



# COLEGIO HACIENDA LOS ALCAPARROS



Colegio Hacienda Los Alcaparros (Alcaparros), founded in 1992, is a private preK-12 day school, located just outside of Bogotá. The school sits on a green, 25-acre campus. The student body is made of both Colombians and international students, representing nearly 20 countries.

- 775 students
- 7:1 student-to-teacher ratio
- Calendar B, August - June; Trimester system
- Bilingual Curriculum - English & Spanish, with Portuguese offered as a third language beginning in middle school. 85% of the curriculum is taught in English.

## Graduation Requirements:

- Pass every subject each school year with a 60% or higher (2.4 out of 4.0)
- Complete 80 community service hours throughout the last two years of high school
- Take the Saber 11, the national exit exam
- Complete and present the Senior Project in the third trimester of their final year

## Curriculum

The central focus and core mission of Alcaparros is based on the commitment to developing the human potential of each student. We offer an education where students learn in context through project-based and active learning methodologies at every grade level. The curriculum seeks to balance academic rigor with personal development, providing students with opportunities to truly discover who they are and how they can contribute as global citizens.

Students graduate with the Colombian high school diploma and can also obtain the American high school diploma thanks to the school's Cognia accreditation and the Dual Degree program. Although the school does not offer advanced or honors courses, it does use NWEA's Map Testing to measure student learning against international benchmarks. The school also piloted an AP course in the 2023-24 school year, with hopes to expand offerings in the future.



Due to the difference in nomenclature of grades in Colombia, students graduate in 11th grade, however, they study the same number of years as students in the United States. The following is the equivalency table:

Age	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
U.S.	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Colombia	K5	Tr	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th

All students take the same courses in their four years of high school with the exception of the electives. The number in parentheses indicates the hours per week that the students study each subject and the asterisk indicates the classes taught in Spanish:

	8th Grade (US 9th)	9th Grade (US 10th)	10th Grade (US 11th)	11th Grade (US 12th)
English	Literature Masterpieces (5)	English - Voices that Speak Out (4)	English - Identify in Literature (3)	English (3)
Spanish	*Literature & Conflict (4)	*Latin American literature (4)	*Literature & Society (3)	*Arteletra (3)
Social Sciences	Social Structures - Age of Revolutions (4)	*Memory & Society in Colombia (2) *Philosophy (2)	*Economics & Politics (2) *Philosophy (3) *Memory & Society in Colombia (3)	*Economics & Politics (2) *Philosophy (3) *Contemporary Society (2) Ethics (2)
Natural Sciences	Natural Science (2)	Biology (4) *Chemistry (2) *Physics (2)	Biology (4) *Chemistry (2) *Physics (2)	Biology (2) *Chemistry (3) *Physics (3)
Math & Technology	Algebra & Geometry (5) Art and Technology (4)	Advanced Algebra (5)	Functions, Trigonometry & Statistics (3)	Calculus (3)
Physical Education	*Physical Education (4)	*Physical Education (3)	*Physical Education (4)	*Physical Education (3)
Arts Electives	Music: Jazz ensemble, Rock band, Wind ensemble, Vocal ensemble (2)	Ceramics, Jazz ensemble, Rock band, Vocal ensemble, Wind ensemble, When color touches reality (2)	Ceramics, Jazz ensemble, Rock band, Vocal ensemble (2)	Ceramics, Jazz ensemble, Creation workshop, Rock band, Vocal ensemble (2)
Project Electives		Environmental ethics, Water source sustainability, Environmental videography & journalism, Technologies, and more (2)	GRULAC Jr., Python & Visualization Coding Project, Tesla, A journey through the Bogotá River basin, and more (2)	Individual Graduation Project in Third Trimester
Vocational Electives		Economic Analysis (AP Pilot Course), Yearbook, Automation Electronics, Ceramics, Film and Television, Composition and Bars, El Quijote, Image and Reality, Introduction to Industrial and Environmental Processes, MUN Current Global Issues, Art and Science Park, Fish Farming and Hydroponics, Portuguese, Sounds of ALMA, Vallenato Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, Theater, and more (2)		

## Extracurricular Activities

Alcaparros encourages all students to explore their interests and talents by providing many opportunities, both during the school day and in after-school offerings, that cover a variety of areas. Beginning in preschool students have extracurricular activities that include dance, sports, music and visual arts, and technology. As a part of the high school curriculum (see table), students also choose project electives and vocational electives to explore professional interests. It is important to note that the following extracurricular activities have an additional cost.

### Sports

- Dance
- Ballet,
- Soccer
- Skating
- Horseback riding
- Mountain biking
- Taekwondo
- Gymnastics

### Music

- Violin
- Piano
- Acoustic guitar
- Electric guitar
- Drums
- Electric bass
- Singing
- Wind instruments

### Others

- Science, technology & robotics
- Cooking
- Drawing
- Comics
- Ceramics

# Grading

At Alcaparros, students are evaluated on both learning dispositions and academic achievement throughout the year. Academic achievement is defined by the standards in each subject that are subdivided into subject-area learning objectives which define the knowledge and skills that students will need to master by the end of the school year.

A student's level of performance on each learning objective is evaluated against a rubric aligned to Marzano's taxonomy and they receive qualitative feedback throughout the year. At the end of the year, the final performance level on each learning objective is reported on a scale of 1 - 4 at intervals of 0.5 and the average of the scores across the learning objectives in each subject determines their grade for that class. Grades are reported to students using the nominal categories required by the Colombian Ministry of Education, but the quantitative grade is what is used to calculate and report their GPA on transcripts.

Alcaparros	MEN	Description	Percentage	GPA	Letter Grade
Excellent	Superior	Meets all the proposed objectives. Autonomously values and promotes self-development.	95% and up	3.8 +	A +
			90% - 94%	3.6 - 3.7	A
Outstanding	High (75% - 89%)	Meets all proposed objectives with an adequate work rate and quality.	85% - 89%	3.4 - 3.5	A -
			80% - 84%	3.2 - 3.3	B +
Good	Basic (60% - 74%)	Reaches most of the expected accomplishments and shows interest and commitment to their own development.	75% - 79%	3.0 - 3.1	B
			70% - 74%	2.8 - 2.9	B -
Acceptable	Basic (60% - 74%)	Achieves expected accomplishments to the minimum level acceptable. Requires more consistency in their own development.	65% - 69%	2.6 - 2.7	C+
			60% - 64%	2.4 - 2.5	C
Insufficient	Low	Does not meet the minimum achievement and needs improvement in the quality of work.	Less than 60%	Under 2.4	F

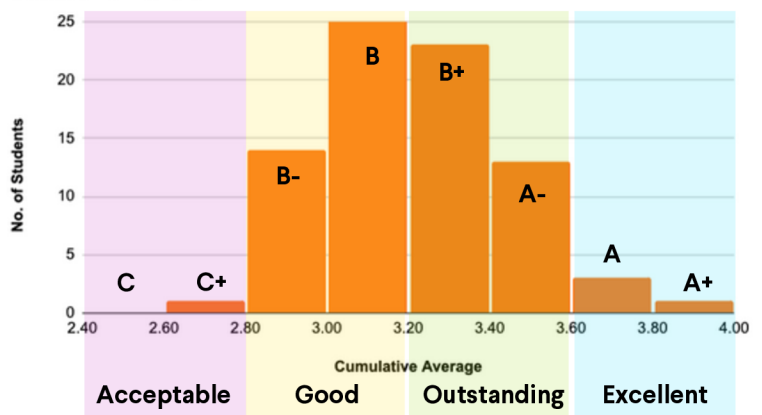
Students may have multiple trimesters to demonstrate growth in any given learning objective and for this reason Alcaparros only generates transcripts with end-of-year grades.

Students are not ranked at Alcaparros, however, the graph to the right shows the rigor at which students are evaluated at the school. While our system is on a 4-point scale, the possibility of earning a 4.0 is more challenging than in the traditional system because it requires evidence of the students' ability to consistently transfer their learning.

University admissions teams are invited to reach out to our International College Counselor with any questions about our unique evaluation system.

## Distribution of Grades

Classes of 2024 & 2025



## Awards and Distinctions

Alcaparros holds an assembly at the end of each year to recognize students for their achievements. There are several awards that students may receive.

- The Alcaparros Tree (Árbol Alcaparros) is the highest recognition that a student can receive. It is awarded to the seniors who throughout their time at the school have exemplified the Alcaparros values and have consistently made Honor Roll.
- The Medal of Athletic Excellence is awarded to two students, male and female, who have been active participants and leaders in athletics, participating in events for both leagues (UCB and UNCOLI).
- The Honor Roll recognizes the top three students in each grade based on their grade average at the end of the school year.
- Diplomas of Excellence are awarded by each department to recognize students who demonstrate strength or talent in a specific area.
- The Alcaparros Spirit Award is given to students in 1st through 11th grade who have modeled the principles and values of the school.

## Where our students study

896 students have graduated since 2001 and are now working in diverse fields.

Although, historically, 10% of our graduates have studied abroad while the other 90% have completed their undergraduate degrees at top universities in Colombia, we have recently seen a rise in students going abroad; over 30% of the Class of 2024 chose to attend international universities. Below we share some of the schools students have been accepted to in the past five years for their undergraduate studies. The \* marks universities that were attended.

### Colombia

- Universidad de Los Andes\*
- Pontificia Universidad Javeriana\*
- CESA\*
- Universidad del Rosario\*
- EAFIT\*
- Universidad de Antioquia\*

### UK

- King's College London\*
- London Metropolitan University\*
- University of Manchester\*

### Canada

- Concordia University\*
- McGill University
- University of Toronto\*

### France

- Neoma\*

### Italy

- IED Milan\*
- NABA\*

### Mexico

- Universidad Anáhuac\*

### Portugal

- Nova Lisboa\*

### Spain

- IE University\*
- Universidad Francisco de Vitoria\*

### Switzerland

- Franklin University

### USA

- AMDA\*
- Babson College\*
- Bentley University\*
- Berklee College of Music\*
- Boston University\*
- Colorado State University
- Connecticut College
- Creighton University\*
- Emerson College\*
- Florida Atlantic University\*
- Florida International University\*
- Full Sail University\*
- Goucher College
- Hampshire College
- Huron at Western University
- Macalester College\*
- Marist College
- Northeastern University\*
- Nova Southeastern University\*
- Purdue University\*
- St. Olaf College\*
- Suffolk University\*
- SUNY - ESF
- The College of Wooster
- The George Washington University
- The New School\*
- University of South Florida\*
- University of Vermont
- University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire\*
- Wabash College
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute

## Colegio Hacienda los Alcaparros

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