



## About Samana International Academy 2025-2026

Samana International Academy provides a nurturing and supportive community for children and their families looking for an alternative to traditional school. We are dedicated to providing an inclusive environment where students thrive academically and grow into compassionate, responsible citizens with a strong sense of purpose and connection to the world around them.

- ❖ Class Offerings: We offer small class sizes to children ages 5 - 14. We use multi-age grouping (ages 5-6, 7-9, 9-11, 12-14). We require testing to ensure proper academic placement.
- ❖ Class Size: Students receive personalized attention in a welcoming environment that fosters a sense of belonging, encouraging students to reach their full potential! Each class has less than a 12:1 student-to-teacher ratio. We also offer one-on-one tutoring for children who need extra support. To ensure space in your child's classroom, please contact us before arriving in Samana to complete the enrollment process.
- ❖ Curriculum: We use an award-winning, academically sound, United States-based curriculum selected for its rigor and ease of use for parents who choose to work with their students at home.
  - Our curriculum blends elements of the Charlotte Mason, Waldorf, and Montessori educational philosophies.
  - Our curriculum is designed to be college preparatory while emphasizing family values, moral integrity, character development, nature, community, and enriching literature.
  - Outdoor exploration plays a key role in our approach, with nature serving as the foundation for many lessons.

- We offer a well-rounded education that includes science, technology, engineering, art, music, history, geography, entrepreneurship, project-based learning, and field trips.
- Designed for families who value flexibility in travel, our curriculum ensures that students stay on track—simply open the book and follow the instructions from anywhere.
- Students engage in hands-on experiences with gardening, farming, and animal care.
- In math, younger students (through grade 3) learn through critical thinking games and manipulatives, while upper-level students benefit from logic puzzles and video instruction for additional support.
- Older students also have opportunities for independent research and creative project extensions.
- While most instructors are bilingual, all classes are taught in English, except for Spanish and French lessons, as well as tutoring for ESL students.

❖ Location: We are located on the main road between the city of Samana and Las Terrenas. The grounds are securely gated and tucked away from the main road.

- El Limon to the school - 8.5 miles
- The center of Las Terrenas to the school - 18 miles
- Downtown Samana to the school - 5 miles
- Our property, located in Juana Vincenta, is 16,000+ m2 (4+ acres). On the property, there are more than 30 fruits and vegetables, coffee and cacao trees, two natural springs, horses, goats, chickens, cats, and dogs. The property has beautiful 180-degree views of the Samana Bay, the mountains of Los Haitises National Park, and the islands of Cayo Levantado and Cayo La Farola.

❖ Academic Support Hours: We operate from August 14 until June 4, and we observe Dominican holidays. Daily hours are Monday - Thursday, from 8:30-3:45. We offer customizable schedules for families who need more flexibility.

- ❖ **Tuition and Fees:** Fees are based on age/grade level with rates starting at 18900 pesos or \$300 usd/month for pre-kindergarten and up to \$550 usd/month for upper middle school. Please contact us with the age of your child/children for more information, or visit [www.samanainternationalacademy.org/tuition](http://www.samanainternationalacademy.org/tuition) to view our tuition form. In addition, we offer drop-in rates of \$150 usd/week or \$600 usd/month for **world school** families planning to stay for two months or less.
  
- ❖ **Participation:** Our student community is made up of families from all over the world! Because home education laws vary by country, state, and province, it's important to understand the legal requirements for homeschooling in your place of residence. We strongly recommend researching the laws in your home state or province before deciding to homeschool.
  - While all of our students register with SIA, most families also choose to enroll in a private cover school to obtain U.S. accreditation, transcript validation, certificates, and apostilled documents. Many of our families use HomeLife Academy or West River Academy for this purpose; however, enrollment and any associated fees are the responsibility of each family. We encourage families to thoroughly research this process before enrolling.
  - Additionally, we have chosen not to affiliate with the Ministry of Education in the Dominican Republic. If you plan to transition your child into the Dominican school system in the future, enrolling with a cover school can help ensure a smooth academic transition. We may be able to secure a group discount for cover school registration.
  - If you are planning to register with a cover school, please inform Emily Ryan as soon as possible.

<https://homelifeacademy.com/>

<https://westriveracademy.com/>

- ❖ **The Founder:** Emily Ryan is a native of South Carolina, United States; a University of South Carolina graduate; former Director of the Partnership for Academic and Career Education (PACE); Adjunct Professor at Clemson University and Furman University; Curriculum Coordinator and Global Career Development Facilitator Instructor at Tri-County Technical College; a teacher at Buffalo Elementary School;

Reading Intervention Specialist at Monarch Elementary School; and summer camp specialist at WW Long Leadership Center. Mrs. Ryan has extensive training in Brain-Based Learning Strategies, Gifted and Talented Education, and Career Guidance. Mrs. Ryan and her husband, Jason, opened Samana International Academy in the summer of 2023. Her desire to create a nature-based, international school in Santa Barbara de Samana is fueled by her passion for providing an enriching, inspiring, and safe space for children to learn and grow. Mrs. Ryan and her husband, Jason, have a 9-year-old son and a 13-year-old daughter who also attend the school.

- ❖ A Typical Day: Preschool - early elementary students learn pre-reading/reading, prewriting/writing, phonics, spelling, math, social studies, nature studies, art, and music. Our elementary and middle school students learn English Language Arts, Math, History, Geography, Science, Foreign Language, Art, Music, and Nature Studies. We appreciate parent involvement! Parents! We encourage you to volunteer, visit your child's classroom, or join your child for lunch. Classes are held in open-air classrooms and outdoor settings, allowing students to learn through hands-on experiences. Please dress your child in clothing suitable for outdoor play, as the playground can get muddy.

8:15-8:30 am Arrival

8:30-10 am Learning & Instruction

10 am Bathroom/Snacks

10:15 -11:30 am Learning & Instruction (including Foreign Language)

11:30 - 12:00 pm Art and Crafts, Nature Studies, or Library Time

12:00 - 1 pm Lunch & Recess

1 - 1:30 pm Quiet Time for Younger Students

1 - 1:30 pm Group Novel Study/Read Aloud for older students

1:30-2:30 pm Science, Geography, History Unit Studies

2:30 - 3:15 pm Music Appreciation, Unit Themed Project-Based Learning, or STEM

3:20-3:30 pm Pack-Up/Dismissal

3:45 pm Pick-Up

\* Scroll down for the application process.

# Application Process

**1) Complete the Application** [HERE](#). When complete, send the application to [SIS.SamanaDr@gmail.com](mailto:SIS.SamanaDr@gmail.com).

**2) Acceptance Notification:** After submitting your enrollment request, you will receive an acceptance notification letter via email upon acceptance.

**3) Parent Handbook:** You will receive a **Parent Handbook** and **Calendar** with your **Acceptance Notification**. Reading the Parent Handbook in full is a requirement for enrollment. Page 9 should be read with and signed by your child.

**4) Register your Child:** You will receive an acceptance email. Upon receiving the registration notification email, pay the registration (materials fee) by July 1 to secure your child's spot. The first month's tuition is due by August 1. [Tuition Information can be found HERE](#). Tuition can be paid in pesos or cash; via Zelle at [emily.ryan@gmail.com](mailto:emily.ryan@gmail.com)/843.655.5396 (no additional fees); or via PayPal [HERE](#) (please add 3% to the total for PayPal).

If you do not have Paypal or Zelle, please contact us asap to make a payment in person with pesos or US dollars.

**5) Prepare for an exciting first day of school!**

**\*\*Applications must be approved by the Samana International Administrative Team before the applicant is considered a member of the academy. All applications will be given due and careful consideration. Samana International Academy reserves the right to deny applications for any reason without explanation. Samana International Academy is owned and independently operated.\*\***

For additional questions, please contact the administrative team at [SIS.SamanaDR@gmail.com](mailto:SIS.SamanaDR@gmail.com) or via What's App at +1.843.655.5395.