LEARNING at the American International School of Nouakchott

AISN Curriculum
PreK3 and PreK4
K12 French
K12 English Language Arts
K12 Social Studies
K12 Math
K12 Science
K12 Visual and Performing Arts
K12 Physical Education & Health/ Wellness
Mauritanian Studies Field Work
K12 Learning Centers

Over the past 2.5 years, AISN's academic journey has been intentional and focused. In 2023–24, AISN centered our work on **Coherence**, strengthening alignment across curriculum, instruction, and assessment. In 2024–25, we moved forward **United with Integrity**, deepening standards-based practices and ensuring that what we teach, assess, and report reflects our core values. In 2025–26, our theme **Better Together** emphasizes collaboration and shared responsibility as we fully implement and train staff in ManageBac, our Student Information System (SIS). Teachers are documenting lessons aligned to Universal Design for Learning (UDL), embedding formative and summative assessments, and using consistent progress monitoring with timely student feedback—prioritizing responsive support over delayed remediation. Anchored in our Professional Learning Community model and guided by our Instructional Coherence Vision, AISN continues to strengthen a unified, student-centered approach to teaching and learning.

Resources:

- **AISN Webpage Curriculum**
- **Professional Learning Community Journey**
- **AISN Instructional Coherence Model: All Subjects (Board Policy)**
- **Assessment Events**
- **Outside Assessments:**
  - **K-7 Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) Fall, Winter, Spring)**
  - **PSAT (US College Board) Fall Only (Gr. 8-11)**
  - **Advanced Placement Exam (May)**
  - **SAT (US College Board) (Gr. 12) 5x yearly**
  - **Advanced Placement Exam (May)**

Yearly Themes:

- 2023-24: Coherence (Our first year picture)
- **2024-25: United with Integrity**
- **2025-26: Better Together**

COHERENCE: Picture taken during AISN Staff Appreciation

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Week prior to the "Staff Walk of Fame" May 9, 2024

PreSchool (age 3 - must be potty trained and age 4)

At AISN, our Lilypad Preschool Program provides a joyful and intentional beginning to your child's learning journey. In Lilypad classrooms, teachers nurture the whole child through purposeful play, hands-on exploration, and meaningful discovery. Learning experiences are built around children's interests, allowing themes and projects to grow naturally while strengthening social-emotional development, creativity, curiosity, early math thinking, and language and literacy skills. Our child-centered, play-based approach ensures that students feel safe, confident, and inspired each day. The Lilypad curriculum is thoughtfully designed with clear age-appropriate goals grounded in research-based best practices, creating a strong foundation for lifelong learning and well-being.

Resources:

- Preschool Program Guide: PDF version
- Flipbook Version https://online.fliphtml5.com/rbuzh/yvun/
- Curriculum: https://www.frogstreet.com/lilypad/

Note 2025-26: Our two PreK students were combined with K1 programming in January 2026 due to low enrollment and a teacher out on maternity leave. We anticipate a full PreK3-4 Program with a full time teacher and educational assistant for 2026-27.

PreK-12 French

At AISN, multilingualism is part of everyday learning. From PreK through Grade 12, students build their French skills through classroom instruction, school activities, and real-world interaction within our Mauritanian community. Our program is guided by the AERO World Language Standards and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), ensuring students develop strong abilities in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and conversation. Classes are grouped by proficiency level so that both native speakers and new learners continue to grow and gain confidence. In high school, students may pursue AP French Language and Culture through the College Board, one of AISN's longest-running and most successful AP programs. Updated textbooks, a forthcoming curriculum map in ManageBac, and an upcoming French Program Guide reflect our continued commitment to excellence in language learning.

Resources:

- All textbooks and online resources current as of 2025
- American College Board Advanced Placement (AP)
- AP French Language and Culture.
- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)
- French PreK-5 Skills Map & French Elementary Program - Theoretical - Non Native Development Passe-Passe

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- French 6-12 Skills Map

K12 English Language Arts

At AISN, our K–12 English Language Arts program builds strong readers, writers, and thinkers at every stage of development. In Elementary (K–5), students use the McGraw Hill *Wonders* program, which provides explicit instruction in foundational skills such as phonemic awareness, phonics, spelling, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and writing. Instruction is systematic and research-based, with targeted support for English Language Learners and a strong connection between reading and writing. Students learn to respond to texts, cite evidence, and move through the writing process with purpose, while also developing confidence, problem-solving skills, and positive social behaviors. Supplementary resources such as Scholastic Reading, IXL, and Raz-Kids help ensure students read at grade level and continue progressing. In Secondary (Grades 6–12), our learner-centered reading and writing workshop model exposes students to diverse genres and authentic texts, helping them analyze complex literature and produce clear, coherent writing for varied audiences and purposes. Word study, grammar, and conventions are taught through meaningful application in student work. Advanced learners may pursue AP English Literature and Composition through the College Board. Across all grade levels, our literacy curriculum aligns with Project AERO standards, influenced by the Common Core, with the ultimate goal of fostering lifelong readers and writers.

Resources:

- Project AERO K12 Literacy, heavily influenced by the *Common Core Learning Standards*.
- *American College Board Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition (Started 2024-25)*
- ***Textbooks** fully updated in 2024 and 2025 in Secondary with https://www.studysync.com/ and multiple novel sets around great literature.*
- K-5 Language Arts Program Guide
    - ***Textbooks:** McGraw Hill K-5 Wonders Resources and matching resources. Invested heavily in great literature for PreK-5*
- MS English and Composition Unit Guide
- HS English and Composition Unit Guide

K12 Social Studies

At AISN, Social Studies helps students understand the world around them and their role within it.

Elementary (K–5)

Using the McGraw Hill Social Studies program, our elementary students learn through inquiry, literacy, and active citizenship. Students ask questions, analyze sources, explore multiple perspectives, and work

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collaboratively on meaningful projects. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills are integrated into every unit to strengthen both academic understanding and communication skills. The program also emphasizes civic responsibility, helping students develop respect, empathy, and democratic values. Lessons are differentiated to support all learners, including English language learners, and reflect diverse cultures and global perspectives.

Resources:

- K5 Curriculum Map
- McGraw Hill Social Studies IMPACT resources hard copy and digital. Continuing to add resources.

Secondary (Grades 6–12)

In middle and high school, students take on the role of social scientists—thinking like historians, geographers, economists, and global citizens. Our inquiry-based curriculum, aligned with the C3 Framework and AERO standards, encourages students to investigate compelling questions, evaluate evidence, and make informed civic decisions. Students study ancient and modern world history, geography, civics and government, macroeconomics, and U.S. history. Advanced learners may pursue AP United States History and AP World History: Modern through the College Board.

Across all grade levels, AISN's Social Studies program builds critical thinking, global awareness, and responsible citizenship—preparing students to engage thoughtfully in an ever-changing world. All textbooks (hard copy and digital resources updated in 2024 and 2025)

- Subject Area MAP for Secondary History
- Grade 6-12 Curriculum Focus and Skills for History

Resources

- *AERO* Social Studies standards (e.g. listening, speaking, reading, writing) and the *C3 Framework*.
- American College Board Advanced Placement
- AP United States History
- AP World History Modern Course.
- *American College Board Advanced Placement World History Modern Course and United States History revived at AISN.*

K12 Mathematics

At AISN, our K–12 mathematics program builds confident problem-solvers and deep thinkers. In Elementary (K–5), we use Reveal Math to provide students with a strong conceptual foundation, combining teacher guidance with student-centered learning. Students develop problem-solving skills,

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mathematical fluency, and the ability to explain and justify their thinking. The program emphasizes growth mindset, perseverance, productive struggle, and student ownership, helping children build both academic confidence and resilience. In Grades 6–12, our Project AERO–aligned math curriculum (influenced by the Common Core) focuses on conceptual understanding, reasoning, and real-world application. Students are encouraged to explore multiple solution strategies and clearly communicate their thinking. Advanced learners may pursue AP Pre-Calculus through the College Board, with additional AP math courses planned as our program continues to grow.

Textbook is McGraw Hill K-10 and Glencoe for Precalculus and Calculus
Online Intervention Support K12 ALEX
Supplemental: IXL Support: School Site License

Curriculum MAP for Math Elementary
Curriculum MAP for Secondary Math Overview (in progress)

Resources:

- Project AERO K12
- Common Core Math Standards
- American College Board Advanced Placement Pre-Calculus was offered for the first time at AISN in 2025.
- The textbook is McGraw Hill K-10 and Glencoe for Precalculus and Calculus (Current 2025). Textbooks current as of 2025.
- Online Intervention Support K12 ALEX (Current 2025)
- Supplemental: IXL Support: School Site License (Current 2025)

K12 Science

We are scientists! We are engineers! With our *Next Generation*-aligned *Science* curriculum, students develop conceptual understanding, content knowledge, and skills by using the NGSS-aligned science and engineering practices. This robust three-dimensional standard-based approach invites students to experience phenomena-based science learning in carefully sequenced units of study that integrate life, physical, and earth and space science with engineering and technology. This integrated science learning progression leads students to make informed decisions.

The wonder of PreK-Grade 5 science contains various topics related to life science and physical science, earth space science and engineering, technology and the application of science for our PreK-5 elementary

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students as it is shown by grade on the following link for topic view. **Topic view** and **Curriculum map for Elementary**

In Middle School at AISN, our students focus on four science topics during their theory and their Lab time:

- Physical Sciences: During grades 6–8, students explore topics including atomic chemistry, forces and fields, thermal energy, and the wave model.
- Life Sciences: Topics include cells, gene variation, biodiversity, and adaptation. These lessons prepare students for advanced classes in biology, physiology, and genetics in high school and college.
- Earth and Space Sciences: Students explore topics like the solar system, Earth's history, and energy flows. These lessons help prepare them for advanced classes in astronomy, environmental science, or geology in high school and college.
- Engineering Design: Students refine criteria and constraints when designing engineering solutions, preparing them for advanced classes in mechanics, robotics, or engineering-enriched science courses in high school and college.

The goal of our Science program during the Grades 6 to 8 is to prepare our students to master both the skills and the content required to continue their scientist journey in High School.

- **Life Sciences (Biology):** Students engage deeply with concepts such as the interrelationships among living organisms, biological organization from molecules to organisms, cellular structure and function, heredity, and the molecular basis of genetics. The study extends to the mechanisms of evolution and the interdependence of ecosystems. Instruction is rooted in laboratory work, project-based learning, and a thorough application of scientific inquiry.

- **Physical Sciences (Chemistry and Physics):**
    - Chemistry: Students investigate matter and its interactions, chemical reactions, the conservation of energy and matter, and the structure and properties of matter. The course includes a strong focus on quantitative reasoning and problem-solving in the context of chemical principles.
    - Physics: This course covers motion and stability, forces and interactions, energy, and wave phenomena including electromagnetic radiation. Students explore concepts such as the conservation of energy and the wave-particle duality, applying these ideas to understand technological applications and natural phenomena.
    - Earth and Space Sciences: Students explore the Earth's systems, including geology, meteorology, and astronomy. Topics include the history of planet Earth, Earth's systems interactions, weather and climate, and human sustainability. Students also investigate the universe and its stars, the Earth and the solar system, and use models to understand the cosmos.

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- Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science: This area integrates the principles of engineering design with technology and applications across all scientific disciplines. Students learn to define problems, develop models, optimize solutions, and evaluate the impacts of proposed solutions on society and the environment.

Resources:

- AISN Science Standards / Topics for Wonder of Science Curriculum **Topic view**
- AISN Science Cycle for Grade 6-12
- American College Board Advanced Placement (AP)
  - Environmental Science (2025-26)

K12 Performing and Visual Arts

The **Elementary Music program (Performing Arts)** helps students to express themselves creatively through music. They learn how to compose and improvise melodies, rhythms, and simple musical pieces using various instruments and technologies.Students learn to sing and play instruments individually and in groups. They develop skills in reading music notation, understanding musical symbols and terms, and interpreting musical scores. Performance opportunities may include singing in choirs, playing in ensembles, and presenting solo pieces. Students also explore the elements of music, including melody, harmony, rhythm, form, and expression. They learn about different musical styles, genres, and cultures, and how music reflects and shapes societies. This involves listening to and analyzing music from diverse traditions and historical periods. Students make connections between music and other disciplines, such as history, literature, mathematics, and the visual arts. They explore how music is used in various contexts, such as rituals, celebrations, and storytelling. They also consider the role of music in contemporary culture and media. Additionally Students use technology to enhance their musical learning and creativity. This may involve using digital audio workstations, music notation software, and multimedia resources to compose, perform, and analyze music.

Resource
Skills Map for Performing Arts (Music) for K5
Skills Map for Performing Arts (Music) Grades 6-12

Resource
Curriculum Map of Skills for Music Gr. 6-12 (in progress)

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In the **Elementary Visual Arts program,** students embark on a journey of discovery and creativity, laying the foundation for artistic expression and exploration. Through playful engagement with a variety of media and techniques, students begin to develop their artistic identity while strengthening fine motor skills. They use the creative process to plan, organize, and refine their ideas, drawing inspiration from their observations and personal experiences to create artwork that reflects their unique perspectives. With a focus on the elements of art and principles of design, students identify and intentionally manipulate these foundational concepts to create visually engaging compositions. Through purposeful observation, reflection, and experimentation with different materials, students build confidence, develop visual awareness, and explore themes that connect to their lives. As a result, elementary students cultivate essential artistic skills, strengthen critical thinking, and deepen their appreciation for the visual arts—embarking on a transformative journey of both creative and personal growth.

In the Secondary Visual Arts program….

Note 2023-24: *American College Board Advanced Placement 2D and 3D Art are offered for the first time in the Second Semester At AISN. AISN is considering how to bring about a Performing and Visual Arts Center at the "heart" of our campus. As Vincent van Gogh said, "I am seeking. I am striving. I am in it with all my heart."*

Curriculum Map for K5 Art
Curriculum Map for GR. 6-12 Art

K12 Physical Education and Health / Wellness

SHAPE America is committed to supporting strong physical education programs for all students in grades K-12. During physical education, students practice the knowledge and skills they learn through physical activity, which is defined as any bodily movement that results in energy expenditure. The written physical education curriculum identifies the content to be taught at all grade levels from kindergarten through grade 12. Student learning objectives guide activities that are related directly to the identified objectives, defining instructional practices that maximize physical activity during lessons and keep students moderately to vigorously physically active for at least 50 percent of class time. promoting maximum physical activity during class.
Appropriate instruction includes practices such as maximizing the number of practice opportunities, working in small groups, limiting competition in class, and ensuring adequate equipment and space so that all students can engage in practice tasks for as much time as possible and become more self-directed
The physical education program:

- Meets the needs of all students;
- Keeps students active for most of physical education class time
- Teaches self-management; •
- Emphasizes knowledge and skills for a lifetime of physical activity,

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and Is an enjoyable experience for all students

Facilities Note: AISN features a small sand pitch, swimming pool with lessons in the PE curriculum, a full size basketball court and Volleyball Court. Portions of our campus are under construction and present facility challenges.

Elementary Curriculum Map
Secondary Curriculum Map

Exemplary Model for PE of a Curriculum Map LINK

Mauritanian Studies Field Work

Each grade 9-12, 6-8, 4-5 engages in multi-day, on-site fieldwork at different locations in Mauritania as part of our Mauritanian Studies program. Anchored in both the social and natural sciences as well as integrated across the curriculum, Mauritanian Studies Fieldwork invites students to bring learning alive while being fully immersed in Mauritian life. Students physically explore the regions of Mauritania to study biodiversity, the environment and its ecosystems. In addition, students get a first-hand look at locations that figure highly in Mauritania's colonization and resistance movements. Students travel and explore the benefits and costs of modernization in Mauritania. Students witness the effects of climate change and human impact on the environment while considering ways in which human innovation might mitigate these consequences. Students head to Mauritania's desert to take part in a variety of science investigations, and students experience "Mauritania in a Nutshell.

Note: Parents pay additional for the overnight part of this program. AISN has been bringing this program back after an absence during Covid. Students and Staff in the past have traveled by van to the following areas:

- PreK visited a local art gallery in Nouakchott for a day trip.
- Grade K/1 visits the local beaches
- Grade ⅔ and ⅘ visited a local Farm outside of Nouakchott.
- Grade ⅘ visited the city of Atar, the village of Azogui and the Oasis of Tergit in the northern part of Mauritania.
- Grade 6-7-8 visited northern Mauritania and explored the seaport Nouadhibou
- Grade 9-10-11-12 traveled abroad and visited the Nature Conservation Park of Djoudj in the region of Saint Louis, Senegal where they spent the first two nights before continuing to the city of Dakar, Senegal for 3 nights. During this trip, students visited the nature conservation park to learn about wetlands, the fauna and flora, the migrating birds and fishing. In Dakar, students spent one day in the Island of Gorée where they visited the Slaves' House and the museum. Students also

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toured Dakar to visit the statue of African Renaissance, the museum “de la place des souvenirs” and the International School of Dakar.

- Field Trip Dates Published to Managebac Calendars

K12 Learning Centers

LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAMS

LIBRARY

The AISN library offers students and teachers a collection of print books, small eBooks collection, audio books, and research tools to support learning goals. Students are empowered to take an active role in choosing books and resources to read for personal enjoyment and for gathering information. Our AISNMAURITANIA.COM school web page hosts access to the School Library through Follet. Check it out at https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/38143

A Library Handbook is in the process.

Note 2023-24: The AISN Library Page became functional again in 2023-24 after a brief lapse. Our goal is to improve funding for great literature for K12 students. Literacy for life is key! Also we anticipate a remodeling of the physical space that honors our past, as the Library sits in the oldest part of our 45 year history with historical arches.

STUDENT LEARNING CENTER

INNOVATION CENTERS, LABS, READING AREAS, DESIGN CENTER PLAYGROUNDS
These are all forthcoming goals at AISN.