



Santa María la Blanca



Santa María la Blanca has been selected to participate in the Microsoft Innovative Schools World Tour because it is a showcase example of the following Innovation Topics:

Overview

Country or Region: Spain

Industry: Education

School Profile

Santa María la Blanca, established in 2008, is a Catholic Charter school located in Madrid, Spain.

Number of Students: 1,700

Gender: Mixed

Age Range: 1–18

School Leader: Isabel Solana Domínguez

School Website:

www.colegiosantamarialablanca.com

- 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.
- Physical learning environments.** Focus on physical spaces, seating, and atmosphere to encourage collaboration, creativity, and learning.





“Currently, all of our innovation projects are based on Microsoft technology. We think it is important to regularly use new technologies in the classroom, for all levels of education, as a tool to improve the learning process and only as such, but never as a goal itself. We believe that taking advantage of technology, alongside traditional resources such as text books, encyclopedias, written documents, and notebooks, helps our students to succeed.”

Isabel Solana Domínguez,

Project EBI Manager,
Santa María la Blanca

1:1 learning environments

Santa María la Blanca believes that regular use of new technologies in the classroom is important, and the school fully supports a bring-your-own-device (BYOD) environment. Students begin to bring their own devices to school in the fifth grade and, in addition to the homework and projects given by the school, the students use information technology to work in collaboration with schools in other countries.

The use of technology resources in students' daily schedules is combined with other traditional resources such as text books, encyclopedias, written documents, and notebooks, in order to better prepare students for the future.

Key Technology

- *Personal laptops, mobile phones, and tablets are used from the fifth grade and onwards*
- *Firewalls are used to ensure access to secure content*
- *Typically, students age 10–12 will work on small netbooks, age 12–14 will work on larger laptops, and students 14 and older will work on touch laptops.*

Personalized learning environments

Santa María la Blanca developed its Basic Interactive Education model (known as the EBI Project) to support its belief in personalized learning. This new pedagogical methodology starts in elementary education and is based on personalized education, encouraging student autonomy and the use of different resources and information to work on daily projects.

Each student is evaluated in various subject areas by teachers, in collaboration with the

counseling center, and the evaluation is used to create a work plan tailored specifically for the student. Teachers and tutors monitor the students and support them throughout the course of study. Each student works on unique assignments different from their classmates.

In addition to receiving a detailed school plan for deeper support, students learn important skills needed in the workforce. Examples include:

- Learning to speak in public, beginning in fifth grade
- Attending career workshops in which various professionals speak about daily work and respond to any concerns or questions that students may have
- Collaborating on projects with students from other countries across Europe, North and South America, and Africa, to improve teamwork

Key Technology

- Teachers use customer relationship management (CRM) software as a management tool
- Students have Microsoft Office 365 accounts to access their schoolwork plans and to collaborate with other students

Physical learning environments

Santa María la Blanca is designed not only to serve as a school, but also as a sanctuary of leisure and recreation to support student's minds, creativity, and imagination. The structural organization of the school is made up of four different groups called Las Tribus (The Four Tribes), which represent the different education levels.

Learning spaces are designed as workshops and include themed spaces to provide more focused training. The themes include: el bosque animado (the lively forest), el agora (public assembly place), la huerta



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Improving student outcomes

Annually, teachers plan the curriculum mapping to increase the space given to more stimulating activities such as project-based learning. By using CRM technology, Santa María la Blanca has created a database to store information about the students. The information stored ranges from students' addresses to their exam scores. The school's EBI Project educational model also increases students' responsibility for their own education as well as autonomy dependent on unique work plans.

(the garden), el lugar de los sentidos (the senses place), el espacio de los santos (the saints' place), el espacio de los hombres ilustres (the enlightened people's place), el parlamento (the parliament), and el aula del mar (the sea class).

The purpose of these themed spaces is to combine science with aesthetics and social values in the world in which students now live, allowing them to widen their perspectives of the world at an earlier age.

Key Technology

- Proper equipment in each room (for example, smart boards, whiteboards, and projectors)
- Wi-Fi access throughout the school

In Spain, students take exams at the national level when they enter university, and regional government administrations test students when they are 11 and 15 years old. Over the last five years, Santa María la Blanca school administrators have observed a positive trend in student test scores.

Driving leadership and a culture of innovation

Santa María la Blanca strongly believes that a culture of innovation is intrinsic in its curriculum. The EBI Project, for example, showcases the school's focus on innovation in education. To drive innovation, students must learn to cooperate with different people face-to-face and through the use of technology. The Santa María la Blanca educational experience has proven to be a flexible framework that can manage the necessary changes involved in creating an innovative educational environment. Santa María la Blanca is sharing its experience with leaders from other schools who are interested in adopting a similar approach to learning.





For More Information

For more information about Microsoft in Education, visit:

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

For more information about Santa María la Blanca, visit:

www.colegiosantamarialablanca.com

Technology Infrastructure

