



COLEGIO LOS NOGALES
CEEB Code 925437

School Profile 2024- 2025

Mission

Educate holistic persons, global citizens, and ethical leaders with vocation for service and committed with Colombia.

School Information

Founded in 1982, Colegio Los Nogales, a bilingual Colombian private, non-profit, coeducational day school provides students in grades PK-12 with the fundamental knowledge, skills, values, and processes essential for lifelong learning. The school promotes the development of the intellectual, social-emotional, physical, moral, aesthetic, and spiritual dimensions. Our primary goal is to prepare students to become the future leaders of Colombia. This year Colegio Los Nogales accepted 62% of all applicants. The average class size is 24 in elementary school and middle school, and 15 in high school. The teacher-student ratio is 1:7. The school year begins in August and ends in June.

Student Body

Currently there are 994 students enrolled in the school: 282 in high school, 211 in middle school, 281 in elementary school, and 220 in preschool. This year's senior class has 69 students. The school celebrated the graduation of its first senior class in June 1992. Students are mostly Colombians who come from families that value a rigorous bilingual education for their children. The school has been working hard in the last years to diversify its student body, especially in regards to nationality. Our objective is to attract students and families who value an educational experience in a Colombian school with an international curriculum and global awareness.

Academic Curriculum

The curriculum in grades 1-8 runs in a trimester system and is taught in English and Spanish. English, Math, Science, and some Social Studies courses are taught in English while other courses are taught in Spanish. The curriculum in grades 9-12 runs in a semester system and meets rigorous requirements. Most Math and Science classes are taught in English while some Social Studies and Latin American and Spanish Literature classes are taught in Spanish. The school offers twenty-three Advanced Placement (AP) courses in different academic areas. The school requires students to take at least two AP classes in different areas. Students can take AP courses since grade 9. The number of AP courses each student can take depends on the schedule and approval by academic departments. In 2024, 207 students took 357 examinations in 22 subjects. 74% scored 3 or better. All graduates attend four-year college programs in Colombia or abroad. Beginning this academic year, seniors will have a period of independent study to pursue their interests.

Character Education Curriculum

The Character Education curriculum (FINES) is implemented in grades PK-12 and it emphasizes the development of values and life skills. Students learn strategies to grow in the following areas: self-awareness, self-control, self-management, reading the context, and building relationships. The curriculum integrates student life activities such as assemblies, outdoor education trips, leadership activities, homeroom and advisory, student exchanges, community service, and extracurricular activities.

Graduation Requirements

The following requirements are met in the last three years of school in grades 10-12 (a credit corresponds to a course).

English	6 credits	Physical Education and Sports	5 credits
Fine Arts	5 credits	Religious Studies	2 credits*
French / Portuguese / Elective	5 credits	Spanish and Philosophy I	5 credits
Health (CAV)	2 credits	Science / Elective	5 credits
Leadership (12th Grade)	2 credits	Social Studies	5 credits
Mathematics	6 credits	Technology and Computer Science	1 credit
Ethics and Community Service	3 credits	Elective	18 credits

*Parents may ask to be included in the corresponding class according to the faith they profess.



CHANGEMAKER
SCHOOLS

Camilo Camargo

Head of School

Manuel Romero

Dean of Academics

María Mercedes Casas

Dean of Character Education and Child Protection

Alex Sarria

Director of Professional Development and Dean of Faculty

Natalia Pardo

Preschool Principal

Laura María Asensio

Elementary School Principal

Viviana Lerma

Middle School Principal

Valerie Osorio

High School Principal

Natalia Castillo

Pedagogical Approaches Director

Alejandro Contreras

Pedagogical Innovation Center Director

Maria del Pilar Garrido

Admissions Coordinator

Accreditations and Memberships

Colombian Ministry of Education

Council of International Schools (CIS)

New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

International Association for College Admissions Counseling (International ACAC)

Round Square

Global Connections

Ashoka Changemaker Schools

College Board

College Counselor and International Programs Coordinator Info:

Diana Behar

E-mail: dbehar@nogales.edu.co

Professional in College Counseling and International Programs:

María Alejandra González

E-mail: magonzalez@nogales.edu.co

Phone: (571) 676 1128 Ext. 225

Fax: (571) 668 3580

Calle 202 N° 56-50

Bogotá D.C., Colombia

www.nogales.edu.co

Faculty

All 164 faculty members hold university degrees in education and/or their field of specialty. A total of 60% hold a master's degree. The teaching staff is mainly Colombian. This year the school has fifteen foreign faculty members with excellent teaching experience. Colegio Los Nogales promotes the continuing education of faculty, administrators, and staff through its Professional Development Department.

Community Service Programs

Community service programs allow students to engage in meaningful and educational enrichment activities. Students in all grades recognize the importance of volunteer work and the impact of their effort to provide comprehensive services to children, families, and communities. Every sophomore and junior participates in the school's community service programs. They must meet a minimum of 80 hours to graduate. Students can participate in programs such as the second hand store, Viajes de Papel Foundation, Cardio Infantil Hospital, Alianza Educativa Schools, and support of the Department of Philanthropy of the school. These activities serve the needs of several populations such as rural children, low-income families, cognitive diverse populations, students in public schools with limited resources, and the community of the school.

Math and Science Olympiads

Our students participate in regional and national Math and Science Olympiads every year. We have a significant participation of students in grades 4-12. Last year, we had eight finalists in middle school and three semi-finalists in high school in the Colombian Mathematics Olympiads and eight finalists in the Colombian Science Olympiads, three in the Physics Olympiads and one student qualified to be part of the team representing Colombia in the Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiads in Brazil. Since 2016, we have had a significant participation from high school students in the Pascal, Cayley and Fermat contests organized by The Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing from the University of Waterloo in Canada.

Model United Nations

The school promotes the participation of students in grades 6-12 in Model United Nations as an extra-curricular activity. Last year, the school participated in seven MUN conferences and we hosted our sixth Model United Nations. Students received 13 awards for outstanding delegate, three for best delegate and one for best delegation.

Leadership Programs

The school's goal is to educate leaders who serve society and who are committed to a better future for their country and the world. Students have opportunities to participate in student-government activities such as House Captaincy, Student Council and Spokesperson; media and publication activities such as the school's fanzine, the radio station, the speeches publication committee, and the yearbook; community service activities such as the philanthropy, the cafeteria, and the environmental committees, the tutoring program, the debate club, the social service project management, the musical leadership; and the marching band.

Houses

Students are grouped into three houses that bear the names of the school values. **Eudikia** stands for honesty, **Politeia** for responsibility, and **Filia** for respect. Each house is led by two senior captains who have the profile of positive leaders and outstanding individuals. Competitions in sports, academics, and the arts are enthusiastically organized by the House Captains each year.

Sports

Colegio Los Nogales students are required to complete five credits in physical education and sports. Students also participate in interscholastic and intramural team sports (soccer, volleyball, basketball and gymnastics). The school has excellent sports facilities, which include basketball and volleyball courts, two professional soccer fields, and several outdoor playing fields. Students participate in other intramural and varsity athletics such as track and field events, gymnastics, dance, chess, and table tennis.

Fine Arts

The school offers art and music classes. These classes develop skills to appreciate art and music in a historical context and to create art using different media and processes. In high school, students can choose from a variety of courses including AP Studio Art (AP 2-D Art and Design, AP 3-D Art and Design, AP Drawing) and AP Music Theory. The school offers an art concentration program and a music concentration program for students who wish to deepen in the development of their artistic and musical talents. The school also offers after school classes in different instruments and art techniques depending on the students' interests.

International Programs

This department promotes opportunities for students to develop the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to become globally aware citizens and committed change agents to transform Colombia and the world. Students are actively engaged in programs in which they learn about other cultures, languages, and global issues across the curriculum. As part of these initiatives, the school offers the Global Studies Concentration, an interdisciplinary program that helps students develop an interest in their country and the world through academic and extracurricular activities. The department offers study abroad programs to support experiential learning opportunities such as summer courses, exchanges, gap year, service learning, and it also works with international organizations such as Round Square to build a network of contacts worldwide to promote opportunities for intercultural experiences. The school has the Round Square Group that helps promote the IDEALS in the community.

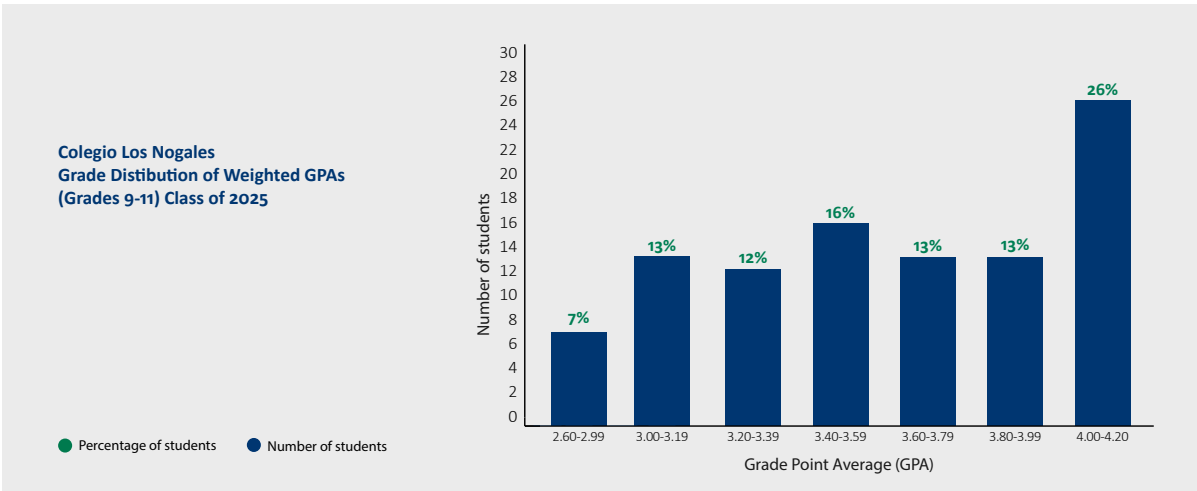
Sustainable School

Colegio Los Nogales is committed to becoming a leading sustainable school. An important action of this commitment is the restoration of a high-altitude ecosystem on our campus, named Zasqua. This space serves as a living laboratory where students and teachers have a unique opportunity to study endemic tree species, and cultivate organic produce, fostering a deep appreciation for where food originates and the environmental benefits of healthy eating. Through a variety of projects, research initiatives, and skill-building activities, Zasqua also serves as a platform to raise environmental awareness, knowledge, and engagement within our community..

Grading

Colegio Los Nogales is considered one of the top private schools in Colombia, and it functions in full compliance with the regulations of the Colombian Ministry of Education. We use a rigorous grading system. We issue transcripts with GPAs on a 4.0 scale. We report a weighted cumulative GPA and all AP courses that students complete successfully have a weight of 0.5 additional Quality Points. The students who pass a course with high honors receive 0.3 additional Quality Points. All grades are included in the cumulative GPA. The school does not rank based on the student’s GPA because our classes are small and our grades are distributed in a narrow range. Instead, the school utilizes a grade distribution table to display the class profile. Our grading system includes five letter grades with equivalent US letter grades and Quality Points as follows:

Letter Grade	Description	U.S. Grade Equivalent	Quality Points
AH	High Honors	A+	4.3
H	Honors	A	4.0
S	Satisfactory	A-	3.7
S	Satisfactory	B+	3.3
A	Passing	B-	3.0
A	Passing	C	2.0
A	Passing	D	1.0
I	Insufficient	F	0



By policy, Colegio Los Nogales discloses suspensions and serious discipline issues that are part of a student’s permanent record during high school to universities.

Testing Information

All seniors take the required Colombian national examination. In the past years, the school has been consistently ranked among the top twenty schools in the nation. Seniors are required to take the official language exams at the intermediate level: Diplôme d’Etudes en Langue Française (DEL F B1) in French or the Celpe - Bras in Portuguese. All students who enroll in AP Courses are required to take the exams. Last year, we had 21 students who earned AP Scholar Awards, 23 AP Scholar with Honor Awards, 32 AP Scholar with Distinction Awards, 1 AP Seminar and Research Certificate, and 6 AP Capstone Diplomas, and 11 International Diplomas. The school requires students to take the SAT for graduation.

SAT Reasoning Mean Scores for the Classes of 2021 - 2024*		
Class	Reading and Writing	Math
2024	649	656
2023	597	636
2022	633	652
2021	NA due to COVID	NA due to COVID

Advanced Placement Exam Results per Academic Year				
Academic Year	Students taking tests	Total tests taken	% students that scored 3 or better	% students that scored 4 or 5
2023 - 2024	207	357	74%	48%
2022 - 2023	191	315	84%	55%
2021 - 2022	207	342	79%	51%
2020 - 2021	212	341	81%	56%

*SAT scores represent the students who applied abroad.

Courses Offered (Grades 10-12)

Arts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Concentration • Art Appreciation • Basic Industrial Design Workshop • Bidimensional Expression Workshop • Ceramics Workshop • Digital Graphic Design Workshop • Photography Workshop • Sculpture Workshop • Studio Art • Painting Workshop • Creation Workshop • 3D Modeling and Construction Workshop • Maker Space Workshop • AP Studio Art 2-D Design • AP Studio Art 3-D Design • AP Studio Art Drawing 	English: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Writing • Drama and Poetry • ELA – English Language Arts I • ELA- English Language Arts II • ELA – English Language Arts II Emphasis in Fiction* • ELA – English Language Arts II Emphasis in Nonfiction* • Global Perspectives • Journalism • Novels • Public Speaking and Leadership • Seminar I • Short Fiction • World Mythology • AP English Literature and Composition • AP English Language and Composition • AP Research • AP Seminar 	French: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French I • French II • French III • French IV • French V • AP French Language and Culture 	Math: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functions and Statistics • Functions, Trigonometry and Probability • Pre-Calculus and Discrete Mathematics • Differential Calculus • Geometry • Advanced Geometry • Statistics • AP Pre-Calculus • AP Calculus AB • AP Statistics
Music: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition I and II • Ear Training and Software • Instrumental Ensemble I and II • Modern Dance I and II • Music Appreciation** • Pop and Rock Singers I and II • String Orchestra I and II* • Wind instruments I and II • Symphonic Orchestra I and II • Symphonic Band I and II • Flute Ensemble I and II • AP Music Theory 	Physical Education and Sports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coed Gymnastics • Fitness • Girls and Boys Basketball • Girls and Boys Soccer • Girls and Boys Volleyball • Physical Education 	Portuguese: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portuguese I • Portuguese II • Portuguese III • Portuguese IV • Portuguese V • Concentration in Portuguese • Portuguese, Language and Culture (NEWL) 	Religious Studies and Ethics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary Religious Phenomena • Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church* • Social Thought of Religions • Belief and Religion • Ethics • Leadership
Science: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Physics • Advanced Physics • General Chemistry • Advanced Chemistry • General Biology • Environmental Science • Health • STEM • Sustainability • AP Biology • AP Chemistry • AP Physics C: Mechanics 	Social Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19th and 20th Centuries Colombian History • Colombian Current Events and Citizenship • Critical Thinking • Current Events • Introduction to Economics • Colombian Economy • International Relations • Experimental Design Laboratory • Global Perspectives** • Human Geography of Colombia • Latin American History • Philosophy I • Political Philosophy • Introduction to Psychology • Entrepreneurship • Public Policy and Government • AP Human Geography • AP Macroeconomics • AP Microeconomics • AP Psychology • AP Comparative Government and Politics 	Spanish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colombian Literature • Critical Thinking* • Creative Expression • Creative Writing Workshop • Heroes in Literature • Hispanic American Literature • Journalism • Latin American Literature** • Foundations of Philosophy • Philosophy I • Philosophy and Argumentation • Problems of Philosophy • Voices in Literature** • Classic and Contemporary Drama • Film Studies • 20th and 21th Centuries Latin American Literature • Academic Reading • Contemporary Literature • AP Spanish Literature and Culture 	Technology and Computer Science: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Computer Science Principles with Processing • Introduction to Computer Science A • AP Computer Science A • AP Computer Science Principles

*Offered until June 2022 ** Offered until June 2023

College Summary

About 42% of the Seniors apply abroad. Nogales graduates have been admitted to the following universities in the last four years:

COLOMBIA CESA* Pontificia Universidad Javeriana* Universidad de la Sabana Universidad de la Salle Universidad de los Andes* Universidad del Rosario Universidad El Bosque Universidad Nacional de Colombia*	Emerson College Emory University* Fordham University* Georgetown University Georgia Institute of Technology Grinnell College Illinois Institute of Technology Indiana University-Bloomington Iowa State University Lafayette College Lake Forest College Lehigh University Lewis and Clark College Loyola Marymount University* Loyola University Chicago Lynn University Maryland Institute College of Art-MICA New York University* Northeastern University* Northwestern University Nova Southeastern University Pennsylvania State University Princeton University Purdue University Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Rhodes College Rice University Rochester Institute of Technology- RIT Rollins College Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology Savannah College of Art and Design-SCAD School of the Art Institute of Chicago-SAIC Stanford University* Stevens Institute of Technology Stony Brook University Suffolk University	Syracuse University Tennessee Technological University Texas A & M University-College Station The George Washington University* The University of Tampa The University of Tulsa Tufts University Tulane University UCB – University of California, Berkeley UCLA – University of California, Los Angeles UCSD – University of California, San Diego Union College University of Colorado at Boulder* University of Connecticut University of Denver University of Delaware University of Florida University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign University of Miami University of Michigan-Ann Harbor* University of Notre Dame University of Pennsylvania University of Pittsburgh University of Rochester University of San Francisco University of Southern California* University of Texas-Austin University of Virginia* Villanova University Walsh University Washington and Lee University WPI – Worcester Polytechnic Institute Yale University	University of Calgary University of Prince Edward Island University of Toronto Central America Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey Spain ESADE * IE University* Les Roches International School of Hotel Management Universidad Camilo José Cela* UCAM- Universidad Católica de Murcia Universidad CEU Cardenal Herrera- GASMA Universidad CEU San Pablo * Universidad Francisco de Vitoria Universidad de Navarra* Universidad Europea de Madrid United Kingdom Durham University King's College London The University of Edinburgh* The University of Manchester University of Exeter University of Warwick Switzerland EHL- Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne France ESCP Business School Sciences Po- Le Havre Campus Netherlands Fontys University of Applied Sciences Leiden University University of Amsterdam
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*Matriculation by the class of 2024