

Welcome to

AIS Vienna



Our Mission

At the American International School Vienna, we empower each student with the skills and character strengths necessary to be positively impactful global citizens who strive for personal growth and excellence in an ever-changing world.

Our Vision

A community of innovative learners realizing their chosen futures with courage, curiosity, and joy.



Our Values

Respect: We will be kind, considerate, inclusive, and thoughtful in our interactions with others and the environment.

Aspire: We will pursue our passions, imagine possibilities, and make them real.

Achieve: We will apply ourselves to the best of our ability with effort and ingenuity, and strive for personal growth.



Top 10 Reasons to Choose AIS Vienna

1. Our Student-Centered, Adaptive Learning Approach

Students are at the heart of everything we do. We honor the individual learning styles of each student and bring their inner strengths to life.

2. Top Student Achievement

In addition to scoring the highest IB results in Vienna, our students perform on world stages like Carnegie Hall. Our challenging curriculum is designed to be university preparatory, our results in international examinations are consistently above average, and our alumni go on to the world's top universities.

3. Our Exceptional Teachers

Our teachers give extraordinary personal care and attention to each of their students. Whether a PhD in mathematics or a support teacher in Kindergarten, members of our faculty provide the creative nudges, structure, and room to experiment – in the classroom, on the playing field, among friends, and in life.

4. Everyone Knows What It's Like To Be The New Kid

We help our globally mobile community feel at home. We provide the tools to handle the trials and tribulations of relocation, and roots into a community that will nourish students for a lifetime.

5. Small School, Big Opportunities

The size of our school is widely considered "just right": big enough to offer diverse and stimulating artistic, athletic, and academic opportunities, while still small enough to maintain a strong sense of community in which every child can achieve their personal best.

6. Our Truly International Community

At AIS Vienna, we aim to recognize and celebrate our complex identities and shared humanity. Founded in 1959, we are the most experienced international school in Vienna, with students from 80 countries. Our internationally-trained faculty



empowers our multicultural students to be positively impactful global citizens.

7. 1:1 Technology Integration

Computer labs are so 1997. Our technology is everywhere, fully integrated into our teaching methods and campus so that students have the savvy they need to succeed. That said, we still believe in the timeless power of books, and our libraries feature thousands of titles that offer reading adventures and insights to inspire students of all ages.

8. Our AIS Vienna Family

Every time families step onto campus, they experience a welcoming, supportive, and diverse community, cultivating a sense of belonging that empowers us all to confidently share our talents, experiences, and ideas.

9. Green Campus, Green Ethics

What do our protected-forest campus, our outdoor learning spaces, our e-charging stations for cars and bikes, and the solar panels on our roofs have in common? As an Eco-School, we see, think, act, and experience green. Connected to Vienna's excellent public transportation network, our location on the edge of the Vienna Woods means our students never lack for fresh air and time spent in the great outdoors.

10. Once A Knight, Always A Knight

Students leave AIS Vienna with a head start in life: a tight-knit global network of 14,000 alumni that has been growing for 65 years and counting. This is a network of friendship, trust, and opportunity that provides returns to its members for decades after graduation.



Former AISV building on Bauernfeldgasse 40



Transfer of the Salmannsdorfer Property (J. Formanek, H. Heinsheimer, A. Kiefer)





Laying of the cornerstone (Dr. Neugebauer, President of the Stadtschulrat)

Model of the school (R. Strauss center with architects J.G. Groebner and W.H. Schindler)





Groundbreaking Ceremony (R. Strauss, J. Formanek)

Our Legacy

The American International School Vienna was founded on September 1, 1959. Its predecessor was the Vienna International Community School (VICS), which was founded in August 1955 after the closing of the American and British army schools at the end of the allied occupation of Austria.

1959

The American International School (AIS Vienna) is founded by the Embassies of the United States and Canada at Bauernfeldgasse 40; VICS is dissolved. Enrollment at this time is 234 students representing 17 nationalities.

AIS Vienna is granted access to funding through the Marshall Plan to establish a new campus.

1961

AIS Vienna takes possession of the current 45,000 square meter site on Salmannsdorfer Strasse, on the edge of the Vienna Woods in the 19th District.

1962

Ground-breaking Ceremony for the new AIS Vienna campus.

1964

AIS Vienna begins its first school year on the new campus with 357 students representing 28 nationalities.



Graduation Ceremony
Spring 1965
(H. Portisch)

1977

AIS Vienna becomes the 72nd IB school in the world, and the first in Austria, to be authorized.

2000

The Stemberg Physical Science Laboratory is constructed thanks to a generous donation from Staples® CEO and owner, Thomas Stemberg, Class of ‘67.

2012

The AIS Vienna Theater is reopened after significant renovations, thanks to a successful fundraising campaign and the generous support of community members.

2021

The Elementary School Science & Innovation Lab is constructed thanks to a significant donation from a private donor and generous support from the AIS Vienna Foundation.

2024

AIS Vienna celebrates its 65th anniversary with thousands of alumni from all around the world.

Today, 800 students representing more than 80 nationalities are enrolled.



Elementary School

Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5

In our Elementary School, we strive to make every child feel welcomed and appreciated.



As educators, we understand our mission is not just to facilitate learning in the classic sense but also to facilitate experiences and create memories that will sustain every student through futures not yet imagined. At AIS Vienna, our goal is for children to love school and to develop a life-long love of learning.

The instructional excellence of our faculty is complemented by a genuine appreciation of childhood development. Our carefully chosen programs allow for differentiated instruction and a high degree of student choice to ensure that learning is authentic and meaningful. Students are encouraged to make connections to personal experiences and to gain a deep understanding of the skills, knowledge, and dispositions of our curriculum.

Our enrollment in the Elementary School hovers around 320 students from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5. Students at AIS Vienna benefit from outstanding academic programs enriched by fine arts, physical education, science, technology, counseling, library, and German language instruction. Through after school activities, field trips, and collaborations across grade levels, we work hard so that every single child finds multiple opportunities to explore new interests, further develop existing passions, and find confidence in their unique expression.



Middle School

Grade 6 through Grade 8

Our Middle School offers a nurturing environment in which teacher support and enthusiasm meet the unique developmental needs of students aged 11 to 14. This is a period of rapid intellectual and social development, and our courses and programs help students to realize their potential and take increasing responsibility in a caring, supportive environment.



Our curricular and co-curricular programs are designed to build the foundation for a lifetime of independent and self-reliant learning. Skill building is emphasized, and reading and writing are priorities in most areas of academic study. Our language arts program is literature based, and students learn to write in a variety of genres and styles. In mathematics, students begin with concrete, computational work, and develop the abstract thinking and problem-solving skills needed for algebra. "Hands-on" learning and laboratory work are emphasized in the general sciences. All students explore the fine and performing arts, as well as develop their computer and technology skills. Physical education and health class keeps our active students fit and focused on a healthy lifestyle. Additionally, elective exploratory courses introduce students to subjects that they may wish to pursue in future years. All students study German, with French and Spanish as additional options. Language instruction is an important feature of the Middle School curriculum, and English as an Additional Language (EAL) is provided for students with intermediate English proficiency.

Every autumn, all faculty and students participate in the Middle School fall trips. These three-day treks (each grade goes to a different destination in Austria) provide an opportunity for students to make friends, for students and teachers to get to know each other, and to build spirit and spark enthusiasm for the new school year.



High School

Grade 9 through Grade 12

Our High School provides a comprehensive university-preparatory academic program. All AIS Vienna High School students work towards earning a US High School Diploma. The majority of our students also choose to pursue the globally-recognized International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. Core areas of our academic program include English, mathematics,



science, social studies, modern languages, visual and performing arts, and physical education. The World Language program includes German (proficient and near-proficient as well as an additional language), French, and Spanish. Learning support services may be available for students with specialized learning needs.

AIS Vienna is well-known for its caring faculty and positive student-teacher relationships. Our experienced and certified faculty are experts in their subjects.

Each year, our IB results indicate achievement well above world averages. Most of our faculty is from the United States and Canada, but we employ teachers from all corners of the globe. They devote themselves to the success of our students by providing world-class learning opportunities, a nurturing environment, and a culture of integrity and curiosity. Three counselors and a dean of curriculum are dedicated to assisting students in their applications to universities in North America, the UK, Europe, and throughout the world, as well as to supporting the social and emotional well-being of all High School students.

In addition to the academic program, the High School offers co-curricular choices in music, dance, drama, scholastic competitions, and athletics. AIS Vienna is a member of several international school associations, providing opportunities for competitions and festivals throughout Europe and around the world. We also promote and facilitate service and learning opportunities in Vienna, our neighboring countries, and beyond.

We welcome new learners into our community, challenging and fostering future leaders, life-long learners, and long-term friends.



Related Arts

There is something deeply human yet timeless and transcendent about raising your voice in chorus, putting paint to canvas, or sinking your hands into a fresh lump of clay.



It is the goal of the Arts Department that every student participates in a variety of artistic experiences, and has access to a broad range of creative outlets. The curriculum provides each child with opportunities to develop self-expression, self-discipline, cooperation, spontaneity, imagination, and a lasting understanding and appreciation of the arts.

Built on the firm belief that art is essential to our humanity, the Arts Department provides students with the skills to recognize, appreciate, create, and evaluate art in its many forms – from the glories of orchestral music through the quiet of charcoal drawings on paper. Although a quality product is often inherent in artistic endeavors, it is the process itself that is the primary focus of the arts program.

AIS Vienna students actively participate in a wide range of activities that often culminate with choral and instrumental concerts, art exhibits, as well as theater and dance performances – including at renowned venues in Vienna and around the world. While many of our graduates enter creative professions, our goal is for all students to become lifetime lovers of the arts.



Athletics & Activities

She dribbles, she shoots, she scores! As soon as the school day ends, a world of school-organized activities begins. AIS Vienna offers over 45 clubs and activities to our



High School and Middle School students. Activities like Speech and Debate, Math Team, Global Builders, and Amnesty Youth all meet either after school or during lunch. In the Elementary School, our extensive After School Activities program (ASA) offers over 35 different classes. Most of our Elementary students participate in at least one ASA.

Our Middle and High School athletics program is divided into fall, winter, and spring seasons, which each offer competitive programs. Our students take part in local games, overnight trips, and end-of-season tournaments in one of the two conferences to which we belong: International Schools Sports Tournaments (ISST) is an overnight multi-day conference where we compete with all of our High School teams and our Middle School 'A' teams. The Danube Valley Athletic Conference (DVAC) is a one day regional conference in which all of our teams take part.

With a program this diverse, there is certainly something — or several things — for everyone.

Please see our website for a full list of current after-school athletics and activities.



Our Teachers

It takes a village, as they say, and at AIS Vienna we know that our excellence is thanks to our talented faculty, who provide extraordinary care to our students while maintaining clear and open channels of communication with parents and guardians.

Fewer things are more important to young minds than feeling that they are both seen and supported as they grow. Of over one hundred AIS Vienna teachers, 75% are American-trained, 90% hold advanced degrees (including several PhDs) – and 100% are passionate about challenging their students in a profoundly supportive atmosphere.

We strive for our students to become lovers of life-long learning, and our faculty model this attitude through regular participation in professional development programs, ensuring their methods and approaches remain forward-looking and of the highest quality. They found and lead co-curricular activities, sharing their personal passions and expertise. Graduates often say that they were powerfully influenced by their teachers at AIS Vienna and keep in touch well into adulthood.

Technology for Learning

Technology Vision

AIS Vienna students are empowered responsible digital citizens who thrive in a rapidly transforming technological world. Our students think creatively and critically; construct knowledge and design solutions; communicate and collaborate effectively; and engage responsibly with technology as respectful future-minded members of the global community.

Technology Philosophy

We believe technology and innovative practice stimulates curiosity and creativity, inspires the joy of discovered passions, and provides students with the tools and skills to confidently meet future challenges. Technology is fundamental in providing equal access to learning for all students.

AIS Vienna is a 1:1 Apple school where every student in our community is provided a device specifically designed to enhance their learning experience. Starting in our Elementary School our students use iPads to augment their learning. As they progress to Middle and High School, students are provided MacBook Air laptops. At AIS Vienna, we realize the importance of technological advancements in education and maintain above-average replacement cycles for our hardware. This ongoing investment ensures that our school remains at the forefront of utilizing technology to enrich the learning process.

All classrooms at AIS Vienna are equipped with interactive SMART boards featuring touch-sensitive screens and wireless connectivity, providing a modern alternative to the traditional chalkboard and fostering dynamic and enjoyable learning experiences. Moreover, our Middle and High schools offer elective classes that delve deeper into technology rich subjects such as coding, robotics, web and graphic design, video production, and computer science which allow our students to build industry specific skills in technology. As technology evolves rapidly, our school recognizes the importance of employing certified teachers in the Elementary, Middle, and High School who specialize in integrating educational technologies across all subject areas. These dedicated “tech integrators” collaborate closely with our classroom teachers to equip each student with practical tools, critical thinking abilities, and the ethical discernment necessary to become responsible digital citizens of the future.





Advancement & Alumni



Our beautiful campus, new technologies, and diverse programs would not be what they are today without the Advancement and Alumni Offices, which manage the school's world-wide network of over 14,000 alumni. Throughout the year, AIS Vienna alumni host reunions, receptions and gatherings in Vienna and around the world.

Many former students also make use of the password-protected AIS Vienna Alumni Portal to find each other and keep in touch. Our alumni magazine, *GlobeSpotter*, is published every year and includes news for alumni about their former classmates and teachers. Philanthropic participation in education maintains our academic excellence and reputation that benefits generations of AIS Vienna students to come.

No matter whether they were at AIS Vienna for one semester or more than a decade, the supportive attitudes of parents, alumni, faculty, staff, retirees, and corporations towards the AIS Vienna Annual Fund allows us to go above and beyond for the student experience. Thousands of families have considered AIS Vienna a home-base and a safe place to grow during their global journey, and we are proud to continue advancing our AIS Vienna traditions and excellence.



Admissions

Ready to become an AIS Vienna Knight?

Our Admissions team specializes in understanding the needs of globally mobile families and looks forward to supporting you throughout the application process. To visit our beautiful campus and learn more about applying to AIS Vienna, contact our Admissions Office.



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