

Approved 02-24-09, AISB School Board

Mission

The American International School of Bamako is committed to providing a challenging, enriching, English-language American-based educational program which encompasses holistic student development in a nurturing, student-centered, multi-cultural environment.

The American International School of Bamako (AISB) is a non-sectarian, non-profit, privately-funded, tuition-based, Pre-Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade School operating under the sponsorship of the American Embassy. Accordingly, the school is based upon the American Educational System, is organized in a manner consistent with comparable schools, and the basic school program is taught in English. However, the school has inherent international qualities due to its setting in the Republic of Mali, in French-speaking Africa, and due to the diverse international backgrounds of the school population. Modifications to the basic American program have been made to complement the school's international setting and population. These modifications may include but are not limited to, French Language instruction, English as a Second Language instruction, and inclusion of Malian culture, history and geography in the curriculum.

Beliefs Statement

At AISB we hold certain beliefs to be true. These beliefs guide teachers in the presentation of curriculum content, are integral in creating the learning environment of the school, and are the driving force for the Board in establishing and implementing policies and practices.

At AISB:

We are a community of learners in which education is a cooperative endeavor involving students, parents, staff and teachers.

We believe in encouraging resourcefulness, creativity and self-expression.

We will give our students the tools necessary to become life-long learners.

We believe each person is a unique individual with dignity and worth.

We believe in providing a supportive and safe learning environment.

We believe our students should develop an awareness of and a respect for different cultures, locally and globally.

Expected Personal Growth Outcomes

AISB recognizes that the education of students is much broader than the academic content that is determined by the curriculum. The classroom and campus atmosphere, the style of teacher interaction with the students, and the expectations placed on the students produce a long-term impact which will be reflected in the character traits that our students will hold as adults in the larger world. With these Expected Personal Growth Outcomes, AISB strives to create students who will in the future be:

- Responsible and involved global citizens able to adapt in a rapidly changing world
- Respectful of self, others and diverse cultures.
- Physically, mentally and emotionally healthy
- Able to express themselves clearly and logically
- Independent thinkers
- Logical problem solvers
- Self-directed and self-confident learners
- Compassionate
- Inquisitive explorers
- Appreciative of the arts

How we achieve these outcomes

Social growth:

In all aspects of the school community we provide opportunities to introduce, re-enforce, and clarify values. School activities are designed to foster responsible social interaction in an atmosphere of mutual respect, friendship, and understanding. The school encourages development of, respect for, and involvement in one's community. Exposure to cultural pluralism enhances the students' international awareness.

Cultural growth:

Through the daily experience of its cultural diversity, AISB encourages students to think of themselves as citizens of the world. They are helped to understand and appreciate the cultural, social, economic, and political ideas and practices of their home countries. They are encouraged to appreciate and participate in the arts and literature of all cultures, particularly those of Africa and more specifically those of their host country, Mali.

Physical growth:

Students are instilled with a high regard for physical and mental health in order to lead energetic wholesome and productive lives. AISB provides support as each child is constantly adjusting to his/her own developmental changes. AISB promotes an understanding and acceptance of one's body, as gained through study and various experiences in the areas of health, physical education, and the life sciences.

Intellectual growth:

Emphasis is given to the development of personal values and thought processes which allow students to think and express themselves clearly and logically. Problem-solving, independent

thinking, exploration, self-expression, and experimentation are facilitated with the use of contemporary materials and current technological tools. Educational theories are constantly being explored by the students, staff, and community to determine which are best for AISB.

Personal growth:

Each child is encouraged to develop his/her own personality in a positive way. The school acknowledges that the emotional development of a child depends on self-respect and respect for others. AISB strives to create an atmosphere of respect in order to prepare each student for his/her personal experimentation and challenges. The school recognizes each student as a unique individual with dignity and worth.

AISB presents a unique learning experience. Education is a cooperative endeavor involving children, professional educators, parents, and the community. Children need to be challenged in the classroom and then assisted and encouraged to meet the challenges in a creative way. Each child will be helped to meet his/her full potential with the support of the school community.