



## SCHOOL PROSPECTUS





## MISSION

A DIVERSE LEARNING COMMUNITY PROVIDING STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CONFIDENCE TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE WORLD.

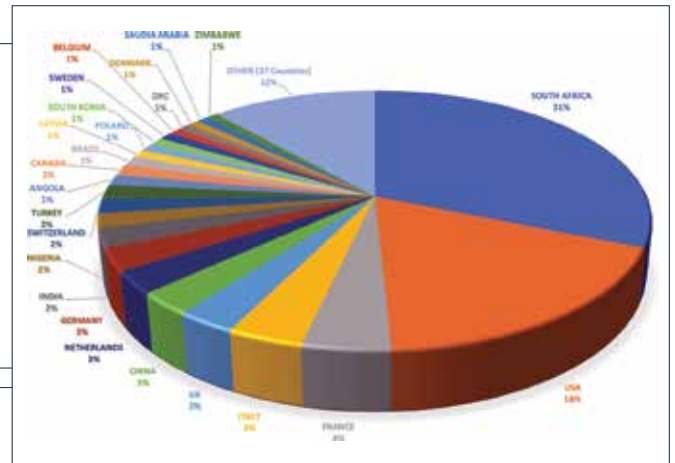


## VISION

EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, AND INTEGRITY.

## 50+ STUDENT NATIONALITIES

The AISCT student population consists of about 50 nationalities in any given year of which over 20% are Americans and 20% are South Africans, and the balance of 48 additional nationalities.



## 15+ TEACHER NATIONALITIES

15 nationalities are represented by our 90+ faculty and staff

## 30+ LANGUAGES SPOKEN

Our students' native languages number over 30 in total and include English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, German, and Mandarin, among others.

**50+**  
UNIQUE LEARNING AREAS

**24**  
ACRES OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

**60+**  
HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES OFFERED

**22**  
AP CLASSES OFFERED



## 3 PILLARS OF CHARACTER

At the core of our belief about student discipline are the three pillars of character: Respect, Responsibility, and Integrity. By modelling these three pillars of character, most issues that we face can be handled with minimal disruptions to the educational program.



## ABOUT US

The American International School of Cape Town (AISCT) is a private, not-for-profit co-educational institution founded in 1997. The school educates 500 students from over 50 countries, ranging in age between 2 and 18 years and instructed by teachers from around the world. The school has an average class size of 16 students with a student-teacher ratio of 10:1.

AISCT is located on 24 acres in the heart of Constantia Hills with Table Mountain National Park towering in the background. Cape Town is a dynamic, modern city of 4.6 million people and is continually ranked as one of the best places to live in the world. AISCT students are able to take advantage of the numerous opportunities the city has to offer.

Our campus is divided into four sections: Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD): Grizzly Cubs to Kindergarten 1; Elementary School: Kindergarten 2 to Grade 5; Middle School: Grades 6-8; and High School: Grades 9-12.

### SCHOOL BOARD

AISCT is overseen by a Board of Governors. The Board members have been appointed according to the bylaws of the school's Deed of Foundation. The Board is responsible for the school's fiscal solvency and overall success.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL

AISCT convenes a School Council throughout the course of the year. The Council consists of seven members, three of whom are community members elected by the school constituents, three of whom are appointed by the International School Foundation (ISF) Board, and one faculty representative. The Council serves to advise and help guide the direction of the school. The AISCT Head of School has a standing invitation to attend all meetings.

## CALENDAR AND SCHOOL DAY

Following the northern hemisphere calendar, the school year begins in August and ends in June. Our school day begins at 08h00. Dismissal on Monday-Thursday is 14h50 with early release on Friday at 13h45 when our teachers take part in professional development training. After-school activities take place between 15h00 and 17h30.

## ACCREDITATION

AISCT is endorsed as an independent school by the Western Cape Education Department and is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) based in California, USA. With this accreditation, our graduates receive a USA high school diploma granting them access to universities around the world, with USA, Canada, UK, Europe, and South Africa the most popular destinations. AISCT is a proud member of the Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA) and the ISF. AISCT is also a US Department of State assisted school.



## CURRICULUM

AISCT follows the USA curriculum to include the Common Core Standards for English and math. Foreign language instruction in French and Spanish begins in Grade 1. We offer university-level College Board Advanced Placement (AP) courses in the high school and the AP Capstone Program which affords our graduates the opportunity to earn an AP Capstone Diploma in addition to our high school diploma.

## OUR GRADE PLACEMENT

Moving between school systems can be challenging, making grade placement complex. Our first point of reference is the age of the child on August 1. Unless there is significant evidence to suggest a child's needs will be best met in a different grade, all children will be placed according to the Grade Placement Chart below. In addition to the chart, we use reports and referrals submitted from the current school as well as an admissions assessment for students entering Kindergarten 2–Grade 12.

AGE BY AUG. 1	OUR SCHOOLS	AISCT/USA SYSTEM	SOUTH AFRICAN SYSTEM	UK SYSTEM	IB SYSTEM	FRENCH SYSTEM	DUTCH SYSTEM
2/3	ECD	Grizzly Cubs	Grade 000	Nursery	Nursery	PS	N/A
4		Kindergarten 1	Grade 00	Reception	Reception	MS	Groep 1
5		Kindergarten 2	Grade R/0	Year 1	Primary 1	GS	Groep 2
6	Elementary School	1st Grade	Grade 1	Year 2	Primary 2	CP	Groep 3
7		2nd Grade	Grade 2	Year 3	Primary 3	CE1	Groep 4
8		3rd Grade	Grade 3	Year 4	Primary 4	CE2	Groep 5
9		4th Grade	Grade 4	Year 5	Primary 5	CM1	Groep 6
10		5th Grade	Grade 5	Year 6	Primary 6	CM2	Groep 7
11	Middle School	6th Grade	Grade 6	Year 7	MYP 1	Sixième	Groep 8
12		7th Grade	Grade 7	Year 8	MYP 2	Cinquième	Brugklas
13		8th Grade	Grade 8	Year 9	MYP 3	Quatrième	2e klas
14	High School	9th Grade (Freshman)	Grade 9	Year 10	MYP 4	Troisième	3e klas
15		10th Grade (Sophomore)	Grade 10	Year 11	MYP 5	Seconde	4e klas
16		11th Grade (Junior)	Grade 11	Year 12	IB Year 1	Première	5e klas
17		12th Grade (Senior)	Grade 12 (Matric)	Year 13	IB Year 2	Terminale	6e klas

# STANDARDIZED TESTING

External standardized assessments are an important source of information. AISCT utilizes a number of external assessment service providers to ensure our program continues to meet exceptional international standards.



## GRADES 2–8

Students in Grades 2–8 take the Northwest Evaluation Association’s (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment, which is based in the USA. The MAP is taken at the beginning and end of each school year and focuses on growth during the course of the year. Students, teachers, and parents are able to see the growth made in reading, language arts, and math. The MAP is the most widely used standardized assessment in international schools.

## GRADES 9–11

Students in Grades 9–11 take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). This assessment is designed to prepare students for university admissions tests, including the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

## GRADES 11–12

Students in Grades 11–12 take the SAT. We are one of a few official College Board SAT Test Centers in South Africa and offer the SAT assessment on the four international testing dates each year. AISCT also offers an intensive SAT prep course taught by instructors from the USA.

The College Board AP exams are taken at the end of each AP course in Grades 10, 11, and 12. AP courses are university level courses taught in the High School. These standardized assessments are benchmarked against millions of other students taking the exams each year.

## EXPECTED SCHOOLWIDE LEARNING RESULTS (ESLR)

### EVERY STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE

#### A SOLID FOUNDATION OF KNOWLEDGE

The mastery of basic skills in all academic areas and a foundation of knowledge from which to draw.

#### POSITIVE LEARNING SKILLS

Affective and behavioral processes and skills that develop personal responsibility within a learning environment leading to the development of quality products.

#### EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

The ability to express thoughts, ideas, and opinions in a constructive and effective manner.

#### GLOBAL AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Skills that develop an individual’s recognition of his or her role and responsibility within the family, the AISCT school community, regional communities, and the global community.

#### INDEPENDENT AND HIGH LEVEL THINKING

The ability to expand learning beyond simple knowledge and recall.



# LOWER SCHOOL

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Early Childhood Development (ECD) Center of AISCT consists of Grizzly Cubs and Kindergarten 1. The Grizzly Cubs classrooms are home to our 2-4 year olds. Each class is limited to 14 students. Our Kindergarten 1 classes consist of a maximum of 16 students and are home to our 4-5 year olds. All ECD classes have a qualified teacher as well as a learning assistant.

The ECD team strives to nurture the development of the whole child and to ensure a seamless transition to Elementary School through the Reggio Emilia philosophy. This is a holistic, authentic, child-centered approach to learning that promotes meaningful relationships, creativity, and critical thinking skills in children. This unique approach is inspired by the philosophy and practice of the schools in Reggio Emilia, Italy.



## 6 MAIN PRINCIPLES OF THE REGGIO EMILIA APPROACH

### 1. THE IMAGE OF THE CHILD

The child is viewed as strong, powerful, curious, and capable. The child is eager to grow and should be nurtured by adults who take this drive towards growth seriously.

### 2. THE 100 LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN

Children communicate and represent their ideas and intelligence in a myriad of ways. All channels are tremendously valuable forms of expression.

### 3. THE PROJECT APPROACH

Teachers ask questions and work to discover the children's curiosities, ideas, and theories. Through short and long term projects, children explore interests, problem solve, make connections, and think critically to strengthen academic foundations.

### 4. COLLABORATION

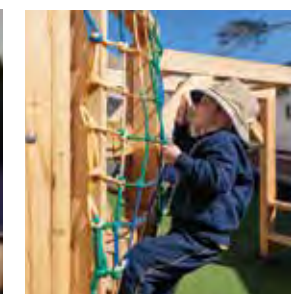
Collaboration and cooperation are intentional, and the children, families, teachers, and administration at AISCT are all co-constructors of the learning in our school community.

### 5. DOCUMENTATION

Each classroom tells the story of the children's learning through transcripts of the children's remarks and discussions. The teachers carefully arrange the photographs and representations of the children's thinking and learning into learning stories and exhibits. This demonstrates to students that their work is valued.

### 6. ENVIRONMENT AS THE THIRD TEACHER

Our beautiful, organized, carefully designed classrooms provide relaxing and inspiring spaces that promote communication, relationships, creativity, and exploration. Through conscious use of space, color, light, displays of children's work, and attention to nature and detail, the environment serves as another teacher and an invitation to enter and participate in thought-provoking encounters.



# LOWER SCHOOL

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Elementary School (Kindergarten 2 – Grade 5) consists of the years of school which lay the foundation for a life of learning. During these years, we work together with our students to help them achieve many important learning targets and benchmarks. Visiting our classrooms, you will observe welcoming, confident students learning, inquiring, and collaborating together.

Our Common Core standards-based curriculum is designed to meet the diverse needs of all our students. We use a balanced literacy approach for teaching language usage, reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. We aim to inspire our learners to create confidence and fluency in literacy.

Our mathematics program is designed to promote problem solving and mathematical reasoning. Emphasis is placed on developing strong number sense in our students, ensuring that they learn to use multiple strategies and can explain their mathematical thinking and reasoning.

Technology and innovation are utilized in all subjects for students to apply and increase their academic knowledge and skills. Science and social studies include units of study that promote investigative and research opportunities.

Specialist teachers provide lessons in art, music, dance, physical education (PE), drama, information technology (IT), library, Spanish, and French. Foreign language study begins in Grade 1.

We recognize the importance of parentschool partnership and encourage parental involvement in each child's educational journey.

# UPPER SCHOOL

Our Middle School and High School comprise our Upper School. Students have individualized schedules and take up to eight classes a year. We work on an alternating schedule whereby the students take the same four 80-minute classes on Mondays and Wednesdays (A day classes) and then four other 80-minute classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays (B day classes). On Fridays, they alternate between A day and B day classes. On Mondays to Thursdays, students have a morning advisory time called *Communitas* (Latin for community) with their homeroom teacher for 15 minutes. This time is used for character education, distributing information and announcements, receiving academic support, and general community building. They have extended *Communitas* sessions on Fridays in addition to FlexiFriday when they can meet with teachers to get assistance, work on projects, work in groups, and complete tasks and assignments.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School students take six core classes: English, math, science, social studies (history and geography), foreign language, PE, and four elective classes, to include art, music, drama, dance, and technology.

## HIGH SCHOOL

Our High School offers over 60 courses each year. Students take courses in the five core areas: English, math, science, social studies, and foreign language. In addition, they take three electives which include a balance of variety and focus areas.

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

AISCT runs on a USA credit-based system with a WASC-accredited USA high school diploma as its exit qualification. A specified number of credits must be earned in each discipline in order for a Grade 12 student to be eligible to graduate from our program. One year-long course equals one credit. Graduation requirements also include the successful completion of our Senior Impact Project (an independent service project).

GRADUATION CREDIT REQUIREMENTS	
ENGLISH	4 credits
MATHEMATICS	3 credits
SCIENCE	3 credits
SOCIAL STUDIES	3 credits
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	3 credits
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	2 credits
ARTS	2 credits
OTHER ELECTIVES	10 credits

# STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

We have a dedicated learning support team, including a learning support teacher, English Language Learner (ELL) teacher, and counselors who provide for students with particular needs in academic, social, and emotional growth. The High School counselor also provides counseling support and university guidance to the students. Our graduates apply predominantly to colleges/universities in the USA, Canada, Europe, the UK, and South Africa. We are a registered center for both Common App and UCAS application processes.



## AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Every day, we offer after-school activities (ASAs) until 17h30.

Our main competitive sports are cross country, field hockey, netball, soccer, basketball, swimming, and volleyball. In addition, there are club-type offerings to include robotics, crafts, music, and games.

Most after-school activities are included in the tuition fees. However, there are some, such as dance, drama, music, gymnastics, cheerleading, and other specialized programs, that are directed by private service providers and incur a termly fee.

AISCT is a recognised examination center in acting for the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA). Students who qualify for the grades 6, 7, and 8 LAMDA exams can qualify for UCAS points, used when applying to universities. Classes are offered after school to students in grades 3-12. AISCT is also a registered Trinity Music Center offering tuition and examinations in both performance and music theory. We also offer performance and music theory tuition in Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) examinations. These programs are part of our ArtsPlus offerings.

## SERVICE LEARNING AT AISCT

At AISCT we define service learning as an approach to teaching and learning that addresses authentic need through active engagement in our local and global communities. Our Service Learning Program provides students the opportunities and confidence to positively impact the world through genuine engagement in collaborative, meaningful action.

Every student at AISCT will participate in a form of service learning over the course of an academic year. In ECD through Grade 10, students and teachers work with service collaboratives/partners in the community to develop projects which integrate with our curricular standards. Students gain knowledge, understanding, and skills while contributing to the community and making an impact through ongoing collaboration with people, animals, or the environment.

High School students in grades 11 and 12 design and develop an Impact Project to demonstrate the skills they have developed in their educational journey. Students design a project around the question, "How will you impact your world?" They work individually or in groups, and the final presentation in their senior year is a graduation requirement.

### AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF CAPE TOWN

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