



WELCOME TO COSTA RICA INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

THINK • ASPIRE • ACHIEVE

We invite you to learn more about what it is that makes our school special. We are fortunate to have world class facilities which include ample spaces to run, play and explore, a swimming pool and covered gymnasium, a library and large, comfortable, air conditioned classrooms. Our teachers are all certified in the United States, Canada or Costa Rica and are passionate about helping students to learn and challenge themselves. Our dual accreditation – with both Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges in the United States, and the Costa Rican Ministry of Education – enable students to work towards the goal of attending colleges and universities anywhere in the world.

Our commitment to helping students learn more about Costa Rica and the Spanish language also sets us apart– Spanish, art, physical education, music, Costa Rican studies, many sports and after school activities, are all taught in Spanish. Our Toddler-Grade 2 program is a dual immersion program where students are exposed to instruction in Spanish and English equally throughout the day. Beginning in third grade, students learn in Spanish for a third of their day. On the playground, you may hear English, Spanish, or one of the other 6 languages represented by students on campus. We truly are a melting pot of languages, cultures and traditions. Learning more about one another and accepting our differences as strengths is one of our most treasured attributes.

Experiential learning is an important element of our program – enabling students to immerse themselves in the surrounding environment to make connections between what they are learning in the classroom and what is happening in the real world. Students are engaged in community service projects that benefit our environment and surrounding communities. Field studies are conducted at nearby beaches, estuaries, national parks, and community centers and schools. We have high expectations for our students – ethically, academically, artistically, and athletically – and our teachers, coaches and administration work hard to help our students meet those expectations. Small class sizes and caring teachers are a combination which allows us to reach students at their levels, differentiate in the classroom and help students to achieve their goals. You really can have it all – a simpler way of life in one of the most beautiful, bio-diverse places on earth and a high quality, accredited, college preparatory education for your children. It is all here just waiting for you at the Costa Rica International Academy. What are you waiting for?

Director:
Lois Maré
l.mare@criacademy.com

Mailing Address:
Costa Rica International Academy
400 Mts sur de Westin Conchal,
Playa Brasilito, Guanacaste
Costa Rica

Contact Information:
Phone: 011 - (506) 2654-5042
Fax: 011 - (506) 2654-5044

Accredited By:
Middle States Association of
Colleges and Schools
&
Costa Rican Ministry of
Education

CEEB Code: 834-138
www.criacademy.com

CRIA is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA) and by the Costa Rican Ministry of Education. The school offers a U.S. high school diploma and a range of Advanced Placement (AP) courses. In addition, students who wish to enter Costa Rican university can apply for and obtain the Costa Rican Bachillerato (external exams required).



CRIA respects all creeds, religions, and points of view. The school does not undertake religious instruction nor blend secular and sectarian education. At the same time, moral values and spiritual issues have a place in the educational process. Values such as fairness, justice, compassion, honesty, and the “Golden Rule” are taught without a religious label. Faculty and staff conduct reflect these values and serve as models for the students.

CRIA is recognized throughout Costa Rica for the academic excellence demanded of its students, its college preparatory program, the depth and range of its academic and co-curricular programs, and the quality and dedication of its faculty. Classes are small, averaging from 18 students in primary to 22 students in secondary. An experienced faculty drawn from the United States, Costa Rica and other countries is guided by a teaching philosophy that challenges and supports students to be independent learners and thoughtful citizens.

MISSION

Costa Rica International Academy, a U.S. accredited college preparatory school serving an international community, inspires a passion for learning and provides children with the skills, values, and courage to become responsible leaders in their communities and the world.

VISION

We aspire to be a world-class international school with a culture of high expectations, high performance and accountability.

VALUES

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PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

In keeping with the mission, vision and values of the school, we strive to:

- Provide for the development of intellectual, social, aesthetic and moral values that satisfy the needs of our students;
- Serve students from the expatriate and local communities;
- Maintain high academic standards and foster a love of learning;
- Provide a program that focuses on basic skills in English (literature, writing, speaking, and listening), math, science, history, geography, Spanish, physical education and the arts;
- Maintain a structured plan for learning, which clearly articulates curriculum content;
- Evaluate student learning frequently with a variety of assessment tools to ensure that each child is progressing appropriately;
- Help students prepare for a world of rapid change in which continuing education, creative thought, the ability to use technology, and acquisition of skills are essential;
- Value and teach cultural understanding and knowledge of the complexities of our world;
- Teach and model virtues such as honesty, compassion, diligence, kindness, fairness, loyalty, and the “Golden Rule”; and
- Prepare students for admission to universities in North America, Costa Rica and around the world.

INTERNATIONAL AND COSTA RICAN ACCREDITATIONS

Costa Rica International Academy (formerly Country Day School Guanacaste) is fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA) of the United States and the Ministerio de Educación Pública (MEP) of Costa Rica.



Our school is the ONLY US accredited school in the Guanacaste region, and one of only ten fully accredited schools in Costa Rica.

COLLEGE BOARD PARTNERS

Since 2004, CRIA has been an active partner with the College Board by offering Advanced Placement (AP) courses, PSAT and SAT testing with a college preparatory curriculum. In 2014, we expanded our partnership through membership with the College Board and more comprehensive use of the College Counseling program called Big Future: Get Ready for College. In addition, we also have a full time College Counselor on staff to assist all of our high school students with their career and college aspirations.



ADDITIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

Partner School with the **Northwest Evaluation Association**

Partner School with **WIDA consortium**



SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Costa Rica International Academy is the premier international school serving the international community in Guanacaste, Costa Rica. The 30 acre campus, steps from pristine beaches along the Pacific coast, opened its doors in 2000. The CRIA campus features a day program and offers a private, college-preparatory school enrolling approximately 350 students in Toddler through Grade 12. There are approximately 200 students in the secondary school. 30% of students at CRIA are U.S. citizens, 25% Costa Rican citizens, and the remainder are citizens from 20 other nations. Costa Rica International Academy is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and the Costa Rican Ministry of Education. Students may be eligible for both the U.S. high school diploma and the Costa Rican *Bachillerato* diploma (external exams required), and diplomas are awarded for each. Students in the high school pursue a U.S.-based curriculum. The language of instruction is English



ACADEMIC PROGRAM AND PROFILE

GRADING SCALE

A = 90-100 = 4.0 B = 80-89 = 3.0 C = 70-79 = 2.0 D = 60-69 = 1.0 F = 60 or below = 0.0

*An additional point is computed for AP and an additional 0.5 points for Honors courses.

GPA and RANK

GPA is calculated over a four-year period of grades 9-12. Only courses taken at CRIA are calculated into the GPA, unless they are Advanced Placement (AP) courses which will then also be included in the GPA. Due to the small number of students in the class and the multicultural and varied scholastic backgrounds of our population, we do not rank our students.

SAT SCORES & Graduate Statistics

From 2012-2016, CRIA students SAT mean scores: Critical Reading – 610; Mathematics – 593; Writing – 565

Class of 2017: 82% attending 4-year colleges: 70% to U.S.; 10% to Costa Rica; 20% to Canada

Class of 2016: 88% attending 4-year colleges: 57% to U.S.; 14% to Canada; 14% to Costa Rica; 14% to Argentina



AP and HONORS COURSES

CRIA offers AP courses which may include: Chemistry, Calculus AB, Macroeconomics, Spanish Language and Culture, and Environmental Science. In addition, CRIA may offer the following honors courses: Algebra I, Alg. II, Calculus and Marine Biology. On average, CRIA students take 2-3 AP courses throughout their high school years. In May of 2016, 17 AP exams were written and a score of 3, 4 or 5 was earned on 88% of the exams. In May of 2017, 23 AP exams were written and a score of 3, 4, or 5 was earned on 70% of the exams.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

CRIA offers extracurricular activities such as Model United Nations, student government, National Honor Society, Lego Club, arts and crafts, piano, and community service. Sports include varsity soccer, volleyball (girls); competitive track, swimming, surfing, and basketball.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Students demonstrating exemplary scholarship, leadership, and service are invited to become members of CRIA's chapter of the National Honor Society.

COSTA RICAN BACHILLERATO PROGRAM

The Costa Rican Bachillerato program (grade 11) is the Costa Rican Ministry of Education's secondary school credential. This program and diploma enable students to study at universities in Costa Rica. Students who satisfy all CRIA credit requirements will earn the U.S. accredited high school diploma. Should students wish to earn the Costa Rican Bachillerato diploma, students must write and pass six external exams (in Spanish). As in public schools, it is highly recommended that CRIA students prepare for these exams well in advance. In most instances, students require extra classes through a private tutor to assist them in learning the academic vocabulary in Spanish; science and math content at CRIA is taught in English. Supplemental classes may also be required for Costa Rican social studies and civics. An After School Activities preparation class is also offered at no cost. Since 2009, 91% of CRIA students who wrote the exams earned the Bachillerato diploma compared to the national pass rate of 70% in 2017.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/ COURSES OFFERED

English	4 credits	English credits may include English 9, English 10, US Literature, British Literature
Social Studies	3 credits	Social Studies credits may include Early World History 9, U.S. History 10, Modern World History 11, AP US History, Contemporary World Issues
Mathematics	3 credits	Math credits may include Algebra I, Alg. II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, AP or Honors Calculus AB
Science	3 credits	Science credits may include Biology, Physics, Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, AP Chemistry, Marine Biology. Two sciences must include a laboratory class
Languages	3 credits	Language credits may include Spanish (Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced), AP Spanish Language and Culture, or other Foreign Language course
Fine Arts	1 credit	Fine Arts credits may include Art, Music, Theatre/Drama (1 credit)
PE	1 credit	Students must complete 1 PE credit in Grades 9-12
Core Electives	6 credits	Elective credits may be chosen from previously listed courses and accredited online providers such as K12 and Virtual High School*
TOTAL	24 credits	*Transfer credits from other institutions and online providers will be at the Director's discretion



CRIA National Honor Society



The National Honor Society is the leader among organizations and societies that promote appropriate recognition for students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Thousands of schools are chartered and their chapters abide by the NHS National Constitution.

National Honor Society membership is often regarded as a valid indicator that the student will succeed in life and particularly in studies at the post secondary level. The Honor Society member has already exhibited academic achievement, leadership, honorable and admirable character, and service that demonstrate the member is willing to use his or her talents and skills for the improvement of society. (from NHS Official Handbook)

CRIA National Honor Society Chapter has been active for over ten years, creating and participating in local and international community service projects, school and student activities and events, fundraisers, and many other valuable supportive endeavors.



UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES CRIA STUDENTS ACCEPTANCES & ENROLLED 2015-2018

Anna Maria College
Barry University (with scholarship)*
BAU University of Applied Sciences (Berlin)*
 California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo
 Chapman University
 Chatham University
 College of Charleston
Concordia University, (Canada)*
Culinary Institute of America, San Antonio*
 Curry College
Eckerd College (with scholarship)*
 Falmouth University (UK)
Florida International University*
 Florida Southern College
Florida State University*
 Fordham University
 Franklin University (Switzerland)
 George Brown College
 Institute of Culinary Education
 International Culinary Institute
 John Cabot University, Rome
 Johnson and Wales University
 Loyola University Chicago
 McDaniel College
Miami Dade College*
Ontario Institute of Audio Recording Technology (Canada)*
Pike's Peak Community College*
 Point Loma Nazarene University (with scholarship)
 Portland State University
Quest University (with scholarship) (Canada)*
Regents University (UK)*
San Diego State University*
 San Francisco State University
 San Jose State University
 Savannah College of Art and Design (with scholarship)
Seton Hall University*

Soka University
 St. Thomas University
State University of New York Geneseo*
 Syracuse University
 Trinity University
 Tulane University
UCIMED*, Costa Rica
Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (Spain)*
Universidad Siglo 21 (Argentina)*
Universidad Veritas*
University California Berkeley*
 University California Riverside
 University California Irvine
 University California San Diego
 University California Santa Cruz
University Charles III* (Madrid, Spain)
 University of Buffalo
 University of California San Diego
University of California Santa Barbara*
University of Colorado Boulder*
 University of Florida
University of Idaho*
 University of Louisiana Lafayette
 University of Manchester (UK)
 University of Maryland
 University of North Carolina Wilmington
 University of Oregon
 University of Pittsburg
 University of San Francisco
 University of South Florida (with scholarship)
University of Tampa*
 University of Toronto
University of Utah*
 University of Victoria (with scholarship)
 University of Washington
 Warren Wilson College (with scholarship)
 Washington and Jefferson University
 Whittier College
Wilfred Laurier University (Canada)*

***Bold indicates CRIA graduates' enrollment in last five years**