

ACADEMIA LOS PINARES

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Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Central America

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F A C T S H E E T

Academia Los Pinares in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, is a private, Christian, co-educational day school offering a bilingual education from pre-kindergarten through grade 12. Academia Los Pinares is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/AdvancEd and the Association of Christian Schools International in the United States and by the Honduran Ministry of Education. It is also a member of and the Association of Bilingual Schools of Honduras.

Philosophy: Pinares is a Christian school seeking to provide an educational environment for the mental, physical, and spiritual growth of its students. Because we believe that God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge, His Word is taught in the classroom, integrated into the academic subjects, and lived out in the lives of the staff. In its pursuit of excellence, Academia Los Pinares not only sets a high academic standard, but also strives to maintain a clear Christian witness.

History: Academia Los Pinares began in 1964 as a boarding school for missionary children which was sponsored by the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions. Due to the changing needs of the indigenous church, the school was reorganized under the sponsorship of seven evangelical missions in 1977. Admission was open to English speaking students of many nationalities.

Organization: The school is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of up to two representatives from each of the sponsoring missions, with each mission having one vote. Administrative staff includes a North American superintendent (rector), a Honduran director, a Honduran business administrator, and North American elementary and secondary principals.

Faculty: The faculty consists of about 80 professional Christian educators. The majority of teachers are North American, and the others are Honduran teachers. Teachers receive a small salary and other benefits.

Enrollment: Academia Los Pinares has an enrollment of over 800 students in grades pre-kindergarten through grade 12. Ninety percent of the enrollment is Honduran, largely drawn from the families of business and civic leaders. The remaining 10% is made up of children from missionary families, diplomatic families from around the world, and families of business people from around the world.

Curriculum: The curriculum is that of a U.S. college preparatory school with instruction given in English. A dual program prepares students for the U.S. high school diploma and/or the Honduran "bachillerato" diploma. Over 95% of the graduates enter colleges and universities in the United States, Honduras and Europe, with about 50% continuing their education in the United States.

Facilities: The campus of Academia Los Pinares is located in the mountains ten kilometers (about five miles) outside of Tegucigalpa. The campus includes four elementary classroom buildings, four secondary buildings, an administration/library building, a gymnasium/cafeteria and various playgrounds and athletic fields. The high school also houses the woodshop classroom, computer and science laboratories and a home economics facility.

ACADEMIA LOS PINARES ***FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS***

WHAT IS ACADEMIA LOS PINARES?

High above Tegucigalpa, the capital city of Honduras, Central America, located in the scenic mountain area near the La Tigra National Cloud Forest, is Academia Los Pinares. A.L.P. is a bilingual Christian school with more than 700 students and approximately 55 North American and 20 Honduran educational personnel plus an additional 40 Honduran support personnel (accountants, secretaries, bus drivers, mechanics, maintenance staff). The English translation of "Academia Los Pinares" is "Pine Grove Academy," a name appropriate for a school set in the tall pines of the Central American mountains. Separate buildings of simple concrete block construction house the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, grades 1-3, grades 4-6, grades 7-12, and the administration/library complex. A gymnasium will soon be constructed.

Sounds like a travel brochure, right? But beyond setting, program, or buildings, Academia Los Pinares is a group of evangelical Christians from many backgrounds working together to change Honduras for Christ.

HOW DID A.L.P. BEGIN?

Academia Los Pinares was a small K-9 boarding school for missionary children from 1964 until 1974, when the Honduran government authorized the school to enroll Honduran children. In 1978, grades 10-12 were added, and a Honduran Bachillerato could be awarded along with a U.S. high school diploma. Today, about 85% of the student body is Honduran.

IS A.L.P. ACCREDITED?

Today, Academia Los Pinares is viewed by many in Honduras as one of the best schools in the country. The school has been the choice for children of government leaders including the Honduran president, military leaders, diplomats from around the world, Honduran and world businessmen, and missionaries from a variety of denominations. The school is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (S.A.C.S.)/AdvanEd and the Association of Christian Schools in the United States and the Honduran Ministry of Education. We also hold membership in the Association of Bilingual Schools of Honduras.

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR GOALS OF A.L.P.?

At Academia Los Pinares, we want to see each student develop a strong personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Our dedicated Christian teachers spend time both in and out of the classroom getting to know students and pointing them to Christ. The other major goal of the school is to give each student a high quality, college-preparatory Christian education. We work to equip our students to compete academically in English-language universities anywhere in the world or in the Honduran universities.

WHAT IS THE PROGRAM OF STUDIES?

Academia Los Pinares offers a full range of classes. Bible, English, math, the sciences, social studies, computer science, physical education, art, music, home economics, and industrial arts are usually taught in English by North Americans. Spanish, Honduran social studies, and Honduran civics are taught in Spanish by Honduran teachers to help students acquire a good working knowledge of Latin history, language, and culture. Courses taught in English have textbooks purchased from U.S. companies, whereas those taught in Spanish use local materials.

WHAT IS LIFE LIKE IN HONDURAS?

Honduras is a third world country whose primary industry is agriculture. The capital city is a little more than two hours by jet from Miami. Most of the Honduran people have few economic resources and little formal education, although the local universities, technical institutes, and the medical school are steadily increasing the number of Honduran professionals.

Spanish is the principal language, yet it is possible to manage without it in the city to some extent. Although ability to speak Spanish is very helpful, it is not a requirement for teaching at A.L.P. Some classes are available at the school for teachers who want to learn Spanish. Those who do already know some Spanish can find many opportunities to practice it.

Many U.S. products are available in Honduras, but at higher prices than local brands. Numerous North American fast food and full service restaurants are available.

Although only two or three English church services are available, there are many Spanish evangelical churches which have activities almost every night of the week. For a Honduran Christian, the church is often the center of life.

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WHAT DO TEACHERS SAY ABOUT ACADEMIA LOS PINARES?

“You can expect to be part of a team from a variety of denominational backgrounds, yet all are working together with the same purpose... Our Pinares family is close-knit, offering support and encouragement to each other.”

“The best part about teaching in Honduras is the blessing and enjoyment of learning another culture. Become involved in the culture: relate to the families, attend a Spanish church, travel, and eat their food. The more involved you become, the better your teaching experience will be.”

“We have the freedom to openly teach our students about God and His Word...We have an opportunity to see God’s Word make a difference in the lives of children who will one day be in places of leadership in this country.”

“Teaching at Pinares is not just a job; it is a sacred mission. There is no joy like that of seeing spiritual understanding light up a child’s face when he grasps a truth from God.”

WHAT DIFFICULTIES CAN A TEACHER EXPECT TO FACE?

“Expect the unexpected. You will not be able to buy many of the things you could in the United States. Expect excitement at first but also a time of loneliness or slight depression after a while. You will have to go through a lot of adjustments before you establish routines and feel at home.”

“You must be willing to learn and adapt to different ways of doing things and to realize that different is not always wrong. Do not compare how things are done in Honduras with the way you did them in the States. Some things are just done differently.”

“Expect to see poverty and great wealth, many times side by side.”

“The most difficult part of teaching is teaching in their second language. You have to explain words that your kids in the U.S. normally would know. You also must deal with subtle cultural patterns that sometimes create tension.”

“You live and work close to an urban environment among a lot of North Americans, teaching much like you would in the United States. Because you are not ‘out in the bush,’ you start to expect things to be like the United States. Some things will be so similar that you will tend to be frustrated by the differences. The best approach is to prepare to sacrifice personal comfort and expectations and be pleasantly surprised by the similarities to home.”

WHAT DOES A.L.P. DO TO HELP TEACHERS COME WORK IN HONDURAS?

1. Pays a modest salary. (Some people, especially families find it helpful to raise some additional support.)
2. Provides major medical health insurance and a small life insurance policy.
3. Provides housing either in the teacher apartments or nearby rented houses. Singles each have a private bedroom.
4. Provides a stove, refrigerator, kitchen table and chairs, living room furniture, bed, study desk, and chair.
5. Helps with transportation to and from Honduras.
6. Pays normal legal fees for you to teach in the country.
7. Maintains accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/AdvancEd and the Association of Christian Schools International so your teaching experience is recognized by future employers (this usually places you higher on the pay scale).
8. Makes it possible for you to teach in English.

The Apostle Paul admonished Timothy to pray for kings and all who are in positions of authority or high responsibility. We have at least 35 contact hours per week with some of the future leaders of Honduras. Those who do not accept Christ will at least be conscious of His ways and very much aware of His love and the love of His people. We pray that God will use Pinares graduates for good in His Kingdom, and we especially want them to make a positive difference in Honduras.

Is God calling you into mission work? If your focus is adventure, leisure, travel, a big bank account, or a life of ease, stay home. Even when it mostly involves teaching in English in a Christian school, missionary life is not always easy. On the other hand, if you are willing to work, to pray, even to suffer to plant seeds of the Kingdom in the hearts of young people, maybe your place is with Pinares. Please contact us.

“He that goeth forth weeping, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless return again rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.”

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HOW CAN TEACHERS APPLY TO WORK AT A.L.P.?

If you are interested in applying for a position at Academia Los Pinares, contact A.L.P. directly at the e-mail address or web site listed below. Be sure to give the following information:

YOUR NAME

TELEPHONE NUMBER

TEMPORARY AND/OR PERMANENT ADDRESS

FAX NUMBER (IF YOU HAVE ONE WE CAN USE)

E-MAIL

BEST TIME(S) TO REACH YOU BY PHONE

TYPE OF WORK YOU ARE PREPARED TO DO:

Pre-school teacher, elementary teacher, subject areas for high school,
librarian, nurse, counselor, administrator

Include a resume if you have one available.

Or you may send information to us and download an application from our website (www.pinares.org).

HOW CAN YOU CONTACT ACADEMIA LOS PINARES?

Mail Address: Superintendent
Academia Los Pinares
Apartado 3250
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Telephone (7:30 AM to 2:30 PM Central Standard Time):
(011-504) 211-8231 or 211-8236

Fax: (24 hours): (011-504) 211-8586 or 211-8893

U.S. Fax: 1-530-504-4985

E-mail: dale.deighton@pinares.org

Website: www.pinares.org