The **ALTAMIRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**, located in Barranquilla, Colombia is a bilingual, bicultural, U.S style college preparatory school that fulfills both Colombian governmental requirements and U.S. accreditation standards. AIS is committed to a vision of developing well-rounded individuals and a philosophy of helping each child reach his or her full potential.

Both the High School and Bachillerato diplomas are offered. English is the official language of instruction and everyday life at AIS. Students and staff are expected to speak English in school offices, assemblies and other programs, and in all classes, with the exception of Spanish, Colombian Sociales, Art, Music and P.E. which are taught in Spanish.

The basic language of instruction is English, and the school staff, whenever possible, is completely bilingual and professionally qualified in their areas of instruction, the majority of them local hires.

**Vision:** The vision of Altamira International School, for the year 2020, is to be an exemplary educational institution that is highly regarded for its focus on academic excellence, innovative practice, and active community involvement in the development of leaders for an interdependent world.

**Mission:** We at Altamira International School, strive for an active school, student, parent and community partnership which values Respect, Honesty and Service in our efforts to educate our students in a technologically advanced and society to become: Responsible Citizens, Complex Thinkers and Problem Solvers, Effective Communicators, Collaborative Workers, Quality Producers and Life-long learners by providing a safe, encouraging and academically challenging environment that enables students to become leaders who develop and maximize their individual potential.

**School History:** The ALTAMIRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL was founded on July 26, 1992, originally as an early childhood center under the name of JARDIN INFANTIL KID’S KORNER with the opening of the Infants, Toddlers, and Nursery sections. After obtaining approval from the Colombian Ministry of Education to function as an Early Childhood Center, the owners considered the possibility to continue growing into a school which provided education for students from Pre-Kinder through Twelfth Grade, due to the fact that parents with children already in the preschool, demonstrated a strong desire to provide their siblings with a bilingual education, in an institution that promoted a very caring environment and a strong compromise for high intellectual and academic competence and moral values. The Elementary Section was opened in 1994 under the name of AMERICAN KORNER SCHOOL. The number of students continued growing and it was necessary to look for a new site that could lodge the new classrooms and resource areas. Thus, in 1995, the school moved to its new facilities, a three-story building rebuilt to lodge the classrooms needed including a Library, a Computer Room, offices for the Director, Elementary Principal, Elementary Counselor, and sports facilities. In that same year the school received accreditation from the Colombian Ministry of Education.

The school continued to grow steadily and one year later another house contiguous to the Nido’s site was rented to lodge the Preschool section, while the Elementary remained in the building. The school’s proprietors bought four acres of land on the outskirts of the city and began the process of planning and construction of its new and definite site.
Finally, in January of the year 2000, the school was able to move its headquarters to its new buildings which hosts the Preschool, Elementary and Middle/High School Sections. With 26 comfortable, air-conditioned classrooms; a cafeteria; offices for administrative and support staff, learning center and EFL specialists; infirmary; sports and recreational areas; computer room, science labs and library.

**Accreditations:** The Altamira International School is accredited by SACS(Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) since 2009. It is also accredited by the Colombian Ministry of Education – Resolucion

**Memberships:** The School is a member of the Tri-Association (Association of American Schools of Central America, Colombia – Caribbean and Mexico), of ACCAS (Association of Colombian-Caribbean American Schools), IRC (Inter-Regional Center for Curriculum and Materials Development), NAESP (National Association of Elementary School Principals), NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools), NHS (National Honor Society), DI (Destination Imagination), The College Board

**Partnerships:** We currently have a partnership program in cooperation with Buffalo State University of New York

We offer an accessible, affordable, and distinctive Masters of Education Program designed to meet the needs of educators living and working in American International Schools of the región.

**Curriculum:** The goal of curriculum design and alignment at AIS is to improve student learning by using current teaching methodologies based on the latest educational research. Curriculum planning and curriculum revision at AIS involves vertical and horizontal teaming and development from PreKinder through 12th grade.

Our curriculum’s framework is based on the U.S. Common Core Standards for Math and English Language Arts; on McRel Standards for Science and Social Studies and on examples of curriculum documents from the state of California, Physical Education, Arts and Music; ISTE Standards for Technology; and on the Colombian Ministry of Education Curriculum for Spanish, Colombian Social Studies, Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

**Standardized Tests:** The school currently implements the MAP Testing in grades 3rd – 10th. Students also take the PSAT and SAT exams for graduation requirements and Delf 1 and Delf 2

**Organization:** The ALTAMIRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL’S structure is composed of 4 sections: Nido (Infants, Toddlers, Nursery), Preschool (Pre Kinder, Kinder, and 1st), Elementary (2nd-6th grade) Middle/High School Sections (7th - 12th grade) each led by it’s own principal and faculty. The school is directed by the owner of the school.

**Grading System:** The grading/evaluation system is twofold in order to fulfill both the Colombian system which requires the use of words to describe performance and the international/U.S. system that requires that numerical grades be used to report pupil progress. Grading system equivalencies at CNG are as follows:

- 9.0-100 = A = Excellent (Excelente)
- 8.0-8.9 = B = Good (Sobresaliente)
- 7.0-7.9 = C = Satisfactory (Aceptable)
- 6.0-6.9 = D = Limited Achievement (Insuficiente)
- 0.0-5.9 = F = Failing (Deficiente)

Extra-curricular Our students are able to participate in many extra-curricular activities like the Model UN, Science Fair, Suzuki Violin, Band, Chess, Capoiera, Karate, Arts and Crafts, Sports.