



AMERICAN NICARAGUAN SCHOOL

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2008-2009 School Profile

School Description

The American Nicaraguan School is a private, coeducational day school founded in 1944 to provide college preparatory American educational program from Nursery (3 years of age) through Grade 12 for students of all nationalities. Located on a 26 acre campus in Managua, Nicaragua, the school offers 80 internet ready classrooms, ten administrative offices, a library/media center and technology center both equipped with wireless internet access and video conferencing, science laboratories, fine arts, drama and music departments, and extensive athletic facilities for tennis, basketball, swimming, baseball and volleyball including a multi-purpose covered athletic area with capacity for 3000 people. The American Nicaraguan School offers over 20 community service organizations as well as HACIA Democracy, sponsored by Harvard University. ANS is proud to house a chapter of the National Honor Society.

The ANS mission is to provide its multicultural student community with a US-accredited college preparatory program, based on democratic and universal values, that develops critical thinkers and ethical individuals capable of realizing their leadership potential by making meaningful contributions to society.

Enrollment

Of the 970 Students enrolled at A.N.S. as of August, 2008, 463 are in elementary school, 195 in middle school, and 312 in high school. Approximately 32% of these students are U.S. citizens, 46% are Nicaraguan and the remaining 22% represent other nationalities.

Faculty

There are 102 full-time faculty members and administrators in the 2008-2009 school year, including 47 U.S. citizens, 44 Nicaraguans and 11 persons of other nationalities. Most are licensed to teach in the United States, Nicaragua or their native country. Four of the eight administrators are U.S. citizens.

Community

The school community includes members of the diplomatic corps, members of foreign and local businesses, members of the Nicaraguan government and members of various foreign assistance groups working in Nicaragua.

Accreditation

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS); Nicaraguan Ministry of Education; member of the Association American Schools in Central America (AASCA); member of the Association of American Schools in South America (AASSA); member of The Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE).

Graduation Requirements

Minimum requirements are as follows:

- 4 years of English
- 4 years of Social Studies
- 4 years of Foreign Languages
- 2 years of Physical Education or Dance
- 3 years of Science
- 4 years of Mathematics
- 1 semester of Computer Science
- 1 semester of Fine Art, Music, Drama or Band
- 4 years of electives

Curriculum

The curriculum is comparable to that offered in college-preparatory schools of like size in the United States and also includes the Nicaraguan Bachillerato program. English is the language of instruction at all academic levels. Spanish is required subject of study throughout the system and English-Spanish bilingualism is a major curricular objective. Most graduates successfully enter many colleges and universities in the United States. Student Services maintains a Career Center that contains the range of resources necessary to assist students with career decision making and postsecondary planning. Advanced-Placement (AP) classes are available to students. These classes are first-year college courses that students can take for college credit. The AP courses offered are: Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Statistics, Calculus, U.S. History, Comparative Politics, European History, Human Geography, Economics, Psychology, English Literature, English Language, French Language, Spanish Literature, Chinese Language and Spanish Language. After-school sports and community service activities are also available.

Secondary Course Offering

English: English 6, English 7, English 8, English 9, English 10, American Literature, World Literature, College Writing, AP English Language, Writing Seminar 6, 9 and AP English Literature.

Mathematics: Math 6, Math 7, Math 8, Pre-Algebra 8, Algebra I, Honors Algebra I, Geometry, Honors Geometry, Algebra II, Honors Algebra II, Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, Calculus, Honors Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, Intro. to Investing, Statistics, AP Statistics, and AP Calculus.

Science: Earth Science, Life Science, Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Conceptual Physics, Anatomy, AP Environmental Science, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, and AP Physics.

Social Sciences: Social Studies 6, Latin American History, U.S. History 8, Ancient World History, Modern World History, U.S. History, Nicaraguan History, Nicaraguan Geography, Economics, Civics, International Relations, Psychology, U.S. Government, AP U.S. History, AP European History, AP Human Geography, AP Comparative Government, AP Psychology, AP Macro Economics.

Foreign Languages: Spanish 6-12 (for native speakers), Spanish as a 2nd Language (levels 1-3), French 1-3, AP French Language, AP Spanish Language, AP Spanish Literature, Chinese 1-3, AP Chinese, English as a Second Language (beginner, intermediate, and advanced) and Spanish Literature (for 2nd language learners).

Computer: Information Technology, Desk Top Publishing, and Digital Yearbook

Physical Education: Health, PE 6-8, HS PE I & II, HS Athletics and Dance. In addition, the school offers a wide variety of individual and team sports for all age levels through its after school sports program.

Other Courses: MS Art, MS Study Skills, HS Art, Studio Art, MS Drama, HS Drama, MS Music, HS Band, and Guitar. (Previous years offered: Stage Technology, History of Film, Public Relations, Latino Literature, and World Dance)

Grading System and Ranking

The school uses both letter (A,B,C,D,F) and percentage grades. The minimum passing grade is D (60%). Grade weighting is applied to AP classes.

Standardized Tests

A systematic annual program of standardized testing is implemented to assess the student's ability, achievement, interests and aptitude. Tests administered are the Stanford (Grades 2, 4, 6 & 8) and PSAT (Grades 10 & 11). The American Nicaraguan School is a certified testing center for the PRAXIS, SSAT, SCAT, GMAT, GRE, LSAT, SAT I & II, TOEFL, and ACT exams. Other testing services are provided for those students with additional university admission requirements. 2007 AP results: 130 students completed 199 exams and 80% earned a "3" or better. 2008 SAT I average score: Verbal: 520; Math: 542; Writing: 519.

College Placement

Over 98% of each graduating class pursues post secondary education, primarily in 4 year US colleges. Members of the graduating class of 2008 were accepted into the following Colleges and Universities:

Harvard University, Brown University, Princeton University, Boston College, Boston Univ., Penn State Univ., American University, University of Pennsylvania, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, U.S.C., Les Roches (Switzerland), Clark University, Dartmouth College, Tulane University, Lynn University, Michigan State University, University of Tampa, Loyola University-New Orleans, Loyola University-Chicago, University of Chicago, George Washington University, Purdue University, University of New Orleans, Rice University, Tufts University, Florida Institute of Technology, Vassar College, Middlebury College, Wellesley College, Colgate University, Georgetown University, Johnson & Wales Univ., Savannah College of Art & Design, Tech de Monterrey, Universidad Americana, University of Richmond, St. Mary's University-Texas, University of Notre Dame, Johns Hopkins University, University of British Columbia, University of Taiwan, Lehigh University, St. Louis University of Madrid (Spain), Louisiana State University, Williams College, University of Virginia, Marymount University, Northwestern Univ., Duke University, Allegheny College, University of Tulsa, Duquesne University, Indiana State Univ., Univ. of Miami, West Virginia Univ., Spring Hill College, Webster University, University of Colorado-Boulder, Antioch University, Lake Forest College, University of Saskatchewan, University of Rochester.

Student Services

Student Services consists of one counselor in elementary school, one counselor for middle school, two high school counselors and one college placement counselor. Learning support services in the areas of remedial reading, learning disabilities, and ESL are available for elementary, middle and high school students.