



Banjul American International School

2022-23 Fact Sheet

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Banjul American International School (BAIS) was founded in 1984. It is an independent, coeducational day school for English-speaking students of all nationalities from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 (ages 2½ to 19). 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 late August/early September to mid-June with approximately 180 days of instruction. Holidays include official Gambian holidays, a 3-week winter break and 6-day spring break.

Faculty: The faculty consists of 8 full-time teachers (6 U.S. citizens, 1 Gambian and 1 Swede) and 7 part-time teachers (1 U.S. citizen, 1 Gambian and 4 third-country nationals). BAIS teachers hold Bachelor's or Master's degrees and internationally recognized teaching credentials.

Enrollment: Enrollment is projected at 60 students for the start of 2022-23, including 20 U.S. citizens, 30 third-country nationals, and 16 host-country nationals. Many of these students hold dual citizenships (e.g. Gambian/US, Finnish/Gambian, Spanish/Gambian, and Gambian/UK et al.)

Curriculum: BAIS is fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA), USA. Instruction is in English. The holistic philosophy of the school is to create graduates who are academic, good citizens and demonstrate strong social and communication skills, emphasis is placed on writing, critical-thinking, diversity and integrity. The core subjects include: English, mathematics, science, and social studies, and these are supplemented with specialty instruction in art, French, technology, music and physical education. The curriculum from Kindergarten through grade 12 is aligned with AERO standards (including NGSS Science standards). The Pre-K curriculum aligns with the New York State Early Learning Guidelines and AERO standards where appropriate.

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. Music incorporates an Orff-Schulwerk philosophy and students play xylophones, metallophones, recorders and ukuleles across the grade levels. Technology is integrated with learning across the subjects, and classes learn in the computer lab and library each week.

Facilities: The campus consists of four main 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, teacher collaboration areas and safe haven 1. The elementary building houses grades K through 5. At the other end of campus, is the Back Gate entrance between the middle school/high school wing (science lab, humanities and math rooms) and the Early Childhood building which houses PK, Art and French classrooms. The outdoor areas include field spaces; a basketball court; playground equipment; shaded patios for French, art, music and group projects; and a dedicated, outdoor Discovery Learning area for PK.

School Climate: BAIS is an incredibly **nurturing** school with high levels of individualized attention and strong Personal, Social, Emotional Learning (PSEL) and Service Learning programs.

Co-curricular Activities: Three eight-week sessions of after-school activities are offered, including a variety of artistic, athletic, and academic activities, and a BAIS highlight is the annual musical with a role for as many students as possible 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 that will improve their community. The BAIS Student Council is very active and organizes many fun activities and buddy events for their peers.



BAIS High School: In 2020-21 BAIS opened a **full High School program** to allow students in The Gambia the opportunity to complete a 4-year American high school program and earn a U.S. High School Diploma in preparation for university admissions. By 2021-22 the BAIS High School encompassed all grade levels and the first two graduates earned their diplomas in June 2022.

BAIS high school students apply to prestigious universities in the USA and abroad, and students are supported by an experienced international college counselor online. Students in Grade 10 and 11 take the PSAT, and the school administers SAT and AP exams on campus. All students complete a minimum of 26 credits, including 4 full-year credits in English, Math, Science and Social Studies, and 3 years of one language minimum or 2 + 2 years of 2 languages. To earn the diploma, graduates must also show the ability to initiate, plan and carry out an Independent Research Project and a self-initiated Service Learning Project. BAIS graduation requirements can be found below.

Advanced Placement (AP) classes are offered for individual students prepared to tackle more challenging academic courses. Despite very small class sizes, in 2022-23 BAIS teachers will offer AP Language & Composition, AP Chemistry, AP Physics and AP Calculus. Exceptionally motivated students may take courses and AP courses via the EdOptions Academy virtual platform with approval.

Organization: The Board of Directors consists of 6 members, each serving a 2-year term. Five (5) board members are elected by the BAIS Association (parents and teachers), and one member is appointed by the U.S. Ambassador.

Finances: Approximately 92% of the school's income comes from tuition and fees. Annual tuition rates are set separately for families paying out-of-pocket vs families who receive employer support for tuition.

2021-22 Tuition Fees for Employer-Paying /Employer-Supported Families

- PreKindergarten half-day: \$ 6,257
- PreKindergarten full-day: \$ 8,230
- Kindergarten-Grade 5: \$20,446
- Grades 6-8: \$23,433
- Grades 9-12: \$25,287

2021-22 Tuition Fees for Self-Paying Families

- PreKindergarten half-day: \$ 6,134
- PreKindergarten full-day: \$ 8,060
- Kindergarten-Grade 5: \$13,375
- Grades 6-8: \$16,429
- Grades 9-10: \$ 6,000
- Grades 11-12: \$ 7,500

The same tuition fee covers the cost of after-school activities, school social events, the yearbook, and other student activities.

Other fees: A \$200 application fee and a one-time only, nonrefundable school development fee of \$4,500 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.



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BAIS High School Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements will be set by the Director in line with Accreditation standards. Once set these will be included in the Policy Manual and Student-Parent Handbook.

Special circumstances requiring adjusted graduation requirements may be approved upon Director recommendation and with Board approval.

Current Graduation Requirements

Successful completion of a minimum of 26 year-long credits which include:

- *English* 4 year-long credits
- *Mathematics* 4 year-long credits
- *Science* 4 year-long credits
- *Humanities/Social Studies* 4 year-long credits
- *World Languages* 3 year-long credits of 1 language or 2 year-long credits of 2 languages
- *Physical Education & Health* 2 year-long credits
- *Arts (Studio Art, Music, etc)* 1 year-long credit
- *Technology* 1 year-long credit
- *Elective Courses* 3 year-long credits

and *Satisfactory completion of two projects:*

- *Service Learning Project*
- *Independent Research Project*

