The school offers art classes in grades PK-12 and after school art and music classes. These classes develop skills to appreciate art in a historical context and to create art using different media and processes. In high school, students can choose from a variety of courses including AP Studio Art, AP Art History, and AP Music Theory. The school offers an art concentration program and a music concentration program for students who wish to develop their artistic and musical talents. The Arts Center facility has art and music studios, rooms for choir and dance, and recording studios. The center has a small auditorium and an exhibition hall.

International Programs

This department promotes opportunities for students to develop the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to become globally aware citizens and committed change agents to transform Colombia and the world. Students are encouraged to be actively engaged in internal programs in which they can learn about other cultures, languages, and global issues across the curriculum, so they can exchange ideas with

people from other countries. The department also has study abroad programs to support experiential learning opportunities such as summer, exchange, gap year, and service learning programs for students as well as professional development programs for teachers. The department works with international organizations such as Round Square to build a network of contacts worldwide to promote opportunities for intercultural exchanges.

Green School

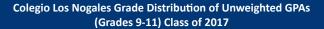
Colegio Los Nogales is working to become a leading sustainable school in the nation. An important action that has taken place is the restoration of a wetland, an ecosystem of the high plateau, which we named *Zasqua*. The purpose of this area is to engage the community in projects that promote awareness, knowledge, and interest in the environment through research and conservation; therefore, it has become a living lab for our students. The projects in *Zasqua* have been led by a group of students and teachers who are committed with our environmental values.

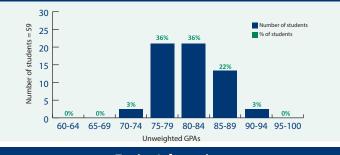
Grading

Colegio Los Nogales is considered one of the top private schools in Colombia, and it functions in full compliance with the regulations of the Colombian Ministry of Education. Colegio Los Nogales uses a rigorous **unweighted** grading system. All class grades are included in the cumulative GPA (Grade Point Average). The school does not rank based on the student's GPA because our classes are small and our grades are distributed in a narrow range. The school prefers to show the class profile through the information provided by a grade distribution table. An average GPA above Honors is rare. Letter grades are required for all courses. Our grading system includes five grades with equivalent numerical and US letter grades as follows:

Letter Grade		Numerical Equivalent	U.S. Grade Equivalent
AH	High Honors	100-90	A+
н	Honors	89-80	A
S	Satisfactory	79-70	В
Α	Acceptable	69-60	С
l. I	Insufficient	<59 (fail)	F

By policy, Colegio Los Nogales discloses suspensions and serious discipline issues during high school to universities





Testing Information

All seniors take the SABER 11, which is the required Colombian national examination. In the past years, the school has been consistently ranked among the top five schools in the nation.

Seniors are required to take the official language exam at the intermediate level: Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française (DELF B1) in French or the Celpe- Bras in Portuguese

All students who enroll in AP Courses are required to take the exam. Last year, we had 16 students who earned an AP Scholar award, 6 AP Scholar with Honor, and 7 AP Scholar with Distinction.

SAT Reasoning Mean Scores for the Classes of 2013 thru 2016		Advanced Placement Exam (AP) Results						
Class	Critical reading	Math	Writing	Class	Students taking tests	Total tests taken	% students that scored 3	% students that scored 4 or 5
2016	643	675	633	2016	106	182	25%	49%
2015	628	697	596	2015	120	208	25%	47%
2014	545	680	591	2014	154	173	27%	51%
2013	540	633	567	2013	86	134	20%	74%

*SAT scores represent the students who applied to US and Canadian universities.

Courses Offered (Grades 10-12)

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Arts: • Bidimensional Expression Workshop • Sculpture Workshop • Ceramics Workshop • Photography Workshop • Digital Graphic Design Workshop • Basic Industrial Design Workshop • Studio Art • Art Concentration • Art History • AP Studio Art (2-D Design, 3-D Design, Drawing) • AP Art History	English: • Introduction to Literature • Composition and Speech I • Composition and Speech II • Creative Writing • Short Fiction • Novels • Drama and Poetry • Global Perspectives • AP English Literature and Composition • AP English Language and Composition	French: • French I • French II • French III • French IV • French V • AP French Language and Culture	Math: • Functions and Statistics • Functions, Trigonometry and Probability • Pre-Calculus and Discrete Mathematics • Differential Calculus • Geometry • Statistics • Topics in Mathematics • AP Calculus AB		
Music: • History of Art and Music • Instrumental Ensemble I and II • Wind instruments I and II • String Orchestra I and II • Drama- Vocal Music I and II * • Modern Dance I and II • Ear Training and Software • Composition I and II • Pop and Rock Singers • AP Music Theory	 Physical Education and Sports: Girls and Boys Basketball Girls and Boys Soccer Girls and Boys Volleyball Coed Hockey Coed Gymnastics Physical Education Fitness 	Portuguese: • Portuguese I • Portuguese II • Portuguese III • Portuguese IV • Portuguese V • Concentration in Portuguese	Religion and Pastoral: • Contemporary Religious Phenomena • Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church • Ethics • Contemporary Ethical Problems • Leadership		
Science: • General Physics • Advanced Physics • General Chemistry • Advanced Chemistry • General Biology • Environmental Science • Health • AP Physics C: Mechanics • AP Biology • AP Chemistry (Online)	Social Studies: • 19th and 20th Century Colombian History • Current Events • Colombian Current Events* • Colombian Current Events and Citizenship • Economics • Contemporary History • Latin America • Critical Thinking • Philosophy II • AP Human Geography • AP Macroeconomics • AP Microeconomics • AP World History (Foundations, Modern and Contemporary)** • AP World History	 Spanish: Colombian Literature Literature: From the Middle Ages to The Golden Century Modern Literature Contemporary Literature 20th Century Latin American Literature Film Studies Journalism Classic and Contemporary Drama ** Philosophy I AP Spanish Literature and Culture 	 Technology and Computer Science: Introduction to Computer Science Principles with Processing Introduction to Computer Science A Introduction to Programming - Visual Basic ** Introduction to Programming- Java ** AP Computer Science A AP Computer Science Principles 		

*Offered until June 2015 **Offered until June 2016

