



Dear New Parents,

On behalf of the faculty and staff welcome to AISJ's Middle School! We are thrilled you are joining us for the 2018-19 academic year. Our school is a very special place with a diverse student body from over eighty countries across the world. Our aim is that you are well-informed about orientation and information in regards to your child's class placement.

The purpose of this letter is to highlight some important dates and events as part of our orientation leading up to the first day of school. Please mark your calendars for the following:

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL ORIENTATION, TESTING & COURSE SELECTION:**

Both parents and students will be asked to attend a Middle School Orientation Session with the Counselor and Principal before the start of school. At that time, all Middle School students will need to take a Math assessment and potentially a World Language Assessment (Spanish or French), if they are not a beginner language student. Students will also be able to select their Elective classes at that time.

Middle School Course Registration:

Registration for Middle School classes for new students will take place following the orientation sessions. The orientation session will provide information about our course offerings and the process for selecting courses. In advance, of course selection, families can review the Middle School course offerings by reading the Program of Studies. The link to the Middle School 2017-18 Program of Studies is below. If you have any questions about our course offerings, please feel free email either Andy Ferguson or Kendel Leet.

[http://www.aisj-jhb.com/uploaded/2016-17/MS\\_Portal/Resources/AISJ\\_MS\\_PROGRAM\\_OF\\_STUDIES\\_2017-18.pdf](http://www.aisj-jhb.com/uploaded/2016-17/MS_Portal/Resources/AISJ_MS_PROGRAM_OF_STUDIES_2017-18.pdf)

The Orientation Sessions will take place on the AISJ Johannesburg campus. We encourage families to sign-up for the earliest one at their convenience, so that students have a better chance of attaining the classes that they want. Our schedule will be as follows:

- Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Middle School Office.
- Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Middle School Office.
- Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Middle School Office

### **Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup>: New Middle School Student and Parent Welcome Day:**

- When: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Where: **MS Library**

**Students:** Middle School Tour and "Getting To Know You Activities" with current MS students and teachers.

**Parents:** Middle School Tour and Questions and Answer Session with Principal and Counselor

### **Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>- First Day of School:**

- On arrival at school, students will be directed to the Middle School area where several lists of students' names, their Advisors, and room locations will be posted. Faculty and staff will be on hand to ensure your child is able to find their new classroom easily.



- For those requesting to use the school bus, all bussing information will be confirmed with parents prior to the start of school.
- The first day of school is a Wednesday and as such it is an Early Release Day (ERD). All students will depart at 1:30 p.m.
- Parent Association Tears and Cheers Coffee Morning 7:30am- 8:30am. All parents are invited to attend.

**August 28<sup>th</sup> – JHB Middle School Parent Coffee Morning from 8:15 – 9:30 a.m.**

- All parents are invited to come to the first coffee morning of the year, which will provide new parents with the opportunity to meet and interact with returning parents and to learn more about Middle School initiatives for the 2017-18 school year. We hope to see you there.

**TECHNOLOGY AT AISJ:**

All students attending AISJ in the Middle and High Schools will receive a school issued computer capable of touch and stylus input running Windows 10.0. It will be pre-loaded with McAfee anti-virus, Microsoft Office 365, the Adobe Creative Cloud suite and a number of other educationally valuable software and apps. Equipping each student with a personal device to use at home as well as in class, offers opportunities for teachers to integrate technology more authentically and seamlessly into the curriculum. Most importantly, it provides students with yet another way to become connected, independent and responsible users of technology.

We wish you luck as you finalize your plans to join AISJ and we look forward to welcoming your family into our school community soon.

Sincerely,

Andrew Ferguson  
Middle School Principal