



American International School of Abuja



Course Descriptions and Academic Requirements

2009-2010

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Guide to High School Academic Program

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Welcome to AISA!!

American International School of Abuja

Dear Students and Parents:

This guide to our Course Descriptions and Academic Requirements has been prepared to give you important information concerning the courses that are offered for each grade level, our grading system, graduation requirements, and a sample AISA schedule by grade level. Our guidance counselor, principal, and teachers will assist you and your parents in making good and appropriate choices with regards to your academic plan and program. Please refer any questions to them as you go through this process.

Please read through this booklet carefully. The graduation requirements are placed at the front of this section of the booklet because it is important to keep them in mind as you are planning out your high school program. If you are transferring in from another school, your credits are adjudicated by the principal and counselor according to course offering, policies, and requirements at AISA. Because AISA may require different specific courses for graduation, it is your responsibility to meet with the counselor and be sure that you select the course of study that is right for you and ensure that you meet all requirements. Similarly, if you will transfer to another school before your high school graduation, it is wise to check with that school in advance and see what courses they will require you to complete.

If you need more information about any of the courses that are offered or any of the graduation requirements, please consult with the guidance counselor, your teachers, or the principal. All of us at AISA are committed to working with you throughout the school year to ensure your success.

Best wishes,

Dr. Wilder

AISA Requirements for Graduation

In order to receive a diploma from AISA, the following graduation requirements must be met between the 9th and 12th grades:

Department	Number of Credits*
English	4.0 Credits
Math	3.0 Credits
Science	3.0 Credits
Social Studies	3.0 Credits
Foreign Language (French)	2.0 Credits
Speech	.5 Credit
Fine Arts	1.0 Credit
Physical Education	1.0 Credit
Health	.5 Credit
Total Required Course Credits	18 Credits
Additional Electives	6 Credits
Total Number of Credits Required For Graduation	24 Credits

*To qualify for 1.0 credit, the class will meet five times per week for the whole school year and the student must pass the class for the year. Partial credit is not awarded for full year classes unless the students are transferring into the school during the year and are bringing transferrable credits with them in their transcripts.

*To qualify for .5 credit, the class will meet five times per week for one semester, or every other day for the entire year.

Students are eligible for a total of 7 possible credits per year if they take a full academic load. Students may opt for one period of study hall per semester, but there are no credits awarded for study hall.

AISA High School Course Offerings

The following courses are offered for the 2009-2010 school year. Required courses are listed under their department designation. Electives are listed under the ELECTIVES category. The number in parentheses following the course title indicates the usual year for taking the class.

ENGLISH (4 credits req.)

Introduction to Literature (9)
World Literature (10)
American Literature (11 and 12) *or*
AP Language and Composition (11 and 12)

MATH (3 cr. req.)

Algebra 1 (9) *or*
Geometry (9, 10)
Algebra 2 (10, 11)
Pre-Calculus (11, 12)

LANGUAGES (2 Credits required)

French 1 (9)
French 2 (10)

FINE ARTS (1 Credit required)

Art 1 (9-12) *or*
Art 2 (9-12)
Music Appreciation (.5 cr.) (9-12) *and/or*
Choir (.5 cr.) (9-12) *or*

SPEECH (.5 cr. req.)

SOCIAL STUDIES (3 cr. req)

Global Studies 1 (9)
Global Studies 2 (10)

SCIENCE (3 cr. req.)

Biology (9)
Chemistry (10)
Zoology (.5 cr.) (11, 12)
Botany (.5 cr.) (11, 12) *or*
AP Biology (11, 12)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(1 cr. PE and .5 cr. Health)
Physical Education (9-12)
Health (9-12)

ELECTIVES

Publications (1 cr.)
Compar. Govern. (.5 cr.)(11, 12)
Macroeconomics (11, 12)
AP US History (11, 12)
AP Calculus (12)
French 3 (11)
AP French (12)
AP Biology (11, 12)

Note: Electives cannot be substituted for required classes for the purposes of meeting graduation requirements. Students should not postpone required courses and will not be exempt from requirements on the grounds that they may be leaving AISA in the future.

Grading, Assessment, and Communicating Student Achievement

Assessing and communicating student achievement is one of the most important responsibilities of the teacher. A measurement of student success against the content or skill standards, assessment is a means of modifying instruction, monitoring student strengths and weaknesses, and providing feedback for student growth. Assessment goes beyond testing students and assessment. Done well, it is an opportunity to increase learning.

At AISA, student grades are based on the degree to which students have demonstrated competence against the objectives and learning targets of a body of instruction. Criteria for achievement is articulated by the teacher in each unit, and students should always be clear of the expectations and what level of competence is required to earn a particular grade on any summative assessment and for the marking period. Teachers are expected to develop and distribute clear rubrics and expectations for achievement to each student for their courses and for their major assessments. Parents and students are encouraged to ask the teacher questions when they are unsure about the expectations and criteria.

In addition, we believe that it is important for academic and non-academic to be separated in a student's report of achievement. This is not to say that we think that non-academic behaviors are not important. To the contrary, we believe that they are so important that they need to be articulated and reported upon clearly and specifically. It also means that we believe that, when we report an academic grade for a course, that the grade reflects only the academic achievement of the student.

Please note the distinctions below and become familiar with the categories and descriptors of the non-academic grades, which will be reported at the mid-term and semester marking periods.

Grading System

Academic Grades

Each teacher will provide the students and parents with their own assessment plan at Back to School Night or before. AISA believes in grading for success and, therefore, assignments, projects, and assessment tools will be differentiated as necessary to meet the individual needs of each student and to make every effort to ensure success for each child. Grades are assessed solely on the student's achievement against the course standards and expectations and are an indication of the student's mastery of subject content and requisite skills. The following scale reflects a general guideline for understanding the grade assigned.

- A (exceeding standards)
- B (meeting standards)
- C (approaching standards)
- D (below standards)
- F (well below standards)

Non-academic Grades

Learning and Life Skills

		Level			
		1	2	3	4
		Below expectations	Approaching expectations	Meeting expectations	Exceeding expectations
Title	Dimension	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors	Descriptors
<i>Learning Skills</i>	Effort	Student usually demonstrates poor effort in tasks, even when prompted, and appears uninterested and distracted when showing process and revision.	Student usually demonstrates effective time management when prompted and sometimes works independently to show process and revision of tasks.	Student usually demonstrates effective time management and works independently; seeks assistance from teachers in both process and revision.	Student demonstrates self-motivation, effective time management, and works independently; shows a commitment to learning and the quality of their work in both process and revision.
	Attendance	Student was tardy and/or missed significant class time and/or failed to make up work missed during absence. This has resulted in unsatisfactory performance against the standard.	Student's attendance is not yet meeting school standards and/or the student is inconsistent with making up work missed due to absence. Improved attendance will enable the student to have greater success in class.	Student attendance is consistent w/class expectations. Work missed due to absences is generally made up in the time allotted and the student's attendance has enabled the student to meet class expectations.	Student is almost always present and punctual for class. When absent or tardy, the student ensures that work missed is made up in a timely manner. This has enhanced the student's performance in class.
	Preparation	Student rarely meets deadlines, consistently lacks one or more of the following—necessary materials, complete oral/written assignments, organization and intellectual readiness.	Student demonstrates an ability to complete most assignments within the given time frame, has the basic ability to organize time and materials, and shows basic intellectual readiness. The student is usually prepared for class with appropriate materials and/or work.	Student demonstrates a consistent ability to complete most assignments within the given time frame, shows the ability to organize time and materials and shows intellectual readiness. The student is prepared for class with appropriate materials and/or work.	The student submits assignments on time or early, revises work when necessary, reads assignments ahead of time, and is extremely organized.
<i>Life Skills</i>	Respect	Student demonstrates an insensitive attitude towards cultural and human diversity, rarely complies with authority and school rules, and actively shows disrespect for self, others, and property. Student often contributes to inappropriate interaction.	Student demonstrates an inconsistent or an ambivalent awareness of cultural and human diversity, inconsistent compliance with authority and school rules, and often shows little respect for self, others, or property. Student tends to contribute to inappropriate interactions.	Student demonstrates awareness of cultural and human diversity, compliance with authority and school rules, and respect for self, others, and property. The student promotes appropriate interactions.	Student consistently demonstrates awareness of cultural and human diversity, compliance with authority and school rules, and respect for self, others, and property. Student actively and consciously promotes appropriate and harmonious interactions.
	Responsibility	The student demonstrates a limited understanding of rules and expectations within the learning environment. Student struggles with understanding the role of integrity in the learning environment.	Student demonstrates an evolving respect for expectations and rules. Student has a basic understanding of the educational process and the role of integrity in the learning environment.	The student demonstrates respect for expectations and rules; responsibility for the student's own learning and growth, and a commitment to the educational process, respect for the learning environment, and personal integrity.	The student is a leader in the educational community, providing an example for other students to follow. Student consistently demonstrates and encourages others to show respect and demonstrate personal and social responsibility. Shows a sense of personal integrity in all actions.

Academic Policies, Procedures, and Practices

Honor Roll

Honor Rolls are determined according to the following grade attainment:

Honor Roll: No grade lower than a B and at least three grades of A for the semester

Principal's Honor Roll: No grade lower than a B and at least five grades of A for the semester

Director's Honor Roll: Grades of A in all subjects attempted for the semester

Grade Placement

High School students are placed in a particular grade at the beginning of the academic year based on the number of Credits earned toward graduation. In general, students are placed in classes according to the following criteria:

Below 6 Credits	Freshman (Grade 9)
6-11 Credits	Sophomore (Grade 10)
12-17 Credits	Junior (Grade 11)
18-23 Credits	Senior (Grade 12)

Exceptions may be made by the Principal.

New students will be awarded a maximum of 6 credits per year of high school attendance before enrollment at AISA. Students admitted with fewer than the minimum credits for their class level are responsible for meeting the credit requirements to graduate on time.

Semester Assessments

Summative assessments will take place at the end of each semester. The assessment is designed to evaluate the students' mastery of a skill or subject over the course of the marking period. Semester assessments are required for each high school course. (Grade 8 students will take formal semester assessments at the conclusion of the second semester.)

Only the High School Principal can authorize alternative arrangements for taking final assessments. No exams will be administered before the scheduled dates.

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program is a strong and vital part of the academic experience at AISA. AP course work enables students to complete college level studies during secondary school, thus serving, in many ways, as an "academic bridge" that helps to smooth the transition from secondary school to college.

The primary goals of the AP Program are to enrich the secondary school experience of students who are willing and able to apply themselves to college level studies and

to provide the means for colleges to grant credit or placement to students who have successfully completed the rigorous AP curriculum.

The College Board of Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A., develops the examinations and is responsible for marking the exams at the end of the year. The College Board also reports the AP examination results to the colleges that a student selects. Each teacher at AISA who is responsible for an AP course has received training and is fully qualified to teach the AP course.

Because of the difficulty of the AP Program, these courses are reserved for Grade 11 and 12 students. The curriculum is rigorous, and students need a strong work ethic and solid background in order to be successful in an AP course. Students need to understand the rigors of AP work, as the course has specific requirements of what must be covered in order to qualify a student for the AP exam in May.

Students may *request* Advanced Placement courses, but enrollment in the courses requires the approval of the current subject teacher and the AP teacher (if they are different). Teachers and administrators look at the totality of student course selections and may deem a student's academic program choices excessive and may deny student enrollment in one or more AP courses.

Semester Assessments and the AP Courses: AP courses may conduct their Semester 2 assessment one week prior to the official AP exam in May (end of April). This semester exam will serve as a "mock" or preparatory AP exam and will count for a portion of the semester's final assessment in that course.

Independent Studies

On rare occasions, the principal may approve of a one or two semester independent study for a student. Typically, this is the result of students who enter the high school part way through the program and are not able to fit the required courses into their schedules, or the student has met all other required courses and may propose a course elective that is not offered at AISA.

In either case, a full curriculum of course description, standards, scope and sequence, and syllabus must be developed and approved one semester prior to the independent study being offered. This requires planning on the part of students and the cooperation of a willing teacher, and is therefore generally done only in exceptional cases.

It is more common that a student may need to take an existing class outside of the regular schedule to meet graduation requirements, and this will be arranged with the approval of the principal through the guidance counselor and the cooperating teacher.

Class Withdrawal/Changes

Withdrawals or changes in the schedule may be made by students only until August 31, 2009. This change would require the signatures of the teachers in each class (the

one dropped and the one added), and the parents. After August 31, 2009, a student may only withdraw under exceptional circumstances with approval of the parents and the principal, or at the teacher's request, requiring the approval of the principal. These dropped classes will receive a "Withdrawn" for the semester on the official transcript as long as the student was passing the course at the time of the withdrawal. If the student was failing the course, a "W/Failure" will be entered on the transcript for the semester. No credit is awarded for classes withdrawn, regardless of whether the student was passing or the time of year of withdrawal.

Students withdrawn from school by parents prior to the conclusion of the school year will receive leaving grades, but no credits will be awarded for courses whose full requirements have not been met.

Repeating Courses

A student may repeat a *required* class at the recommendation of his/her teacher and counselor and with the approval of the principal if the student has earned a grade of D or F. The repeated course grade will be substituted for the original grade if the second grade is higher than the first. However, a maximum of only one credit may be awarded for either or both of the classes. A student may not take a course more than twice.

Transcripts

All semester grades that a high school student earns at AISA will be recorded on his/her official school transcript. These records will be maintained in the student's official school file. Once grades are entered onto a student's transcript, they are final. Change of grades cannot take place after the completion of the semester without the consent of the high school principal.

Sample Student 4-year Plan by Grade Level

Meets all requirements for Graduation

Freshman (Grade 9) (6 Credits)	Introduction to Literature Algebra 1 Biology Global Studies 1 French 1 PE (sem 1) Health (sem 2) Study Hall (sems 1 and 2)
Sophomore (Grade 10) (6 Credits)	World Literature Geometry Chemistry Global Studies 2 French 2 PE (sem 1) Speech (sem 2) Study Hall (sems 1 and 2)
Junior (Grade 11) (7 Credits)	AP Literature and Composition Algebra 2 Physics AP US History French 3 Publications Music Appreciation (sem 1) Choir (sem 2)
Senior (Grade 12) (7 Credits)	AP Language and Composition Pre-calculus AP Biology Macroeconomics AP Comparative Government AP French
Total: 26 credits (24 required)	Art 1

Please note that students who enter AISA from other schools part way through their high school program may experience scheduling difficulties. AISA also does not promise or guarantee that students admitted to the school will be able to take the precise courses that they may want. School size, section numbers, class sizes, personnel and resources, and scheduling realities often dictate what is possible in a student's schedule. While we will make every effort to accommodate the needs of each student, AISA cannot meet every need, and requests that depart from what is standard practice and typical in a year to year schedule will generally not be honored.

Course Descriptions

English Department

General Information and Requirements:

AISA requires four credits of English in Grades 9-12 for graduation. Teachers emphasize reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and critical thinking in every course. Students in all four grades will follow the same format for citing sources, producing essays, and presenting research papers.

Introduction to

Literature

Prerequisite:

Grade 9

1 year

1 credit

None

Introduction to Language, Literature and Composition is a course designed to give freshmen an overview of the skills they will need in their language arts studies in high school. First semester will be focused on language. Students will work on writing a variety of narrative and expository essays, as well as a research paper. First semester readings will focus on how language is developed, with the goal of applying the lessons learned to the writing for the course. Second semester students will focus on literature. Through a variety of short stories, poems, and novels, students will look at the connection between figurative devices and theme, as well as the effect that philosophical and social influences have upon a work. They will also study *Romeo and Juliet* in order to analyze Shakespeare's use of structure, plot, characters, and language.

World Literature

Prerequisite:

Grade 10

1 year

1 credit

Introduction to Literature or similar course

World Literature is a course designed to understand the development of literature over the past 3,000 years. In this course students will analyze a variety of texts from a variety of cultures in order to understand their historical and cultural roles. Writing will be integrated into the literature studies. Students will write creative short stories and poems and expository analyses of various texts. They will also focus on developing logical reasoning and writing persuasively. Students will study usage during this semester in order to gain more control over their own writing.

AP Language and Composition

Prerequisite:

Grades 11-12

1 year

1 credit

World Literature, teacher approval

The purpose of this class will be the study of rhetoric, looking specifically at the use of rhetorical devices in various works of American

Literature, with the goal of students applying these techniques to their own writing. The focus of the class will be non-fiction writing, although we will also study rhetorical techniques in several fictional texts. Students will work on analyzing a variety of texts; understanding, critiquing and creating argument; and researching and synthesizing a variety of sources.

American Literature

Prerequisite:

Introduction to Literature and World Literature, or similar courses

This is a one-year college level course for Grades 11 and 12 to continue the study of literature and focuses on an in-depth study of American authors, with an emphasis on oral and written analyses. Students continue vocabulary study and write numerous literary analyses and research papers. Students will be expected to read independently, and write regularly to develop composition and critical thinking skills. Specific preparation for the AP English examination is also part of the curriculum.

Speech

Prerequisite:

Grades 9-12

1 semester

.5 credit

None, required

Speech is a semester course focused on students understanding the communication process, themselves as communicators, and the process of public speaking. Students will deliver a variety of speeches throughout the course- focusing on purpose, audience, organization, elaboration, argument, and presentation. Students will also analyze and critique various oral and media presentations, focusing on identifying fallacies in reasoning and propaganda techniques.

Publications

Prerequisite:

Grades 9-12

1 year

1 credit

None

Students in Publications will work on producing both a regular student newspaper as well as the school yearbook. Through the work of the course, students will develop skills in the following areas: desktop publishing, journalistic writing, photography, yearbook design and production. Through the process of creating a newspaper and yearbook, students will develop and apply skills in various areas of technology, including: Adobe Photoshop, Microsoft Publisher, Yearbook Avenue Jostens yearbook design website.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Grade 9-10

1 semester

.5 credit

ESL is a course designed to help the limited English proficient student gain the skills necessary to participate successfully in content area classes. Skills taught are improvement of reading fluency and reading comprehension, vocabulary development, listening comprehension, creative writing, public speaking, library research, writing a report, and basic organization and study skills. Grammatical concepts and spelling,

as well as the mechanics of writing, are taught through an integrated approach with the aforementioned skills.

The number of periods per day assigned to ESL is determined by the ESL Specialist and is based on English proficiency tests, writing samples, interviews, and recommendations from the class teacher. No more than 1 credit per year will be awarded for ESL, regardless of the number of hours the student spends in the ESL classroom.

Students exit the ESL program when they can demonstrate academic fluency in English as determined by assessment of English proficiency, as well as performance in their content area classes. All students are expected to exit the ESL program into mainstream courses by the end of grade 10.

Eleventh grade students and above are ineligible for ESL services and students in need of ESL services in grades 11 and 12 may be withdrawn from the school.

Mathematics Department

General Information and Requirements:

AISA requires three credits of Math in Grades 9-12 for graduation. It is strongly suggested that university-bound students successfully complete four years of study in Mathematics. It is also recommended that students receiving semester grades below C- in any Math course consider repeating that course before progressing to the next level in our sequence. Any students new to the AISA High School may be required to take a Mathematics placement test, which will be used with the student's prior records to best determine the most appropriate initial course placement.

Graphing Calculator Information and Requirements:

Students in Geometry and Algebra 2 are required to use a scientific calculator with basic arithmetic functions and the trigonometric functions—sine, cosine and tangent. In addition, the graphing calculator should have a statistical mode. The school recommends the Texas Instrument model TI-83 Plus, as that is the model with which the techniques of the graphing calculator are demonstrated in class. The school provides the TI-83 Plus calculator for students to use during class; however, they are not allowed to take these calculators home. For that reason, we strongly urge parents to purchase a TI-83 Plus calculator for their children to use at home.

Algebra 1b <i>Prerequisite:</i>	Grade 8-9 <i>Algebra 1a</i>	1 year	1 credit
	This is a one year course open to all students in grades 8-9 who have not previously taken Algebra I and who have completed the pre-requisite. This course is a continuation of Algebra 1a and upon successful completion of Algebra 1b will have completed all the requirements of Algebra 1. In Algebra 1b, students will write and solve systems of linear equations and inequalities, use exponential functions, solve quadratic equations, factor polynomials, solve radical and rational equations.		
Algebra 1 <i>Prerequisite:</i>	Grade 9 <i>Pre-algebra</i>	1 year	1 credit
	This is a one year course open to all students in grades 8-12 who have not previously taken Algebra I and who have completed the pre-requisite. Algebra I provides students with the foundation for the study of advanced mathematics. Solving of linear equations, graphing equations, functions, inequalities, exponents and exponential functions, solving quadratic equations and solving rational equations are explored in Algebra I.		
Geometry <i>Prerequisite:</i>	Grade 9-10 <i>Algebra 1</i>	1 year	1 credit
	Geometry is a one-year required course open to all Grade 9-11 students who have not previously taken this class. A body of theorems, postulates, and definitions is built on the undefined terms of point, line, and plane, which are		

then used to form logical inductive and deductive proofs. The course is largely non-numerical. Yet work in coordinate geometry leads to the algebraic treatment of length, slope, midpoint, parallels and perpendiculars, and to equations of lines and circles.

Students are expected to perform arithmetic operations with algebraic expressions and simple radicals; to solve linear and rational equations; to solve systems of linear equations; to multiply binomials; and to factor polynomials. Students are required to have a calculator capable of evaluating basic trigonometric functions for homework (recommend TI-84 Plus).

Algebra 2 Grade 10-11 1 year 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and Geometry (Note: Geometry can be co-requisite)

Algebra 2 is a one-year course open to all Grade 10-12 students who have not previously taken this class. Algebra 2 reviews most Algebra 1 concepts and develops them at a more complex level. Studies are made in irrational and complex numbers and analytic geometry. Exponential and logarithmic functions are briefly examined, as are sequences and series. The study of trigonometry includes the solutions of triangles and the concept of radian measure.

Students should be familiar with the use of variables, The manipulation of expressions involving variables, solutions of linear equations and graphing of equations involving one or two variables. They should have been introduced to the sine, cosine, and tangent ratios. Students are required to have a calculator capable of evaluating basic trigonometric functions for homework (recommend TI-84 Plus).

Pre-Calculus Grade 11-12 1 year 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 (C grade or better is recommended)

Pre-calculus is a one-year required course open to all Grade 11-12 students who have not previously taken this class and is an AP preparatory class for AP Calculus, which is offered in Grade 12. Basic math skills, including Algebra 2, are pre-requisite for success in this course. Practice in the fundamental skills of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry is provided while advanced topics of calculus are introduced. Topics include the algebraic properties of matrices, vectors, logarithms, arithmetic and geometric sequences and series, probability, and trigonometric equations and identities. Conic sections are analyzed in detail, as are higher degree polynomial equations. Students are required to have a calculator capable of evaluating basic trigonometric functions for homework (recommend TI-84 Plus).

AP Calculus AB Grade 12 1 year 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and Pre-Calculus, teacher approval

AP Calculus is a one year course for serious Math students who wish to continue their exploration of the subject. This class is a college level course and assumes the student already possesses college level algebra and trigonometry skills. Students who enroll in AP Calculus should be prepared for extensive homework and challenging assignments.

Students will explore the concepts of the derivative and definite integral thoroughly as well as extensive applications of these concepts to real world problems. Students should own their own graphing calculator as they will be writing and programming calculus software into them that will be utilized by students in further college courses in medicine, engineering, and business. (Recommend TI-84).

Science Department

General Information and Requirements:

AISA requires three credits of Science in Grades 9-12 for graduation. It is strongly suggested that university-bound students successfully complete four years of study in Science.

Biology

Prerequisite:

Grade 9-11

1 year

1 credit

None

This one year required course is open to all Grade 9 students, as well as any student who requires a Science credit and who has not previously taken this class. This course covers the scientific method theoretically, historically and through laboratory experiments and activities. Students will study the chemicals needed for life, cellular organelles, energy, cellular reactions including photosynthesis and respiration. Students will be exposed to the interactions between organisms and their environment (ecology). Students will study genetics, cellular reproduction, heredity and recent developments in genetics. Student will study change in life through time (evolution). Students will demonstrate laboratory skills through experiments, experimental write-ups and laboratory tests. Students will demonstrate understanding of themes, ideas, and theories through activities and tests.

Chemistry

Prerequisite:

Grade 10-12

1 year

1 credit

Completion of Algebra 1 or currently enrolled in Algebra 1

This one-year required course is open to all Grade 10 students, as well as any student who requires a science credit and who has not previously taken this class. Students will study the structure and properties of matter and its changes. Topics include chemical formulas, chemical equations, phase of matter, gas laws, the periodic table, electron configuration, atomic theory, chemical bonding, solutions and acids and bases. Students will demonstrate laboratory skills through experiments, experimental write-ups and laboratory tests. Students will demonstrate understanding of themes, concepts, and theories through activities, projects, and tests.

Zoology

Prerequisite:

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.5 credit

None

This one-semester course is open to all Grade 10 through 12 students. Students will study the adaptations animals evolved to deal with moving from water to land. This course will also study the development of organisms from fertilization to adult. Students will

study the evolution, development, reproduction, adaptations, life cycles, and diversity of animals from sponges to mammals. Students will demonstrate laboratory skills through experiments, experimental write-ups and laboratory tests. Students will demonstrate understanding of themes, concepts, and theories through activities, projects, explanation of experiments, and tests.

Botany

Prerequisite:

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.5 credit

None

This one-semester course is open to all Grade 10 through 12 students. Students will study the evolution, development, reproduction, structure, growth, metabolism and diversity of viruses, bacteria, fungi, early seedless plants, gymnosperms, and angiosperms. Students will also study the evolution and diversity of seeds, flowers, fruits, and other plant parts of angiosperms. This course also covers reactions and chemicals within plants and how they affect plant growth. Students will demonstrate laboratory skills through experiments, experimental write-ups and laboratory tests. Students will demonstrate understanding of themes, concepts, and theories through activities, projects, explanation of laboratory data, and tests.

AP Biology

Prerequisite:

Grades 11-12

1 year

1 credit

Biology, teacher approval

This one-year required course is open to all Grade 11 and 12 students, as well as any student who requires a science credit and who has not previously taken this class. Students will study science as a process, evolution, energy transfer, continuity and change, relationship of structure to function, regulation, interdependence in nature, and science, technology, and society. Evolution will be implemented throughout these themes as a unifying concept. At the end of the year, students should leave this course with as much knowledge of biological theories, applications, and laboratory procedures as a college freshman. They should also leave this class with the ability to make knowledgeable decisions about the environment, their health, and how these decisions will affect the world around them. Students will demonstrate laboratory skills through experiments, experimental write-ups and laboratory tests. Students will demonstrate understanding of themes, concepts, and theories through activities, projects, and tests.

Social Studies Department

General Information and Requirements:

AISA requires three credits of Social Studies in Grades 9-12 for graduation. In the Junior and Senior years (Grades 11 and 12) the availability of some Social Studies classes will be based on student enrollment, and not all courses may be offered each year.

Global Studies 1

Prerequisite:

Grade 9

None

1 year

1 credit

Students in Global Studies 1 will examine major turning points that shaped the histories of Europe, Africa and the Americas, from the Age of Exploration to the modern day. Students study how the interaction between the peoples of these three regions has shaped the culture of the peoples found there. Students consider multiple accounts of events in order to understand these interactions from a variety of perspectives. In addition, students will be able to connect past events to current world issues.

Global Studies 2

Pre-requisite:

Grade 10

Global Studies 1

1 year

1 credit

Global Studies two takes a regional approach to the histories of South Asia, East Asia and the Middle East, from the 18th century to the 21st century. In this course we examine both the importance and impact of the people and cultures of these regions and the influence and interaction between these regions and Europe and the U.S. up to the geopolitical dynamic of the 21st century.

AP US History

Pre-requisite:

Grades 11-12

Global Studies 1 and 2, teacher approval

1 year

1 credit

The AP U.S. History course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students will learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability, and importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. The AP U.S. History course will additionally help students develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format.

Macroeconomics*Pre-requisite:***Grades 11-12****1 semester****.5 credit***None*

The purpose of this course is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. This course places particular emphasis on the study of the major macroeconomic goals of economic growth, full employment, and price stability. It also develops a student's familiarity with economic performance measures; national income and price determination, the study of which includes aggregate supply, aggregate demand, the circular flow of money, fiscal policy, and monetary policy; and international.

**AP Comparative
Government***Pre-requisite:***Grades 11-12****1 semester****.5 credit***Teacher approval*

The AP course in Comparative Government and Politics introduces students to fundamental concepts used by political scientists to study the processes and outcomes of politics in a variety of country settings. The course aims to illustrate the rich diversity of political life, to show available institutional alternatives, to explain differences in processes and policy outcomes, and to communicate to students the importance of global political and economic changes. Comparison assists both in identifying problems and in analyzing policymaking. For example, we only know that a country has a high population growth rate or serious corruption when we compare it to other countries. Careful comparison of political systems produces useful knowledge about the institutions and policies countries have employed to address problems, or, indeed, what they have done to make things worse. We can compare the effectiveness of policy approaches to poverty or overpopulation by examining how different countries solve similar problems. Furthermore, by comparing the political institutions and practices of wealthy and poor countries, we can begin to understand the political consequences of economic well-being. Finally, comparison assists explanation. Why are some countries stable democracies and not others? Why do many democracies have a prime minister instead of a presidency?

World Languages Department

General Information and Requirements:

AISA requires two credits of Foreign Languages (in the same language) in Grades 9-12 for graduation. It is strongly suggested that university-bound students successfully complete three years of study in the same foreign language.

French 1 <i>Prerequisite:</i>	Grade 9-11 <i>None</i>	2 Semesters	1 credit
	This one-year required course is open to all Grade 9-11 students who require a Foreign Language credit and who have not previously taken this class or French 2. French 1 is designed to meet the needs of students with limited or no previous experience with the French language and those who have knowledge of French but still require a sound revision of the basics. Students will learn basic vocabulary and cover many basic grammar concepts, including use of pronouns, noun-adjective agreement, and verb conjugations in the present and perfect tenses for regular and irregular verbs. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening will all be covered in this class. Students will also learn through participation in French events in school, and investigation of the French culture as it exists not only in France, but in francophone countries all around the world. Assessments include reading, writing, speaking and listening tests.		
French 2 <i>Prerequisite:</i>	Grade 10-12 <i>French 1</i>	1 year	1 credit
	This one-year required course is open to all Grade 10-12 students who require a Foreign Language credit and who have not previously taken this class but have successfully completed French 1 or its equivalent. French 2 will extend and improve the student's knowledge of the French language and French culture. As the students progress in oral and written proficiency, they will have opportunities to communicate effectively on a variety of topics. More difficult vocabulary will be introduced, as well as new verb tenses such as future and imperfect for regular and irregular verbs. Students will make oral presentations and write short compositions. Students will also learn through French events in school, and investigation of the French culture as it exists not only in France, but in Francophone countries all around the world. All communication in the French 2 classroom should be done in French. Assessments include reading, writing, speaking and listening tests.		
French 3 <i>Prerequisite:</i>	Grade 11-12 <i>French 1 and French 2</i>	1 year	1 credit
	This one-year course is open to all Grade 11-12 students who require a Foreign Language credit or wish to continue their knowledge of the French language, and who have not previously taken this class but have successfully		

completed French 1 and French 2. Students will be exposed to a deeper usage and understanding of the French language and French culture. More difficult vocabulary will be included, as well as new verb tenses such as subjunctive and conditional for regular and irregular verbs. Assessments include: oral presentations, compositions and tests on the 4 major skills of the language. All communication in French 3 classroom will be in French only, and students will have opportunities to practice speaking, listening, writing, and reading, as well as synthesizing and evaluating what they read.

AP French

Grade 12

2 Semesters

1 credit

Prerequisite:

French 1, 2, and 3, teacher approval

This one-year course is designed for students with an already high level of competence in the French language who are willing to commit themselves to this college-level study. The class will cover reinforcement and refinement of French language skills, as distinct from mere language acquisition. Students will be given the opportunity to explore the culture of the language. They will be able to use the language for purposes and in situations involving sophisticated discussion, argument and debate. In addition, students will learn advanced grammar necessary for the writing of college-level essays. Preparation for the AP French exam will be included as part of the curriculum.

Physical Education Department

General Information and Requirements:

AISA requires 1 credit of Physical Education (two semesters), and .5 credit (1 semester) of Health for graduation. Physical education classes at AISA are coeducational. These courses will encourage students to develop an appropriate level of physical fitness and to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to be successful in each activity. After the full year of required PE, students may take one additional semester of PE as an elective credit.

A student will not be excused from participation in any P.E. class without a signed and dated note from either a parent (single absence) or a physician multiple and/or consecutive absences).

Physical Education	Grade 9-12	1 semester	1 credit
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Prerequisite:

None

The PE program and courses at AISA take an in-depth look into the history of the game, rules, regulations, and organizing sports and recreational activities. Teamwork, physical fitness and self-responsibility will also be vital graduation requirements. These concepts will be taught using traditional and non-traditional sports.

Health	Grade 9-12	1 semester	.5 credit
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Prerequisite:

None

The high school health class is a half a year 0.5 credit course required for graduation. The curriculum will focus on growth, development, nutrition, physical activity, personal, and community health, injury prevention, and safety, as well as mental and emotional health. Drugs, tobacco and alcohol will be discussed in a manner that presents facts, myths, as well as refusal and negotiation skills. Students will be learning basic first aid. Students will be assessed on classroom work, homework, group projects, research papers, and safety scenarios.

Fine Arts Department

General Information and Requirements:

AISA requires one credit in the Fine Arts Department for graduation. At the current time, we are only offering Art 1. In the future, we will have more offerings for students to consider when selecting electives in their course of study.

Music Appreciation	Grade 9-12	1 semester	.5 credit
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Pre-requisite:

None

Music Appreciation is designed to be a course that allows students to develop a sophisticated vocabulary and greater exposure to music of the Western tradition as well as music's from a variety of world cultures, allowing for a more enhanced understanding and enjoyment of music. Students will learn about and listen to music within its historical context allowing for cross-curricular connection.

During the course, students will develop their musical literacy allowing them to both hear and read musical examples. This knowledge will be developed and transferred into a performance context within the classroom. Ultimately this course aims to develop student's knowledge and potential as musicians, personally and collaboratively.

Art 1	Grade 9-12	1 year	1 credit
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Prerequisite:

None

Art 1 is designed to reinforce and build on knowledge and skills developed at the elementary and middle school levels. It is the foundation level for art study throughout high school. The course is primarily devoted to deliberate and systematic presentations of various art processes, procedures, theories, and historical developments. Students will have experiences in producing two-dimensional and three-dimensional artworks. The course emphasizes the study of the elements of art and principles of design, color theory, vocabulary, art criticism, art history, and safety in the art room. The approach of art experiences during this time is experimental in terms of materials. Students are provided a strong foundation in design, drawing and vocabulary in a teacher-structured environment. Problem solving and decision making are emphasized throughout Art I.

Art 2 (Visual Art)	Grade 9-12	1 year	1 credit
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Pre-requisite

None

Art II builds on the student's technical skills and foundation of knowledge developed in Art I. The study of the elements of art and principles of design, color theory, vocabulary, and art history continues in Art II in a less teacher-directed

situation. Various art processes, procedures, and theories are presented in a problem-solving manner which allows for independent choices and personal solutions to problems. The approach to art experiences is less experimental and based more on informed choices. Student research of art and artists is a major source for gaining knowledge and understanding of past and present art forms. A greater flexible and fluent use of the elements of art and principles of design, color, theory, and vocabulary is stressed in Art II.