American Cooperative School of Tunis

Recruitment Guide 2026-2027



Diploma Programme

NEAR EAST SOUTH ASIA COUNCIL OF OVERSEAS SCHOOLS

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About the American Cooperative School of Tunis

ACST History

ACST has been opening doors, hearts, and minds of children and families from around the world for over 67 years. What began as a small school for a few American Embassy children held in a villa in Carthage is now a large campus with modern facilities hosting students from Tunisia and around the globe.

Founding and Early years:
ACST has been welcoming children and families from around the world for 60 years. Founded in 1959 as a small school for American Embassy children, it started in the home of Mr. Leroy H. Rasmussen and his partners in Carthage, Salammbô. With three classrooms and 18 students, the school offered elementary and middle school classes based on the Calvert Home Study Plan, led by Principal Marie Ivory.
1960-2000: Expansion and Growth:
In 1961, ACST moved to its current location between Tunis and La Marsa. The school expanded over the years, adding a library and classrooms in 1969-70, kindergarten in 1980, a science lab in 1981, and music and art rooms in 1988-90. Portable secondary classrooms were added in 1992, and a gym was built in 1995. Enrollment stayed under 200 until the first graduating class completed Grade 12 in 1997, with four students earning diplomas.
2000-2010: IB Authorization and Campus Expansion
In 2000, ACST became the only school in Tunisia authorized for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, prompting expansions that added 11 classrooms and facilities. By 2003, enrollment exceeded 500, leading to further additions, including 14 classrooms. By 2005, original buildings were remodeled or removed, and a parking garage was built for nearly 700 students. The nearby US Embassy opened new facilities in 2002, including a shared swimming pool in 2005.
The Jasmine Revolution and Rebuilding:
In September 2012, a demonstration at the US Embassy spread to ACST, resulting in vehicle fires and damage to the A Building and Elementary Library. Fortunately, students and staff had been sent home early, and no one was injured. The A Building was a total loss and was demolished. Classes resumed within a week using leased space and portables. A grant from the US State Department funded a new three-story A Building, designed by Flansburgh Architects, completed in spring 2017. Following the Arab Spring and related attacks, enrollment dropped to under 350 students, but ACST continued to operate despite financial challenges.
The Present and adapting to Change:
As Tunisia's security developed and its democracy strengthened, the international community returned to ACST. Enrollment increased and more staff was added. With a new theater in the new building, the old outside amphitheater was removed to make way for outdoor basketball courts and a courtyard. A new fitness center was opened and the Secondary Learning Center was refurbished.

About the American Cooperative School of Tunis

School Profile

With 67 years of innovative education, ACST is proud to be the first International Baccalaureate (IB) school in Tunisia. As an independent, non-profit, co-educational day school, ACST fosters a diverse learning environment, currently representing 43 nationalities. The school maintains an average class size of 16 students from Grade 1 to Grade 12, ensuring personalized attention and a collaborative educational experience. **Take a closer look at the School Profile by visiting this link.**

Mission

The American Cooperative School of Tunis (ACST) inspires a passion for learning while endowing students with the expertise and confidence necessary to pursue dreams in and for a global society.

Vision

"OPENING DOORS, HEARTS AND MINDS."



Campus

ACST is located in Aouina, a suburb of Tunis city.
Take a closer look at our campus by visiting this link.

ACST School Leaders for SY 26-27

Dr. Zak Palsha, Superintendent
Dr. Lauren Dillard, Elementary Principal & Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Ms. Alyssa Wakely, Elementary Assistant Principal
Mr. Chris Boyle, Secondary Principal
Mr. Tim Schlosser, Secondary Assistant Principal & Athletics and Activities Director

Calendar

The school year is divided into two semesters: August to January and January to June. The school week runs from Monday-Friday, with Saturday and Sunday as the weekend.The typical workday for all faculty and staff is 7:30 am-3:30 pm. Teacher work up to 190 days a year and students attend school at least for 180 school days. The most recent school calendars are available on our website.

Accreditation and Authorization

We are accredited by the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges (MSA) and are authorized to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP).

Curriculum

At ACST, we adhere to a comprehensive K-12 standards-based curriculum rooted in American educational standards. This intentional sequencing ensures a cohesive and progressive learning journey for our students. These internationally-benchmarked standards enable our educators to craft engaging and focused lessons that foster student understanding, knowledge, and skill development.

Understanding by Design (UbD) Approach

Our curriculum is designed using the Understanding by Design (UbD) model for unit development. Beginning with clear learning objectives, our teachers define desired outcomes, identify appropriate assessment methods, and create structured learning sequences to actively involve students in the learning process.

Assessment and Learning Targets

Aligned with standards-based teaching, our assessment practices are carefully tailored to monitor student progress effectively. Daily learning targets help students track their advancement towards unit objectives. Throughout their educational journey, students are provided with numerous opportunities to showcase their growing knowledge and skills through various forms of assessment, including projects, products, and performances.

Learn more about our curriculum by visiting this link.



PowerSchool and Technology in the Classrooms

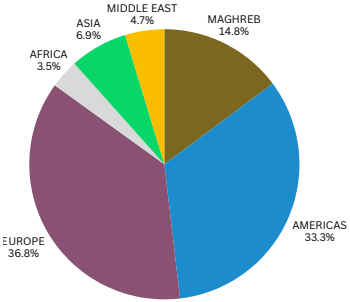
All classrooms are equipped with a computer, IWB (interactive white board), and Wi-Fi access. In elementary school, students use iPads (K-3) and Chromebooks (4,5) as tools for learning. We have a school-owned 1:1 iPad/Chromebook program beginning in kindergarten, although screen time is limited in the early years. All students in Grades 6-12 are required to bring their own laptop to school. The laptop will be checked, and user agreements must be signed.

Teachers use PowerSchool software to keep track of grades, attendance and IEPs. Students and parents also have access to their own PowerSchool accounts, so that they can view all their grades.

ACST Population

ACST Student Enrollment based on SY 26-27

There are approximately 404 students from KG1 to Grade 12 enrolled at ACST, representing 37 nationalities for the 2026-2027 school year.
The pie chart below illustrates the diverse school demographics, showcasing the percentage of students from each continent.



ACST Demographics SY 26-27

Faculty

For the 2026-2027 school year, ACST has 80 full-time instructional staff members representing almost 16 nationalities.

Our dedicated teachers are committed to:

- Bringing the school's mission to life
- Prioritizing the needs of students
- Upholding high professional standards
- Embracing change
- Engaging in professional development and after-school clubs
- Fostering higher-order thinking skills and promoting a culture of "learning how to learn"







PK-12 Curriculum Overview

Early Childhood (PK) – HeadStart Program

Our preschool program is aligned with the *HeadStart Early Learning Outcomes Framework*, focusing on five essential domains: Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Language and Literacy, Cognition, and Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development. This holistic approach ensures that our youngest learners develop foundational skills necessary for success in school, with a strong emphasis on social-emotional learning and cognitive development through play-based and inquiry-driven experiences.



Kindergarten – Grade 10

English Language Arts & Mathematics (Common Core Standards)

For Grades K-10, our curriculum follows the *Common Core State Standards (CCSS)* for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. These standards emphasize critical thinking, problem-solving, and the application of knowledge in real-world contexts. In ELA, students develop literacy skills through reading, writing, speaking, and listening, while the Math curriculum focuses on conceptual understanding, procedural skills, and fluency in core mathematical practices.

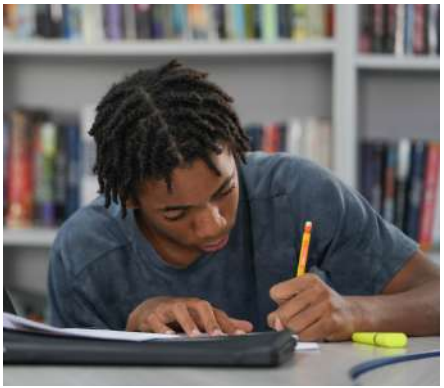


Science (Next Generation Science Standards - NGSS)

Our science curriculum aligns with the *Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)*, which promote an inquiry-based approach to learning. Students engage in hands-on scientific exploration, critical thinking, and the application of crosscutting concepts across life, physical, and earth sciences. NGSS emphasizes both disciplinary core ideas and science practices, preparing students to think and act like scientists.

Social Studies (C3 Framework)

The *C3 Framework for Social Studies* (College, Career, and Civic Life) guides our social studies curriculum from Kindergarten through Grade 10. This framework encourages students to become active, informed citizens by engaging them in inquiry-based learning around history, geography, economics, and civics. It fosters critical thinking, collaboration, and communication, enabling students to analyze complex societal issues and take informed action.



PK-12 Curriculum Overview

Grades 11-12 – International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme

For Grades 11 and 12, students participate in the *International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme*. The IBDP curriculum emphasizes academic rigor, interdisciplinary learning, and the development of international-mindedness. Students choose from a wide range of subjects, including Language and Literature, Sciences, Mathematics, Individuals and Societies, and the Arts, with an emphasis on developing critical thinking, research skills, and intercultural understanding. The program includes core components such as the Extended Essay (EE), Theory of Knowledge (TOK), and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS).







🎥 Bringing our curriculum to life

🎒 Get a glimpse of **Life at ACST's Elementary School** and discover what a typical day looks like for our students. Watch **this video** to explore our learning environment, daily activities, and vibrant school community.





🚀 Discover **Life at ACST's Middle School** and see how our students explore new interests, build confidence, and prepare for future success. Watch **this video** for an inside look at a typical day.





🎥 Bringing our curriculum to life

✨ Discover life at **ACST's High School** and see how our students learn, lead, and grow each day. Watch **this video** and follow our students through a day filled with learning, leadership, and opportunities that prepare them for future success.





🎓 Experience the **IB journey** at ACST and discover how our students balance rigorous academics, personal growth, and meaningful engagement with the world around them.





Afterschool Activities & Athletics

Afterschool Activities

ACST offers a wide assortment of After School Activities (ASA) throughout the school year. We host three sessions of 10 weeks each and activities are offered by grade level and type of activity. Each session boasts a multitude of options.
The activities are led by ACST teachers and staff, by other students, and occasionally by parents or outside instructors. The offerings range from cooking to coding, from dodge ball to Jazz Band, and from the National Honor Society to the Green Team.
After School Activities give students an extra hour at the end of the school day, to explore interests they may not have had a chance to cover in school, with other students who are interested in the same thing. There really is something for every student, from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Elementary School
For Elementary School students, ASAs run from 3:00-4:00 pm, in three 10-week cycles. Students sign up for a range of activities led by teachers, staff, parents and outside experts. Activities range from athletics, such as soccer, basketball or swimming, to arts and crafts, drama, and musical theater. ACST encourages parents to lead activities that they are passionate and knowledgeable about.

Middle School
At ACST, our middle school after-school activities offer a diverse range of experiences designed to help students discover their passions and interests. These activities not only support personal growth but also foster strong relationships, enhancing each student's sense of belonging within our vibrant school community.

High School
Our high school program features specialized clubs and activities tailored to support each student's unique interests. These opportunities are crafted to extend learning beyond the classroom, providing a platform for students to delve deeper into their passions and develop valuable skills.





Learn more about our after school activities by visiting this link.








Afterschool Activities & Athletics

Athletics

Sport activities, particularly in a school setting, play an important role not only in regards to the physical component, but also for the emotional and intellectual well-being of the students.
Through sport, leadership qualities are being developed and nourished from the daily experiences. Virtues, such as discipline, sportsmanship, effort, respect, motivation and pride are emphasized and make up the core of our philosophy.
We strongly believe that our Athletics are matched by no other school in the region and we are proud of what we provide every year to our community. Through the years, the interest and involvement of the students are a driving force for our programs to exist and all our efforts focus on providing the best service for them.







Autumn Sports

Boys & Girls MS Volleyball - Participate in local games against clubs within Tunis.
Boys & Girls Varsity Soccer - Participate against local clubs in Tunis with an end of season tournament competing in the Maghreb American Schools Athletic Conference (MASAC)
Swim Team (Season 1) - Students practice up to 4 days per week with an end of season 1 swim meet within MASAC.

Winter Sports

Boys & Girls MS Basketball - Participate in local games against clubs within Tunis.
Boys & Girls Varsity Basketball - Participate against local clubs in Tunis with a end of season tournament competing in MASAC.
Swim Team (Season 2) - Students practices up to 4 days per week with an end of season 2 swim meet at ACS Athens in the Annual Invitational Swimming Cup.
Cross Country - Students practice 2 days per week with a final cross country event participating in the Carthage Run.

Spring Sports

Boys & Girls MS Soccer - Participate in local games against clubs within Tunis with an end of season tournament at the Mediterranean Cup in Verona, Italy.
Boys & Girls Varsity Volleyball - Participate against local clubs in Tunis with a end of season tournament competing in MASAC.
Track & Field - Students practice twice a week within an end of season event at a co-organised by ACS Athens and Campion British School in Greece.

Learn more about our athletics by visiting this link.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Falcons

Community

When ACST was founded over sixty six years ago, it began as a cooperative school created by a group of dedicated parents. These pioneers sought to build a community of learning where their children could thrive in a supportive and inclusive environment.








Learn more about our community by visiting this link.

Why Join ACST?

At the American Cooperative School of Tunis (ACST), we take pride in offering a memorable and unique professional journey for our staff. As a forward-thinking international school, we recognize the value of an inspiring work environment that not only supports the growth of our students but also nurtures the careers and well-being of our educators and staff.

Competitive Compensation Package

At ACST, we offer a comprehensive and competitive compensation package that reflects our commitment to attracting and retaining top talent. Our package includes:

- Medical Insurance: Ensuring peace of mind with extensive international healthcare coverage.
- Housing: Comfortable, school-provided accommodations including utilities.
- Round-Trip Airfare: An annual round-trip airfare to your home country, allowing you to stay connected with your roots.
- Professional Development: Continuous learning and career advancement opportunities, including training programs, workshops, and conference participation.
- Retirement Plans: Secure your future with contributions toward retirement savings.

Additional Benefits: Other incentives and benefits designed to enhance your personal and professional well-being.







Transparent and Fair Compensation

ACST is committed to fair compensation and transparency in the workplace. Our salary structure is built on a standardized scale that ensures equal treatment across various roles and responsibilities. Teachers' salaries range from USD 32,425 to USD 72,325 per year, and this range is dependent on qualifications, experience, and the role.

Salary and Benefits Package

The salary and benefits package is commensurate with each staff member's qualifications and experience. At ACST, we believe in rewarding dedication and excellence. This means that:

- Annual Salary Step Increase: An annual salary step increase is applied upon the completion of each contract year, unless otherwise communicated in writing. This ensures that your compensation reflects your growing experience and contributions.
- Educational Milestones: In addition to annual increases, salary adjustments resulting from the completion of additional educational credits or degrees will be applied at the beginning of the next full contract year after the qualification is obtained.

Professional Development and Growth

Your journey at ACST is more than a job—it's an opportunity for continuous growth. We invest in our employees' development through a variety of professional development programs that empower staff to achieve their career goals while enhancing the overall quality of education and services at ACST.









What staff are saying about working at ACST?

I have been working at ACST in the secondary school for over 3 years now and I consider it the best place that I have ever worked. The management here has been incredibly supportive and empowering, the student body is diverse and engaged, and collaborating with colleagues has been greatly rewarding due to the knowledge and expertise of our teaching staff at ACST. Professionally, I have grown a lot at ACST over the years. It will be a sad day when I have to move on from here.

Secondary Teacher

Look no further! ACST is a great school in a lovely location. Our teachers and admin are top-notch. You will be supported professionally and personally. Our Sunshine Club organizes several trips throughout the year so that you can learn more about the beautiful country you're in and make new friends while doing it. Flights to Europe are cheap and you'll have enough money to enjoy your travels there. As a single teacher, I save just under 30K a year. I wake up every morning with a view of the Mediterranean and a smile on my face. I'm so thankful I chose ACST; you will be too!

Elementary Teacher









Working at ACST has been such a welcoming experience. Right from my first day, I felt a strong sense of community, with colleagues always offering support and guidance. There's a real culture of teamwork, from sharing ideas across different subjects to collaborating with teachers from other grade levels, everyone is willing to help each other out. The staff truly supports one another, making it a place where you can not only grow professionally but also feel like part of a close-knit community.

Middle School Teacher

I have been part of this wonderful international school community for many years, first as a parent and now as a staff member. My son started in first grade and graduated from here, and throughout that time, I had the pleasure of serving as a PTO parent and board member. Now, as an employee, I get to come to my 'happy place' every day. The warm, supportive community and the commitment to each student's growth make this school truly special. It's not just a school, it's a home where lifelong friendships and values are built.

Support Staff







Tunis in Pictures









Learn more about living in Tunisia by visiting this link.

Your Next Chapter Could Start Here!

Explore Opportunities at ACST: **Job Postings**

Please send your complete application package—including your updated CV and cover letter—to our Human Resources department here **recruitment@acst.net**. Please ensure you clearly mention the exact position you are applying for in the subject line or introductory text of your submission.

Our team will review your submission, and if your qualifications match our requirements, we will contact you regarding the next steps.







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