GIMNASIO
LA MONTAÑA

School Profile
2026 - 2027

Mission Statement

Gimnasio La Montaña educates individuals to understand reality and commit themselves to the responsible development of both the local and global environment, through an education grounded in Christian and civic values that promotes the critical, rigorous, and plural construction of knowledge.

An educational model that prioritizes reflection, service, and academic excellence embodies this mission.

Value Proposition

From the forefront of pedagogy, **Gimnasio La Montaña** develops your children's full potential within a nurturing and protective environment.

School Overview

Founded in 1988, **Gimnasio La Montaña (GLM)** is a private, non-profit, co-educational, bilingual school serving approximately 800 students, ages 4–18, across preschool, elementary, middle, and high school levels. GLM's educational philosophy integrates academic excellence, Christian formation, and civic commitment, aiming to form students who are autonomous thinkers, ethical citizens, and compassionate leaders capable of transforming their world.

The school fosters diversity and multiculturalism within a Catholic framework, offering an education of intellectual depth, ethical foundation, and social purpose.

María Mercedes de Brigard Merchán
Head of School

Leopoldo García Arévalo
Middle and High School Viceprincipal

Lucila de Brigard Merchán
Preschool and Elementary Vice-Principal

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College Counseling
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Accreditations and Partnerships

Institutional Partnerships and Networks

Student Population

160	234	263	162
Preschool	Elementary School	Middle School	High School

Mission Goals

Six institutional goals that shape its curriculum and culture express GLM's curriculum:

1. Academic Formation: Cultivates deep understanding, critical reasoning, and creative problem-solving through rigorous interdisciplinary study.
2. Cultural Identity: Strengthens Colombian identity while fostering intercultural awareness and appreciation of diversity.
3. Global Thinking: Prepares students to engage responsibly with global challenges through ethical reflection and multilingual competence.
4. Catholic Formation: Encourages faith-based reflection and moral discernment grounded in Christian values and civic responsibility.

5. Development: Promotes autonomy, empathy, resilience, and self-regulation as integral aspects of the learning process.

6. Social Commitment: Inspires participation in community service, environmental stewardship, and civic engagement.

Academic Curriculum

The academic program at Gimnasio La Montaña prepares students to face the ethical, social, cultural, scientific, political, and economic demands of adulthood in the 21st century responsibly and wisely. GLM's pedagogy encourages and trains students to build knowledge, innovate, and interact within cultural, scientific, and technological realms with sensitivity and critical thinking. **GLM's** academic model combines Colombian and international standards to ensure a rigorous, coherent, and globally aligned curriculum.

Curricular Frameworks

- Ontario Curriculum: Kindergarten 4–5.
- Common Core Standards: Transition–Grade 9.
- College Board Advanced Placement (AP®): Grades 10–11, offering the AP Capstone Diploma and AP International Diploma.
- Curriculum Design: Based on Schooling by Design and Understanding by Design (UbD), ensuring backward planning and intentional learning outcomes.

Methodological Approaches

- Project-Based Learning (PBL): From Transition to Grade 4, integrating STEM, Global Citizenship, Communication, Numeracy, and Arts.
- Pedagogía Conceptual: Emphasizing cognitive depth and transfer of knowledge across contexts.
- Teoría de las seis lecturas: A comprehensive literacy framework fostering critical and creative reading comprehension.
- Languages: Spanish, English, and French instruction for global fluency.

Core Curriculum and Mandatory Courses

Middle School (Grades 6–8)
Core Subjects:
Spanish Language · English Language Arts · French · Mathematics · Social Studies · Science · Religion & Values · Art · Physical Education · Communication · Numeracy · Global Citizenship.
Pre-AP Courses (Grade 8): PreAP Chemistry, PreAP Biology, and PreAP Algebra I.

High School (Grades 9–11)
Mandatory Core Courses:
- 5 years of Science (Biology, Physics, Chemistry)
- 5 years of Mathematics (Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Precalculus, Calculus)
- 4 years of Social Studies
- 2 years of Philosophy
- 5 years of Religion & Values
- 4 years of French
- 5 years of English
- 3 years of Arts (Visual Arts, Music, or Theater)
- 7 years of Physical Education
- 2 years of Home Economics

PreAP Courses (Grade 9): PreAP Chemistry, PreAP Biology, and PreAP Algebra II.

AP® Program
To graduate, students must complete the following five AP® courses:
- AP Seminar
- AP Research
- AP World History
- AP Spanish Literature and Culture
- AP English Language and Composition

In addition, students must select at least four additional AP® courses among the following offerings:

AP Art and Design · AP Art History · AP Comparative Government and Politics · AP Human Geography · AP Macroeconomics · AP Microeconomics · AP Statistics · AP Calculus AB · AP Computer Science Principles · AP Physics 2 · AP Chemistry · AP Biology · AP Environmental Science · AP Psychology.

Graduation Requirements

All GLM students complete a rigorous curriculum that includes Advanced Placement (AP®) courses as part of their graduation requirements. Students may choose whether or not to take the College Board exams associated with these courses to pursue individual AP® course accreditation, the AP Capstone Diploma, or the AP International Diploma.

To graduate from Gimnasio La Montaña, students must fulfill the following:

1. **Completion of Core and AP® Courses**
   - Additionally, students must select at least four elective AP courses from the approved list.
   - Students also complete the whole core curriculum, which includes:
     - 5 years of Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
     - 5 years of Mathematics (Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Precalculus, Calculus)
     - 4 years of Social Studies
     - 2 years of Philosophy
     - 5 years of Religion & Values
     - 5 years of English and 4 years of French
     - 3 years of Arts (Visual Arts, Music, or Theater)
     - 7 years of Physical Education
     - 2 years of Home Economics
2. **National Certification**
   - Complete the Colombian State Exam (Prueba Saber 11º).
3. **Language Proficiency**
   - English: Minimum level C1 (average TOEFL 93.7; IELTS 6.9).
   - French: DELF B2 certification under the CEFR framework.
4. **Community Service**
   - Completion of at least 80 hours of community service, demonstrating commitment to social responsibility and ethical citizenship.

Foreign Languages Program

Foreign language learning is a core pillar of GLM's academic identity. The trilingual program develops students' proficiency in Spanish, English, and French, emphasizing communication, intercultural understanding, and literacy transfer across languages.

Through an integrated communicative approach, language instruction develops cross-linguistic awareness, cultivates in-depth reading and writing skills, and aligns with the Six Readings Theory to enhance comprehension and critical literacy across all languages. This multilingual foundation allows students to communicate with confidence and empathy in diverse cultural and academic contexts.

Assessment

Qualitative Assessment Model

GLM's assessment model is a formative and continuous process that values learning growth over grading. Through descriptive feedback, self-reflection, and authentic performance, students develop autonomy, metacognition, and a sense of responsibility for their own learning. Quantitative reports in upper grades complement this qualitative approach, ensuring coherence from early years through the AP® program.

Level	Description
Superior	The student meets the objectives of the subject with a high level of quality in both products and processes, demonstrating autonomy and critical thinking.
Satisfactory	The student meets the objectives of the subject and consolidates learning through performance that fulfills the established criteria. Shows consistency and steady progress toward goals, with minor limitations that do not hinder learning.
Developing	The student progresses toward meeting the subject's goals and has consolidated most of the expected learning outcomes, demonstrating understanding and application in the areas achieved. Although there are specific difficulties, with effort and attention to feedback, the student shows potential to reach full mastery and responds positively to guidance.
Insufficient	The student does not meet the subject's objectives nor consolidate the essential learning expected for their level. Work shows initial but limited progress. The student requires additional support to strengthen understanding and application of content.

Co-Curricular and International Programs

GLM offers a diverse range of 19 co-curricular activities that strengthen leadership, creativity, service, and global awareness. These programs extend learning beyond the classroom, encouraging students to discover their passions, develop character, and embody the school's mission through action.

The co-curricular offer includes areas such as leadership and debate, arts and culture, experiential learning and service, innovation and inquiry, and sports and wellness. Students can explore opportunities in civic participation, performance and creativity, social action, science and technology, and athletic excellence. Sports programs include basketball, volleyball, soccer, athletics, gymnastics, and chess, promoting teamwork, discipline, and perseverance.

International travel and exchange opportunities

International educational and cultural experiences are significant in preparing students for life in a globalized world. The school has designed an offer of international academic experiences. Additionally, it continually seeks partnerships with schools and other organizations to offer a broader range of options for developing the competencies necessary to thrive in a Global society. GLM students can opt for international academic exchanges and summer learning opportunities in Canada and France.