



# Curaçao American Preparatory School

## Admissions Policy and Grade Level Placement

### Admissions Criteria

Admissions decisions including enrollment and grade placement, are based on a review of each student's age, previous school experience, social-emotional development and behaviour, and linguistic background. Alignment in values and expectations between family and school is also considered. The school seeks families that demonstrate a willingness to partner with the school and support the school community.

Admissions decisions also take into account the program requirements of the applicant and the support resources available at our school, and other relevant demographic factors to help CAPS realise its mission, vision and beliefs. All admissions decisions are made based on the best academic and social-emotional interests of each child.

### Grade Level Placement

CAPS offers classes for students starting at age 3 years. As per our accreditation requirements, students are not allowed to be older than 20 years old in the year that they graduate from high school.

Students are initially enrolled in their grade level based on their age by August 1<sup>st</sup> of each new school year; this is especially the case for our pre-school and Kindergarten programs, where students have not yet had sufficient (or any) educational experience to be able to make informed decisions about their academic capabilities and socio-emotional maturity. For students looking to enroll in higher grade levels, we look at their previous report cards, their level of English, scores on any placement testing compared to grade/ age level peers, and their ability to switch programs should they come from a non-English speaking school.

After a student has been enrolled in school for a sufficient period of time, adjustments to grade level can be made if needed (either upward or downward) once we have a better understanding of the academic and social-emotional needs of each child. CAPS will always consider what is best for each individual child.

## Age Guidelines for Grade Level Placement

Grade Level Placement	Age to enroll (student age <i>by August 1<sup>st</sup></i> of that school year)
3 year old preschool (K3)	3 years old (student will turn 4 that school year)
4 year old preschool (K4)	4 years old (student will turn 5 that school year)
5 year old Kindergarten (K5)	5 years old (student will turn 6 that school year)
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	6 years old (student will turn 7 that school year)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	7 years old
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	8 years old
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 years old
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 years old
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 years old
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 years old
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	13 years old
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	14 years old
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	15 years old
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	16 years old
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	17 years old (student will turn 18 that school year)

## **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging**

CAPS is committed to showing empathy and respect and promoting racial and social justice. The school believes that this approach will allow engagement with local culture in a way that supports the school's mission, vision and beliefs and upholds and supports the principles of the school.

## **Inclusion Policy**

CAPS believes that all learners are individuals, each with their own strengths and challenges. As a result of this, CAPS believes that diversity should be advocated for and celebrated in our community of learners. The school recognises that some students will need additional support to enable them to access the educational opportunities available to the fullest degree possible.

The school strives to thoughtfully manage the number of students representing a range of learning abilities (mild to moderate) and the capacity to ensure a quality and equitable education for all students.

## **Students with Additional Needs**

While CAPS has limited facilities and resources available to students with additional needs, admission may be offered to students with mild to moderate learning challenges or physical disabilities. Applications are considered on an individual basis depending on the school's ability to meet the specific conditions and support required. Additional support services, such as a one-to-one shadow, may be requested to be provided to the school by the parents on a private tuition basis and may have associated fees.

Applicants will need to provide complete documentation of their academic history, psychological/educational evaluations, and details of extra academic or specialist support they have had or are currently receiving. Once the application is complete, the Admissions Committee will evaluate the application to determine if the school is able to offer a learning environment optimal for the child's growth and development. Withholding information about the individual needs of a student may lead to the withdrawal of the student.

## **English Proficiency Requirements**

As CAPS seeks to serve an international community and English is the main language of instruction, the school recognises the need to support and develop students' academic English proficiency to enable access to the programs offered. Students may join the school with little prior English language proficiency up until Grade 6 (students ages 11 years old and under). Students whose English language proficiency is far below that of their same-age peers based on their English proficiency screening, will likely initially be placed in a lower grade level than for their age and will also be enrolled in our English Language support program.

Students for entry into Grade 7 and above (students ages 12 years old and up) must demonstrate a minimum of intermediate proficiency in academic English as evidenced by a MAP screening score within two years of the recommended grade level RIT score at the time of testing. Students must also be able to converse comfortably in English and provide an in-person sample of their writing as evidence of their language proficiency. Students entering into high school must demonstrate advanced proficiency in academic English. Please note that English as an Additional Language support is not typically available for students in high school.