



AISL

American International
School of Lagos



**MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK
2023-24**



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MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL PARENT - STUDENT HANDBOOK 2022-2023

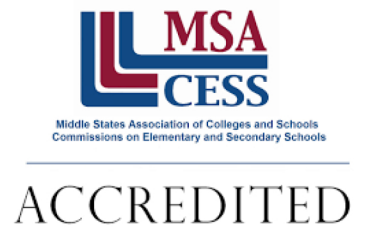


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Letter from the Middle/High School Principal

August, 2023

Dear Students and Parents,

The American International School of Lago's Middle School Program Guide has been designed to be an essential resource to provide clarity pertaining to programming as well as a tool to assist in planning the academic program in the Middle School.

This handbook contains descriptions of subjects offered in grades 6 through 8 as well as the various units of study that make up each subject area's program of learning. This will help prospective parents understand how AISL curriculum will be viewed in relation to a current system of study and will also be an important reference for students when planning the schedule of courses for the upcoming year.

Please do not hesitate to consult with me or our school's academic counselor in order to make the best decisions in the course selection process.

Best regards,

Kathleen Bowin
Middle/High School Principal
kbowin@aislagos.org



Middle School Course Overview

The AISL Middle School is committed to helping all students in Grades 6-8 be the best versions of themselves so they can joyously soar on their own paths of learning, growing, leading, and contributing as world citizens. The Middle School realizes this commitment by offering a modern, relevant, and culturally responsive curriculum with a strong academic foundation consisting of core courses and a varied elective program. An advisory program provides students with opportunities to connect with an adult advocate and with other students in order to develop a sense of belonging. The Middle School is a place intentionally designed to meet the unique developmental needs of the adolescent learner. At AISL, we believe that a child's emotional development is as important as their intellectual growth.

Core Courses

All students in the Middle School are required to take the following courses:

- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Integrated Sciences
- Health/Physical Education

World Languages

Students in the Middle School have an opportunity to study one of the following World Languages:

- French
- Spanish

Electives

Students in the Middle School have the option to take one semester or one year elective courses in the following areas:

- Music/Band
- Performing Arts
- Design and Technology
- Visual Arts
- Financial Literacy

*Note - some electives are only offered for specific grades, and in Grade 6 some of the electives are offered as a [Grade 6 Elective Wheel](#), allowing students to be exposed to a variety of elective opportunities. Please see page 13 for more information.

Other Programs

The following programs are designed to support student achievement and success in the Middle School.

SOAR Time

AISL Middle and High School have SOAR Time incorporated into the school day Mondays-Thursdays. During this time, students have a variety of learning opportunities including:

- **Learning Lab** for students who require support
- **Enrichment** for students to deepen an area of interest or to explore learning something new
- **WINN** (What I Need Now) time for students to engage with individual teachers as needed, in the style of office hours
- **Advisory**, in which small groups of students come together regularly for social/emotional learning, current adolescent issues, university and career counseling and other topics.

Afterschool Athletics & Activities

The Middle School has a vibrant co-curricular program designed to meet the passions, interests and needs of students. Each semester, Middle School students have an opportunity to participate in a variety of after school activities, which include opportunities such as competitive sports, games, digital media, art, drama, and music.

Service Learning

Service learning is integrated into the middle school curriculum. Students have an opportunity to work with their peers, teachers, and advisors on projects that have a positive positive impact on the school campus as well as local and global communities. Through service learning, our middle school students begin to develop an understanding about what it means to create a just and sustainable world.

Student Support Services

The Middle School embraces diversity and is committed to supporting the learning needs of all students. Our Student Support Service Program - English for Academic Purposes, Learning Support, and Counseling - ensures that all students have equitable access to learning and are supported socially and emotionally. Through an inclusive and nurturing educational environment, students are encouraged to become independent, lifelong learners in a global society.

Technology Integration

Students use technology in the Middle School to amplify learning and increase their abilities to communicate, collaborate, express themselves creatively, think critically, and solve problems. Students leverage technology hardware and applications to enhance their understanding of content areas, connect to their learning community, and understand the world around them. Students are creators of content, not just consumers of content, finding original ways to demonstrate their learning through new tools. Through the advisory program, Middle School students learn what it means to be a responsible digital citizen by developing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to live responsibly in an increasingly digital world.

General CORE Curriculum

English

Length: Year

The English program at AISL includes reading, writing, and the critical and creative skills and strategies involved in producing and comprehending texts. Learners also use oral and written language to make sense of the world, and to communicate, problem solve, and participate in decision-making. The AERO English Language Arts Standards drive the development of the key skills, strategies and understandings of 21st century literacy, so students can:

- engage thoughtfully and critically with a wide variety of literary and informational media
- make meaning, ask questions, and express ideas while listening, reading, and viewing
- use language and literacy purposefully across a variety of authentic contexts to make connections, amplify experience, broaden perspective, design and share information for global communities, and reach audiences
- communicate clearly and articulately through speaking, listening, writing, representing and presenting
- develop proficiency with the tools of technology
- build relationships with others to pose and solve problems collaboratively and cross-culturally
- manage, analyze, and synthesize multiple streams of simultaneous information

The literacy units below integrate relevant math, social studies and science standards where possible to ensure a rich and meaningful learning experience for our students.

Grade Level	Reading	Writing
Grade 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a Reading Life • A Deep Study of Character • Tapping the Power of Nonfiction • Fantasy Book Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restarting a Writing Life • Personal Narratives • Argumentative Writing • Research Based Writing • Historical Fiction
Grade 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting Back Into Reading Life & Building a Vibrant Reading Life • Investigating Characterization: Author study Books • Essential Research for Teens • Analyzing Craft and Structure: How to Eat a Poem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restarting a Writing Life • Realistic Fiction • The Art of Argument • Together Fact & Fiction • Writing Poems: Craft and Structure
Grade 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting Back into Independent Reading • Dystopian Book Clubs • Essential Research Skills for Teens • Critical Literacy: Unlocking Contemporary Fiction • Passion Projects • Literary Nonfiction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restarting a Writing Life • Memoir--6 words • Position Papers: Research and Argument • The Literary Essay: Unlocking Craft and Theme • Passion Projects • Investigative Journalism

Social Studies

Length: Year

The AISL Social Studies program provides diverse, authentic and transferable opportunities for our Eagles to develop important skills and understandings to better comprehend the historical and current nature of the world as well as their role as global citizens of a culturally diverse, equitable, inclusive and just society in an interdependent world who can make a positive difference.

The AERO Social Studies Curriculum Standards drive the development of the key skills and understandings through eight distinct concepts: Time, Continuity and Change, Connections and Conflict, Geography, Culture, Society and Identity, Government, Production, Distribution and Consumption, and Science, Technology and Society. Through intentionally-designed units of study, learners are able to:

- engage in inquiry and conduct research
- draw evidence-based conclusions
- critically and creatively apply knowledge and concepts to solve complex, authentic, ‘wicked’ problems now and in the future

The social studies units below integrate key literacy, math and where relevant, science standards to ensure a rich and meaningful learning experience.

Grade Level	Social Studies
Grade 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early Humans and the Rise of Civilization• Ancient Egypt• Ancient India• Ancient China• Ancient Greece
Grade 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Europe During Medieval Times• Cultures & Kingdoms of West Africa• Japan During Medieval Times• Civilisations of the Americas
Grade 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does it mean to be human?• European Exploration: Exploration Models. The How and the Why?• American History: Identity, Independence, Government• Colonization: The Victims and Human Rights



Science

Length: Year

The program is driven by the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) with attention paid to the three dimensions of learning: the fundamental science and engineering practices, developing knowledge of the cross-cutting concepts that are foundational to science disciplines and disciplinary core ideas.

With the scientific inquiry cycle at the heart, learning is student-driven, hands-on and is centered around ‘phenomena’ that spark students’ curiosity and wonder. Students will ask questions, construct explanations, plan and carry out investigations and engage in arguments from evidence, and apply and transfer their understanding through authentic, performance-based tasks and assessments. For engineering, the students explore real-life problems and take action through investigating, testing and iterative designing. Other fundamental practices developed through the curriculum include:

- developing and using models,
- using mathematical and computational thinking,
- data collecting, interpreting and analyzing
- obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

The science units below integrate key literacy, math and social studies standards, where relevant, to ensure a rich and meaningful learning experience for students.

Grade Level	Science
Grade 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Light & Matter• Thermal Energy• Weather, Climate, & Water Cycle• Plate Tectonics and Rock Cycling• Natural Hazards• Cells and Systems
Grade 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matter Cycling & Photosynthesis; Earth’s Resources & Human Impact• Metabolic Reactions & Systems• Chemical Reactions & Energy• Ecosystem Dynamics; Earth’s Resources & Human Impact
Grade 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forces & Interactions• Earth in Space, Matter Cycling• Genetics• Natural Selection and Common Ancestry• Sound Waves



Mathematics

Length: Year

The AISL Mathematics program is driven by the AERO Mathematical standards which places emphasis on the conceptual underpinnings of mathematics as part of developing a deep understanding of mathematical strands rather than solely arithmetic. Mathematical understanding involves students:

- engaging in relevant, authentic, rich tasks that invite inquiry and investigation
- posing questions to identify and solve problems using a variety of tools and strategies
- using math practices to solve problems and justify answers
- strengthening and employing fluency of procedural skills (operations, tools, strategies)
- discovering multiple methods for seeking solutions
- developing critical, creative, logical and computational thinking
- communicating mathematical ideas with accuracy, precision and clarity

The mathematics topics below form the foundation of learning experiences for students.

Grade Level	Mathematics
Grade 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area and Surface Area • Introducing Ratios • Unit Rates and Percentages • Dividing Fractions • Arithmetic in Base Ten • Expressions and Equations • Rational Numbers • Data Sets and Distributions
Grade 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale Drawings • Introducing Proportional Relationships • Measuring Circles • Proportional Relationships and Percentages • Rational Number Arithmetic • Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities • Angles, Triangles, and Prisms • Probability and Sampling
Grade 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rigid Transformations and Congruence • Dilations, Similarity, and Introducing Slope • Linear Relationships • Linear Equations and Linear Systems • Functions and Volume • Associations in Data • Exponents and Scientific Notation • Pythagorean Theorem and Irrational Numbers



World Language

Length: Year

Learning a world language has the power to foster an understanding of the interrelation of language, culture and human nature. At the most basic level, it teaches and encourages respect for other peoples by expanding one's view of the world, liberalizing one's experiences, and inviting more flexibility and tolerance. At AISL, the ACTL World Language Standards provide the skills and understandings for students to:

- Communicate ideas through spoken language, in writing and through presentation
- Comprehend spoken language and written texts
- Communicates with cultural competence regarding cultural artifacts, practices, and beliefs of the language.

The world language units below integrate concepts, knowledge and skills across communication, culture, community, and connections to ensure a rich and meaningful learning experience.

Grade Level	World Language	
	Spanish	French
Grade 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Hola a todos” (Greetings and friends) • “¿Qué te gusta?” (What do you like?) • Project: Navidad: La Navidad en los países hispanohablantes (Christmas in Spanish Speaking countries) • “¿Cómo es tu familia?” (How is your family?) • “Un día en mi escuela” (A day at my school)(My school year) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Salut les copains” (Greetings and friends) • “ Qu’est-ce qu’il te plaît?” (What do you like?) • Christmas Project Noël en France. (Christmas in France) • “Comment est ta famille?”(How is your family?) • Project: Mardi Gras • “Mon année scolaire”(My school year)
Grade 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Que aproveche!” (Food and drinks) • “De compras” (Let’s go shopping) • Project: Navidad: La Navidad en los países hispanohablantes (Christmas in Spanish Speaking Countries. At Home) • Mi casa. (House and chores. At Home) • Mi barrio (My neighborhood) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Bon appétit” (Food and drinks) • “On fait les magasins” (Let’s go shopping) • Project: Project: La celebration de Noël (Celebration of Christmas) • (Christmas in the French Speaking countries) • A la maison. (House and chores- At Home) • Project: Bon appétit • Allons en ville (My neighborhood)
Grade 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Mi familia y mis amigos” (My family and my friends) • “Preparamos una fiesta” (Celebrations-Let’s plan a party) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Ma famille et mes copains” (My family and my friends) • “On fait la fête” (Celebrations- Let’s plan a party)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project: Navidad: La Navidad en los países hispanohablantes (Christmas in Spanish Speaking Countries) • “¡A cocinar!” (Let’s cook) • “En el colegio” (Education -At the school) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project: Christmas :Noël aux pays Francophones • (Christmas in the French Speaking countries) • “Faisons les courses” (cooking- Let us go grocery shopping) • Project: Mardis Gras • “Au lycée” (Education- at the school) •
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Physical Education

Length: Semester (G6) and Year long (G7/G8)

Learning in physical education is driven by the National Physical Education Standards (SHAPE), which focus on leading students to:

- establish habits for good health,
- develop fundamental and advanced motor skills
- improve self-confidence
- increase levels of physical fitness that are associated with high academic achievement.

Additionally, it encourages Eagles to develop personal and social behaviors, including self-management, sportsmanship, problem-solving, safety and communication skills that encourage respect for self and others. Similarly, the patterns of physical activity acquired during childhood and adolescence are likely to be maintained throughout our graduates' lifespan, providing physical, mental, self-expression and social benefits.

The physical education units below focus on games and sports, outdoor pursuits, including health, and aquatics in order to ensure a well-rounded, rich and meaningful learning experience for the students.

Grade Level	Physical Education
Grade 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Games & Sports<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Invasion games2. Net / Wall games3. Target games4. Fielding & Striking games• Outdoor Pursuits<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Health & Wellness2. Recreational Activities• Aquatics - Swimming and Water Safety
Grade 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aquatics - Swimming and Water Safety• Outdoor Pursuits<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Health and Wellness2. Physical Activity and Fitness3. Recreational Activities• Games & Sports<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Invasion games2. Target game3. Fielding & Striking games4. Net / Wall games
Grade 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Games & Sports:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Invasion games2. Fielding & Striking games3. Target games4. Net/Wall games• Aquatics - Swimming and Water Safety• Outdoor Pursuits<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Health & Wellness2. Recreational Activities3. Physical Activity and Fitness



Elective Curriculum

Grade 6 Elective Wheel

Representing our belief that students should be exposed to a breadth of experiences, in Grade 6 students are able to experience four elective options, one per quarter. The students will rotate through this 'elective wheel' over the course of the year.

Financial Literacy

Length: Quarter

This Social Studies class is a 1 quarter course that helps students assess their personal skills and interest, explore career options, learn job-hunting skills, and practice personal family financial management, while learning about the economic system and the role of business in it. Students are introduced to basic economics and investigate how they are connected, through trade, to people and cultures throughout the world. Students learn what it takes to be an entrepreneur and start a business.

Performing Arts (Exploring Dance, Drama and Music)

Length: Quarter

Performing Arts is an active class that explores Dance/Movement, Music, and Theatre. The focus is on ensemble experiences through creating, presenting, responding, and connecting. Students will develop their confidence in Performing Arts through a variety of active experiences. The class encourages collaboration, communication, and teamwork. Through analyzing and critiquing works of art, students will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of artistic expression. The course promises to be an exciting and enriching experience for all students involved.

Visual Art (Foundations)

Length: Quarter

Technology

Length: Quarter

In order to prepare our students with the technological skills needed to engage in our digital age, AISL offers three diverse computer science courses in the middle school. The 6th Grade Intro to CS & Design course provides an introduction to the fundamentals of design & engineering for evaluating solutions to solve problems through the familiarization of computing systems, including the Internet, digital information and the resources provided via AISL's Makerspace.

Grade 6	
Financial Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledgeable Consumer and Product Pricing• Introduction to Lifelong Decision Makers• Introduction to the Stock Market

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Does a Nation Consume?
Performing Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a Performing Arts Ensemble • Building a Performing Arts Ensemble • Refining a Performing Arts Ensemble <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unstructured Dance/Movement • Structured Dance/Movement • Choir singing • Song Composition with Body Percussion • Improvisation • Tableaux/Human Slideshows
Computer Science Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Information • The Internet • Cybersecurity • Design Process, 3D Modeling & Printing
Visual Art Foundations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing & Painting (Elements and Principles of Art) • Ceramics • Textile Art • Jewelry & Beadwork

Grade 7 & 8 Student Electives

After completing the [Grade 6 Elective Wheel](#), students may then choose two of three courses that represent their interests in Grade 7 & 8. Each of these courses are a semester in length, allowing students to continue their exposure to a diversity of learning.

Performing Arts

Length: Semester

The Performing Arts program at AISL follows the National Core Arts Standards which define artistic literacy and clarify connections between the arts and 21st century skills. By nature of living in a country that is rich with culture, as well as being a school serving students of multiple nationalities, AISL celebrates our rich diversity through the expression of human creativity and imagination.

The Performing Arts course incorporates dance/movement, music (instruments, singing), and theatre. Through a variety of opportunities, Eagles artistically express their interpretation of the world around them where they are able to Create, Present, Respond and Connect. Students are given opportunities for student choice, student voice, and Student Directed Learning (SDL) throughout the courses.

The performing arts units below ensure a rich and meaningful learning experience for students.

Grade Level	Performing Arts (Semester Course)
Grade 7	<p>Musical Theatre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore• Evolve• Emerge <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Singing• Acting• Dancing• Characterization and Emotion• Timing and Stage presence• Costumes/Makeup• Energy• Ensemble work
Grade 8	<p>Drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discover• Progress• Thrive <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acting techniques: exploring different methods of acting and developing acting skills• Character development: creating and developing believable characters for performance• Improvisation: practicing spontaneous, unscripted performance in a variety of settings• Ensemble work: collaborating with others to create cohesive and engaging performances• Voice and speech: developing clear and expressive vocal technique for performance

Technology

Length: Semester

The 7th Grade Technology Coding course engages students in using the text-based programming language, [Python](#), in conjunction with a custom graphics package. Through the use of a course-embedded, browser-based [IDE {Integrated Development Environment}](#) the students solve textual, and graphical, computational puzzles/problems; along with creating and running their own custom programs.

The 8th Grade Design Lab course focuses on electronics and technology by providing a foundational understanding of the major hardware and software principles involved in the specification and design of modern machinery; specifically, the basics of digital & electronic logic and circuits, introduction to various traditional system architectures, and learning embedded programming principles. Students explore and innovate on a selected variety of contemporary and evolving technologies including radios, cell phones, robots and drones,

The technology units below ensure a rich and meaningful learning experience for the students.

Grade Level	Technology
Grade 7	Coding
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drawing With Shapes• Basic Animations• Conditionals• Games
Grade 8	Innovation & Design Lab
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Web Development• Basic Robotics• Basic Electrical Engineering• Embedded Programming



Visual Arts

Length: Semester

The Visual Arts program at AISL follows the National Core Arts Standards which define artistic literacy and clarify connections between the arts and 21st century skills. By nature of living in a country that is rich with culture as well as being a school serving students of multiple nationalities, AISL celebrates our rich diversity through the expression of human creativity and imagination. Through a variety of mediums, Eagles artistically express their interpretation of the world around them through a variety of visual and performing arts where they are able to Create, Present, Respond and Connect.

The visual arts units below ensure a rich and meaningful learning experience for the students.

Grade Level	Visual Arts
Grade 7	African Arts & Crafts: <i>A selection of experiences from the following areas depending on student needs and interests:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome Back Drawing Activities• Drawing & Painting• Sculpture & Ceramics• Textile Art• Printing & Graphics• Metal & Wire Works• Craft & Culture• Sewing & Weaving• Jewelry & Beadwork
Grade 8	Digital Arts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drawing• Digital Visual Presentations• Three-dimensional Composition• Graphic Design• Painting• Podcasts• Video Making• Animation

English (Public Speaking)

Length: Semester

Public Speaking uses the English Language Arts standards and focuses on... The units below ensure a rich and meaningful learning experience for the students.

Grade Level	
Grade 8	The public speaking course will focus on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informative Speech• Demonstrative Speech• Persuasive Speech



Music - Band / Guitar

Length: Year Long

The Music program at AISL follows the National Core Arts Standards which define artistic literacy and clarify connections between the arts and 21st century skills. By nature of living in a country that is rich with culture, as well as being a school serving students of multiple nationalities, AISL celebrates our rich diversity through the expression of human creativity and imagination.

Through a variety of opportunities, Eagles artistically express their interpretation of the world around them where they are able to Create, Present, Respond and Connect.

The units below ensure a rich and meaningful learning experience for students.

Grade Level	Music	
	Band	Guitar
Grades 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Steps to Playing; 3, 4 notes exercises and the Major Scales • Exploring Various Musical Elements; Playing songs accurately • Playing Performance Pieces & Skills • Building Music Artistry & Experience with Performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Literacy • Playing Technique • Ensemble Skills • Composition • History/Multicultural
Grade 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing; 8 to 12 bar exercises • Major Scales and pentatonic scales • Exploring Various Musical Elements; Playing songs accurately • Playing Performance Pieces and Skills • Building Music Artistry & Experience with Performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Literacy • Playing Technique • Ensemble Skills • Composition • History/Multicultural
Grade 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing; 12-16 bar exercises and the Major Scales • Minor scales and pentatonic scales • Exploring Various Musical Elements; Playing songs accurately • Playing Performance Pieces and Skills • Building Music Artistry & Experience with Performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Literacy • Playing Technique • Ensemble Skills • Composition • History/Multicultural