



INTRODUCTION TO LOWER SCHOOL

In the Lower School at AISZ, our talented faculty and staff are passionate about creating authentic learning experiences that are child-centered and personalized. We believe that children learn best when they feel challenged, encouraged and nurtured. Guided by what research tells us are best practices, we prepare students through a rigorous, inquiry-based academic program from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5.

At the foundation of our program are the core academic disciplines of literacy, numeracy, science and social studies guided by AERO/Common Core standards and supported by resources such as *Units of Study* from Teachers College and *Everyday Math*. In addition, we believe that art, counseling, music, and physical education are vital to educating the whole child. We also embrace the well-known benefits of language learning by providing instruction in Croatian and a family's choice of French or German. Further supporting children's development is an emphasis on social and emotional learning using Responsive Classroom to establish a caring community in which children feel safe and comfortable as they come together as learners.

Our Lower School teachers form a highly skilled and collaborative team.