



ALTURAS
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

FAQ's School Year 2023-2024

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 us at tours@alturasacademy.org and we will do our best to answer them personally.

Class Size

Approximate class size will be 26 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. Alturas is a public charter school and free to anyone enrolled through a lottery process.

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

Local Idaho Falls food vendors prepare lunches for Alturas for a nominal charge. Food vendors for next year have not been established yet. Milk can also be purchased à la carte. We currently are not able to offer free and reduced lunches.

Buses

We have 6 bus routes. Our buses carry only Alturas International (Grades Kinder - 5th) and Alturas Preparatory (Grades 6-11) 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 information.

Safety

We are in the process of installing a buzz-in system for the main entrance. All other outside 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.

What District is Alturas?

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

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” for our students when students can eat and are not in a rush to get outside.

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](http://ibo.org).(ibo.org)

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 enrolled 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 a lottery/waitlist process. 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 typically held the first Friday in April. This year it will be held April 7, 2023. The lottery is broadcasted live on Facebook and we have a 3rd party person on site supervising the integrity of the lottery. The lottery is automated through SchoolMint, our Application & Lottery Management tool, and emails will be sent following the lottery (it should be the day of the lottery). Currently enrolled students are guaranteed seats each year if they choose to return. The incoming siblings of enrolled students enter the lottery 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 the rules and statues 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 encourages you to participate.

Does Alturas provide Extra Curricular Classes?

Extra Curricular Classes, PE, Art, 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 STEAM, etc.

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.