



# Nicaragua Christian Academy

*"ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE WITH A CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION"*



## School Profile 2015-2016

*Mr. Liam Starkenburg, Director • Mrs. Susan Hall, High School Principal • Mrs. Sylvia Mejía, Elementary Principal*

- The School:** Nicaragua Christian Academy is an evangelical, non-denominational, non-profit preschool, elementary, and secondary educational institution. The school has a current enrollment of 330 students in grades Pre-K through 12. Founded in 1991, Nicaragua Christian Academy is fully U.S. accredited by ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) and SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools).
- The Mission:** Nicaragua Christian Academy partners with Christian parents in forming active disciples of Jesus Christ, equipped to impact society through the development of their spiritual discernment, moral courage and academic excellence.
- The Location:** NCA is located at Km 11 Carretera Vieja a León in Managua, easily accessible on the main highway. The campus consists of six classroom buildings, a large multi-purpose complex (Eagle Center), lunch areas, offices, and athletic fields, courts and facilities.
- The Faculty:** All of NCA's 54 teachers, assistants and administrators profess a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and have an average of 14.0 years of educational experience. All teachers have a bachelor's degree and certification; 31 percent have master's degrees.
- The Students:** Students are admitted on the basis of previous school record, mastery of the English language, and student/parental spiritual commitment. More than 95 percent of our graduates go on to college; most go to the United States or study in Nicaragua. Class sizes are limited to 22-24 students, providing for individual attention for each student.
- 55 percent of our students are Nicaraguan, 32 percent are North American, and 10 percent are Asian; our students represent 16 countries in from around the world. NCA does not discriminate in its admissions policy and practice based on race, color, gender, national origin, age, disability or any other characteristic protected by law.
- The School Day:** 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Preschool, Kindergarten  
7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Elementary, High School
- Curriculum:** NCA International has developed a comprehensive curriculum at all levels of the school, based on a United States and international school framework with the integration of Spanish and Nicaraguan social studies classes. We use textbooks from a variety of publishers in order to accomplish our curricular goals, including Pearson Education McGraw-Hill, BJU Press, A Beka, ACSI, and Christian Schools International.
- Pre-School:** Our preschool program has a strong focus on English language learning in order to prepare our students with the English language skills necessary to continue into the next level. The instructional program is highly structured and includes specific learning and developmental objectives at each level.
- Elementary:** During these formative years, we seek to teach our students responsibility and develop critical thinking skills. Our instructional program includes Language Arts (composition, grammar, handwriting, reading, spelling and vocabulary), Bible, Math, Science and Social Studies, all of which are taught in English. In addition to the core classes, elementary students have daily Spanish class, bi-weekly physical education, and weekly classes in art, music, computers and library.

**Secondary:** The secondary level is composed of middle school (7th-8th grades) and high school (9th-12th grades). The instruction is intended to provide students with a broad education and prepare them for attendance at a college or university, whether it be in Nicaragua, the United States, or elsewhere. We seek to provide our students with the ability to discern truth in the light of God's Word. As they attend classes, students are involved in active learning and decision-making and provided with opportunities to further develop their gifts in a particular area.

**Graduation Requirements:** Twenty-four (24) credits in grades 9 through 12 are required as follows:  
 4 English    3 Science    1 Physical Education  
 3 Math    3 Social Studies    2 Foreign Language  
 A Bible course is required for every year of attendance at NCA.

**Advanced Placement:** AP Calculus AB, AP Microeconomics, AP English Language & Composition, AP English Literature, AP Spanish Language, AP Spanish Literature/Culture, AP Statistics

**Electives:** Advanced Art, Alternative Sports, Anatomy, Art Elements, Choir, Computer Apps, Concert Choir, Domestic Arts, Drama, Guitar, Health, Korean, Nicaraguan Crafts, Photography, Portuguese, Psychology, Publications/Yearbook, Public Speaking, Strategy Games, Teaching Assistant, Video Productions, Web Design, Weight Lifting, more...

**Grading Scale / GPA:** All courses in grades 9 through 12 are used in calculating GPA (Grade Point Average).

| Pct    | Letter | Regular | AP   | Pct   | Letter | Regular | AP   |
|--------|--------|---------|------|-------|--------|---------|------|
| 97-100 | A+     | 4.25    | 5.25 | 77-79 | C+     | 2.25    | 3.25 |
| 93-96  | A      | 4.00    | 5.00 | 73-76 | C      | 2.00    | 3.00 |
| 90-92  | A-     | 3.75    | 4.75 | 70-72 | C-     | 1.75    | 2.75 |
| 87-89  | B+     | 3.25    | 4.25 | 67-69 | D+     | 1.25    | 2.25 |
| 83-86  | B      | 3.00    | 4.00 | 63-66 | D      | 1.00    | 2.00 |
| 80-82  | B-     | 2.75    | 3.75 | 60-62 | D-     | 0.75    | 1.75 |
|        |        |         |      | 0-59  | F      | 0.00    | 0.00 |

**Standardized Testing:** Students take the TerraNova Tests on alternating years in grades K-12. In preparation for college, students take the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT. NCA students consistently score above U.S. national norms on all of the standardized tests.

**Indicators:** 66th U.S. national percentile on TerraNova test for secondary (April 2014)  
 60nd U.S. national percentile (1610 avg. score) on SAT (Oct – Dec 2013)

**Extra-curricular Activities:** Athletics: Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Fencing  
 Other Activities: National Honor Society, IGNITE community service club, student government, school plays, HACIA Democracy, Youth Group, field trips, retreats

#### Typical College Preparatory Schedule

| 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade | 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade  | 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade              | 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade              |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Apologetics / Ethics  | Faith / World Religions | Bible 11: <i>Biblical Worldview</i> | Bible 12: <i>God in Pop Culture</i> |
| English 9             | English 10              | British Lit./AP Eng Lang.           | American Lit./AP Eng Lit.           |
| Geometry              | Algebra II              | Pre-Calculus                        | AP Calculus/AP Statistics           |
| Physical Science      | Biology                 | Chemistry                           | Physics                             |
| World Geography       | World History           | American History                    | Government / Economics              |
| Spanish 3             | Spanish 4               | AP Spanish Language                 | AP Spanish Lit/Culture              |
| Electives             | Electives               | Electives                           | Career Planning, Electives          |