

# American School of Puerto Vallarta

## SCHOOL PROFILE 2007 - 2008

### DESCRIPTION:

The American School of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, is a private, non-profit, non-sectarian, co-educational institution offering a bilingual, bicultural education for students from pre-school through high school. Founded in 1986, the school is dedicated to an American style education, high academic standards, and the caring environment a small school can offer.

Grades:	Nursery through 12th		
Preschool Section:	Nursery through K		
Primary Section:	Pre-1st through 6th Grade		
Middle/High School Section:	7th through 12th Grade		
Enrollment:	School Total	371	
	Preschool Section	55	
	Primary Section	164	
	Middle/High School	152	
Student Population:	70% Mexican	20% U.S.	10% Others

### ACCREDITATION

The American School of Puerto Vallarta is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS-CASI, now known as AdvancEd), Mexico's Ministry of Education (SEP) and The National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

### UNIQUE DUAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Our elementary school students receive bilingual instruction that meets both Mexican and U.S. standards. They also attend a special pre-first year to develop their dual language proficiency. Our high school students are enrolled in a full dual program, receiving both a U.S. diploma and a Mexican preparatory (high school) certificate. Thus, the majority of our graduates speak both English and Spanish fluently. These students are taking as a minimum the 24 Carnegie units required for a U.S. high school diploma as well as the Mexican program requirements in Spanish Literature, Mexican History, Geography, Law and Civics.

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Advanced Placement courses (already approved by the College Board) to be offered in 2007-2008 include English Literature, Spanish Literature, Computer Science, Calculus, and U.S. History. During this school year, we will be piloting additional courses based on the AP curriculum in Statistics, Studio Art, and Psychology, with course syllabi to be submitted to the College Board for approval during the course of the year. All students enrolled in AP courses are expected to take the AP exam.

### CLASS SCHEDULING AND GRADING SYSTEM

Almost all junior high and high school classes are year-long, divided into two semesters. Most classes are offered once each day for approximately 45 minutes, resulting in 7 classes per day. A few classes not required for graduation last only one semester and/or may meet less frequently than five days per week. Credits awarded vary with time spent in direct instruction, with daily instruction required for full credit (0.5 Carnegie units per semester). Students are graded on a scale ranging from 0 to 10.0, with 6.0 required to pass the semester. Grade point averages are weighted in the calculation of averages to reflect hours of instruction (and thus credit earned) in each class. AP classes are weighted by increasing the quarter grade for the class by 0.3 points (out of 10).

### SPECIAL NEEDS

Although the school offers a formal special education program only in primary grades, every effort is made to provide support and make accommodations so that students with special needs can be successful in the upper grades as well. All students receiving credit for a class have met the full requirements for that class. Any special or remedial classes at junior high and high school level are identified on the transcript as Resource.

**COLLEGE PLACEMENT AND TESTING INFORMATION**

Ninety-five percent of graduating students continue directly on to universities in the United States, Canada, Mexico and Europe. Graduates in the past five years have been accepted to universities including, but not limited to, the following:

<p><b>U.S. &amp; CANADA:</b>                  Austin College                  Beloit College                  Boston University                  Brown University                  Clark University                  Colgate University                  Cornell University                  Eckerd College                  Hampshire College                  Hamilton College                  Haverford College                  Lawrence University                  Lewis and Clark College                  Mount Holyoke College                  Occidental College                  Reed College                  Rochester Institute of Technology</p>	<p>Santa Clara University                  St. Olaf Collage                  Swarthmore College                  Trinity University                  University of Denver                  University of Miami                  University of Richmond                  University of San Diego                  Wellesley College                  Wesleyan University                  Williams College                  Concordia University                  McGill University                  Queen’s University                  University of British Columbia                  University of Guelph                  University of Victoria</p>	<p><b>MEXICO:</b>                  ITESM (Tec de Monterrey,                  multiple campuses)                  ITESO                  Universidad Anahuac                  Universidad de Guadalajara                  Universidad Iberoamericana                  Universidad Panamericana                  Universidad Autónoma de                  Guadalajara                  Universidad la Salle                  Universidad del Valle de Atemajac</p> <p><b>EUROPE:</b>                  Jacobs University Bremen                  Institut Supérieur de Gestion, Paris</p>
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**Average PAA** (College Board SAT in Spanish): Verbal 682 Math 716  
**Average TOEFL:** graduates consistently score above university entrance requirements.  
**Average SAT Verbal:** 2004-2007 yearly average ranges from 606 to 629  
**Average SAT Math:** 2004-2007 yearly average ranges from 595 to 617

**THE FACULTY**

The faculty of the American School of Puerto Vallarta is a highly skilled and devoted group of teachers who come from various parts of the US, Mexico and Canada. Approximately 50 percent of the teachers hold a graduate degree.

**THE SCHOOL PLANT**

The school plant consists of five buildings housing 22 classrooms, including two libraries, two science and two computer laboratories, administrative offices, storerooms and workrooms, and cafeteria. The grounds extend to more than seven acres and include: grass-covered sports fields and track; two multi-purpose, covered, surfaced sports courts; an open air theater; and a preschool play area.

**EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Education at the American School of Puerto Vallarta extends beyond the classroom to ensure that all students are presented with the opportunity to grow in a rich environment of experiences. Programs are diverse, including: student council, National Honor Society, Model United Nations, musical theater, chorus, clubs, exchange programs, service learning and environmental projects. An extensive after school sports program is offered in tennis, soccer, basketball, volleyball and swimming. School teams compete within the ASOMEX (American Schools of Mexico) and local leagues.

**ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Gerald Selitzer, M.A., General Director (gsel@aspv.edu.mx)  
 Kathleen Selitzer, M.A., Elementary Principal (kselitzer@aspv.edu.mx)  
 José Antonio Salgado, M.A., Junior High and High School Principal (asalgado@aspv.edu.mx)  
 Elise Langley, M.S., Director of Admissions (llangley@aspv.edu.mx)  
 Robert J. Nation, Ph.D., Guidance Counselor (rnation @aspv.edu.mx)

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