



Colegio Fontán



Overview

Country or Region: Colombia
Industry: Education

School Profile

As a center of educational research, Colegio Fontán recognizes the individuality, dignity, and merits of all students. It offers equal opportunities for all, encouraging the respect and appreciation of differences.

Number of Students: 350
Gender: Mixed
Age Range: 5–18
School Leader: Julio Fontán
School Website:
www.colegioFontán.edu.co

Colegio Fontán has been selected to participate in the Microsoft Innovative Schools World Tour for being a showcase example of the following Innovation Topics:

- 1:1 learning environments.** Students work on their own devices and can use technology at any time to access educational tools.
- Personalized learning environments.** Use of systematic continuous assessment to change the course of student learning and for remediation.
- Virtual learning environments.** Use of technology to extend learning outside of the classroom.



“We chose Microsoft as our technology partner because of its range of products, from cloud services to productivity tools; its technology integration; and for its commitment to education through the Partners in Learning Program. Microsoft technology gives us various options to work with our students and, for us, personalizing students’ experience is what drives our program.”

Erika Twani, CEO, Learning 1 to 1 Foundation

1:1 learning environments

Colegio Fontán is a K–12 school in Colombia that has no traditional classrooms, teachers, blackboards, or exams. Technology supports everything it does. Each student brings their own device and is given a personalized learning plan.

Students from different ages and grades share large spaces called workshops where they can interact with other students. Students learn autonomously which allows educators to support their learning process on a 1:1 basis. Students come into the workshop and open their individual work plans where they decide what they will work on for that day in accordance with their yearly plan and commitments with their educators. They then work on these throughout the day between other activities, such as sports, art, and experiments.

Key Technology

Colegio Fontán fosters a bring-your-own-device (BYOD) environment and technology is fully integrated throughout the school. Students have their own laptops, which primarily run the Windows operating system. Students and educators use the Qino app developed in-house, along with other online learning resources.

Personalized learning environments

Colegio Fontán uses a pedagogy model called Fontán Relational Education (FRE) that customizes learning paths at an individual level based on students’ abilities and interests. This is related to everything they learn while using technology as the platform for personalized learning.

Students are supported by individually-tailored academic guidance and a 1:1

computer system based on cloud technology that efficiently coordinates and engages students, staff, parents, and guardians. Students are evaluated at each step of the learning process, and remediation is done throughout their learning process on a 1:1 basis.

The FRE model is called “Relational” education because students move to the next topic in all subject areas only when they are able to “relate” everything they learn to their daily lives, increasing knowledge retention and their chances to succeed academically. A student can begin his or her school activities on any day of the year, complete the course at any time, and take longer or less time depending on his or her capacities (within pre-established limits.). There is considerable flexibility that takes into account the student’s home life. Students who need extra time to dedicate to personal activities, such as family, sports, or music, can do so without it seriously affecting their studies.

Key Technology

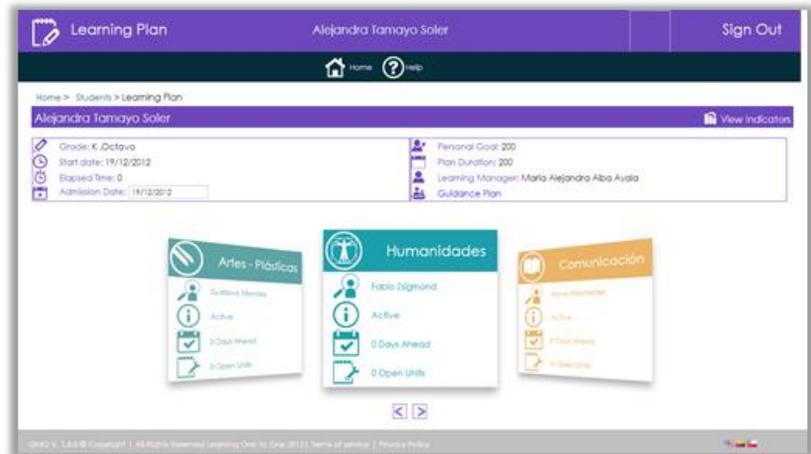
The Qino app runs in Windows Azure and is available through Microsoft Office 365; it was developed using Microsoft .NET technology. Students use the Qino App to:

- Retrieve learning plans
- Interact with educators
- Receive feedback
- Plan daily activities
- Analyze their key performance indicators
- Present school work

Virtual learning environments

Because all students have their own devices, they can work remotely after school if necessary. At the end of the day, students have time to check the work they have completed in alignment with their daily tasks and plan to finish any

The development of individual potential is achieved through personalized Student Learning Plans.



incomplete work at home so that they don't get behind on their plan.

Students can maintain studies remotely via a virtual platform. Students just need Internet access to see assessments, check plans and records, and reach out to their advisors.

Key Technology

Students use Skype instant messaging to chat with their tutors and advisors during non-traditional school hours.

Improving student outcomes

Colegio Fontán is primarily focused on the pedagogy process and how students learn. Through their academic work, students have discovered the importance in what they do. They learn to research, develop intellectual autonomy, and be creative. At the same time, they learn to solve problems, build knowledge, work on projects that require creativity and critical thinking. In addition, they develop work disciplines where they make decisions, are responsible, plan ahead, manage their own time, and learn how to effectively work in challenging situations.

Students have developed the capacity to effectively manage challenges, increase their self-esteem, and go through a process of self-recognition, acceptance, and respect. Their social environment allows them to set common goals, develop leadership, make group decisions, be responsible for their groups, learn to be supportive, and develop an ability to transform social environments.

Driving leadership and a culture of innovation

Colegio Fontán makes the faculty an active participant in decision making. The FRE model generates this environment wherever it is implemented, thanks to the change in the educators' role, who constantly seek the best strategy to personalize their students' learning experience. This unique objective requires continuous innovation because each student is different. Educators are accountable for the tangible results with their students, where they no longer are the owners of the knowledge but explorers of each student's potential. Educators are inspired in this dynamic environment and motivated to better serve others and, at the same time, develop professionally.

For More Information

For more information about Microsoft in Education, visit:

www.microsoft.com/education/ww/solutions/Pages/index.aspx

For more information about Colegio Fontán, visit:

www.colegioFontán.edu.co

Technology Infrastructure

