

American School of Puerto Vallarta

SCHOOL PROFILE 2008 – 2009

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	366	
	Preschool Section	56	
	Primary Section	162	
	Middle/High School	148	
Student Population:	67% Mexican	22% U.S.	11% 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 2008 – 2009 include English Literature, Spanish Literature, Computer Science, Calculus, U.S. History, Macro Economics, Studio Art, and Psychology. 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

Over ninety 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:

U.S. & CANADA:

Art Institute of Chicago
Austin College
Boston University
Clark University
Colgate University
Cornell University
Eckerd College
Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design
Hampshire College
Hamilton College
Haverford College
Lawrence University
Lewis and Clark College
Mount Holyoke College
Occidental College
Parsons the New School for Design
Reed College

Rochester Institute of Technology
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
St. Olaf College
Swarthmore College
Trinity University
University of Miami
University of Richmond
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University
Williams College
Concordia University
McGill University
Queen's University
University of British Columbia
University of Guelph
University of Victoria
Waterloo University

MEXICO:

ITAM
ITESM (Tec de Monterrey, multiple campuses)
ITESO
Universidad Anahuac
Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara
Universidad de Guadalajara
Universidad Iberoamericana
Universidad Panamericana
Universidad del Valle de Atemajac

EUROPE:

Institut Supérieur de Gestion, Paris
Jacobs University Bremen
Les Roches School of Hotel Management

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 U.S., Mexico, Canada and elsewhere. Approximately 50 percent of the teachers hold a graduate degree.

THE SCHOOL PLANT

The school plant consists of five buildings housing 25 classrooms, including two libraries, two science and two computer laboratories, administrative offices, storerooms and workrooms, and a 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. After school, there is a math lab and an English program. Also after school, an extensive 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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