THE AMERICAN ACADEMY NICOSIA
PRIVATE SCHOOL
EST. 1922

aan.ac.cy
Quality Education in a Caring Environment

• PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN • PRIMARY • SECONDARY
Welcome to The American Academy Nicosia. Founded in 1922, The Academy has a rich history of providing quality education in a caring environment.

The American Academy Nicosia provides outstanding learning opportunities for children and young people from two years and eight months to eighteen years of age. Following the British curriculum, we admit both Cypriot and International students. We have a safe and caring environment where students are encouraged to discover and develop their unique talents and abilities.

At The Academy, we care for all our students and our highly dedicated and qualified teachers ensure that each one of our students reaches their full potential. High academic standards, outstanding Pastoral Care support, a wide range of extracurricular activities and our strong Christian ethos ensure that our graduates are confident, successful, well-prepared for further studies and for life.

I am sure that you will find that this brochure is a valuable point of reference as you help to guide your child through their career at The Academy. Members of staff will also be pleased to help deal with any further questions you may have.

I look forward to welcoming you to our school events and wish you and your child every success as we live and work together.

Sincerely,

Mr. James Gillanders,
Principal
The American Academy Nicosia

The American Academy Nicosia is a private English Language school located in the heart of Nicosia. The Academy provides Pre-school & Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary level education following the British Curriculum. As a school certified by the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus its curriculum also reflects local variations to ensure that it also provides students with the Cypriot 'Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education', also known as ‘Apolytirion’. The school operates as a non-for-profit business, ensuring maximum investment in educational development together with attractive levels of school fees.

The school has a rich history, stretching back for over 90 years. Founded in 1922, the Academy first opened its doors as a pioneering school providing secondary education to young women growing up in Cyprus. Its high quality education created opportunity for these early students to enter a wide range of professions or to join other young women from around the world who were increasingly determined to pursue study at university.

Today the school opens its doors to both girls and boys and has expanded to also provide education for Pre-school & Kindergarten and Primary aged children. Students from all over the world now make The Academy a truly International School. This multinational environment not only creates a stimulating atmosphere but it offers a broad range of global perspectives to its students.

Our Ethos and Values

Remaining central to The American Academy Nicosia is our founding philosophy. We promote a balance of academic, physical and social development for all our students. Our holistic approach encourages students to be responsible and active citizens. This distinctive community seeks to nurture students in an atmosphere inspired by its Christian legacy developing in each individual the universal virtues of honesty, care and understanding. High expectations for both staff and the student body are central to this vision in which drive and determination ensures that everyone understands their potential and sees improved performance in all strands of school life.

Our Mission

The American Academy Nicosia is dedicated to providing high quality education for each student. It remains committed to supporting each family through careful and considerate pricing and effective partnership. Its success is measured in continuing to see its students grow in excellence, knowledge and wisdom, becoming citizens with high values of honour and respect for themselves, for others and for the world around them.
The Pre-school & Kindergarten Department provides all the opportunities and experiences necessary to ensure that children make a successful start on their journey into education. Here the children are happy in a place where they feel loved, safe and secure, where they learn and grow successfully.

The Pyramid of Learning recognises that social skills are vital for the foundations of learning. By prioritising social skills in the early years we believe that your child will achieve greater success throughout their life in all areas.

We ensure that every child receives equal access to all areas of the curriculum in an enriched, practical and stimulating environment, so that they acquire essential skills to promote successful and holistic development.

At The American Academy Nicosia, we strive to ensure that your child enjoys their journey into education and becomes a happy, confident, self-motivated, caring individual with a desire to learn.

The Pre-school & Kindergarten Department follows the British Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and it is organised into 6 areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication, Language and Literacy
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numbers
- Physical Development
- Expressive Arts and Design

Your child will develop these essential skills in a well-planned, organised, child-friendly environment, where needs are fulfilled in a stimulating, practical and enjoyable way.
THE LEARNING JOURNEY

Nursery
Ages: 2 years & 8 months - 4 years & 8 months
Children joining our nursery are just beginning their learning journey, most of whom have never attended a school. This is the stage where we encourage them to experience and explore things in creative and exciting ways, planting the seed of learning. They develop motor skills through activities such as using scissors, threading and painting which will prepare them for writing and drawing. Throughout this year, the children are gaining valuable social skills.

The older children within our nursery continue to explore and experience their environment whilst learning to question and find answers. They are developing a sense of achievement and are beginning to acquire skills to help them to learn in different ways as their learning journey continues. They begin to understand the importance of communicating in different ways further developing their social skills, helping them to learn how to solve problems, both practical and mathematical, and communicate their feelings appropriately.

Reception
Ages: 4 years & 8 months - 5 years & 8 months
These children are learning to apply their skills of enquiry and investigation to solve practical problems. They develop the understanding of how learning is relevant and important in their daily lives. Continuing to develop their fine motor skills, they also acquire the knowledge necessary to develop both writing and reading. Learning in a range of exciting ways, helps them to prepare for transition to the Primary Department where their learning journey will continue.

Beginners Greek:
All children in the Pre-school & Kindergarten begin to gain a basic knowledge of Greek through games, songs and practical activities. They learn useful and important vocabulary such as colours, numbers, days of the week, body parts, family, names of objects including food and different forms of transport.

More advanced Greek for our young native speakers:
Pre-school & Kindergarten children who come from a Greek speaking background begin to be taught by our qualified Greek teachers. These native Greek speakers are provided with exciting opportunities to develop their language skills. As well as singing songs and practical activities, the children will begin to learn their alphabet, learn to write letters and begin to read in Greek.
The Primary Department provides education from Year 1 to Year 6 and works towards the objectives laid down within the British Curriculum, adapted in social studies for the needs of the multicultural community in Cyprus, thus offering students a well-rounded international education.

Single form entry school in each of the six year groups provides for up to 25 children in each class. Key stage 1 of the British National Curriculum covers Years 1 and 2 and Key Stage 2 covers Years 3 to 6.

The Primary students develop and strengthen their skills in the following core subjects; Literacy, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and Art. Each of these subjects is taught by the class teachers. Specialist teachers provide Greek, Physical Education, Music, Religious Education and Computer Science lessons, with the addition of French in Years 5 and 6.

First language Greek speakers are taught using the curriculum set by the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus. Greek is also taught as an additional language to all other students.

Any child joining the school with limited English spends a proportion of their week learning English as an additional language (EAL) with the help of a specially trained teacher.

Main curriculum subjects are supplemented and supported by a range of age related after school activities including drama, karate, art, music and sports. A club is also available for after school homework support.
After School Clubs
A wide range of additional activities helps students to find and develop new skills, deepen friendships and enlarge their experience. The Academy offers a wide variety of after-school clubs for the students of the Pre-school & Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary Departments.

These clubs run from 2:00pm - 2:45pm based on the term programme which is issued at the beginning of each school term.

Extended Day Programme
The Extended Day Programme provides an excellent variety of extra learning activities for children who remain in school until their parents finish their own working day.

The programme runs after school hours and on school holidays that are not public holidays. It includes a range of stimulating and well-organised extra-curricular activities, creative learning opportunities and a meal. The Extended Day is available for children in the Pre-school & Kindergarten and the Primary Departments (ages 3-8 years old).

For more information contact: extendedday@aan.ac.cy

Summer Activities Programme
During the summer months The Academy runs a fun-packed Summer Activities Programme designed to provide a stimulating and purposeful holiday programme for children aged 3 to 13. The programme runs from June until the end of July.

For more information contact: admissions@aan.ac.cy
The Secondary Department provides education from Year 7 to Year 13, continuing to follow the British National Curriculum through Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. This also offers students an opportunity to study for IGCSE, GCSE and GCE AS and A levels, available through the Cambridge International and Edexcel Examination Boards.

Focusing upon a strong academic programme our students are expected to strive for, and achieve, excellent results, whilst also developing their full potential in all areas of their lives.

Courses within a range of Faculties ensure a broad and balanced education, currently:
- Creative Arts Faculty: Art, Drama, Music, Physical Education.
- Humanities Faculty: Accounting, Economics, Business Studies, Geography, History, Psychology, Religious Education, Sociology.
- Languages Faculty: English, French, Greek, Spanish.
- Science Faculty: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics.

Students are encouraged to join a range of after school clubs, currently including: Football, Basketball, Badminton, Weight Training, Volleyball, Choir, Band, Maths Club, Language Club, Model United Nations, Eco Club, Self Defense Club, Book Reading Club, Dance Club, Duke of Edinburgh’s club, Fencing club and Orienteering club.

The American Academy Nicosia Apolytirion, Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education, is recognised by the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus according to the Private School’s Law of 1971 and its amendments since. The Ministry of Education and Culture considers a graduate of our secondary school as a person who has successfully completed the course of seven years study at the secondary school level.

Our graduating students gain entry to universities around the world including the United Kingdom, European countries and the United States of America, as well as universities and colleges in Cyprus.
OUR PASTORAL CARE

At The American Academy Nicosia we believe that providing a framework of care and support for our students is central to their development within our multi-ethnic, multi-cultural student body. We support the unique range of social, emotional and personal needs that makes every student special, ensuring that each one is able to make full use of the learning opportunities within the school.

Our experienced Pastoral Care Team provides counselling, personal guidance, developing programmes of personal and social education for students in Pre-school & Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary Departments. The team ensures good relationships within the school community, interacting with the students, the teachers and parents. For our senior students, the team also offers vocational counselling regarding academic and careers options as well as support with university applications.

Students and parents are encouraged to share any matters of concern with Class or Form teachers so that issues can be resolved quickly and effectively by the Pastoral Care Team. In this way a safe, secure and supportive school environment is maintained.
ADMISSIONS

For all school enquiries, including admissions, registration, fees, books and uniform, please contact our Admissions Department either by telephone at +357 22 664266 or by email: admissions@aan.ac.cy

Applications completed online will be accepted once the Administration Fee is received (non-refundable).

We also require all families to submit the following documents for each child to ensure that we comply with the expectations of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus.

- 1 copy of their birth certificate
- 1 copy of their passport or ID
- 2 recent passport size photographs
- Latest health certificate and vaccination record

Please ensure that the following relevant information regarding your child is also included with your Registration Form:

- Information regarding allergies, special medical conditions and any special educational needs.
- Up to date contact details, and emergency telephone numbers for both parents.
- A copy of their most recent school report.

Pre-school & Kindergarten Department
Admission is based on assessment with the Pre-school teacher and interview with the Head of Primary and Pre-school Department.

Primary Department (Key Stages 1 & 2)
Admission is based on previous reports, assessment and interview with the Head of Primary and Pre-school Department. Students are assessed by entrance tests in English and Mathematics.

Secondary Department (Key Stages 3, 4 & 5)
Students applying for a place in the Secondary Department should provide a previous school report and will be required to take entrance exams in English and Mathematics and, for native Greek speakers, an additional Greek examination.

Students can enter throughout the academic year provided that places are available.

Overseas Applicants: We support overseas applicants by arranging the admissions process in your country of residence.
Our Heritage

The American Academy Nicosia is a school which first opened its doors on October 16th 1922.

The founders, who had earlier started an Academy for boys, established the school in response to local demand for an English language school for girls; the American Academy for Girls. In its early years it was both a boarding and a day school. Thirteen students enrolled in its first year, two of them were boarding students. The teacher who headed up the work was Miss Lola Weir; with Miss Ada Wilson as her Assistant. Helen and Iphigenia Aegyptiades, refugees from Smyrna and former teachers at the American University there, joined the staff to teach Music and Home Economics. School and Boarding House were originally in the west of the old city of Nicosia. Growth was quite rapid and by 1927 enrolment had reached 89 students.

The school year 1941-1942 saw the Academy evacuated to Kyrenia, due to the fear of enemy action in World War II, with a return the following year. Relocation to its present premises outside the city walls in 1955 provided more extensive grounds and larger buildings. In 1976 the school became independent from its founding mission with a board of Cypriot educationalists and businessmen set up to manage it.

In 1977 the school became coeducational and in the years that followed, there was an expansion in both its enrolment, its grounds and its buildings.
The American Academy Nicosia is a Cambridge International approved Examination Centre and a recognised official Edexcel Centre delivering the following examinations:

- General Certification of Secondary Education (GCSE) Examinations
- International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) Examinations
- General Certificate of Education (GCE A-Level) Examinations
- International Advanced Level (IAL) Examinations

The Academy is also an official examination centre of the L.C.C.I. and ECDL examination boards.

Because it’s all about your child.

We all want the very best for our children. We want them to flourish, to grow, to have all the opportunities and resources they need to succeed in a changing world.

We also want them to be in a safe, caring, inclusive environment - a place where they can be happy and successful.