Dominican Republic**

COUNTRY OVERVIEW
CAPITAL: Santo Domingo
POPULATION: 10,090,000
ETHNIC GROUPS: Mixed (73%), Caucasian (16%), African American (11%)
LOCATION: Caribbean, between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, east of Haiti
CLIMATE: Tropical, with an average yearly temperature of 77°F
RELIGIONS: Roman Catholic (88.6%), Protestant (4.2%), other (7.2%)
LANGUAGES: Spanish

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND
TEACHING STYLES - Teachers generally lecture and expect to record both the lecture and the information from the blackboard in their notebooks. Lectures are sometimes supplemented by exercises and quizzes. Many teachers teach to the national exams, which students must take. They may obtain previous exams and use these as the basis of their curriculum. Students rely more on their lecture notes than their readings. Since most textbooks are expensive, many institutions can not afford them. Most teachers are not encouraged to reflect on their teaching methods and evaluate their effectiveness. Instead, they expect students to learn and succeed on their own devices.

LEARNING STYLES - Students may attempt to carry out academic tasks without asking for any clarification or assistance from their teacher. Instead, they may turn to their classmates for help. While students in public institutions may spend much of their class time taking notes and listening quietly to the teacher lectures, the private schools often engage students in more quiet study. The private practices tend to be more similar to those found in North American classrooms.

DISCIPLINE AND CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT - Punishments may range from oral reprimands by the principal, suspension or dismissal from school, and corporal punishment in extreme cases. At a university level, students may be sent to an internal disciplinary court where their cases may be heard and taken.

EDUCATOR-Student RELATIONSHIP - The relationships between teachers and students are basically formal; they tend to keep their distance from one another. The relationships between teachers and students tend to be more antagonistic than trusting.

STUDENT-STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS - Dominican students can be observed as both cooperative and competitive. The competitive dimensions manifest itself between groups rather than between individuals, but cooperation is more important in protecting themselves and one another than the severity of the teacher. Thus, students will meet to study together and work on assignments.

**All information from the “CIA World Factbook” and “Understanding Your International Students: An Educational, Cultural, and Linguistic Guide” (October, 2010)