

PRESBYTERIAN PAN AMERICAN SCHOOL

Kingsville, Texas



Type: Coeducational college-preparatory boarding school and day school

Grades: 9–12 plus a fifth/bridge year

Enrollment: 170

Head of School: Dr. Robert L. (Doug) Dalglish

THE SCHOOL

Presbyterian Pan American School (Pan Am) was founded in 1911 on land from the world-renowned King Ranch. Pan Am has distinguished itself over the past century with its commitment to preparing international students, along with racial and ethnic minorities, for a university-level education. Although students come from many countries around the world including the United States, English is used in all classrooms. English as a Second Language (ESL) is the foundation of an international student's first year, with faculty and classes assigned based on language proficiency testing administered during the first week on campus.

Pan Am seeks student applicants who demonstrate an ease in communicating with others, who are open to experiencing the wider world, and who are eager to discover and explore the possibilities the global community holds for them.

Enrollment at Pan Am ranges from 150 to 175, typically with an even ratio of boys and girls. In recent years, students have come to Pan Am from South Korea, Mexico, China, Japan, Rwanda, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Guatemala, Colombia, Costa Rica, Spain, Equatorial Guinea, and the United States.

As a mission school of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Pan Am offers generous financial aid. The majority of students come from Christian families (Protestant or Roman Catholic); however, the admissions process is impartial to both religion and economic situation. Students attend chapel services and take elective courses in Bible. During the junior and senior years, students participate in seminars that require critical thinking about selected topics in ethics, economic justice, and human rights, particularly informed by the teachings and ideals of the Protestant Reformation. However, the school does not attempt to proselytize and teaches a wholesome respect for the reality and diversity of God's creation.

Pan Am is located on a 670-acre working cattle ranch in Kingsville, Texas, which is less than an hour's drive from the Corpus Christi International Airport and about an hour and a half north of the U.S. border with Mexico.

The school is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and is a member of the Texas Association of Non-Public Schools (TANS). The Texas Education Agency (TEA) sets graduation requirements.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Classroom instruction, along with a student's social formation, is designed to equip the student for success in college and eventually in a satisfying career. A student who fully utilizes Pan American School's many resources should be able to achieve a minimum average grade of 85 in college. Each student is mentored to attain a score of 550 on the standardized Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

In addition to traditional high school subjects, Pan Am offers instruction in speech, journalism, economics, fine arts, computers,

horticulture and agriculture, health and hygiene, physical education, and religious studies. Practical experience in robotics is offered periodically. For those students eager for the experience, the school offers a supervised 4-H program where participants raise their own animal that will eventually be sold at the annual livestock show and auction. No previous ranch experience is required.

Classes average about 20 students each. The student-faculty ratio is 10:1.

Senior students who score well on a college placement exam have the option of taking college-level classes for dual credit at Coastal Bend College. Typically, up to one third of the senior class will graduate with college credits in math, English, government, or economics.

Pan Am also offers a fifth "bridge" year for international students who are academically strong but whose English language proficiency might place them at a competitive disadvantage in a U.S. college classroom. The emphasis of the bridge year is to strengthen a student's English reading comprehension, speaking, writing, and listening skills.

FACULTY AND ADVISERS

The professional staff includes classroom teachers; resource specialists; specialists in art, music, and physical education; a school principal (or dean); academic and psychological counselors; a computer network engineer; and a library and media specialist. Many are graduates of Texas A&M University—Kingsville and/or are working toward advanced degrees.

Several staff members, including the president and spiritual life director, live on campus. Parents are invited to visit, phone, or e-mail faculty members. Each student's family receives an online password to access their child's grades, along with comments and observations from teachers and counselors.

COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELING

Academic counselors advise each student regarding options for college. Each senior is required to apply to a minimum of three colleges or universities, which may be in the United States, the student's home country, or elsewhere in the world. Many choose to study in Texas before returning home.

Presbyterian Pan American School is proud of its nearly 100 percent college acceptance rate among senior class students. In recent years, Pan Am's graduates have been accepted by such fine institutions as Baylor, Dordt, Schreiner, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Texas A&M, Trinity (San Antonio), Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Universidad Iberoamericana, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, University of Houston, The University of Texas at Austin, and other locations in The University of Texas and Texas A&M University systems.

ACADEMIC FACILITIES

The Pan Am campus includes four classroom buildings offering science labs, an art studio, choir room, and computer lab and a library with a media center. The campus is served by multiple T-1 high-speed Internet lines and also

provides wireless access. Also, all students have a school e-mail address.

BOARDING AND GENERAL FACILITIES

In addition to the academic facilities, there are a number of other buildings on the 50-acre campus. A kitchen and a dining hall serve three meals daily to the student body and staff. The Morris Chapel is the center of worship and spiritual life. Boys and girls live in their respective dormitory complexes, each with lounge facilities and a resident adult staff of dorm parents and assistants. A gymnasium contains basketball and volleyball courts. In addition, there are administrative offices, a teachers' lounge, offices, and a student union building.

ATHLETICS

Presbyterian Pan American School points proudly to a string of Texas state championships in boys' soccer. In addition, the school offers girls' soccer, boys' and girls' basketball, girls' volleyball, cheerleading, girls' and boys' track, and boys' baseball. There is also an outdoor basketball court, a tennis court, a soccer field and track, and a swimming pool. Student lifeguards are Red Cross-trained and certified. The boys' and girls' dorm complexes include fitness facilities and boys' and girls' common areas.

EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Pan Am firmly believes that social and personal formation is as vital as academic information in preparing young people to take their places in the world. While athletics offer the most obvious extracurricular outlets, the school provides additional activities as well. A professionally led choir affords training and vocal coaching. Choir members have the opportunity to compete at the annual Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAAPS) All-State Choir competition. The Morris Chapel Choir visits around the state and serves as a powerful outreach for the school. The 4-H Club presents opportunities to participate in raising lambs on the school's extensive ranch. Quilting and photography students also participate and compete in 4-H competitions. Student Council, Drama Club, Yearbook, and National Honor Society further develop leadership and organizational ability. The chapel's praise band offers students the opportunity to perform in an organized musical group. Student-led committees abound, ranging from worship to waste recycling. There are frequent class fund-raising projects and opportunities to contribute to the student-produced newspaper.

DAILY LIFE

Students clean their rooms each morning in preparation for inspection. Breakfast is at 7:15 a.m. on weekdays and later on weekends. The first class of the day begins at 7:45. The work program, choir, and athletic activities are held after classes dismiss in the afternoon. Computer lab is held on alternate evenings for boys and girls. Free time for informal athletics, board games, jogging, and other recreation is available following dinner. There is a required

chapel worship service twice a week and on Sunday, with students working alongside the Director of Spiritual Life to plan and lead the worship. Students typically have several hours of homework to complete before lights-out at 10:30 p.m.

Since the school's founding in 1911, the student work program has been an integral component of the weekday routine. Each student is required to perform 6 hours per week of supervised on-campus work, which may include cleaning the library or public areas of the dorms, assisting in the kitchen, sanitizing tables in the dining hall, maintenance of facilities, collecting trash, gardening, or other routine tasks.

Weekends at Pan Am are as important as weekdays and begin when the last class ends on Friday. There is no work program on Fridays, and evening activities in the Student Union Building (SUB) may include movies and dances, cards and chess, and pool and ping-pong. Saturdays and Sundays are also times when students may be driven into Kingsville or the malls in Corpus Christi for supervised excursions to shop and hang out together. Seasonal weekend activities include occasional barbecues over native mesquite cut from the ranch, outings to NCAA Division II athletic events, or gatherings at the swimming pool. Many students enjoy the tree-covered campus as a pleasant place to come together to play the guitar, sing, and be with friends. Students are required to attend worship services on Sunday mornings. Students who live within driving distance of the campus can sign out of

the dorm with parental permission and spend an occasional weekend at home, often inviting friends and roommates to go with them.

COSTS AND FINANCIAL AID

Tuition and fees in 2013–14 were \$15,000 for boarding students and \$8,500 for day students. The costs include room, board, tuition, and fees for such college entrance exams and other academic tests as the PSAT, SAT, and TOEFL.

The school offers a tuition installment plan and accepts online payments via credit card. As a mission school of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Pan Am remains committed to being financially accessible to families with modest financial resources. Most years, about 85 percent of the student body receives some degree of need-based financial aid. Nearly \$1,100,000 in need-based financial aid was awarded for the 2012–13 school year.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Presbyterian Pan American School admits students into grades 9 through 12. The school also offers a post-high school year of intensive English language studies for international students preparing to apply to a U.S. college. Interested parents and prospective students may find further information online at www.ppas.org. Admission packets are available on the website or by contacting the Office of Admissions. Scheduled visits to the campus are recommended. For families living far from the United States, the Director of Admissions can conduct a webcam interview over the Internet.

Once an international student has been admitted, the school will issue a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Form I-20, the application for an F-1 Student Visa. Once Form I-20 has been completed and received by Pan Am, students must make an appointment with the U.S. Embassy or a consular office in their home country, where they will be interviewed regarding their reasons for wishing to study in the United States as well as their future plans back home.

APPLICATION TIMETABLE

Inquiries are welcome at any time. The school begins receiving applications in January of each year. Admissions decisions will not be made until the applicant's file is complete. Applications should be received by June 30 of each year. Late applications may be considered if space is available. The application fee is \$75, payable either in cash or online.

ADMISSIONS CORRESPONDENCE

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