



**ASHTON
SCHOOL**

VISION

The Ashton School is dedicated to be an institution of excellence centered on inspiring minds and transforming hearts.

MISSION

To provide a challenging academic program shaped by international and national standards, values based on biblical principles, enhanced with physical and cultural experiences, so its students will be able to integrate their academic knowledge and skills with wisdom, respect, and love for God and others.

OUR EMBLEM

Roots and Wings

Roots grounded in an excellent academic program and biblical principles;

Wings to soar with the knowledge and values learned to thrive, serve and impact the world around them.



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School year verse 2013–2014

“Blessed are those who trust in the Lord...

They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they go right on producing delicious fruit.”

Jeremiah 17:7–8

Guiding Principles

Academic Excellence

Equitable Learning Opportunities

Socio–Emotional, Spiritual and Character Development

Social Responsibility

Extended Learning and Development

Organizational Effectiveness, Integrity and Community Relationships



Academic Excellence

- Deliver a guaranteed and viable curriculum based on U.S. (Common Core, AERO) and Dominican (MINERD) standards, which will provide students with the knowledge and skills in core subjects that will result in college readiness for both local and foreign universities.
- Provide instruction in both English and Spanish in accordance with curricular guidelines.
- Use a comprehensive assessment system to provide feedback for improvement in instructional practices which results in student performance that makes it evident that students are learning. (Breakthrough School Improvement & ASPAS).
- Help students become academically and socially prepared to meet the demands of a 21st Century workforce by developing the four C's of 21st Century Education: Critical thinking/problem-solving, Communication, Collaboration and Creativity/Innovation skills. (Partnership for 21st Century Skills)
- Provide students with information, media and technology skills to keep up with the rapid changes in technology that are known to improve student learning and the ability to use technology appropriately and for practical purposes. (ASPAS)
- Actively engage students in the learning process (Breakthrough School Improvement)
- Use a variety of research-proven instructional approaches. (Breakthrough School Improvement).



Equitable Learning Opportunities

- Give all students in our school an equal opportunity to learn by allowing them to demonstrate learning in a variety of ways while meeting curricular standards and benchmarks.
- Allow for accommodations to enhance learning if necessary.
- Offer AP, Honors and online courses, as well as explore other learning opportunities for students who are ready for greater challenges.

Socio-Emotional, Spiritual and Character Development

- Provide a balanced and rigorous academic program that integrates principles as presented in the Bible, to shape both the intellect and hearts of our students.
- Teach students about a loving and just God, as well as the life and teachings of Jesus Christ as presented in the Bible, with emphasis on Jesus' example as a man, Savior and role model for all humankind. (MINERD)
- Demonstrate loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, responsible, honest, respectful and self-controlled behaviors and attitudes. (Galatians 5:22-23 & Ashton founding values are underlined)
- Uphold a conduct policy founded on loving & logical actions while balancing justice and grace.
- Guide students to take responsibility for their actions by helping them carry out a behavior improvement plan, when necessary, that is guided by another set of four C's that encourage the students to: Consider (reflect on) their actions, Confess (admit) their actions/attitudes, Commit to future improvements and ultimately be able to demonstrate and document the Change that has taken place. (Culture of Grace)
- Provide an environment in which students enjoy school, are able to make friends and feel like an important member of the group.



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Social Responsibility

- Foster global perspectives and understandings for cultural diversity while continuing to respect and cultivate Dominican heritage.
- Provide an environment that promotes community relationships with the less fortunate and service learning opportunities at all grade levels.
- Exhibit an awareness of and appreciation for God's creation by demonstrating good stewardship of our resources and respect for life.

Extended Learning and Development

- Provide students with opportunities to explore and develop life and career skills.
- Offer rigorous co-curricular activities that will contribute to healthier and physically active lifestyles, allow for exposure and experience in the arts and develop additional skill-sets to complement classroom learning. (ASPAS)
- Expose students to a variety of athletic disciplines including: soccer, basketball, swimming, ping-pong, volleyball.
- Provide student leadership and extended learning opportunities through clubs, Student Council, National Honor Society, Model United Nations, Junior Achievement and other offerings.



Organizational Effectiveness, Integrity and Community Relationships

- Employ qualified, enthusiastic and dedicated teachers, prepared both professionally and morally, making us an academic community which is concerned about the academic achievement of our students as well as their spiritual, emotional, physical and social growth. (ASPAS)
- Provide on-going professional development for the instructional and administrative staff in order to improve student learning.
- Employ and develop leaders that will strive for high academic student achievement and sound spiritual values based on the school's vision and mission.
- Provide a safe and physically comfortable environment that promotes student learning. (Breakthrough School Improvement)
- Provide adequate physical and human resources, equipment, facilities and overall support systems to enhance overall organizational effectiveness and in turn improve student learning.
- Monitor student performance and organizational effectiveness using data to guide the decision-making process.
- Engage in continuous school wide improvement by developing and adhering to a strategic plan, individual action/improvement plans and a continual self-analysis in compliance with accreditation standards.
- Maintain responsible and sound financial practices based on recognized accounting practices.
- Ensure that school wide decisions and actions (instructional, administrative, and operational) are consistent with the school's guiding principles. (ASPAS)
- Focus on a shared vision, goals, and actions to improve student performance. (Breakthrough School Improvement).
- Maintain constant and effective communication among parents, students and staff based on kindness, responsibility and respect.
- Encourage parental involvement, in cooperation with parent representatives, to contribute to our students' academic and personal development.



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Overarching Student Learning Expectations

The following Student Learning Expectations have been developed by considering information found in a variety of sources such as: The Ashton Board Policy Manual, the U.S. Common Core Curriculum (which provides Standards for English Language Arts and Math), AdvancED/SACS resources, the Dominican Ministry of Education (MINERD) curriculum, Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21), the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), Culture of Grace.

At The Ashton School students will:

- Use reading, writing, speaking/listening and language skills in English and Spanish to be able to use the language and communicate fluently and effectively in their daily lives, in university and into responsible adulthood.
(Common Core and MINERD)
- Demonstrate the knowledge and skills required to comply with a U.S. type course of study in the core subjects (as per the U.S. Common Core and AERO curriculum) in order to be ready for university studies abroad (United States or other international settings).
- Demonstrate the knowledge and skills required in Spanish language arts, Dominican Social Studies, Civics, Math and Science, in compliance with the Dominican Ministry of Education, in order to be ready for studies in Dominican universities.
- Acquire and apply mathematical, logical/reasoning and scientific inquiry and experimental skills for problem solving and real-life scenarios as life-long habits.



At The Ashton School students will:

- Engage in co-curricular and extended learning opportunities such as AP and Honors courses, online courses, a variety of electives, job-shadowing, and co-curricular academic activities.
- Acquire and apply technology, media literacy and information gathering skills to enrich their academic learning across subject areas. (P21)
- Demonstrate responsible, appropriate and ethical research skills
- Demonstrate active engagement in the learning process by making their own choices, thinking independently, formulating questions, facing problems and learning from their mistakes.
- Demonstrate competency in the four C's of 21st Century education in order to be ready for college and future careers. (P21) :
 - Critical thinking/problem-solving,
 - Communication,
 - Collaboration (teamwork),
 - Creativity/Innovation (be capable of thinking "out of the box").
- Understand the importance of knowing, loving and honoring God and others in accordance with biblical principles to live with integrity.
- Understand the teachings of Jesus Christ as presented in the Bible with emphasis on Jesus' example as a man, Savior and role model for all humankind. (MINERD)



At The Ashton School students will:

- Demonstrate loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, good, faithful, gentle, respectful, kind, responsible and self-controlled behaviors and attitudes resulting in the ability to: Make friends and establish positive relationships, express their agreements or discords effectively and respectfully, make wise and healthy decisions, demonstrate good sportsmanship, respect diversity, express gratitude and appreciation, and exhibit responsible work ethics.
- Demonstrate that they can take responsibility for their actions by considering (reflecting on) actions, confessing (admitting) actions/attitudes, committing to future improvements and ultimately being able to demonstrate the change that has taken place. (Culture of Grace)
- Develop gross motor skills and physical fitness as of an early age through a variety of athletic and sports disciplines including swimming (indoor, water polo and synchronized) at specific grade levels and after school offerings.
- Develop physical, athletic, and nutritionally healthy habits.
- Develop skills and practice talents in the visual and performing arts for personal growth, healthy expression and community enrichment.
- Demonstrate introductory conversational skills (at the secondary school level) in French or other foreign languages that may be offered.
- Take action on social, global and environmental issues and challenges, demonstrating good stewardship of the resources around them and respect for life.
- Engage in volunteer services to contribute to their community and a multigenerational legacy. (P21 and MINERD)
- Know and critically analyze current events around the globe and learn how to become part of the solution.
- Demonstrate appreciation for education, be actively involved and consider him/herself a valued and appreciated member of the school.