



## Banjul American International School

### 2019-2020 Fact Sheet

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**Banjul American International School (BAIS)**, previously known as Banjul American Embassy School, was founded in 1984. It is an independent, coeducational day school for English-speaking students of all nationalities from Pre-Kindergarten (age 2+) through Grade 12 (age 18). The school's supportive learning environment and caring, creative teachers instill confidence, compassion, open-mindedness and critical thinking in every student. The school year extends from early September to late June with approximately 180 days of instruction. Official Gambian holidays are recognized, and long breaks are taken for the December/New Year holidays and spring break.

**Organization:** The Board of Directors consists of 6 members, each serving a 2-year term. The BAIS Association (parents/guardians and teachers) elects 5 board members, with 1 member appointed by the U.S. Embassy.

**Curriculum:** BAIS is fully accredited by Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, USA. Instruction is in English. The core subjects: English, mathematics, science, and social studies, are supplemented with specialty instruction in art, French, technology, music and physical education. The curriculum from Kindergarten through 8th grade is aligned with AERO standards (including NGSS standards for Science), and the PK curriculum is aligned with the New York State Early Learning Guidelines. All units develop the international understanding of students, including knowledge of Gambian and African cultures. The school follows ISTE standards for technology instruction and NASPE standards for physical education. Technology (ICT) instruction is integrated with learning across the subjects, and all classes have dedicated time in the computer lab and library each week.

BAIS is building a **full High School program beginning in September 2020** to allow students in The Gambia to study the 4-year American program and earn a U.S. High School Diploma without leaving the country. Prior to this time, students in upper secondary grades have tended to move abroad to complete their secondary education with one to three students staying in any given year to complete coursework individually via UNHS online classes. The new high school program will build gradually; six students are enrolled for grade 9 in 2020-21 with more expected to join in coming months. One additional grade level will be added each year, and Advanced Placement (AP) classes will be offered for students prepared to tackle more challenging academic courses. Families with students in grades 10-12 are encouraged to apply if their child in 2020-21 for the individual UNHS program.

BAIS is an incredibly **nurturing** school with high levels of individualized attention and strong Personal, Social, Emotional Learning (PSEL) and Service Learning programs. Three eight-week sessions of after-school activities are offered to all students in Kindergarten and up, including a variety of artistic, athletic, and academic activities, and a BAIS highlight is the annual musical with a role from every student in the school! The Service Learning program aligns with UN Sustainable Development Goals and focuses on a different SDG goal each year. The goal is for students in PK through Grade 12 to apply learning through action in their communities.

**Faculty:** In the 2019-2020 school year, the faculty is comprised of 7 full-time teachers (4 U.S. citizens, 1 host-country and 2 third-country nationals) and 4 part-time teachers (1 host-country and 3 third-country nationals). They work alongside 4 teaching assistants. BAIS teachers have Bachelor's or Master's degrees and internationally recognized teaching credentials.

**Enrollment:** At the start of the 2019-2020 school year, enrollment is 54 students, including 13 U.S. citizens, 29 third-country nationals, and 12 host-country nationals. Of the U.S. enrollment, 6 students are dependents of U.S. government direct-hire or contract employees, and 6 are dependents of private U.S. citizens.

**Facilities:** The campus consists of four buildings which serve as 'bookends' to the outdoor recreation area, soccer field and basketball court. At the front of the campus, the administrative building contains the reception office, director's office, library, computer lab and teacher collaboration areas. The elementary building houses grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and Music classes. At the rear end of campus, families and visitors enter the campus between the middle school/high school wing with its science lab, humanities and math rooms and the Early Childhood building which houses PK, KG, Art and French classrooms. The outdoor areas include field space for soccer and ultimate Frisbee, a basketball court, playground equipment and grass volleyball courts.

**Finances:** Approximately 85% of the school's income comes from tuition and fees. Annual tuition rates for 2019-20 are: PK1: \$5,780 half-day and \$7,580 full-day; PK2 \$7,580; KG-grade 5: \$13,864; grades 6-8: \$17,004; and grades 9-12: \$18,872. The same tuition fee covers the cost of after-school activities, school social events, the yearbook, and other student activities. A \$200 application fee and a one-time only nonrefundable school development fee of \$4,100 for all new students are payable upon enrollment. (All fees are quoted in U.S. dollars.) A hot lunch service is available from an outside provider for an additional cost.

**Uniforms:** BAIS polo shirts are available, but no uniform is required.