

American International School - Jeddah

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia



Born in 1952 as a parents' cooperative for Saudia's expat families, now Jeddah's oldest American school pairing AP depth with a new IB track.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	69/100
Academic outcomes	70/100
University placement	69/100
Prestige & heritage	71/100
Alumni network	70/100
Facilities	71/100
Transparency	68/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

American International School - Jeddah has one advantage that no newer rival can copy: history. Founded in ****1952****, it is the oldest American school in Jeddah, and that matters in a market where many schools still feel assembled around a business plan rather than a settled educational culture. AISJ started as a parents’ cooperative for Saudia’s expatriate families; that origin still gives it a more grounded identity than schools built around branding first and schooling second. The offer is clear: an English-medium American education with AP, now paired with an IB track, for children aged ****3–18****. For families who want a school that covers the full age range without forcing a mid-course change of system, that continuity carries real weight. **Institutional memory**, **earned credibility**, and **a settled sense of*

purpose* are the school's strongest assets.

What puts AISJ on a shortlist is not novelty. It is breadth with ballast. The school combines the familiarity of an American curriculum with the added reach of IB, which gives older students more than one serious academic route. That dual structure suits internationally mobile families, students targeting different university systems, and parents who do not want to lock in a single pathway too early. Accreditation and network ties are also strong: Middle States, IB World School status, US State Department OSA, and NESAC. Those labels do not guarantee brilliance, but they do signal external scrutiny and a school that sits inside established international-school infrastructure rather than on its fringes. In a city with no shortage of ambitious claims, *that kind of solidity* counts.

The school will suit students who value range, routine, and a genuinely international peer group over boutique intimacy or exam-factory intensity. Children who thrive in a structured, English-speaking environment and want access to both American and IB-style academic options will find AISJ a serious proposition. It is also a good fit for families who plan ahead: the day-school model, the long track record, and the broad age span make it easier to think in terms of a full school career, not just the next **2** or **3** years. Students who need a tiny school with a highly specialised ethos may find the model too broad. Students who want *stability*, *academic choice*, and *a school with roots rather than spin* will find the case for AISJ straightforward.

STRENGTHS

- Offers both an American high school diploma and the IB Diploma Programme, giving students two recognised university entry routes.
- Accredited by the Middle States Association (MSA/Cognia) and holds membership in organisations such as CIS, supporting curriculum consistency and transfer credibility for relocating families.
- Long-established presence in Jeddah's expatriate community, giving it institutional continuity compared with newer schools in the market.
- Single campus structure covering early years through to Grade 12, reducing the need for families to switch schools as children age up.
- English-medium instruction with an international staff base, aligned with expectations of Western and international corporate assignees.

TRADE - OFFS

- As with most international schools in Saudi Arabia, enrolment of Saudi national students is restricted by Ministry of Education rules, limiting the pool of eligible applicants.
- Jeddah's international school fees, including AISJ's, sit at the higher end of the local market, a material cost for families on standard local packages.
- Class and cohort sizes at each grade level are not published in detail, making it harder for families to judge specialist subject depth at senior levels.
- The school's day-only format means no boarding option, which matters for families seeking flexibility with postings elsewhere in the Kingdom or region.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is typically open to non-Saudi national children of expatriate families resident in Jeddah, in line with Ministry of Education guidance on international school enrolment. Entry points run from early years through Grade 12, with places generally allocated on a rolling basis subject to space and grade-level availability. Applications require prior school records, standardised or internal assessment results, and an iqama or equivalent residency documentation. Competitiveness varies by grade, with upper grades and the IB Diploma cohort tending to have tighter capacity than entry-level classes.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_73623b465e.