

The Lotus flower is an aquatic perennial found gracing the water gardens of Indonesia. The floating leaves and the flowers contain air spaces that keep them buoyant in their water habitats. This fragrant beauty opens to the morning sun and closes its petals in the afternoon. For growing middle schoolers who bring their appetite with them everywhere, the Lotus flower has snacking possibilities. The Lotus flowers, seeds, young leaves and rhizomes are all edible. In Asia, the petals are sometimes used as a garnish, while the large leaves are used as a wrap for food.

Cover photo: Lotus, by Li-Ji

2010

Middle School Course Description Guide

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Introduction

Introduction

We recognize that Middle School students are in the midst of a unique period of change, from childhood to adolescence, and that their education should be broad, challenging, and designed to help nurture each student and help them achieve their full potential.

We believe Excellence in Education includes:

- ✓ A curriculum emphasizing the process of learning with age-appropriate intellectual, physical, cultural and social experiences.
- ✓ A challenging curriculum delivered through research-based teaching practices which support various learning styles.
- ✓ Activities that emphasize initiative, participation and collaboration
- ✓ Opportunities to exercise creativity, courage and compassion
- ✓ Experiences designed to prepare students for our rapidly changing world

We believe an Appropriate Environment:

- ✓ Supports an atmosphere that is physically and emotionally safe and free of prejudice
- ✓ Promotes interaction throughout our multi-cultural community
- ✓ Encourages partnership between home and school
- ✓ Celebrates Indonesia's unique and diverse cultural and geographic features

We believe our program and environment will foster essential qualities in our students creating:

- ✓ Creative Individuals
- ✓ Collaborative Workers
- ✓ Problem Solvers
- ✓ Self-Directed Positive Learners
- ✓ Adaptable Learners
- ✓ Responsible World Citizens
- ✓ Effective Communicators

Middle School Course Offerings

The Middle School Program of Studies is detailed in this course description document. We hope students and parents recognize the depth of our commitment in offering age appropriate and challenging experiences for students. We aim to offer experiences that emphasize participation and creativity while preparing students for their futures. Our elective and exploratory programs throughout the grade levels are designed to encourage students to explore areas of interest, attempt new challenges, and broaden their experience and expertise.

The focus on exploratory offerings in Grade 6 and 7 gives way to a full set of elective courses in Grade 8 for students to choose. We believe that assigning students to exploratory experiences in Grade 6 while expanding choices and responsibilities as students get older supports the culture of the middle school and our middle school philosophy.

Grade Six

Four Core Subjects

Grade 6 English

In all three grades of the middle school, reading, writing and oral communication are taught through a workshop model. The goal of the workshop model is to develop competent, independent, thoughtful, and avid readers, writers, and speakers and listeners. In reading workshop, students are immersed in reading through sustained reading of 'just right books' of their choice. They learn how to be active and critical readers and practice these skills in daily Sustained Silent Reading and required homework. Writing workshop involves an inquiry-based approach to the study of a variety of genres, with students delving deep into the features of a genre while progressing through a process of brainstorming, planning and collaborative revision and editing to produce their own writing pieces. Oral language is developed through informal group and class discussions and more formal presentations. The genres studied in 6th grade are personal narrative, personal essay, personal history and mystery.

Grade 6 Social Studies

Grade 6 Social Studies begins with an introduction to geography with a study of mapping focusing on urbanization and boundaries and how they are created. The course continues with an integrated study of water, stressing the environmental problems related to its overuse and misuse, with particular emphasis placed on the practical problems faced by Jakarta. The students are then introduced to the skills of the historian. History is made relevant by supporting students in making connections with a relative or friend who has witnessed an event of historical significance and using them as a primary resource. The skills of locating research material, evaluating, interpreting and analyzing evidence are employed.

Grade 6 Science

All Middle School students are enrolled in a full-year science course. The core of the Middle School Science curriculum is the development of science skills and knowledge through inquiry-based learning and investigative experiences. The key strands of study are: Nature of Science, Chemistry, Earth and Beyond, and Biology. The Nature of Science strand focuses on the scientific skills of planning, information gathering, processing and interpreting, reporting, safety procedures, practical skills and ethical responsibility.

The Grade 6 course teaches these scientific skills through studies of water chemistry, Astronomy, plate tectonics and Animal Structure and ecology systems.

The Grade 6 course teaches these scientific skills through studies of the skeletal-muscular systems, water chemistry, ecology, plate tectonics.

Grade 6 Mathematics

*See Appendix for MS Math Program Overview

All Middle School students are enrolled in a full-year mathematics course. Students will develop their ability to recognize and use patterns when solving mathematical problems. They will solidify their understanding of whole number, decimal and fraction operations, while continuing to explore relationships and concepts in the following areas: graphing, statistics, number theory, measurement, geometry ratio, and percent. The common thread running through the sixth grade mathematics program is that students will apply basic arithmetic skills to real world applications, as they prepare to move to a pre-algebra environment with higher-level problem solving.



Modern Languages

French 1a Spanish 1a Indonesian 1a Mandarin 1a

These full-year courses are introductory language studies which place emphasis on listening, speaking, reading and writing. By the end of the year, students will be expected to understand simple questions and directions given orally, writing, and then respond in the target language. Basic grammatical structures will be acquired. The courses will utilize textbooks, audiovisual material and CDs, videos, DVDs, and the Internet for authentic material, and student workbooks to help students develop their knowledge of the language, life culture, and civilization of the countries and regions where the target language is spoken.

French 1b Spanish 1b Indonesian 1b Mandarin 1b

Applicants for these courses must have successfully completed French 1a, Spanish 1a, Mandarin 1a, or Indonesian 1a or their equivalent. The classes are conducted mostly in the target language. More advanced grammatical structures are presented within context. Students are encouraged to express themselves in more complex sentences in. Oral communication is stressed through group activities and situation exercises. The courses will utilize textbooks, audio cassettes and CDs, videos, DVDs, CD Rom, the internet resources and student workbooks to help students develop their knowledge of the language, life culture and civilization of the countries and regions where the target language is spoken.

Indonesian Studies (1/2 year)

This course is designed for students with little or no knowledge of Indonesia. It is a required semester course that will be waived if a student enrolls in a full-year Indonesian language course. Throughout each course, students learn about the geography, culture, and customs of our host country. Basic grammar is introduced, linguistic correctness encouraged, and skills for effective communication stressed. Students who do not take this course in Middle School will enroll in this course in High School, in order to fulfill a JIS requirement.

Technology

Introduction to Design Technology

Students participate in problem solving and structural design exercise to teach technical drawing skills, the industrial design process, and their real-world connections. These skills are built-upon in the Design Technology course.

Design Technology

The design technology offering teaches students thinking and problem-solving strategies, encourages students to take an active interest in technological innovations and our technological past, explores applications in the present worlds of work and leisure, and leads students to speculate about the exciting potential and fascinating possibilities of our technological future.

Introduction to Robotics

In this class, students will have an opportunity to integrate computer technology with simple robotic devices. Each project develops the students' understanding of machines, scientific principles and computer programming. Projects are designed to give the students the opportunity to use their skills and knowledge in a situation that is both realistic and challenging.

Visual and Performing Arts

Beginning Strings

This full-year course is open to all students in grades 6 and 7 who are interested to learn violin, viola, cello or double bass, or whom after an absence, would like to refresh their strings skills. By the end of the first year, students will be able to perform music at a Grade 2 level in a variety of classical styles, often together with other string ensembles in the Middle School. Students at the beginning level may rent school-owned instruments. As availability of rental instruments is limited, violinists and violists in particular, are encouraged to purchase an instrument. As with all performing ensembles, concert performances are an expectation.

Intermediate Strings

Two sections of this full-year course are offered to students enrolled in grades 6 and 7. The "Red" team comprises students who have had 2.5 or fewer years of strings study and are reading music at Grade 2 level or higher. The "Blue" team comprises students who have been studying a stringed instrument for a minimum of three years and are reading and performing at a high intermediate to advancing level. The two teams

perform individually and together in concert. As with all performing ensembles, concert performances are an expectation. Availability of rental instruments is limited and intermediate level stings musicians are encouraged to purchase their own instruments (ex. double bass).

Beginning Band

This is a full-year course giving students the opportunity to begin playing a musical instrument. No previous experience is necessary. Students will develop in the areas of theory, instrumental technique and the performing of various styles of music. Following an orientation to all of the available instruments, students will make their selections and then be assigned an instrument at the discretion of the director. Attendance is required for all rehearsals and performances. Instruments may then be rented from JIS, although students may purchase their own.

Intermediate Band

This is a full-year course giving students the opportunity to further advance their skills on a musical instrument. One previous year of experience is recommended. Students will continue to develop in the areas of theory, instrumental techniques and the performing of various styles of music. Attendance is required for all rehearsals and performances. Instruments may be rented from JIS, although students are encouraged to purchase their own.

Vocal Music 6

The goal of this course is to give students an opportunity to explore the use of their voice. Students will sing, move and listen to a variety of music and vocal styles in a fun, creative and safe environment. They will study singing, speaking, music theory and moving, culminating in a class ensemble performance.

Music 6

This course will explore music using a variety of different mediums. Music is all around and students will be given the opportunity to explore sound with drums, body percussion, guitars, voice and other 'found sounds'. In the creation of music we will be reviewing and learning the basics of how music is notated and composed. This course will be a fun and energetic class for musicians and non-musicians alike.

Discovering Creative Movement

Movement in grade 6 will introduce students to creative dancing. They will be working on coordination, body awareness, teamwork and the dimensions of space and time in dance. The students will learn to choreograph a routine, inspiring themselves from everyday movement.

Body Percussion

Percussion instruments produce their sound when a player hits, scrapes, rubs or shakes them to produce vibrations. These techniques can also be applied to the human body. The body also presents several unique possibilities of sounds and movement. In this class, students will create choreographies using their own bodies and even everyday "instruments", just like the British performance group STOMP.

Drama

The course focuses on ensemble work, with an emphasis on collaborative skills, drama games and excercises. The work is designed to increase students' ability to focus their concentartion and expand their creativity in a safe, comfortable and enjoyable learning environment. Students learn the basic elements of stage terminilogy and performance concepts.

Masquerade!

This class is a practical exploration of the magical and mystical world of masks. Students will learn about the ritualistic, dramatic, and theatrical use of masks throughout the ages while experimenting with the various acting skills necessary to perform in mask.

Art and Culture

World art and culture focuses upon a variety of aspects of cultures and its influences in the field of art. Students will have a chance to see art works by contemporary artists and samples of tribal art. They will create their own art works while understanding the elements of art and being inspired by arts from various cultures. They will demonstrate an understanding of the influences in the process of art creation and its role in society.

Visual Art

In the introduction to Visual Art course, students will work in a variety of media, exploring both two-dimensional and three-dimensional art forms. While an emphasis will be placed on developing fundamental drawing skills, the main focus of this class is to encourage artistic exploration and expression that will be required in later art classes.

Design Art

Design Art provides students with opportunities to experiment with basic design elements and principles through various techniques and art media. Students will build on drawing and rendering skills, using these to communicate ideas and information. Three-dimensional work and the use of computer graphics will also be explored.

Physical Education and Health

Physical Education

This required course meets every other day throughout the school year in a 70-minute instructional period.

The Middle School physical education program offers a wide selection of activities which serve to promote the following: team work and cooperation; motor skill development; physical fitness; knowledge of rules and strategies of game play; and an appreciation of the importance of exercise for a healthy lifestyle. A strong emphasis is placed on participation, as activity exposure and motor skills vary greatly in our international student body. Students are exposed to a variety of sporting games and other physical education components, including: aquatics; track and field; gymnastics; racquet sports; field sports; court sports and recreational games.

Health (1/2 year)

The Grade 6 health course is a requirement for all students. Students are assigned to either a first or second semester section. The course meets every other day for 70 minutes.

This required semester course provides Grade 6 students current and accurate information about health issues. The aim is to promote the development of skills needed to make effective, healthy and safe choices in one's life. A number of health and human development issues will be taught, including: Personal Identity, Nutrition, Legal and Illegal Drugs and Human Development.

Other

Grade 6 EAP

The semester-long English for Academic Purposes course is designed to develop students' proficiency and confidence in the academic language - specifically non-fiction reading and writing skills and strategies - needed for content areas such as science, English language arts, social studies and math.



Grade Seven

Four Core Subjects

Grade 7 English

In all three grades of the middle school, reading, writing and oral communication are taught through a workshop model. The goal of the workshop model is to develop competent, independent, thoughtful, and avid readers, writers, speakers and listeners. In reading workshop, students are immersed in reading through sustained reading of 'just right books' of their choice. They learn how to be active and critical readers and practice these skills in daily Sustained Silent Reading and required homework. Writing workshop involves an inquiry-based approach to the study of a variety of genres, with students delving deep into the features of a genre while progressing through a process of brainstorming, planning and collaborative revision and editing to produce their own writing pieces. Oral language is developed through informal group and class discussions and more formal presentations. The genres studied in 7th grade are memoir, commentary, short story, feature article and poetry.

Grade 7 World Studies

World studies in grade 7 will explore culture and civilization. Students examine what defines culture as well as how and why change occurs within a civilization. Through the study of ancient cultures, students will develop empathy and understanding for cultures both past and present. This experience will also highlight that our current level of cultural development is the culmination of thousands of years of human endeavor. Our first units of study highlight the historical contributions of Egypt, Greece & Rome. The culminating unit of Grade 7 world studies focuses on Bali, a unique and fascinating part of the diverse culture of our host country, Indonesia. The Bali Extended Study Program, first introduced nearly 20 years ago, provides a great opportunity to experience first hand a culture studied in class. Skills in research, note-taking, expository writing, and presentation are emphasized throughout the year.

Grade 7 Science

All Middle School students are enrolled in a full-year science course. The core of the Middle School Science curriculum is the development of science skills and knowledge through enquiry-based learning and investigative experiences. The key strands of study are: Biology, Earth and Beyond, Physics, Chemistry and the Nature of Science.

The Nature of Science strand focuses on the scientific skills of planning, information gathering, processing and interpreting, reporting, safety procedures, practical skills, and ethical responsibility.

Grade 7 Science is a skill development course that introduces scientific language, following procedures, the safe use of equipment, report writing skills and explaining the links that exist between scientific concepts in the real world. These skills are addressed in units that cover cells, genetics, matter, mixtures, forces. Group work skills and personal organization are also emphasized in Grade 7.

Grade 7 Pre-Algebra & Geometry 7

*See Appendix for MS Math Program Overview

This course is designed to prepare students for an integrated algebra and geometry course in Grade 8 (AG1). Students continue to work toward mastery in mathematical concepts and relationships learned in previous years, as they are introduced to pre-algebra concepts. Pre-algebra eases the transition from arithmetic to algebra; as such it forms the bridge from the concrete to the abstract. Students will also begin to see the power of algebra in problem solving incorporating topics such as equations, integers, proportional reasoning, probability, and geometry.



Modern Languages

French 1a Spanish 1a Indonesian 1a Mandarin 1a

These full-year courses are introductory language studies which place emphasis on listening, speaking, reading and writing. By the end of the year, students will be expected to understand simple questions and directions given orally, writing, and then respond in the target language. Basic grammatical structures will be acquired. The courses will utilize textbooks, audiovisual material and CDs, videos, DVDs, and the Internet for authentic material, and student workbooks to help students develop their knowledge of the language, life culture, and civilization of the countries and regions where the target language is spoken.

French 1b Spanish 1b Indonesian 1b Mandarin 1b

Applicants for these courses must have successfully completed French 1a, Spanish 1a, Mandarin 1a, or Indonesian 1a or their equivalent. The classes are conducted mostly in the target language. More advanced grammatical structures are presented within context. Students are encouraged to express themselves in more complex sentences in. Oral communication is stressed through group activities and situation exercises. The courses will utilize textbooks, audio cassettes and CDs, videos, DVDs, CD Rom, the internet resources and student workbooks to help students develop their knowledge of the language, life culture and civilization of the countries and regions where the target language is spoken.

Mandarin 2a

Students in this course must have successfully completed, Mandarin 1b or its equivalent. The aims of the course are to develop oral fluency, consolidate and expand grammatical structures and increase confidence. The class is conducted mostly in the target language. More advanced grammatical structures are presented within context. Students are encouraged to express themselves in more complex sentences. Oral communication is stressed through group activities and situation exercises. The courses will utilize textbooks, CDs, videos, DVDs, CD Rom, the Internet for authentic material, and student workbooks to help students develop their knowledge of the language, life and civili-

zation of the countries and regions where the target language is spoken. After successful completion of this course, a student will qualify to move to Mandarin 2b in Grade 8.

Indonesian 2

Students in this course must have successfully completed Indonesian 1b or its equivalent. The aims of the course are to develop oral fluency, to consolidate and expand grammatical structures, and to increase confidence. The courses will utilize textbooks, audio cassettes and CDs, videos, DVDs, CD Rom, the Internet for authentic material, and student workbooks to help students develop their knowledge of the language, life and civilization of the countries and regions where the target language is spoken. After successful completion of this course, a student will qualify to move to Introduction to Indonesian Literature and Composition.

Indonesian Studies (1/2 year

This course is designed for students with little or no knowledge of Indonesia. It is a required semester course that will be waived if a student enrolls in either of full-year Indonesian language courses. Throughout each course, students learn about the geography, culture, and customs of our host country. Basic grammar is introduced, linguistic correctness encouraged, and skills for effective communication stressed. Students who do not take this course in Middle School will enroll in this course in High School, in order to fulfill a JIS requirement.

Indonesian Language & Culture (1/2 year)

This course is designed for Indonesian students or students who have an intermediate level. Throughout this course students learn about the geography, the culture, and the customs of our host country. Intermediate grammar is conducted and a greater emphasis is placed on reading, speaking and writing.

Technology

Technology & Robotics

This course develops thinking and problem-solving strategies, encourages students to take an active interest in technological innovations and our technological past, explores an array of technological applications in the present worlds of work and leisure, and leads students to speculate about the exciting potential and fascinating possibilities of their technological futures. The course provides experiences with machinery that powers our modern world (wheels, axles, worm gears, gear trains, power ratios, motors, etc.). It introduces simple principles and the basic laws of physics. Students will investigate, and apply previously learned knowledge and skills, while designing (3D and orthographic drawing) and testing functional contraptions.

Living in a Digital World

Student will explore several modules during this quarter course. Digital Citizenship, Web 2.0 Tools, Mobile Devices, and Online Games as areas for learning. Students will develop their digital skills, build an appropriate digital presence, focus on responsibilities, collaboration, connections, and essentially work towards becoming an educated, digitally literate individual. Successful navigation in the digital world is absolutely essential for success in life.

Design Technology

Our future depends on people who can make a positive contribution to improving the quality of life. It requires people who can think, make decisions, make things, make judgments and care for the world in which we live. The design technology classes are planned to help students get a better understanding by doing. By experiencing all that is involved in designing and making, both knowledge and understanding will develop together. Students will be involved in the design, manufacture and evaluation of several projects using a variety of resistant materials.

Visual and Performing Arts

Grade 7 Beginning Strings

This full-year course is open to all students in grades 6 and 7 who are interested in learning violin, viola, cello or double bass, or whom after an absence of study, would like to refresh their strings skills. By the end of the first year, students will be able to perform music at a Grade 2 level in a variety of classical styles, often

together with other string ensembles in the Middle School. Students at the beginning level may rent school-owned instruments. Rental instruments are limited. Violinists and violists in particular, are encouraged to purchase an instrument. As with all performing ensembles, home practice and concert performances are an expectation.

Intermediate Strings

Two sections of this full-year course are offered to students enrolled in grades 6 and 7. The "Red" team comprises students who have had 2.5 or fewer years of strings study and are reading music at Grade 2 level or higher. The "Blue" team comprises students who have been studying a stringed instrument for a minimum of three years and are reading and performing at a high intermediate to advancing level. The two teams perform individually and together in concert. As with all performing ensembles, home practice and concert performances are an expectation. Availability of rental instruments is limited and intermediate level stings musicians are encouraged to purchase their own instruments (ex. double bass).

Beginning Band

A full-year, level one course in which students learn to play a musical instrument. No previous band experience is necessary. Students will develop in the areas of theory, technique and musicianship, as well as performing a variety of musical styles and genres at the appropriate level. Following an orientation to all of the available instruments, both the student and director will assist in the instrument placements. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Instrument rental is available through the school, although students may also purchase their own. Intermediate Band

A full-year, level two course in which students continue developing musical skills in a concert band setting. One year of band is recommended. Students will not only continue to develop in the areas of theory, technique and musicianship skills, but will perform a variety of musical styles and genres at the appropriate level. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Students are encouraged to purchase their own instrument, although renting from the school is available.

Vocal Music

This course focuses on developing proper vocal techniques, both individually and in ensemble work. Time will be spent developing music-reading skills, learning part songs in preparation for concerts, and building confidence as a performer. Songs will be selected from a wide variety of musical styles and genres suitable for the middle school voice. This performing arts class requires all class members to perform.

Movement

Creative Movement students will study movement in space and time. Co-ordination, flexibility, body awareness and musicality will be introduced. Students will also explore the mechanics behind basic movement and choreography. This course aims to release and increase individual creativity.

Dance Performance

In this class, students will learn different choreographies created by a variety of different artists. They will also study performances of professional dancers of a variety of different styles and eras.

Drama

The course focuses on ensemble work, with an emphasis on collaborative skills, games and theatre exercises. The work is designed to increase students' ability to focus their concentration and expand their creativity in a safe, comfortable and enjoyable learning environment. Students learn the basic elements of stage terminology and performance concepts.

Improvisation

Improvisation is one of the most challenging and exciting forms of theatre to rehearse and perform. It requires students to learn and utilize many of the most basic performance skills for any form or style of theatre they may encounter in the future, and is thus a essential building block for work in the theatre. It is also just a lot of fun!

Visual Art

This course extends the skills introduced in sixth grade art classes. The two-dimensional drawing, painting and printmaking will be explored, whilst clay and papier mache skills will also be further developed, as students create three-dimensional products. They will continue to develop their knowledge of the elements of art as well as their appreciation of art works.

Design Art

This visual art course extends students' understanding and use of design elements and principles, with the aim of visually communicating ideas and information. Students will build on drawing and design skills, further exploring rendering with a range of media. Three-dimensional work and computer graphics will also be incorporated into the design task.

Physical Education and Health

Grade 7 Physical Education

The Middle School physical education program offers a wide selection of athletic activities which serve to promote team work and cooperation, motor skill development, physical fitness, knowledge of rules, strategies of game play, and an appreciation of the importance of exercise for a healthy lifestyle. Learning activities are designed to accommodate a wide range of activity exposure and motor skill development. Emphasis is placed on active student participation in activities, which include: aquatics; track and field; gymnastics; racquet sports; dance; field sports; court sports; and recreational games.

Other

Grade 7 EAP

The semester-long English for Academic Purposes course is designed to develop students' proficiency and confidence in the academic language - specifically non-fiction reading and writing skills and strategies - needed for content areas such as science, English language arts, social studies and math.

Grade 7 Navigating Middle School

The class focuses on building skills in the areas of communication, organization, and presentation. In addition, much time is spent on exploring the students values and belief systems; acknowledging their differences; respecting those differences, setting personal goals for the immediate and long term future, and reflecting on various issues that affect young adolescents.

Grade Eight

Four Core Subjects

Grade 8 English

In all three grades of the middle school, reading, writing and oral communication are taught through a workshop model. The goal of the workshop model is to develop competent, independent, thoughtful, and avid readers, writers, speakers and listeners. In reading workshop, students are immersed in reading through sustained reading of 'just right books' of their choice. They learn how to be active and critical readers and practice these skills in daily Sustained Silent Reading and required homework. Writing workshop involves an inquiry-based approach to the study of a variety of genres, with students delving deep into the features of a genre while progressing through a process of brainstorming, planning and collaborative revision and editing to produce their own writing pieces. Oral language is developed through informal group and class discussions and more formal presentations. The genres studied in 8th grade are personal narrative, review, literary essay, investigative reporting and fiction.

Grade 8 World Studies

The Grade 8 World Studies course focuses on global issues. This is in conformity with JIS's Mission Statement and the Essential Qualities of a JIS Learner.

Our first study is of poverty and focuses on the underlying causes of poverty, its prevalence in the world and the ways out of the poverty trap that so many of the world's people find themselves in. The second issue studied focuses on hunger and asks the fundamental question, why in a world where there is more than enough food produced for everyone, is there hunger among so many? Again, causes, distribution and solutions to the problem will be looked at in depth. Our third and last unit for the first semester is a study of human rights with a focus on the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child. The rights will be studied in detail and specific rights and examples of their application (and non-application) examined.

The second semester opens with a study of conflict, its causes, forms and distribution over time and place. The "roads to peace" and their effectiveness in resolving various conflicts will be studied in the context of specific case studies of countries with a recent history of conflict.

The second unit will focus on the world economy and specifically trade. The idea of how and why countries

trade, the results of fair and unfair trade practices will also be examined as will the ways that world trade can be made equitable and able to solve problems of imbalance, hunger, poverty and other global issues. We will end the year with a study of sustainability and specifically how sustainable students own lives and lifestyles are. By tracking and trying to improve their carbon footprint, their ability to live a sustainable life will be brought into focus.

In all units, research skills, written and oral presentations, the use of technology, collaborative study and problem solving will be stressed.

Grade 8 Science

All Middle School students are enrolled in a full-year science course. The core of the Middle School Science curriculum is the development of science skills and knowledge through inquiry-based learning and investigative experiences. The key strands of study are: Biology, Earth and Beyond, Physics, Chemistry and the Nature of Science.

The Nature of Science strand focuses on the scientific skills of experiment designing and planning, data gathering and controlling variables, processing and interpreting data, reporting on an experiment, proper laboratory safety procedures, and practical laboratory skills.

The Grade 8 course teaches these scientific skills through a course called "The Flow of Matter and Energy through the Biosphere". Units of study include Valid Experimental Design, Heat and Energy in Our World, Introductory Chemistry, and The Garden Project.

Activities in each unit vary from frequent laboratory experiments and other inquiry-based activities, note-taking and lectures, online simulations and other technology-supported learning activities, small and large group activities, and more. Units are assessed summatively using a combination of traditional tests and hands-on projects. Students who successfully complete this course will be more than adequately prepared to take on the challenges of high school science at JIS or elsewhere.

Grade 8 Mathematics

*See Appendix for MS Math Program Overview

The Grade 8 Mathematics program of studies offers two levels of course work.

Students will be placed in Grade 8 Mathematics courses following a review of standardized test results (ISA scores, JIS placement test) and teacher recommendation based upon student classroom performance in Grade 7 Pre-Algebra.

Pre-Algebra & Geometry 8

PAG8 is offered for students who clearly need additional preparation for success prior to taking AG1. PAG8 is designed to extend student learning from 7th grade while remediating skill deficits along the way. The goals of this course are to prepare students for success in high school mathematics. Firstly, there will be a strong emphasis on the full acquisition of foundational math skills. Secondly, students will build upon knowledge and skills introduced in Grade 7, with a view towards consolidating and extending conceptual understanding of basic algebraic and geometric topics. Measured against our NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) math learning standards, PAG8 is below grade level in terms of the full curriculum that students should be exposed to in 8th grade.

Modern Languages

French 1b Spanish 1b Indonesian 1b Mandarin 1b

Applicants for these courses must have successfully completed French 1a, Spanish 1a, Mandarin 1a, or Indonesian 1a or their equivalent. The classes are conducted mostly in the target language. More advanced grammatical structures are presented within context. Students are encouraged to express themselves in more complex sentences. Oral communication is stressed through group activities and situation exercises. The courses will utilize textbooks, audio cassettes and CDs, videos, DVDs, CD Rom, the Internet for authentic material, and student workbooks to help students develop their knowledge of the language, life culture and civilization of the countries and regions where the target language is spoken

French I Spanish I Indonesian I Mandarin I

These courses are equivalent to High School Language Level 1 courses, and are quite demanding for Eighth graders because they are equivalent to the Middle School Levels 1a and 1b, all concentrated in one year! Students will acquire the ability to comprehend and respond to simple questions and directions, read short texts and write short paragraphs and summaries. They

will also recall and master fundamental grammatical concepts. The courses will utilize textbooks, audio cassettes and CDs, videos, DVDs, and the Internet for authentic material, and student workbooks to help students develop their knowledge of the language, life culture and civilization of the countries and regions where the target language is spoken. After successful completion of one of these courses, a student qualifies for Level 2 in High School.

Mandarin 2b

Students in this course must have successfully completed, Mandarin 2a or its equivalent. The aims of the course are to develop oral fluency, consolidate and expand grammatical structures and increase confidence. The class is conducted mostly in the target language. More advanced grammatical structures are presented within context. Students are encouraged to express themselves in more complex sentences. Oral communication is stressed through group activities and situation exercises. The courses will utilize textbooks, CDs, videos, DVDs, CD Rom, the Internet for authentic material, and student workbooks to help students develop their knowledge of the language, life and civilization of the countries and regions where the target language is spoken. After successful completion of this course, a student will qualify to move to Mandarin 3 in our high school language program.

French 2 Spanish 2 Mandarin 2

Students in this course must have successfully completed French 1b, or Spanish 1b, Mandarin 1b or their equivalent. The aims of the course are to develop oral fluency, consolidate and expand grammatical structures and increase confidence. The courses will utilize textbooks, audio cassettes and CDs, videos, DVDs, CD Rom, the Internet for authentic material, and student workbooks to help students develop their knowledge of the language, life and civilization of the countries and regions where the target language is spoken. After successful completion of this course, a student will qualify to move to French 3, Spanish 3, or Mandarin 3 in our High School language program.

Indonesian 2

Students in this course must have successfully completed Indonesian 1b or its equivalent. The aims of the course are to develop oral fluency, consolidate and expand grammatical structures and increase confidence. The courses will utilize textbooks, audio cassettes and CDs, videos, DVDs, CD Rom, the Internet for authentic material, and student workbooks to help students develop their knowledge of the language, life and civilization of Indonesia in particular, as well as countries

and regions where the target language is spoken. After successful completion of this course and approval by the teacher, a student may prepare for Indonesian Language and Composition (Language B students) or Indonesian Literature and Composition (Language A1-A2) before taking the International Baccalaureate Subsidiary/Higher Level Certificate in the High School.

Indonesian Literature and Composition

Students in this course must have successfully completed Indonesian 2 or be native speakers. If there are enough participants, the course may be extended to a full academic year and thus, will be equivalent to the same year-long course offered in high school! The aims of the course are to focus on the development and refinement of reading, writing, thinking, listening, speaking and study skills through a literature-based curriculum. We will also be reading a wide selection of articles about social issues, development in Indonesia, and the influence of the media. A critical and creative approach will be encouraged. After successful completion of this course and approval by the teacher, a student may prepare for Indonesian Literature and Composition II in the High School.

Indonesian Studies (1/2 Year)

This course is designed for students with little or no knowledge of Indonesia. It is a required semester course that is waived if a student enrolls in a full-year Indonesian language course. Throughout the course, students learn about the geography, culture, and customs of our host country. Basic grammar is introduced, linguistic correctness encouraged, and skills for communication stressed. Students who do not take this course or Indonesian Language and Cultures while in the Middle School, will be enrolled in a similar course during High School.

Indonesian Language & Culture (1/2 year)

This course is designed for students at the intermediate level. Throughout this course students learn about the geography, the culture, and the customs of our host country. Intermediate grammar is conducted and a greater emphasis is placed on reading, speaking and writing.

Technology

Technology Electronics (1/2 Year)

This course promotes students' thinking and problemsolving strategies, encourages them to take an active interest in technological innovations and our technological past, explores an array of technological applications in the present worlds of work and leisure, and leads students to speculate about the exciting potential and fascinating possibilities of their technological futures. The course provides experiences with devices that control our modern world, the electricity that drives our walkman tape players and toys, and the computers that occupy so much of our time. It introduces simple principles and the basic laws of physics (flow of electrons, diodes, resisters, parallel and series circuits, small motors, etc.). Students will investigate and apply previously learned knowledge and skills, while designing (circuit design, simple CAD) and testing functional contraptions. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Design Technology (1/2 Year)

Our future depends on people who can make a positive contribution to improving the quality of life. It requires people who can think, make decisions, make things, make judgments and care for the world in which we live. The design technology classes are planned to help students get a better understanding by doing. By experiencing all that is involved in designing and making, both knowledge and understanding will develop together. Students will be involved in the design, manufacture and evaluation of several projects using a variety of resistant materials.

ALICE in Dragonland (1/2 Year)

ALICE in Dragonland is an introduction, for Middle Schoolers, to object-oriented programming. This class is for those students who would like to try their hand at programming and creation of virtual 3D worlds. Alice is an innovative 3D programming environment that makes it easy to create an animation for telling a story, playing an interactive game, or 3D video to share on the web. This course is for students who have a keen interest in developing their technical computer skills.

Visual and Performing Arts

Grade 8 Advanced Band

These are full-year courses, available only to students enrolled in Grade 8. Placement is based on students' interest, experience and ability. Beginners may not enroll in these classes. Questions regarding placement in the courses should be addressed to the instrumental music teacher. Both band and string classes study and perform a wide variety of classical and popular music. In addition, an emphasis is placed on instrumental performance and musicianship skills. Concert performances are part of the curriculum.

Students who play the following instruments should try to purchase their own as availability from the school is limited: violin; viola; flute; clarinet; alto sax; trumpet; and trombone. All other instruments may be available from the school on a rental basis. Please check with the instrumental music teacher for advice if purchasing an instrument.

Advanced Strings

These are full-year courses, available only to students enrolled in Grade 8. Placement is based on students' interest, experience and ability. Beginners may not enroll in these classes. Questions regarding placement in the courses should be addressed to the instrumental music teacher. Both band and string classes study and perform a wide variety of classical and popular music. In addition, an emphasis is placed on instrumental performance and musicianship skills. Concert performances are part of the curriculum.

Students who play the following instruments should try to purchase their own as availability from the school is limited: violin; viola; flute; clarinet; alto sax; trumpet; and trombone. All other instruments may be available from the school on a rental basis. Please check with the instrumental music teacher for advice if purchasing an instrument.

Guitars for Beginners! (1/2 Year)

An introduction to strumming, picking, and playing guitar! If you want to learn how to play guitar and are committed to the instrument, here's an elective class for you. Learn basics of guitar playing, music reading, and basic music composition. The course will be designed and taught for beginners. No experience is necessary.

Ceramics and Sculpture (1/2 Year)

The focus of this course will be to design and produce three-dimensional art. The main emphasis will be using the media of clay. Students will develop a variety of hand-building skills and techniques working with clay. They will experience decorating finished pieces with ceramic glazes and paint. Students will also produce sculptures using media such as papier-mache and found objects.

Design Art (1/2 Year)

This visual art course extends students' understanding and use of design elements and principles, with the aim of visually communicating ideas and information. Students will build on drawing and design skills, further exploring rendering with a range of media. Three-dimensional work and computer graphics will also be incorporated into the design task.



Drawing and Painting (1/2 Year)

This course aims to further develop skills in producing two-dimensional art. Students will explore a range of drawing and painting media, and work from both direct observation and the imagination.

Vocal Performance (1/2 Year)

This course focuses on developing proper vocal techniques, both individually and in ensemble work. Time will be spent developing music-reading skills, learning part songs in preparation for concerts, and building confidence as a performer. Songs will be selected from a wide variety of musical styles and genres suitable for the middle school voice. This performing arts class requires all class members to perform.

Advanced Vocal Performance (2nd semester only)

This full-year course is only available to 8th grade students who have enrolled in the first semester class and wish to continue in vocal performance for the entire year. Emphasis will be placed on development of vocal techniques and confidence in singing. Students will also continue to develop in the areas of sight-singing, music theory and musicianship skills, but will perform a wide variety of musical styles and genres at the appropriate level. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances.

Building Dances (1/2 Year)

In this class, students will be presented with dance concepts (most of them studied during Creative Movement in 7th grade) and taught to create choreographies using these concepts, keeping in mind themes, musicality and staging.

Contemporary Studio Styles (1/2 Year)

In this class, students will be exposed to a variety of different dance styles offered in dance studios around the world (such as tap, body percussion, jazz, lyrical, hip hop and a few others). They will learn choreographies and techniques proper to these dance styles and will get the opportunity to create their own pieces in a multitude of these dance styles.

Theater Workshop (1/2 Year)

While continuing to emphasize the importance of the ensemble, this course focuses more specifically on character development, script interpretation, monologue and scene work. Students are exposed to a variety of theatrical styles and genres, and continue to expand their knowledge and application of staging

and performance concepts and skills. Movie Makers (1/2 Year)

This course will explore the exciting world of movie making both in front of and behind the camera. Students will acquire a basic knowledge of movie making terminology while using personal electronic equipment (mobile phones, flip cameras, digital cameras) to shoot short video/movie projects. They will have the opportunity to learn about and experience the roles of actor, director, cameraman, writer, and other various members of the production team.

Physical Education and Health

Grade 8 Physical Education

The Middle School physical education program offers a wide selection of athletic activities which serve to promote team work and cooperation, motor skill development, physical fitness, knowledge of rules, strategies of game play, and an appreciation of the importance of exercise for a healthy lifestyle. Learning activities are designed to accommodate a wide range of activity exposure and motor skill development. Emphasis is placed on active student participation in activities, which include: aquatics; track and field; gymnastics; racquet sports; dance; field sports; court sports; and recreational games.

Health Education

The Grade 8 health course is a requirement for all students. Students are assigned to either a first or second semester section. The course meets every other day for 70 minutes.

This required semester course teaches Grade 8 students about a number of health and human development issues, including: Personal Identity, Nutrition, Drug Awareness and Human Sexuality and its risks. Through class discussion, videos, peer presentations and role-plays students are provided with information to empower healthy choices.

Other

Grade 8 EAP

The semester-long English for Academic Purposes course is designed to develop students' proficiency and confidence in the academic language - specifically non-fiction reading and writing skills and strategies - needed for content areas such as science, English language arts, social studies and math.

Sample Selection Form

Grade 6 2010 - 2011 Course Selection Form

(Course Selection Process Occurs Online)

Student's Name: _			St	udent Nu	ımber:	
	SELECT	ΓED CORE AN	D REQUIRED (OURSE:	S	
	Numb	er Course		Initial		
	1600y	English 6				
	2600y	Social Studies 6				
	3600y	Science 6				
	4600y	Math 6				
	6600y	PE 6				
	6822s	Health 6				
	Gr	ade 6 2010 - 20	11 Course Electiv	res		
Elec	tives (Stude	ent Choice): These	are two semester (f	ull-year) co	urses.	
Modern Language : (Plea:	se CHECK (v) ONE of these)				
No Language Class						
French 1a	Spar	nish 1a	Indonesian 1a		Mandarin 1a	
French 1b	Spar	nish 1a	Indonesian 1a		Mandarin 1a	
Instrumental Music : (Plea	ase CHECK	(√) ONE of these)	No Instrumental Music			
For student <u>with little or r</u>	no experier	nce	Beginning Band		Beginning Strings	
For student with some ex	perience		Intermediate Band		Intermediate Strings	
What instruments do you	play?		How long have yo	ou played?		

Exploratory Courses

You will be assigned to courses listed in the attached Course Description Booklet.

Sample Selection Form

Grade 7 2010 - 2011 Course Selection Form

(Course Selection Process Occurs Online)

Student's Name:			St	udent Nur	nber:
•	SELECT	ED CORE AND	REQUIRED C	OURSES	
	Numbe	er Course		Initial	
	1700y	English 7			
	2710y	Social Studies 7			
	3700y	Science 7			
	4700y	PAG			
	6700y	PE 7			
	Grad	le 7 2010 - 2011 Co	ourse Electives	i	
Electives	(Student	Choice): These are tw	o semester (full-)	/ear) courses	
Modern Language : (Pleas	se CHECK	(v) ONE of these)			
No Language Class					
French 1a	Sp	anish 1a	Mandarin 1a		Indonesian 1a
French 1b	Sp	anish 1a	Mandarin 1a		Indonesian 1a
					Indonesian 2
Instrumental Music : (Plea	ise CHECI	〈 (V) ONE of these)	No Instrumenta Music	I	
For student with little or r	no experi	<u>ence</u>	Beginning Band	I	Beginning Strings
For student with some ex	perience		Intermediate Band		Intermediate Strings

Exploratory Courses

Sample Selection Form

Grade 8 2010 - 2011 Course Selection Form

(Course Selection Process Occurs Online)

Student's Name:	Student Number:

SELECTED CORE AND REQUIRED COURSES

Numbe	er Course	Initial
1800y	English 8	
2810y	Social Studies 8	
3802y	Science 8	
4800y	Alg Geom 1	
6800y	PE 8	
6833s	Health 8	

Grade 8 Electives

You will choose your electives from the "Courses by Category" list at the end of the Course Description Guide.



The JIS Middle School Math Department is committed to delivering an educational experience that meets the needs of all learners. We have instituted a tiered program of instruction and assessment in order to hold true to JIS Core Values, deliver on JIS Ends Policy Statements, and teach in a way that supports what we know about the conditions under which maximum learning takes place.

JIS Core Values

Each student is unique and valuable Each student should be challenged to reach his/her full potential

JIS Ends Policy Statements

Students achieve personal excellence to be the best for their world by maximizing their academic, emotional, physical, and social capabilities

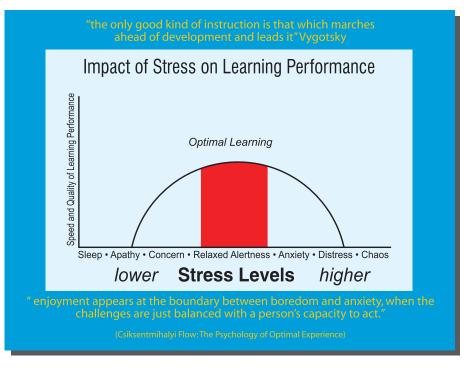
Students achieve self-awareness, self-confidence, and self-discipline, enabling them to:

- Take ownership of their learning
- Take academic risks in a safe and positive learning environment

Students achieve intercultural skills and understandings enabling them to:

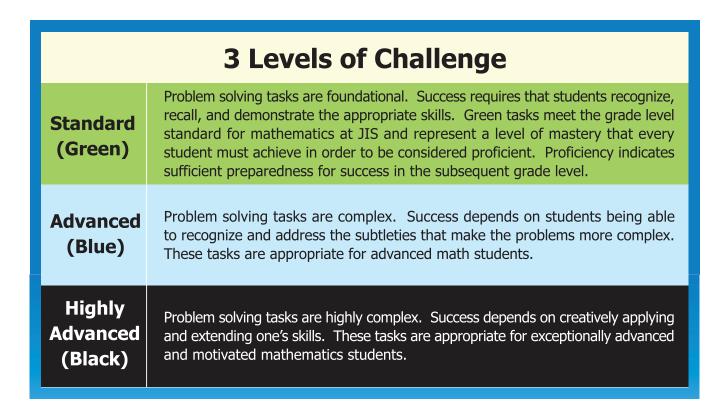
- Gain the skills to bridge differences
- Lead and participate in diverse teams
- Engage diversity to gain a deeper understanding of the world

The conditions under which maximum learning takes place

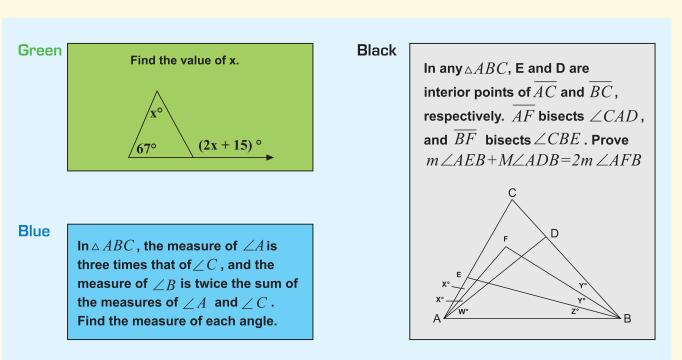


Within our tiered program of instruction...

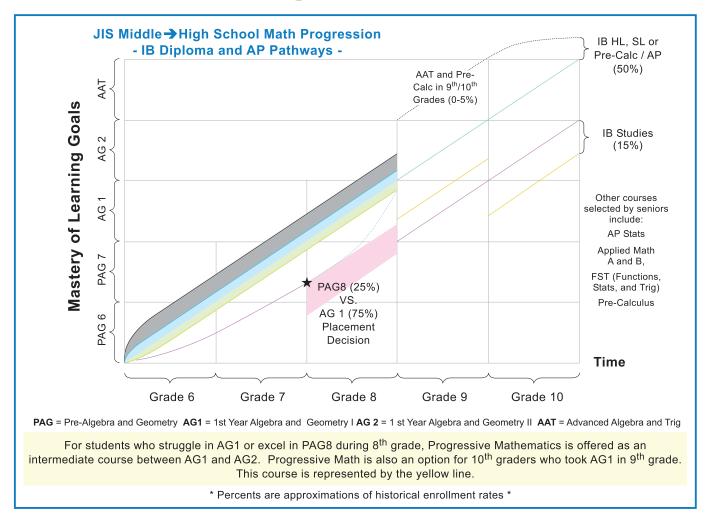
- * students learn essential course content at varying levels of depth
- ❖ 3 tiered choices of assessments are offered instead of a single assessment for all
- * students choose the level of challenge that will help them maximize their learning.



The following is an example of problem solving tasks at the three different levels of challenge for an 8th grade geometry learning goal.



The Middle School's program of instruction and assessment lays the foundation for success in High School mathematics.



The majority of JIS students consistently meet or exceed grade level proficiency. These students fall within the green/blue color band. The boundaries of the band represent the range among students performing at minimum levels of acceptable proficiency (80% on Green level challenges) and advanced levels of understanding (100% on Blue level challenges). At the end of 8th grade, students who have consistently performed within the grade level performance band should be prepared to successfully confront high school mathematics. Those who consistently perform at the upper end of the band will be relatively better prepared for AG2 compared to students who demonstrate minimum levels of proficiency. The black curve represents the learning trajectory of students working at the highest degree of challenge offered. The purple curve represents the path of students who consistently fail to demonstrate acceptable levels of proficiency falling further behind in their learning of mathematics as a result.

The middle school report card is designed to complement this differentiated approach. We report both the performance level at which a student works - standard (green level), advanced (blue level) and highly advanced (black level) – and a grade that reflects the accuracy with which the student met success on the challenges selected.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

During the second semester, sixth grade students focus on Number Theory, Fractions and Geometry. We work with Greatest Common Factor (GCF) and Least Common Multiple (LCM) to help students understand fraction relationships. Students then learn to work flexibly with fractions, decimals, and percents to solve problems. In Geometry, we work with 2D and 3D shapes with an emphasis on spatial thinking and construction.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT	Performance Level	Grade
Applies primes/composites, factors/multiples and GCFs/LCMs to solve problems	Advanced	А
Performs operations with fractions	Standard	В
Converts between decimals, fractions and percent	Standard	С
Applies relationships between angles, side lengths, perimeters and Areas	Highly Advanced	А
Constructs 2-D representations of 3-D objects using correct scale	Advanced	В

Working together...

Students, parents, and teachers each play a vital role in making the tiered approach an effective educational strategy.

Student

- Make choices that are consistent with the goal of maximizing learning
- Consistently put forth effort on class and homework assignments
- Communicate with parents and teachers when struggles arise



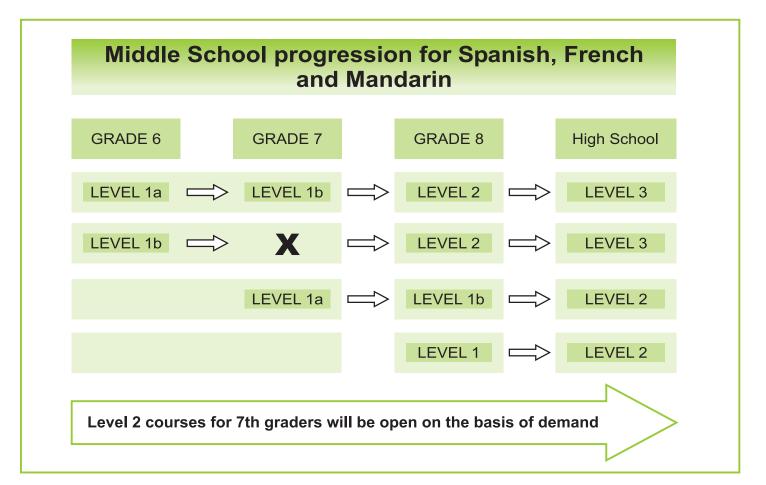
Teacher

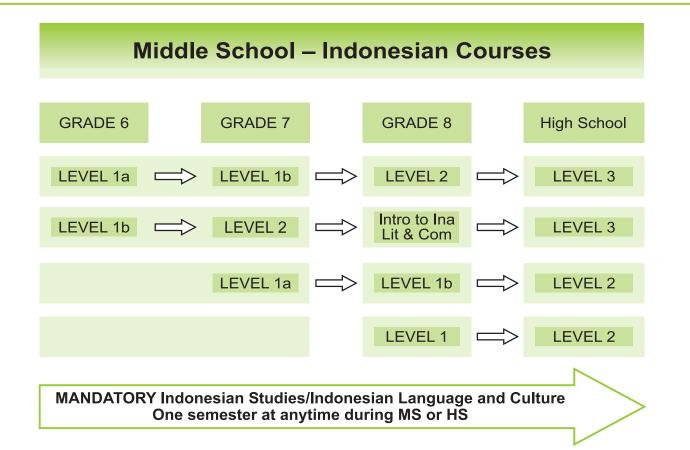
- Provide appropriately challenging learning opportunities for all students
- Plan instructional activities that will enable all children to be successful
- Support students in goal setting and reflection exercises

Parent

- Support children by asking questions that promote thoughtful, autonomous decision making
- Monitor effort at home
- Communicate with teachers when concerns arise

Flow Charts For MS Modern Languages





High School progression of languages Spanish class example



Courses by Category

Middle School course offerings can be divided into four categories: Academic Core, Exploratory courses for Grade 6-7, Elective courses for Grade 8 and required courses (PE 6-8, and Health (one semester in both Grade 6 and 8)).

	Length	Grades Enrolled
Academic Core		
English	Year	6,7,8
Social Studies	Year	6,7,8
	Year	6,7,8
Science	Year	6,7,8
Math 6	Year	6
Pre-Algebra 7	Year	7
Algebra/Geometry 1	Year	8
	Year	8

	Length	Grades Enrolled
Required Courses		
Physical Education	Year	6-8
Health Education	Sem	6 & 8

	Length	Grades Enrolled
Exploratories (6,7)		
Art & Culture	Quarter	6
Visual Art	Quarter	6
Design Art	Quarter	6
Vocal Music	Quarter	6
General Music	Quarter	6
Design Technology	Quarter	6
Discovering Creative Movement	Quarter	6
Body Percussion	Quarter	6
Drama	Quarter	6
Working with Masks	Quarter	6
Art	Sem	7
Design Art	Sem	7
Movement	Sem	7
Dance Performance	Sem	7
Vocal Music	Sem	7
Drama	Sem	7
Technology / Robotics	Sem	7
Design Technology	Sem	7
Digital World	Sem	7
Indonesian Studies	Sem	7
Indonesian Language and Culture	Sem	7
Navigating MS	Sem	7

	Length	Grades Enrolled
Electives (6,7)		
Beg.or Inter.Band	Year	6,7
Beg.or Inter.Strings	Year	6,7
EAP	Year	6,7
Indonesian 1A	Year	6.7
Indonesian 1B	Year	7
Indonesian 2	Year	6,7
Spanish 1A	Year	7
Spanish 1B	Year	6,7
French 1A	Year	7
French 1B	Year	6,7
Mandarin 1A	Year	6,7
Mandarin 1B	Year	6,7
Mandarin 2A	Year	7
Electives (8)		
French 1	Year	8
French 1B	Year	8
French 2	Year	8
Spanish 1	Year	8
Spanish 2	Year	8
Indonesian 1	Year	8
Indonesian 1B	Year	8
Indonesian 2	Year	8
Indonesian Literature and Composition	Year	8
Mandarin 1	Year	8
Mandarin 1B	Year	8
Mandarin 2	Year	8
Advanced Band	Year	8
Advanced Strings	Year	8
Guitar for Beginners	Sem	8
Vocal Performance	Sem	8
Advanced Vocal Performance	Sem	8
Contemporary Dance	Sem	8
Designing Dances	Sem	8
Theater Workshop	Sem	8
Drawing & Painting	Sem	8
Sculpture & Ceramics	Sem	8
Design Art	Sem	8
Technology - Programming	Sem	8
Technology / Electronic	Sem	8
Design Technology	Sem	8
Indonesian Language & Culture	Sem	8
Indonesian Studies	Sem	8





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