



FAQ's

Hello!

Thank you for your interest in Alturas International Academy (AIA). We are thrilled to have you visit our school and are excited to help you learn a bit more about what we do and who we are. Please review the following FAQ. We want to have plenty of time to share our educational model, and believe it will be helpful to have some information available ahead of time. If you have any specific questions please feel free to e-mail them to tours@alturasacademy.org and we will do our best to answer them personally or within the virtual presentation & tour.

Expansion 2021-2022 school year

We are opening Alturas Preparatory Academy, a new middle/high school, for the 2021-22 school year! This is very exciting as it will allow AIA to expand the number of students in grades K-5, which will remain at Alturas International Academy. It will allow for 192 new seats available to those grades. The distribution of seats will be as follows:

Kindergarten - 32 new seats available

3rd Grade - 32 new seats available

1st Grade - 32 new seats available

4th Grade - 32 new seats available

2nd Grade - 32 new seats available

5th Grade - 32 new seats available

Class Size

Approximate class size will be 24 students per class

All Day Kindergarten

Alturas International Academy received a grant to offer all day Kindergarten, at no cost to families. We do not currently offer any half day options. Kindergarten is provided at the same time as our 1st - 5th grade classes.

Cost

There is no tuition for Alturas. It is a public charter school and free to anyone enrolled through the lottery procedure.

Special Education Services

AIA offers Special Education services to those students who meet federal and state requirements to allow them to gain benefit from general education as determined appropriate by students' Individual Education Plan (IEP). Special education is provided at no cost to parents and includes the related services a student needs to access their educational program.

Lunch

It is prepared by Arugula Deli. Cost is \$3.65 with milk. Milk can also be purchased à la carte for \$.40 each We do not currently offer free and reduced lunches.

Buses

We have 5 bus routes. Our buses and drivers are contracted through Teton Stage Lines and our buses carry only Alturas students. Buses run in the morning and afternoon, bus stops are within a mile of every students' home, often much closer. You may have to drive your student to a bus stop, but it will be much closer than driving them to school! Please see the website for updated bus route info.

Safety

With the exception of the main entrance, all doors are locked at all times. The public does not have access from the restaurant downstairs. We have taken the utmost precautions for safety and are regularly "checked on" by state school safety inspectors.

Does Alturas require uniforms?

The short answer is no. We do have a dress code, but uniforms are not a requirement.

Recess

Our younger students get outside a couple times a day for fresh air and movement! We do not have recess at lunchtime, lunch has been a much better "break" when students can eat and are not in a rush to get outside. Alturas does plan to expand the playground over the 2021 summer to accommodate the expansion of our K-5; adding more students for next school year, without disrupting school time.

Why no school on Fridays?

AIA does not have school on Fridays for a couple of reasons. 1.) It allows our teachers some much needed time to collaborate with each other, and 2.) It gives students a nice break from school so they feel ready to learn on Monday and tackle the next week ready for new challenges.

What is an IB School?

Alturas International Academy is an International Baccalaureate® (IB) World School. This means that Alturas International is one of more than 5,000 schools worldwide who have implemented IB programs that "develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who are motivated to succeed."

Our students are given unique, challenging, and diverse education which encourages them to think critically, be culturally aware, and be able to engage with people in an increasingly globalized world.

To learn more about the IB organization [click here](#).

Why do you teach Spanish?

As an IB school, we provide a language to be learned other than English. Alturas chose Spanish as the 2nd language to teach. Spanish, is already largely used in the United States. All students are required to learn Spanish here at Alturas starting in Kindergarten.

Does Alturas Participate in ISAT Testing?

Yes, we do. All students in grades 3-5, at Alturas International Academy are required to take the ISAT. The ISAT is used to determine whether a student has achieved state standards for their grade level and subject area. The ISAT tests both ELA and Mathematics Literacy.

How does charter school enrollment work?

The only way students can gain enrollment/admission into Alturas is through the lottery/waitlist. Below is the lottery priority tiers:

- **First Priority** - Students returning to Alturas International Academy.
- **Second Priority** - Children of full-time employees, children of the Founders, provided that this admission preference is not more than ten percent (10%) of the capacity.
- **Third Priority** - Siblings of students already enrolled or selected by the lottery.
- **Fourth Priority** - Prospective students who reside within District 91, District 93, or Shelley District 60
- **Fifth Priority** - Prospective students who reside outside of District 91, District 93, Shelley District 60

Lottery

The lottery is held the first Friday in April. It is open to the public, anyone may attend and watch it in real time or live on Facebook due to COVID! Currently enrolled students are guaranteed seats each year if they choose to return. The incoming siblings of enrolled students enter in a higher tier, giving them priority over students without enrolled siblings. Once the lottery is complete and seats are offered to new students a wait list will be established based on draw order. This waitlist is effective for ONE academic year. If a student remains on the wait list all year, they must re-apply for the lottery the next year. The lottery process is complex and often confusing. It is governed by state statutes, Alturas does not come up with their own lottery policies, we follow those outlined by the State Dept. of Education.

PTO

We currently have a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) for AIA, if this is something you would like to be involved in, you can sign up prior to school starting. The PTO is always looking for volunteers and encourage you to participate.

Does Alturas provide Extra Curricular Classes?

Extra Curricular Classes, PE, Art, Music, will be taught by individual classroom teachers each week.

Does Alturas have Afterschool Programs or Clubs?

In past years, Alturas , Alturas PTO, and parent volunteers have sponsored clubs like Drama, Skiing, and Guitar etc.

What District is Alturas?

Alturas International Academy is in its own district. Our district number is 495.

Can I be a Founder for Alturas International Academy (AIA)?

The short answer is no. To become a founder only applies the first year the school opened. However, AIA does continually accept donations throughout the year that help further our students' education. However, we are still accepting Founders for the new middle school/high school, Alturas Preparatory Academy (APA) until April 7, 2021. Call the office for information 208-522-5145.