

AUS Accreditation Communiqué

LEARNING - ANYPLACE, ANYTIME

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year!

Welcome to another amazing year of teaching and learning. The countdown to our accreditation site visit has begun. From November 24-30, 2017, AUS will host a team of 10-12 international teachers and administrators from the Council of International Schools (CIS), <http://www.cois.org>, and Middle States Association (MSA), <http://www.msa-CESS.org>, member schools. Preparations for the site visit began during the 2015-2016 school year and will culminate with the submission of the Self-Study, Parts I and II based on CIS/MSA standards.

AUS Mission, Vision, & Guiding Statements

Mission

Our mission is to:

- promote creativity & collaboration
- challenge academic growth
- embrace our diverse community
- implement our technology plan to enhance student learning

Vision

To provide an outstanding American education that enables students to be inspired lifelong learners and responsible global citizens.

Guiding Principles

LEARNING-ANYPLACE, ANYTIME

We believe learning is not confined to a classroom or a campus—it should be available wherever and whenever the learner needs it.

- At AUS, we continually demonstrate how to be a caring community of learners—our students, teachers, staff and families are committed to educating the whole child.
- Our school community acknowledges and recognizes the personal, cultural and social values of each individual.
- We believe technology is an integral part of students' lives, expectations, and the future—this cannot be ignored but rather explored with deep sense of intellectual inquiry.
- We are dedicated to the future global success for this planet which depends on having a diverse, well-educated workforce.

Standards At A Glance

Section E: Access to Teaching and Learning: In this section, the self-study committee evaluates AUS with regard to the admissions process, student support services for academic growth and behavior, and health care services. Our main goal is to ensure all students have access to the written, taught, and assessed curriculum by removing barriers to learning.

Section F: Culture and Partnerships for Learning: The self-study committee examines the culture at AUS as a whole school community. This committee also examined how AUS interacts with its local environment and outside organizations that work to enhance our students' learning and school experiences.

AUS GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PROFILES

AUS GLOBAL STUDENT

An AUS student is action-oriented and makes connections between self, community, culture, and the world at large.

An AUS global student is:

- Ethical
- Globally Responsive
- Next-Generation Skilled

AUS GLOBAL TEACHER

An AUS teacher cultivates an awareness of ideas in their community and around the world inspiring action-oriented thinkers.

An AUS global teacher is:

- Instructionally Innovative
- Culturally Competent
- Data Driven

AUS GLOBAL LEADER

An AUS leader models the ideals of global citizenship, shapes the instructional learning environment that enables students and staff to create connections between self, community, culture and the world at large.

An AUS global leader is:

- Visionary
- Transformative
- Culturally Responsive

Writing of Part II: The School Profile

The self-study committee, which is comprised of faculty and staff members from various departments, rate AUS as widely aligned, partially aligned, or not aligned on standards within each of seven sections from CIS/MSA. Once ratings have been assigned, the self study committee works collaboratively to write narratives and provide documents supporting each rating. Finally, the self study committee creates suggestions to approach alignment in areas of misalignment.

Self study committees address standards and indicators found in the following sections:

Section A: Guiding Statements

Section B: Teaching and Learning

Section C: Governance and Leadership

Section D: Faculty and Support Staff

Section E: Access to Teaching and Learning

Section F: Culture and Partnerships for Learning

Section G: Operational Systems

Global Citizenship

Advances toward Global Citizenship at AUS:

In achieving the vision of AUS, focused attention to Global Citizenship remains a high priority. As an international school with a diverse population, it is imperative that we acknowledge the uniqueness of each individual and examine their responsibilities to the world at large.

During the 2016-17 school year, the Steering Committee created the AUS definition of global citizenship by seeking inspiration from Oxfam International (a federation of 20 organizations representing 90 countries) and Partnership for 21st Century Learning (a collaboration of education, business, community, and government leaders focused on 21st century learning). The steering committee has developed a school-wide overview of global citizenship and a teacher's guide. The AUS definition, school-wide overview, and teacher's guide will serve as foundation for classroom implementation. We strive to create conscientious citizens of the world.

"Exams form only half of the story - we also want to send out rounded individuals, and global citizenship is a massive part of the way we do that."

- Claire Robin, Headteacher, Sir John Lawes School

Previous versions of the AUS Accreditation Communiqué featuring information about the CSA/MIS Accreditation Process, the Self Study report, and Global Citizenship may be viewed at:

<http://www.aus.edu.kw/accreditation>.

Calendar

- **Student Orientation:** Sunday, September 10, 11:00 am-1:00 pm
- **First Day of Classes for Grades 6-11:** Monday, September 11
- **First Day of Classes for Grades 1-5:** Tuesday, September 12
- **First Day of Classes for PreK-Kindergarten:** Wednesday, September 13
- **Pre-K Parent Orientation:** Wednesday, May 17, 1:30 pm in the PAC
- **Elementary Open House:** Tuesday, September 19, 4-6:00 pm
- **Middle & High School Open House:** Wednesday, September 20, 4-6:00 pm
- **CIS/MSA Accreditation Visit:** Sunday, November 24 - Thursday, November 30

SAVE DATE: Save the Date: The CSA/MIS visiting team reviews every aspect of AUS including our interaction with parents. To accomplish this task, parents representing students at various grade-levels will be contacted for interviews.

WHY ACCREDITATION MATTERS!

A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE AND AFFIRMATION OF THE SCHOOL'S NEEDS

When the accreditation site visit is complete, the visiting team will generate a summary report of findings and make its recommendations for accreditation. This report will guide future improvements at AUS. Evaluation for accreditation is intimately linked to - not separate from - the school's planning process.

This report will also validate the needs of AUS that have been previously stated, and guide the school's decision makers in setting priorities and developing action plans to address these needs.

