

Welcome!

Welcome to The American School of Tangier's Admissions journey! We look forward to guiding you through the process in a way that is both informative and supportive.

As the school mission states, AST strives to be a creative community environment. While you move through the admissions process and meet the various members of the AST Team, you will experience a taste of what it means to be a part of the AST Community.

Founded in 1950 to meet the needs of Americans living in Tangier, as well as the international community, The American School of Tangier (AST) is the oldest American school in North Africa. Over the years, the AST community has shifted from primarily expatriates, to primarily Moroccan, to the blend we have today of families from 27 countries.

AST programs provide more than academic growth. They guide students far beyond the walls of the classroom to an end goal of productive healthy lives. The AST FALCONS mascot traits are embedded in AST life, and designed to help students become open-minded independent learners, aware of others, and empathetic in responses. AST strives to enable students to live like the AST FALCONS they can become: Fearless - Aware - Leaders - Curious - Open-minded - Self motivated citizens of the world.

The whole family is admitted to the AST community when a student is admitted. We seek families who want to be involved in school life through participation in activities. We encourage families to adopt the FALCONS traits in their homes, and to actively support their childrens' learning in partnership with the school.

AST provides a modern blend of traditional values with a 21st century approach to learning. We look forward to sharing our school with you to explore if it is the right fit for your family.

The American School of Tangier Mission and Vision

The Mission of the American School of Tangier is to equip our students with the tools and knowledge to become successful, global citizens in a creative community environment.

Vision

AST will fulfill the mission by providing:

- An American-style education with a thorough grounding in the liberal arts, sciences, and technology,
- A highly competitive preparation for university acceptance around the world, especially American universities,
- A commitment to lifelong personal development,
- A professional faculty dedicated to providing the best practices in instruction, research, and understanding, and
- Community leadership that inspires responsibility, open-mindedness, empathy, and resilience.

AST will be successful when its students and faculty inspire lives of character, leadership, and service for the city, the country, and the world.



Accreditation

The American School of Tangier is fully accredited by **The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools**. The **MSA** accreditation affirms the high academic standards we have set for ourselves while serving as a catalyst in building the best and the brightest.

The American School of Tangier Falcons

In addition to providing an outstanding academic curriculum, AST endeavors to instill confidence and character in every student. These are our Falcons Traits:

Fearless

Aware

Leaders

Curious

Open-minded

Noble

Self-motivated



Fearless: a readiness to try new things and adapt to new situations.

Aware: a sense of the other, surroundings and the impact one has on their community and world.

Leader: displaying a positive, compassionate, responsible character.

Curious: an eagerness to learn, ask questions and give attention to detail.

Open-Minded: a willingness to consider new ideas and perspectives without prejudice.

Noble: acting with honor, integrity and respect; doing the right thing.

Self-motivated/Self-Control: undertaking a task/goal without prodding; ability to recognize and regulate thoughts, emotions, and behaviors in order to be successful.

AST Core Values: Falcons Care!

Our Primary and Elementary divisions practice a *Responsive Classroom* approach to student social and emotional learning. *Responsive Classroom* is an approach to teaching and learning that fosters safe, challenging and happy classrooms as students learn to use and model our AST Core Values.

What is Responsive Classroom?

Responsive Classroom (RC) is a management approach to help create learning environments where children thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

RC believes social and academic learning are inextricably connected, and that academic learning happens best within a positive social context, therefore, pays attention to developing positive social skills. Building a strong foundation in positive social skills, teachers and students must work together to establish routines, rules, and guidelines for behavior that make their classrooms great environments for academic learning and social growth.

RC consists of practical strategies for bringing together social and academic learning throughout the school day to promote a learning environment where:

- Children have time to engage in active learning,
- Children make choices about learning,
- Teachers pay careful attention to how children treat each other, and reinforce respect and caring as the basis for interaction,
- Children's ideas, creations, and discoveries are valued and displayed,
- Opportunities are provided for children to experiment, solve problems, and make fruitful mistakes,
- Teachers use an inquiry approach, as in thoughtful open-ended questions that stimulate thinking,

Cooperation: ability to establish and maintain positive relationships and work productively and collaboratively with others.

Assertion: ability to take initiative and stand up for their ideas without hurting or negating others.

Responsibility: ability to define a problem, take action by considering the consequences, and following through with a positive solution.

Empathy: ability to understand another's feelings and emotions, to appreciate diversity in others and to have concern for others' welfare.

The American School of Tangier Program Overview

Grades 1-12

The American School of Tangier curriculum is college-preparatory in design, and American standards-based. The school is accredited by Middle States Association (MSA) which ascertains the school meets the MSA Standards. The curriculum follows the Common Core Standards for Math and Language Arts. Science curriculum is embedded in the Next Generation Science Standards framework. Social studies, while integrating international and host country learning, primarily follows a US Standard framework. World Languages follow the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages standards (ACTFL). AST has implemented a Responsive Classroom model in grades K-5, and the Discipline with Dignity framework in grades 6-12, for positive community behavior development.

STEAM: Science – Technology – Engineering/English – Arts - Mathematics/Mindfulness

AST has adopted a STEAM framework for curriculum and instruction which provides opportunities for teachers to collaborate across the curriculum. The two-year old MakerSpace enables applications of Math and Science in a project-based environment, and the Arts department provides opportunities for exploration of academic topics from a creative angle. The theatrical dance productions of *Metamorphoses* (June 2019), *What If* (May 2018) and *A Short History of Nearly Everything* (May 2017), illustrate the integration of the arts across the curriculum.

Physical activity is also core to learning. In addition to the Athletic Director, AST employs three full-time and one part-time Physical Education teachers, and provides active learning time for all students starting at age 3.

It is important to understand that joining AST means participating in a system of education that aligns with US Standards, as well as those of most international schools. An American liberal-arts education and diploma differs from the Moroccan, Spanish and French school systems and graduation certificates in multiple ways. The core differences lie in the nature of the course of study, and the doors the diploma will open. An American High School diploma ensures that the graduate has been successful in all disciplines: Academics, Arts and Athletics. Because students study all disciplines, parents must be aware that AST students need to take College Board Advanced Placement classes in order transition directly into a highly specialized field of study. AST also offers an Advanced Placement International and Capstone Diploma options.

The American School of Tangier Program Overview

Elementary School – Grades 1 through Grade 5

AST Elementary School Program focuses on Relationships, Relevance, Rigor and Reflection. It is designed to foster curiosity and collaboration while nurturing perseverance and a growth mindset by engaging students in inquiry-based, hands-on learning, alongside more traditional learning. Teachers use a blended instructional framework, allowing for whole group direct instruction, small group instruction, one-to-one conferencing, and independent practice, and projects, in order to meet the needs of all students. In addition to the core academic areas taught in homeroom, all elementary students receive specialist instruction in Arabic Language, Library/Media, Music, Physical Education, and Visual Arts.

A STEAM curriculum framework pre-K-12 has been developed, and is being actively implemented and supported, by a wide range of teachers. As the Mission states: AST offers an American-style education with a thorough grounding in the liberal arts, sciences, and technology. STEAM is a vehicle for all subject areas.

The American School of Tangier Program Overview

High School: Grades 9 through Grade 12

AST school follows a U.S. styled curriculum which includes AP courses in the high school. The AP offerings this school year are English literature, Chemistry, and European History. Total number of students enrolled in AP courses this year is 32.

Grades 9 to 12 Course Offerings

- English
- Language Acquisition (French and Arabic)
- World History, U.S. History, Human Geography
- Calculus, Pre-Calculus, Integrated Math
- AP Biology, AP Physics 1, Physics, Chemistry, Biology
- Physical Education
- AP Computer Science Principles
- Electives: Choir, Guitar, Art,
- Computer applications, Fitness, Health, Philosophy (in French), and MakerSpace activities.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Chess Club
- Athletics and Team sports
- Model United Nations
- Drama
- Student Council
- Intersession Schedule
- After-School Club program