

From Brian's Desk

Welcome Back!

It was wonderful to welcome back a group of happy, excited students this week and to be up and running in a year that feels more normal, despite the first two weeks with masks, than the past couple of years—long may it continue!

A number of our families are still on their way back to Freetown, but we appear to have some 80 students on the books which is 10 more than we had at this time last year. The biggest surprise though, is our High School which presently has 12 students with one more who may well join us. AISF's High School has always been small, and I was predicting 4 or 5 students when working on the budget last March.



We were very pleased to have the American Ambassador, Mr. David Reimer, and the Chair of the Board of Directors, Mr. Karim Kone, join us for our opening assembly on Monday.





Lastly, a thought about education for the 21st Century: We are here to help your children develop the literacy, numeracy, and thinking skills to think and do for themselves.

Open House

Last Friday we welcomed parents new and old to a very informal Open House to say hello and meet the teachers before opening this Monday. It was nice to have you back on campus.

After-School Activities

We hope to begin after-school activities by Monday 19th September and definitely no later than Monday the 26th. For the first time since early 2020, we will be including some outside contractors to help expand our offerings. We even have one kind parent who will be teaching basketball skills. If you have a talent that you would like to share with students and volunteer one afternoon per week between 3 and 4pm, please let me know or email Mariana Alie at malie@ais-freetown.net.

Important Upcoming Dates

Monday 19th September (Tentative)	Trimester One After-School Activities Begin
19th—23rd September	AISF Homecoming Week
26th September to 7th October	MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing in Grades 2—8
Tuesday 19th October	Mawlid (The Prophet’s Birthday) School Closed. This date is still tentative
Wednesday 26th October	Parent-Teacher Conferences
Friday 2nd December	End of Trimester One (Trimester Two payments due)
Friday 16th December	Last day of school before the holiday
Monday 9th January	School Reopens

Quote of the Week: *Start where you are. Do what you can. Do what you can.* Arthur Ashe

ECC

We have had a very exciting start to the week. We have been understanding the essence of matching objects in Math to revising our letter sounds. We are on our way to being experts!

Even though Ms Becky has not been with us due to the loss of her father, we do miss her and cannot wait for her return.



Grade 1-2

What a great first week back for the Pangolins! We've caught up with old friends, made new friends, and settled into the big building.

We learned all about our brains and how we learn this week. We borrowed a model brain for Middle School and found out about the different parts. We learned about making connections, and that our brains all make different links. We then experimented with Rorschach tests, and saw lots of different things in the same inkblots!



Grade 3-4

We are glad to be back after a well-earned break. We have had a great start to the academic year, with Grade 3 settling into our class and adjusting to the new routines of the school week.

We have started off this trimester with the IPC Brainwave unit and have been discussing how our brains work and how different people see different things.

We have been having fun with Rorschach Symmetry. The Rorschach test is a tool developed by a Swiss psychologist and consists of a series of inkblot images used to learn about peoples' personalities. Psychologists present the images to people who then describe what they see.

We have loved experimenting with dripping 10 paint blots on paper, folding it in half then guessing what the blobs look like. We have had some very interesting conversations and developed stories from the images.



Grade 5-8 (English and Social Studies)

We had an engaging and fun-filled first week for middle school. We spent the first day getting to know each other, and their teachers!

In Social Studies, 7/8 started their unit on the impact micro-entrepreneurship has on women in Africa. We read case studies of individuals who have successful small businesses, such as a food truck owner in Botswana. 5/6 started their unit on the Tools of Geography, which will test their mapping skills.

In Language Arts, students from across middle school wrote diagnostic essays. These essays serve to help me identify strengths and weaknesses in students' writing abilities.



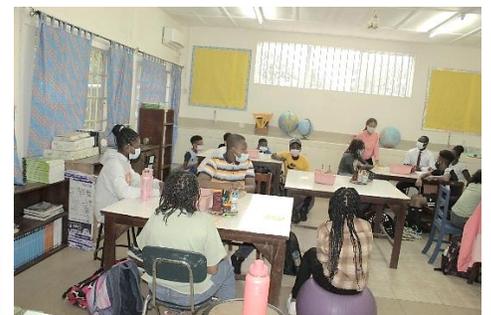
Grade 5-8 (Math and Science)

Welcome back everyone! Middle school is off to a wonderful start this year.

In Math, 5th grade began their module on place value. 6th grade began their unit on rational numbers. 7th and 8th grade began their unit on expressions and equations.

In Science, grades 5 and 6 began their unit on ecosystems and 7/8 began their unit on adaptations.

We spent Wednesday doing an introduction to STEM with an activity on aerodynamics. We are looking forward to a great year!



High School

Welcome to High School! Welcome back Danny and welcome on board: Adomhene, Amron, Alieu, Gifty, Emma, Zara, Tate, Sami, Nour, Mahawa, and Adeline! High School has grown up to 12 students ...so far! In order to accommodate their needs towards their graduation requirements, our enthusiastic high school students are enrolled in online courses provided by Virtual High School (VHS), the University of Nebraska High School (UNHS), and MMA (Massachusetts Mayflower Academy). They have in-person support from our teachers: Ms. Hopkins for Math, Mr. Brian for Social Studies, and Mr. DeCoste for Language Arts. Also, they have Art classes with Ms. Kathrin and P.E. with Mr. Frederick twice a week. We, the High School, wish you a great start to the academic year!

