



AIS Glossary

Updated for 2015-2016

- Advisory Block (X-block)** One period every other day when MS students meet with their homeroom teacher to discuss issues, academic needs, ethics, study habits, etc.
- AMIS** *Association for Music in International Schools.* An overseeing board of teachers from international schools who help organize festivals and answer musical questions for community members in these schools.
- A.S.A.** *After School Activities.* The program of activities which a student can join (mostly Elementary students)
- A.C.T.** *American College Testing.* A standardized test for high school achievement and college admissions in the United States produced by ACT. Subject tests are required by very competitive American Colleges (See **S.A.T.**)
- A.P. Exams** *Advanced Placement examinations.* Subject examinations that are mostly taken at the end of the Senior year, a high score may confer college credits.
- Boosters** Group of volunteer parents who work to support the AIS athletic program. Volunteers are always welcome and encouraged to help work with the Booster activities. Boosters' primary fundraising activity is selling food to athletes during sporting events. Boosters use the money raised to buy equipment and supplies for the athletic program. They also sponsor the end-of-the-year athletic awards banquets for the Middle and High School teams.
- Bubble** Indoor sport area with tennis courts. Located at the end of the Elementary Playground.
- C.A.S.** *Creativity, Action, and Service.* A fundamental and obligatory component of the IB diploma.
- Cub / Boy / Girl Scouts** The Scout Program teaches students the value of cooperation, mutual respect, friendly competition, service, responsibility, and unity. It also provides a great opportunity for students and their parents to enjoy creative and constructive activities both indoors and outdoors.
- E.A.L.** *English as an Additional Language.* Classes are offered in all three divisions to students whose English is not strong enough to enable them to participate fully in the mainstream classes.
- ECIS Conference** *European Council of International Schools.* A professional development organization for schools in Europe; teachers, administrators, staff, and board members attend conferences held in fall and spring.
- E.L.M.L.E.** *European League for Middle Level Education.* An organization that holds annual conferences which many middle school educators attend.
- ES** *Elementary School.* One of three divisions: grades PK (Pre-Kindergarten) to 5.
- F.I.T.** *Family Interest Time.* A term used by MS to describe weekends without homework so students can enjoy time with their families.
- Haiku** Software Platform used mainly by students, teachers, and administrators of MS and HS. Also accessible to parents. First implemented in the 2014-2015 school year. (see **Moodle**)
- Homeroom** The classroom where MS and HS students meet before school to take attendance, get announcements, etc.
- HS** *High School.* One of three divisions: grades 9 to 12 (9: Freshmen; 10: Sophomores; 11: Juniors; 12: Seniors)

Hut	2 wooden buildings located at the beginning of the soccer field.
IB Diploma	<i>International Baccalaureate</i> Diploma. 2-year program recognized around the world, offered in grades 11 and 12. Almost all students take at least two IB courses.
IB Mock Exams	Practice tests for the "real", Standard Level or Higher IB (International Baccalaureate) exams. The tests are required for most European colleges and are taken in Junior and Senior year, they are also accepted by very competitive American colleges.
IFF	<i>International Food Festival</i> . An event organized by the PTF. The annual IFF brings together the best cuisine and culture AIS can offer. Complete with a silent auction for the grown-ups and a basket raffle for the young ones.
Iowa Test	The <i>Iowa Test of Basic Skills</i> is a U.S.-based achievement test designed to compare achievement of AIS students against achievement of U.S. students. The test is administered to grades 3, 5, and 7 at AIS in spring with results returned near the end of the school year.
ISST	<i>International Schools Sports Tournaments</i> . Only for Varsity teams; includes 22 schools from all over Europe as well as Cairo.
ISTA Festival	<i>International Schools' Theater Association</i> is the same as the AMIS but for the theater.
JVB	<i>Junior Varsity Boys</i> (Used in Sports' Schedule)
JVG	<i>Junior Varsity Girls</i> (Used in Sports' Schedule)
Lower Gym	Located in front of Secondary (MS & HS) Library
MM Gym	<i>Mike Maloy Gym</i> located near Nurse and Events offices
MS	<i>Middle School</i> . One of three divisions: grades 6 to 8.
MSB	<i>Middle School Boys</i> (Used in Sports' Schedule)
MSG	<i>Middle Schools Girls</i> (Used in Sports' Schedule)
Moodle	Software Platform used mainly by students, teachers, and administrators of MS and HS. Also accessible to parents. (see Haiku)
Mock Exam	See IB Mock Exam
MS Activities Night	Periodically organized evenings for MS students. Includes games, videos, dancing, refreshments, etc.
NMSQT	<i>National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test</i> . Standardized test administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC)
New Student orientations	Orientations address all new students (and their parents) at AIS and are held the week before the beginning of classes. Parents and students get a briefing about the school, students are taken on a short tour around campus and get the first opportunity to meet their classmates.
NHS	<i>National Honor Society</i> . A high school organization whose purpose is '...to create enthusiasm for scholarship to stimulate
O Block Elective Activity Program (MS)	45 minutes program. Takes place during the "O Block" periods in the middle of the day for forty-five minutes. It is designed to allow students to select activities that they are interested in pursuing that are not offered in the regular course selection.
Open House	There is an Open House for each division. Held in the evening, the aim of these evenings is to inform parents about the academic curriculum, its aims, challenges, and opportunities of the new school year and give the chance to get to know each other (teachers and othe rparents) personally.
P.E. Department	<i>Department of Physical Education</i> (sports) at AIS.
Penthouse	2 rooms used by the PTF for informal meetings and winter crafting activities located in a the Villa Annex, near the open amphitheatre and Cafeteria.
PSAT	<i>Preliminary SAT</i> . Standardized Test administered by the College Board.
PTF	<i>Parent Teacher Forum</i> . A group of volunteers made up of parents, administrators,

teachers, and staff, who help families adjust to AIS and to life in Vienna by providing information about the school and this beautiful city; host various events throughout the year to build a stronger sense of community; raise money that is reinvested into the school for the benefit of the students. They come together as a group once a month to get updates and they stay informed about current events in the school and work with the administration on common issues. Every AIS parents, teacher, and staff member is automatically a member of the AIS PTF. Meetings and events are posted in Scoops.

- Room Parent** In ES, each class of every grade level has parents who build a link between the classroom teacher and the other parents. Room parents might get involved organizing classroom activities, outings, or set up a coffee for meeting with other parents. In MS and HS every grade has a room parent.
- SAT I** *Scholastic Aptitude Test* (run by the American College Board). Required for admission at most US Colleges, is taken twice in Junior year and sometimes in Senior year.
- SAT II** These are subject tests required by very competitive American colleges.
- SCIS** *Sports COference of International Schools*, for both MS and HS (Junior Varsity and Varsity) tournaments; includes VIS (Vienna International School_ and schools in Warsaw, Prague, Budapest, Munich, Bavarian School, Zurich and Frankfurt..
- Scoops** The school's weekly electronic newsletter.
- SP Hall** See **Bubble**
- V / JV Sports Activities** Varsity; the school's first representative team in the various sports. Junior Varsity: the second team. Generally for 9th and 10th graders.
- VB** *Varsity Boys* (Used in Sports' Schedule)
- VG** *Varsity Girls* (Used in Sports' Schedule)
- Villa** Entrance A. Salmansdorferstrasse 17. The administration office are located here, including Admissions, Director's Office, Finance, Receptionist, and Almuni Office.
- Wheel Block (MS)** MS nine-week exploratory courses such as health, computing, music, drama, and art,. Students change these courses every nine weeks according to their personal schedule.

R.épondez S.'il V.ous P.laît - This AIS glossary is not perfect. We ask that you please give us your responses and criticisms, suggestions for amendments, changes, or terms for deletion.