



COLEGIO HACIENDA
LOS ALCAPARROS

EDUCATING GLOBAL CITIZENS

From the onset Alcaparros had a special mission: to teach and educate through an approach that envisions education as an ethical, scientific, and aesthetic practice. The Alcaparros approach also includes a respect for differences and for the individual process for learning that is unique to each person. Students are active participants in this ongoing educational project that is based on promoting personal development while encouraging conflict resolution.

This innovative method is aimed at forming global citizens. Alcaparros' students are aware, knowledgeable, have a commitment to ecology and to large-scale global issues. Aside from what is taught in the classroom students gain knowledge through participation at an international level in conferences and enrich their educational experience through interdisciplinary project-based learning and cultural exchanges.





COLEGIO HACIENDA LOS ALCAPARROS

ALCAPARROS A UNIQUE PEDAGOGICAL PROJECT

At Alcaparros we strive for excellence in all academic areas. Equally important is helping each student understand their immediate environment, and to develop their individual expression and creativity. Music, theatre and art education is a large part of this because of the way it develops thinking skills, sensitivity, and perseverance.

Our mission is to guide our students and their families to foster:

- a joy of learning,
- the capacity to think on one's own,
- cooperative learning through practice,
- an understanding of the self and meaning in the world,
- the care for oneself, for others, and for the environment,
- personal talents oriented towards social and personal excellence,
- autonomy and creativity which is core to a quality life.

TOP OF THE CLASS

90% of students in 11th grade graduate in the top quintile of the country.

A LONG-TERM PROJECT

25 years. For the past quarter century Alcaparros has been refining a project-based learning approach rooted in academic and personal development.

GRADUATING CLASSES

16 classes have graduated since the founding of the school. Each class has scored at a high level in state exams and students have gone on to prestigious post secondary institutions all over the world.

517 students have graduated since 2001 and are now working in fields as diverse as: art direction, communications, digital marketing, medicine, entrepreneurship, foreign trade, journalism, law, music, not-for-profit, research, education, technology and engineering.

GRADUATES ATTEND TOP UNIVERSITIES LOCALLY AND AROUND THE WORLD



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

ENCUENTROS is a methodology to support conflict resolution that emphasizes: listening attentively, speaking timely and with reason, assertive forms of expression, and on the mediation processes. This promotes the development of social skills, emotional intelligence, self-awareness and consideration for others.

CASAS is a program that begins in Middle School which presents fun activities and situations that stimulate thought, artistic expression and movement. CASAS aims to create community.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS for over 500 local children. Tutoring is given by 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students in English, Math, Physical Education, and Art classes to local children who attend. As well as the traditional "Shared Christmas" where rural children received gifts and participate in integration activities.

CONSEJERÍAS begin in sixth grade and continue until graduation. Each student has a teacher counselor who keeps track of their academic, emotional, social development and supports the process of building individual autonomy.

ACADEMIC PRINCIPLES

ACTIVE LEARNING is an approach to teaching that views the child as central to their own development. It gives students the freedom to choose, express ideas, practice planning and executing projects and also gives the space for reflecting on the process. The bi-products are increased self-esteem, autonomy, and creativity.

COOPERATIVE PROJECT-BASED LEARNING gives the opportunity for students to deepen their knowledge, exercise leadership and practice group-work skills. These experiences take learning beyond the classroom. Each year, students participate in 2 interdisciplinary projects.

MUSIC EDUCATION includes a full suite of programs in violin, piano, wind, percussion, guitar, bass and cello. Students participate in their own musical groups: orchestra, rock bands, ensembles, jazz groups, Colombian rhythms, choir, and more.

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

140 professional staff members. There are 120 teachers and 20 support staff: 9 psychologists, 5 therapists, 1 doctor, 1 nurse and a 4 person communications team.

STUDENT BODY

794 students are registered at the school representing 7 nationalities. The grades range from Kinder 4 (4 years of age) to 11 grade (17/18 years of age).

STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO

7/1 is the ratio of students to teacher. Each class has a maximum of 24 students, a main teacher and an academic team. For Kinder 4 - 1st grade 2 teachers support each class.

ART FORMATION

For the school, art is a space that allows students to create new imaginaries, solve problems of an aesthetic and personal nature, develop skills, and practice new knowledge and techniques.

THEATRE ARTS

We have an ambitious theater training program that has the support of an interdisciplinary group of professionals with a vast artistic and pedagogical experience. The theater program seeks, above all, the formation of actors in life.

PLASTIC ARTS

Students find in the visual arts a sphere in which their thoughts can be both individually and collectively developed and constructed through the concept of word turned to image.

LEARNING CENTER

The Learning Center offers support to children with specific cognitive and academic learning needs. It also helps new children adapt to the new environment or supports them through new life situations.

LANGUAGES

Alcaparros is fully bilingual in Spanish and English, and for students from 6th grade on, Portuguese is also a language option. The Cambridge Bilingual Education program, including standardized testing, guides the English language curriculum.

EXTRACURRICULARS

A professional sports and extracurricular team implements 23+ programs such as: swimming, martial arts, robotics, equestrianism, violin, guitar, piano, voice, gymnastics, ballet, science experimentation, engineering and nanotechnology.

COLEGIO HACIENDA LOS ALCAPARROS IS ESPECIALLY EQUIPPED TO WELCOME STUDENTS FROM ABROAD

Colegio Hacienda Los Alcaparros is situated 30-minutes away from Bogota in the mountains of La Calera. This is an ideal environment for learning that takes students away from the fast-paced city life and into a natural environment. The campus is highly secure and provides quality infrastructure designed for optimal academic pursuits including top-notch science labs, a Mac lab, outdoor and indoor sports facilities and many areas for play and exploration. The school's strengths lie in active, project-based learning and in music and art formation.

THE RAINBOW CONNECTIONS EXCHANGE AND WELCOME PROGRAM

A Rainbow Connection is a philosophy that Alcaparros adopts to help ease times of transition. It is implemented within the school during the transition from preschool to primary and during the step from primary to middle school. The Rainbow Connections Exchange and Welcome program is based on this concept and designed to welcome new families and students to the school. It is structured to equally support families new to the region as well as exchange students on a short-term stay.

Families coming to Colombia due to work transfers or other reasons enjoy all the benefits previously listed that school provides as well as:

- A welcome orientation by school staff to introduce the school philosophy and logistics
- A matching program that links new families to a student family that will provide support and guidance
- Field trips to distinctive areas of Colombia such as the Zona Cafetera, the Paramo and Caribbean regions
- An online communication system that keeps families up-to-date on events, resources and academic results
- Academic support to help students adjust to what may be a new learning approach
- Specialized Spanish-as-a-second-language lessons designed to integrate students
- And most important, the peace of mind that comes with knowing your children are safe, well-cared for, enjoying healthy home-style meals and receiving a quality education

For exchange students, 2 weeks-3 months:

- A welcome orientation by school staff to introduce the school philosophy and logistics
- A matching program that links the student to a host family and a student in the same grade
- Specialized Spanish-as-a-second-language lessons designed to integrate students
- Access to the school's excursion, extracurricular and music programs according to length of stay
- And an unforgettable educational experience that is aimed at developing sensitive and globally aware individuals

GLOBAL PROGRAMS

Students in grades 5, 8, and 9 participate in academic and cultural exchanges in Canada, Brazil, England and New Zealand.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

Programs such as the National High School Model of United Nations in New York and European theater and music festivals reinforce the global perspective of students. The school is also the founder and headquarters of GRULAC Junior, the Youth Group of Latin America and the Caribbean for the active participation in UN conferences related to the environment and sustainable development.

EXCURSIONES

1-10th grade students participate in yearly excursions to Colombia's biodiverse regions. These close experiences with nature help to build the connections between the classroom and life.