



# HIGH SCHOOL

Saint Mary School is an **International Baccalaureate (IB)** institution dedicated to nurturing compassionate, knowledgeable, and inquisitive young individuals who can contribute to a better and more peaceful world through mutual understanding and intercultural respect. Our educational approach focuses on life-long learning, preparing our graduates to excel both in university and their professional careers.

Our students are distinguished by a holistic education that strengthens the **heart, mind, and spirit**. We promote socio-emotional skills, cooperation, research, critical thinking, and autonomy, driving academic excellence.

We offer high-quality National and International Baccalaureate programs. **The International Baccalaureate** includes core subjects such as **Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Extended Essay, and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS), which are also integrated into the National Baccalaureate curriculum, fostering critical thinking and strong social awareness in all our students.**

## Life Skills – Intergenerational Elective Courses

In addition to our sports, cultural, and artistic activities, we offer Life Skills elective courses. These courses are designed to create intergenerational teams that promote critical thinking through collaborative learning, project creation, debates, and research. Students can choose from a variety of options, such as:

- Introduction to Gastronomy
- World Geography
- Hiking and Fitness
- Digital Tools
- Music
- Personal Finance
- Drama
- ESL (English as a Second Language)

## Extracurricular Activities

These activities aim to strengthen students' physical, social, cultural, and artistic skills. They take place from Monday to Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Fridays from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Currently offered activities include:

- Men's soccer
- Female indoor soccer
- Female and Mixed Volleyball
- Basketball
- Band
- Piano and Guitar

## Our Teaching Staff

Our highly qualified teaching staff, continually engaged in professional development, is dedicated to the Saint Mary family. They focus on providing a holistic and personalized education, adapting teaching methods to meet the needs of each student and promoting their physical, emotional, academic, and spiritual well-being.

## Student Counseling Department

Our Student Counseling Department, comprising an interdisciplinary team, offers both emotional and academic support. They organize workshops on study techniques, anxiety management, eating disorders, substance abuse, bullying, and sex education. These topics are addressed with parents and students during Family First meetings, which help strengthen the bond between the school and families.

## Career Counseling from Seventh to Eleventh Grade

This program focuses on vocational self-awareness to support decision-making, both in selecting International Baccalaureate subjects and in choosing a career and university. We provide tools that guide our students in building their life projects.

## Values

Values are integrated monthly into all subjects. Additionally, the chaplaincy program offers spiritual guidance, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and catechesis for First Communion and Confirmation.

## Our Schedule

**Monday to Thursday:** 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Friday:** 8:00 a.m. – 1:50 p.m.

**\*Gates open at 7:00 a.m. for drop-off.**

## Internacional Baccalaureate

“Education for a Better World”

The **International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme** at Saint Mary School is a two-year optional program offered during the tenth and eleventh grades. Its primary goal is to develop individuals with exceptional breadth and depth of knowledge while fostering physical, intellectual, emotional, and ethical growth. Students who complete the IB Diploma Programme will also receive their National High School Diploma, certified by the Ministry of Public Education (MEP) in accordance with current regulations.

**Our students do not need to complete an additional year after the eleventh grade to obtain the International Baccalaureate Diploma.**

The IB program aims to develop internationally minded individuals who recognize their shared humanity and collective responsibility to care for the planet, ultimately contributing to a better and more peaceful world.

### Profile of IB Programme Graduates:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Principled
- Good Communicators
- Caring
- Open-Minded
- Risk-Takers
- Balanced
- Reflective
- Thinkers

### Core Subjects of the IB Programme:

- **Theory of Knowledge (TOK):** Encourages critical reflection on knowledge and its application.
- **Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS):** Promotes personal and social development through creative, physical, and community service activities.
- **Extended Essay:** Provides an opportunity to investigate a topic of personal interest in depth, developing research and academic writing skills.

### Personal Benefits of the Program:

- **Cultivates Curiosity and Conceptual Understanding:** Encourages exploration of knowledge across various disciplines, fostering a deep and lasting interest in learning.
- **Develops Critical and Creative Thinking Skills:** Equips students to analyze and solve complex problems with integrity, honesty, and a strong sense of fairness, justice, and respect for human dignity and rights.
- **Promotes Self-Reflection and Evaluation:** Encourages careful consideration of the world, personal ideas, and experiences, helping students understand their strengths and weaknesses to support personal growth and development.
- **Fosters Empathy and a Commitment to Service:** Instills a sense of responsibility to help others and act with purpose, positively influencing the lives of people and the world through empathy, sensitivity, and respect.

**At Saint Mary School, we are committed to the curricular integration of the IB, ensuring that our students receive an education that promotes critical and reflective thinking and a strong social awareness, aligned with international standards.**

## IB Curriculum 2024

IB Subjects	
<b>Core Components, requirements:</b> Theory of Knowledge (TOK) Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS) Extended Essay	
<b>Mathematics:</b> Applications and Interpretation (Standard Level)	
<b>Studies in Language and Literature:</b> Spanish (Higher Level)	
<b>Individuals and Societies, options:</b> Business Management (Standard Level) Global Politics (Standard Level) History (Higher Level)	
<b>Science options for 2024</b> <b>Year 1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chemistry</b> (Standard Level)</li> <li>• <b>Physics</b> (Standard Level)</li> </ul> <b>Year 2 :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Physics</b> (Standard Level)</li> <li>• <b>Biology</b> (Standard Level)</li> </ul>	<b>Science options for 2025</b> <b>Year 1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chemistry</b> (Standard Level)</li> <li>• <b>Physics</b> (Standard Level)</li> <li>• <b>Biology</b> (Standard Level)</li> </ul> <b>Year 2 :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chemistry</b> (Standard Level)</li> <li>• <b>Physics</b> (Standard Level)</li> <li>• <b>Biology</b> (Standard Level)</li> </ul>
<b>Language Acquisition:</b> English B (Higher Level)	
<b>Visual Arts</b> (Standard Level)	
Other Subjects	
Social Studies, Civics	
Complementary Subjects	
Religion, Physical Education	

## High School Curriculum

Curriculum	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	In each IB year
Math	8	8	8	8	8	8
Spanish	4	4	4	4	4	5
Social Studies (Costa Rican)	3	3	3	2	2	2
Civics	2	2	2	2	2	1
Physics/Chemistry/Biology (trimesterly)	5	5	5	8	8	5
History	3	3	3	N/A	N/A	5
English	6	6	5	5	5	5
Portuguese	3	3	2	2	2	N/A
Religion	1	1	1	1	1	1
Music/Band/Art (trimesterly)	1	1	1	1	1	N/A
Physical Education	2	2	2	2	2	2
Technology/Robotics	1	1	1	1	1	N/A
Business Management/Global Politics/Visual Arts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4
TOK (Theory of Knowledge)	N/A	N/A	1	1	1	2
CAS (Creativity, Action and Service)	N/A	N/A	1	1	1	1
Extended Essay	1	1	1	1	1	1
College and Career Counseling	1	1	1	1	1	1
Homeroom	1	1	1	1	1	1
Life Skills	2	2	2	2	2	N/A

\*Each lesson is an average of 40 minutes in length.

# Admission Requirements

## Required Documents:

1. Conduct letter from the previous institution and a reference letter from the principal, psychologist, or a teacher
2. School transcript from the previous year, broken down quarterly or bi-monthly, certified by the previous school
3. Minimum conduct grade of 80 or higher
4. Admission assessment in Science, Mathematics, Spanish, and English (both oral and written)
5. Interview with DAI Department
6. Recent audiometric and vision tests
7. For foreign students: the same requirements as for primary school (see page 7)
8. Two passport-sized photographs
9. School transcript certified by the Ministry of Education (MEP)
10. Original and photocopy of identification document (identity card, minor identification card, birth certificate with identification number, passport)
11. Certification of financial status issued by the previous school
12. Signing of the Educational Services Contract
13. Completion of the Admission Form and Personal Data Permissions

## Requirements to Apply for the International Baccalaureate Program:

1. Academic grades with a weighted average of 85% or higher from the previous year (ninth grade)
2. Two recommendation letters from teachers of any course from the previous grade (ninth grade)
3. A letter of intent expressing interest in joining the International Baccalaureate program
4. Interview with the Selection Panel