

Education in Palo Verde

In the community of Palo Verde, there is an elementary school serving students from kindergarten-sixth grade. The school has two classrooms, but only one teacher is currently working in Palo Verde. Thus, all children are crowded into one classroom, although they anticipate separating the kindergarteners upon the arrival of the new teacher.

Similar to North American schools, most students are 6 years of age when they enter the first grade and are 13 years old when they are done with the sixth grade. Historically, most students have not pursued further education after graduating sixth grade. This is now changing, however, as roughly 60% of students

attend secondary school in the nearby holistic community of El Zurzular. El Zurzular is a thirty minute walk from the elementary school in Palo Verde..



The Facility

Students in Palo Verde attend a relatively well-equipped primary school. There are two classrooms, although only one is actively being used at the moment. Each classroom has both a chalkboard and a white board. One classroom also has a small library with books and board games donated by a Spanish non-profit organization. The same organization also installed solar panels to provide electricity. Unfortunately, the four panels were subsequently stolen from the roof and the community has been unable to replace them, creating an extremely dark and murky learning environment.

The Teacher

At the moment, there is only one teacher working in the primary school in Palo Verde. Dila Isabel Carranza has taught at the rural school for several years. She commutes from the nearby community of Mata del Plátano each day. She spends about thirty minutes walking. This proves problematic whenever she injures her foot or leg, as she must cancel classes at the school in Palo Verde.

