

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

English is unquestionably the language of global communication at present. Not only much of our technological, scientific, academic, and social information written in English, learning and speaking more than one foreign language is essential in order to interact and communicate in today's globalized world.

Therefore, current education has the challenge of contributing toward the development of students' skills to live together in their local communities, and to take more proactive role as world citizens.

Thus, Colegio Montano recognizes three fundamental aspects on its English program to qualify for the High School Diploma.

1. The importance of the English language as a tool which equips individuals to understand people and cultures beyond linguistic and geographic boundaries.
2. The need to align the English curriculum to standards like the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) which is internationally recognized and provides a common basis for our established curriculum.
3. That the Communicative Approach is currently the most recognized, accepted norm in the field of language teaching and learning worldwide because it comprises a theoretically well-informed set of principles about the nature of language and of language learning and teaching. Thus that the primary units of language are not merely its grammatical and structural features, but also categories of analytic, functional, and communicative meaning as exemplified in discourse.

DESCRIPTION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our program starts in Junior High, where students develop the four language skills, which are the following: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Within the established curriculum including classes such as: History, Culture, Literature, Public Speaking, Language Arts, Psychology, Science, Pre TOEFL preparation, etc.

We develop the skills necessary for students to graduate with at least B1 which in the CEFR reference level it is equivalent to independent users of the language. Subjects are taught using a Constructivist Approach.

Our double period teaching system, which accomplishes approximately 1,080 hours of English classes per year; while the suggested time to reach a level B1 is 400 hours of effective instruction (Van Ek & Trim, 1998).

Students who did not attend Junior High at Colegio Montano, have the opportunity to qualify for the High School Diploma, if they pass with a minimum of 60 points the proficiency tests of subjects attended in Junior High since 2010. They also must successfully pass the TOEFL Preparation second laboratory with a minimum of 85 points.

Our students who graduate with a high school diploma have the ability to:

- Use the necessary repertoire of language that allows them to express basic ideas and support in resolving a problem with adequate precision.
- Understand the key points of a speech which can be academic or scientific content of situations that has already been exposed in the classroom.
- Be prepared to have a conversation with about daily situations, or their personal interests.
- Have the ability to develop a topic in an essay by following the relevant guidelines that make it understandable to the reader.

