



FAQ's School Year 2024-2025

Hello!

Thank you for your interest in Alturas Preparatory Academy (APA). 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 apa@alturasacademy.org and we will do our best to answer them personally.

Class Size

Approximate class size is 24-26 students per class.

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

APA 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

Alturas International Academy has a kitchen that prepares all of our lunches. Our school also participates in the free and reduced lunch program for those who qualify. Lunches will vary day to day and usually has three options for purchase. Students have to order every morning in first hour.

Buses

We have 7 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 1.5 miles 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 have a buzz-in system for the main entrance, and all other outside doors are locked at all times. There is no access to the mall from our school. We have taken the utmost precautions for safety and are regularly “checked on” by state school safety inspectors.

PTO

We currently have a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) for APA. 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.

What District is Alturas?

Alturas Preparatory Academy is in its own district. Our district number is 560. Alturas International Academy’s district number is 495.

How does charter school enrollment work?

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

- **First Priority** - Students returning to Alturas Prep in the second or any subsequent year of operation. Returning students are automatically enrolled in the appropriate grade and do not need to be selected by lottery.
- **Second Priority** - Children of the Alturas Prep’s Founders and full-time employees, provided that this admission preference is not more than ten percent (10%) of the capacity.
- **Third Priority** - Siblings of students already enrolled in and attending Alturas Prep.
- **Fourth Priority** - Transfer students - applicants who attend Alturas International Academy the previous year.
- **Fifth Priority** - Prospective students who reside within District 91, District 93, or Shelley District 60.
- **Sixth Priority** - Prospective students who reside outside of District 91, District 93, Shelley District 60.

Lottery

The lottery is typically held the second Friday in April. 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 governed by state statutes; Alturas does not establish the lottery policies. We follow the rules and statues outlined by the State Dept. of Education.

Class Size (2024-25)

6th- 96 7th-96 8th-96 9th-74 10th-74 11th- 70 12th-70

As we grow to maximum capacity, each grade will have 96 students.

Can I be a Founder for Alturas Preparatory Academy (APA)?

Becoming a founder only applied to the first year the school opened. However, APA does continually accept donations throughout the year that help further our students' education.

Does Alturas Prep Require a uniform?

No. There is a dress code, but uniforms are not required.

Why No School on Fridays?

Because students are taught on instructional levels in small groups, teachers need a lot of time to prepare for their lessons. Fridays are provided for teachers to participate in professional development as well as collaboration and preparation for the week's lessons.

What is an IB School?

Alturas Preparatory Academy is an International Baccalaureate® (IB) World School for grades 6th through 10th. This means that Alturas Preparatory 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)

Are the Middle School and High School IB?

The International Baccalaureate has 2 programs that APA offers for students ages 12-18. The first program is the Middle Years Program; this authorization is for 6th-10th grade. Alturas Prep has also received authorization for students in 11th-12th grade. Students will be enrolled in the Diploma Program. The Diploma Program is very rigorous academically, there are other options for graduates to do for graduation.

How does the grading system work?

Alturas Prep will follow the grading system set forth by the IB. For more information please 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.

Is more than one foreign language offered?

Currently, Alturas Prep will continue to offer only Spanish as their second language. As student interest and population grow, this is something that could change.

Does Alturas Prep offer AP classes?

Alturas Preparatory Academy will provide the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (DP) in place of AP courses. These IB courses can be translated into college credits. See what [universities](#) around the country think of the IB courses. For more information about specific universities, and how they accept IB credits, please visit the university's website.

College Credits, how will this work?

Students can receive college credit through the College of Eastern Idaho. [CEI Early College Program](#)

If they are enrolled in the Diploma Program, they will need to take and pass the IB exam for that subject in order to receive credit. If a student is a full-time DP student, they can earn up to 30 college credits. For more information, visit this [webpage](#).

Does APA offer electives?

Since APA is an IB school, all students are required to be exposed to the Arts, a Foreign Language and PE/Health. These classes are often referred to as "elective" courses in a regular school district. However, all students will need to take some variation of them.

Will students be able to make their schedules or will the school create the schedules?

Students in grades 6-12 will have some flexibility in their electives scheduling. All students will be required to take a course in Math, Science, Language & Literature, Spanish, and Individuals & Societies. If you have any questions about what this would entail, please schedule an appointment with our academic advisor.

Do students rotate from class to class like typical high school students?

Alturas Prep has a typical class rotation schedule that you would find in other middle and high schools.

Does Alturas Participate in ISAT Testing?

Yes, we do. All students at Alturas Preparatory 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 in grades 6-8 and 10, and Science in grades 8 and 11.

Is release time or seminary offered?

There is not a "release time" for seminary during the school day. However, seminary is offered at the institute building at CEI as a 0 hour before school starts for the day.

Is it a closed campus?

Grades 6-8 is a closed campus, which means they are not allowed to leave school for lunch. Grades 9-12 have an open campus and are given the option to leave during lunch time.

Is there a library?

Yes! The library has a similar set up as the one at Alturas International Academy. There is an honor system in place for checking out books. We try to add books often and we do take donations to help our library grow.

Some school sports offered at a competitive level? Will students be able to play for other school districts?

In 2023-24, Alturas Prep offered the following sports:

High School—Both boys' and girls' cross country, basketball, tennis, track & field.

Middle School—Both boys' and girls' cross country and basketball; co-ed volleyball.

As the student enrollment grows, we will look at offering other sports as well. The size of the student body for the high school will determine in what classification our teams will play. If we do not offer a sport, students are allowed to try out and play for the team at the school their home is zoned in.

Does the school have dances and social events?

Alturas Prep holds dances and other social events throughout the academic school year. Students have a major voice in the creation of these activities.

Will there be after school clubs?

Yes, we currently have several clubs, including D & D, RC, robotics, coding, yearbook, creative writing club, and more. Depending on student interest and leadership, more clubs could be created.