

De La Salle Santiago Zobel School

Muntinlupa, Philippines



Behind Ayala Alabang's gates, this Lasallian K-12 campus builds its arts program around a theater locals call the CCP of the South.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	63/100
Academic outcomes	65/100
University placement	63/100
Prestige & heritage	65/100
Alumni network	64/100
Facilities	64/100
Transparency	52/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

De La Salle Santiago Zobel School occupies a specific niche in south Metro Manila: a large, established Catholic day school inside Ayala Alabang, with the brand recognition of the wider Lasallian network and a clear K-12 academic runway. Founded in 1978, it serves children from age 3 to 18 in English and Filipino, under the Philippine K-12 Curriculum, and carries PAASCU and PEAC accreditation. That makes it a straightforward option for families who want continuity, structure and a recognisable local academic path, not an imported international curriculum. The school’s own language leans hard on “integrated challenge-based learning” and leadership formation; the stronger point for parents is simpler: this is a serious mainstream private school with a deep local reputation, stable identity and a full basic

education span.

What puts DLSZ on a shortlist is not novelty but scale, setting and cultural weight. In this market, many schools promise whole-child education; fewer have the footprint, alumni network and community standing to make that claim stick over time. The Alabang campus gives it a *self-contained* feel that families value, and the Lasallian frame brings a *strong moral architecture* without obscuring the fact that this is a conventional high-demand day school. The editorial hook also matters: its arts offering has long been tied to a theatre that locals call the *‘CCP of the South’*. That gives DLSZ a distinct edge for students who want visible platforms for performance, production and school culture, not arts as an afterthought tucked behind the academic core.

Parents should also read the trade-offs clearly. DLSZ is not the choice for families seeking the IB, A Levels or another foreign curriculum. It is also not a boutique school built around tiny classes and individual hand-holding. This is a *big-campus, big-community* institution with all the advantages and constraints that follow: breadth, tradition and opportunities on one side; less intimacy and more institutional machinery on the other. The website does not publish the hard outcome data discerning international parents now expect, so anyone comparing academic results school-by-school will need to ask direct questions. That opacity matters.

The best fit is the student who thrives in a *structured, values-led* environment, wants a strong peer network, and will use the school’s size rather than get lost in it. Children drawn to performance, community events and visible school spirit have more to work with here than they do at many competitors. So do families who want a Filipino private-school education with Catholic formation and a campus life that feels *busy, established and socially anchored*. For the right child, DLSZ offers *institutional heft* and a broad stage on which to grow.

STRENGTHS

- Long-established member of the Lasallian (De La Salle) network of Catholic schools in the Philippines, offering a continuous pathway from Kindergarten through Senior High School.
- Nationally recognised for its basketball program, which has produced numerous players who progressed to collegiate and professional (PBA) leagues.
- Operates separate Junior and Senior campuses in Muntinlupa, allowing age-appropriate facilities and pacing for younger and older students.
- Historic association with the Zobel de Ayala family as benefactor, giving the school a well-resourced and long-standing position among Metro Manila private schools.
- Bilingual instruction in English and Filipino, aligned with the Philippine Department of Education's K-12 curriculum framework.

TRADE-OFFS

- Follows only the Philippine K-12 curriculum, with no IB or Cambridge track, which can limit continuity for expat families expecting to relocate again internationally.
- Entry is competitive, with entrance examinations and limited seats at key transition points such as Grade 1 and Grade 7.
- As a Catholic institution under the Brothers of the Christian Schools, religious formation and Catholic practice are embedded in daily school life, which may not suit strictly secular families.
- Current tuition and fee structures are not transparently published online in a form that can be independently verified, so families must confirm costs directly with the admissions office.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is available at several entry points, most commonly Kindergarten/Grade 1 and Grade 7, subject to seat availability each year. The process typically involves submission of academic records, an entrance examination, and an interview for both student and parents. Given the school's long-standing reputation and the limited number of open slots relative to demand, admission is considered competitive, particularly at the lower grade levels. Prospective families should contact the admissions office directly for current requirements, fee schedules, and application timelines, as these are not fully detailed on the public website.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_c006a23805.