



**COLEGIO CATOLICO NOTRE DAME**  
APARTADO 937  
CAGUAS, PUERTO RICO 00726-0937

TELS. 787-743-3693  
787-653-0834  
FAX 787-258-9648

## **School Profile** Secondary level – grades 5 to 12

### **Contact's**

CEEB code 541040

Main Office: (787) 743-3693 (787) 743-5501

Fax (787) 258-9648

Headmaster: José J. Grillo, MAED

[www.principalccnd@gmail.com](mailto:www.principalccnd@gmail.com)

Academic Affairs Principal: José J. Rivera, Ed.D

[www.joserivera@ccndpr.com](mailto:www.joserivera@ccndpr.com)

School Counselors: Rocelly Blanco MAED, Janet Stuart MAED, Frances Ferrer MAED,

Professional Licensed Counselors

Counseling Office: (787) 653 – 0841

[orientacion@ccndpr.com](mailto:orientacion@ccndpr.com)

School Registrar: Doris González, MA

Registrar Office: (787) 653-0835

[www.registrauria@ccndpr.com](mailto:www.registrauria@ccndpr.com)

### **Community and School Information**

CCNDS is located at the city of Caguas, one of the eight municipalities of Puerto Rico with more than 100,000 inhabitants. At present CCNDS has an enrollment of 1,345 students (5 to twelve grades). The student body is socio-economically diverse. Approximately seventy-five percent (75%) of our students fall within the upper-middle class income brackets and twenty five percent (25%) come from families with income below the federal poverty level. CCNDS is accredited by AdvancED, and is licensed by the Consejo Superior de Enseñanza of Puerto Rico.

The school was founded in 1916 as a response to the social and religious conditions of Puerto Rico in its historical context: to lift students from the abject poverty suffered in Puerto Rico through education and professional preparation and to inculcate vision of social justice according to the wisdom of the Gospel values. The administration and faculty continue to educate the student body with academic excellence so that each person can achieve his her human and spiritual potential, mature in individual responsibility and respect diversity and live in solidarity with the concerns of the poor.

### **Curriculum**

CCNDS (Middle and High School) operates according to a two semester (four quarters) system on a rotating seven day schedule. The School curriculum is one designed for College bound students in three tracks. Two of those are specialized, one in the Humanities and the other one is a STEM specialized track. The maximum course load for students is seven



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credits per semester. CCNDS provides Advanced Placement, Honor and regular courses. AP courses are offered in Chemistry, Physics, Spanish and Mathematics. Honor courses are offered in Spanish, English, Physics,, Biology, Chemistry and History. The difficulty level of the course is in the following order: AP, Honors and Regulars. The curriculum is complemented extracurricular with thirty eight student organizations and twenty five athletic teams.

### **Language of Instruction**

The primary language of instruction is Spanish. However all texts used in class are in English with the exception of Spanish, Religious Studies and Puerto Rican History courses. In grade 6 through 9, student have the voluntary option of belonging to groups in which the Science and Mathematics texts and language of instruction is English. Our graduates are fully bilingual.

### **Grading, Weighted GPA and Ranking**

Our school's grade equivalent conversion scale is as follows:

- Grades equivalent conversion scale for Regular courses:

A+ 4.00 A 4.00 A- 4.00 B+ 3.00 B 3.00 B- 3.00 C+ 2.00 C 2.00 C- 2.00 D 1.00 F 0

- Grades equivalent conversion scale for Honor courses:

A+ 4.15 A 4.10 A- 4.05 B+ 3.45 B 3.20 B- 3.05 C+ 2.45 C 2.20 C- 2.00 D 1.00 F 0

- Grades equivalent conversion scale for AP courses:

A+ 4.25 A 4.15 A- 4.10 B+ 3.90 B 3.45 B- 3.20 C- 2.90 C 2.40 C- 2.20 D 1.30 F 0

Our weighted semester GPA is the result of additional honor points for AP and Honors. Class ranks are not calculated in CCND, but upon request we will provide an estimated class rank.

### **College Entrance History**

CCNDS is a competitive college preparatory school. Ninety nine percent (99%) of our graduates are accepted in four-year university institutions. Each year several graduates are awarded partial or full academic and or sport scholarships. Approximately one percent (1%) of the graduates attends a 2 year college institute.

Due largely to economic limitations, the majority of our highly qualified graduates continue their university studies at one of the campuses of the University of Puerto Rico. Other graduates pursue their studies in many of the prestigious universities in the continental U.S.A. At present, CCND has some graduates in Harvard, Yale, Princeton, MIT, John Hopkins, Tufts, the University of Rochester, the Military Academy at West Point, Emory, Georgia Tech, Purdue, Tulane, Penn, NYU, FIU, UConn, Sunny, Berklee, Michigan State, Syracuse, Columbia, Marquette, Brown University, American University, Iowa State University, among others.



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### **University level and online studies**

CCNDS has formal collaborative agreements with fully accredited and prestigious universities whereby students in grades 11th and 12th are offered the opportunity to commence university studies through special admission to the Binary Programs of Medicine, Pharmacy, Chiropractic and Veterinary Science at the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico in collaboration with the University of the State of Mississippi and the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Wisconsin Madison. Also from grade 11th, students can access the University Articulation Program which allows them to earn six university credits per semester and validate up to a maximum of 18 credits upon admission to the Law School of the PUCPR, furthermore participants in other concentrations also can earn up to a maximum of 42 university credits free of cost, if they decide to remain in the program or with a disbursement of only 25% of the total credits approved in case of validation at another accredited university of choice.

For students interested in concentrations in Engineering, CCND has a collaborative agreement with the University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez (RUM), students utilize the video conferencing facilities of Notre Dame to take core university courses in Engineering.

CCND also offers the opportunity to take AP and curriculum enrichment courses through the Virtual High School Collaborative, the only fully online school accredited by AdvancED and the Middle States Association. Some of the courses taken online by our students in recent years include: Chinese Mandarin Language, German, Russian, AP Biology, AP Physics, Video Game Development, Numbers Theory, Biochemistry, and History of Art, among many others. All University level online courses are weighted a 1.07 factor for GPA purposes and all online AP level courses are weighted a 1.08 factor for GPA purposes.

### **Accreditation**

Notre Dame School is accredited with the distinction of School of Excellence Award by AdvancED (NCA CASI/ NWAC/ SACS CASI), the largest community of education professionals in the world serving as a trusted partner to 34,000 schools and school systems worldwide employing more than four million educators and enrolling more than 20 million students—across the United States and 70 other nations and accreditation agency chosen by the USA Defense Department. Notre Dame School is licensed by Consejo Superior de Enseñanza of Puerto Rico.