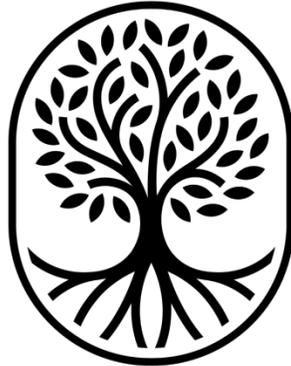


International School of Texas



THE
I N T E R N A T I O N A L
SCHOOL OF TEXAS

Middle School & Upper School Course Guide for the 2025-2026 School Year

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Special Notes:

- Grades 6-8 must pick one course from each of the 8 subject areas. Students must choose a course from either Visual Arts or Performing Arts, but not both.
- Grades 9-10 students enroll in 8 courses.
 - 5 courses must be in the following subject areas:
Mathematics, Language & Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals & Societies, and Science.
 - 1 of the remaining 3 courses must be in the following subject areas:
Design, Physical and Health Education, or Arts.
 - The remaining 2 courses can be selected in any of the 8 subject groups.

Examples for Grades 9 & 10 students,

Selection Example 1 2 Sciences & 2 Design and no Physical Education	Selection Example 2 3 Arts & no Physical Education and no Design	Sample Example 3 2 Individuals & Societies & 2 Mathematics and no Physical Education or Design
Language & Literature 5	Language & Literature 5	Language & Literature 5
I&S Medical Studies	I&S Medical Studies	I&S Medical Studies
Algebra 2	Algebra 2	Algebra 2
Spanish 3	Spanish 3	Spanish 3
Chemistry	Chemistry	Chemistry
Intro to VR	Graphic Design 2	Intro to Psychology
Basic Game Theory & Design	2-D Art Studio	Geometry
Physics	3-D Art Studio	2-D Art Studio

Individuals & Societies

Mythology

Duration: One year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 6

Course Description:

Step into the epic worlds of gods, heroes, and creation stories from across cultures. You'll explore Greek, Norse, Egyptian, and Mesoamerican mythology—with an in-depth analysis of how these stories reflect the geography, politics, and beliefs of their time, and how they've evolved through translation and cultural shifts. Through creative projects and discussion, you'll analyze the lasting influence of mythology in literature and pop culture and even craft your own myth. Get ready for a journey through history, imagination, and timeless storytelling.

Ancient Civilizations

Duration: Semester

Semester: Fall

Credits: 0.5 MS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 6-7

Course Description:

Take a journey back in time through the rise of the world's earliest societies—from the Stone Age and the Agricultural Revolution to the thriving cities of Mesopotamia and Egypt. You'll explore ancient inventions, decode early writing systems, and dive into stories like the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, the world's oldest preserved tale. Through hands-on projects and interactive discussions, you'll uncover how early civilizations shaped our world and step into the roles of ancient leaders, inventors, and explorers to bring history to life.

Political Systems

Duration: Semester

Semester: Spring

Credits: 0.5 MS

Prerequisite(s): Ancient Civilizations

Grade Level(s): 6-7

Course Description:

What makes a good leader? How do governments shape the world around us? In this eye-opening course on Political Systems, you'll explore how societies have been governed throughout history, from ancient kings to modern democracies. Learn about laws, rights, and revolutions while examining real-world case studies and political movements. Through debates, simulations, and hands-on projects, you'll even get the chance to design your own government! If you've ever wondered how decisions are made and how you can make a difference, this course will give you the tools to become an informed and engaged citizen.

Revolutions & Activism

Duration: One year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): Mythology or Ancient Civilizations/Political Systems

Grade Level(s): 7-8

Course Description:

What does it take to change the world? *Revolutions & Activism* explores how people have challenged power and reshaped societies throughout history. From the American, Haitian, Colombian, and Mexican revolutions to the Cuban, Russian, and Chinese Cultural Revolutions, you'll analyze how uprisings begin, why they succeed or fail, and their lasting global impact. You'll also dive into powerful moments of resistance—from Gandhi and MLK Jr. to Tiananmen Square and Vietnam War protests. Through debates, role-plays, and hands-on projects, you'll study the past while learning how everyday people spark change—and how you can too.

World History 1

Duration: One year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 8-9

Course Description:

World History 1 takes you on a journey through the foundations of human civilization—exploring how innovation, power, and culture have shaped our world. From ancient technologies to global empires, you'll examine how societies evolved, connected, and clashed. You'll debate the ideas of thinkers like Hobbes and Locke, analyze systems of ethics through case studies on genocide and justice, and investigate the tension between national interests and global cooperation. Through historical inquiry, projects, and critical analysis, you'll uncover how the past informs today's interconnected world—and your place in it.

History through Film

Duration: One year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Revolutions & Activism or World History 1

Grade Level(s): 9-10

Course Description:

Come explore the medium of film, documentaries, and screenwriting to connect with and engage in historical time periods, events, and influential figures. Learn about the factual background of each film through reading and analyzing primary sources and conducting research on the people and contexts involved. Before and during film viewings, study how elements like writing, sound, camera work, acting, and music deepen their understanding and build empathy for individuals and societies of the past. Then analyze how changes—whether subtle or significant—made in adapting true stories to film can enhance or distort historical knowledge. Continuously reflect on how powerful films and screenplays immerse viewers in historical moments they might not otherwise visualize. As a culminating project, you get to create and pitch your own historical film, articulating how cinematic storytelling can enrich our understanding of people and cultures throughout history.

Medical Studies

Duration: One year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Revolutions & Activism or World History 1

Grade Level(s): 9-10

Course Description:

Are you fascinated by the human body, cutting-edge medical technology, or the fight against diseases? Medical Studies explores how humans have understood and improved healthcare throughout history—from Stone Age healing to Mesopotamian medicine, the Golden Age of Islam, and modern innovations like germ theory, lobotomies, and electric shock therapy. Rather than focusing on biology, this course examines the cultural, ethical, and historical evolution of medicine. Through research, debates, and real-world case studies, you'll analyze how societies care for one another and how medical practices reflect changing beliefs, technologies, and values across time.

[Introduction to Psychology](#)

Duration: One year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 10

Course Description:

Why do we think, feel, and act the way we do? *Introduction to Psychology* dives into the mysteries of the human mind, exploring everything from brain function and memory to emotions, personality, and social behavior. You'll uncover the science behind learning, mental health, and even why we make the decisions we do. Through real-world case studies, psychological experiments, and engaging discussions, you'll learn how psychology shapes everyday life. If you're curious about what makes people tick, this course is your gateway to understanding human behavior!

Language & Literature

Language & Literature 1

Duration: One year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 6

Course Description:

Step into the world of stories, words, and imagination in *Language and Literature 1*! This exciting course will introduce you to a wide range of genres, from thrilling fiction and deep poetry to informative non-fiction. You'll develop your reading and writing skills, learning how to analyze stories, express your ideas clearly, and use language creatively. Through fun projects, peer reviews, and engaging class discussions, you'll become a confident reader and writer, ready to explore new worlds with every page. If you love stories and want to create your own, this course is the perfect adventure for you!

Language & Literature 2

Duration: One year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): Language & Literature 1 or Teacher Recommendation

Grade Level(s): 6-7

Course Description:

Get ready to dive deeper into literature and writing in *Language and Literature 2*! This course takes your reading, writing, and speaking skills to the next level as you explore various genres, refine your essay-writing abilities, and creatively express yourself through poetry and storytelling. You'll analyze novels, short stories, and plays while learning how to craft well-structured essays and present your ideas confidently. With engaging projects and thought-provoking discussions, you'll enhance your communication skills and become a stronger, more creative writer. If you're passionate about exploring the power of words and stories, this course is the perfect fit for you!

Language & Literature 3

Duration: One year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): Language & Literature 2 or Teacher Recommendation

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Course Description:

Language and Literature 3 takes your skills to new heights as you dive deeper into the world of literary analysis, persuasive writing, and creative expression. Through examining powerful poems, plays, and stories, you'll unlock the secrets behind complex characters, symbolic meanings, and compelling narratives. Whether you're crafting persuasive essays, writing short stories, or performing dramatic scenes, you'll refine your ability to communicate with clarity and creativity. With a mix of hands-on projects and lively discussions, this course will challenge you to think critically, write persuasively, and express your ideas confidently. If you love exploring the world through words and stories, this is the perfect course for you!

Language & Literature 4

Duration: One year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Language & Literature 3 or Teacher Recommendation

Grade Level(s): 7-9

Course Description:

Language and Literature 4 invites you to dive deep into the art of storytelling and writing as you explore complex literary themes, create compelling narratives, and refine your persuasive writing skills. Through an in-depth study of fiction, poetry, drama, and non-fiction, you'll unlock the tools to analyze, interpret, and appreciate literature from a variety of perspectives. Whether writing analytical essays, crafting your own stories, or performing dramatic scenes, this course helps you hone your writing and communication abilities, preparing you for real-world challenges. If you enjoy exploring ideas through words and stories and want to refine your ability to express yourself clearly and creatively, this course is the perfect opportunity for you!

Language & Literature 5

Duration: One year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Language & Literature 4 or Teacher Recommendation

Grade Level(s): 8-10

Course Description:

Language and Literature 5 challenges you to explore the deeper layers of literature and communication. In this course, you'll critically analyze complex texts, apply literary theories, and express your insights through persuasive essays, creative writing, and thoughtful public speaking. You'll enhance your understanding of fiction and poetry, learn how to conduct advanced research, and develop your voice as a writer and communicator. Whether you're writing an analytical essay, crafting your own short story, or delivering a powerful speech, this course will help you refine your ability to express ideas with precision and creativity. If you're ready to engage with literature on a deeper level and become a more confident writer and speaker, this course will inspire you to reach your full potential.

Language Acquisition – Mandarin

Mandarin 1a

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 6-10

Course Description:

In the Mandarin 1a course, students are introduced to foundational vocabulary and basic grammar structures essential for effective communication in Mandarin Chinese. Students engage in listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities to develop proficiency in Mandarin pronunciation, tones, and simple sentence construction. Cultural elements are integrated to foster intercultural understanding and appreciation of Chinese customs and traditions. This course progresses students as an IB Emergent Phase 1 communicator of Mandarin.

Mandarin 1b

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Mandarin 1a, PYP Mandarin, or Teacher Recommendation

Grade Level(s): 6-10

Course Description:

In the Mandarin 1b course, students will be building upon foundational skills acquired in Mandarin 1a. Students expand their vocabulary and grammatical knowledge to engage in more complex conversations and written compositions. Emphasis is placed on refining pronunciation, mastering more nuanced grammatical structures, and developing reading comprehension skills. Cultural exploration continues to deepen students' understanding of Chinese society and its cultural heritage. This course progresses students as an IB Emergent Phase 2 communicator of Mandarin.

Mandarin 2

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Mandarin 1 for HS Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-10

Course Description:

The Mandarin 2 course focuses on further developing linguistic proficiency in Mandarin Chinese, emphasizing advanced vocabulary acquisition, complex grammatical structures, and idiomatic expressions. Students engage in authentic listening and speaking activities, participate in debates, and analyze authentic written texts to enhance their language proficiency and critical thinking skills. Cultural inquiry deepens students' understanding of contemporary issues and cultural trends in Chinese-speaking societies. This course progresses students as an IB Capable Phase 3 communicator of Mandarin.

Mandarin 3

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Mandarin 2 for HS Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-10

Course Description:

Mandarin 3 helps you level up your Mandarin skills with a focus on advanced vocabulary, complex grammar, and everyday expressions that bring your language to life. You'll dive into meaningful conversations, deliver engaging presentations, and create polished writing pieces that show off your growing fluency. Along the way, you'll explore Chinese culture through current events, literature, and art—gaining a deeper understanding of the world around you. This course launches you into an IB Capable Phase 4 communicator, setting you up for success in advanced language learning like DP Mandarin SL.

Mandarin 4

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Mandarin 3 for HS Credit

Grade Level(s): 8-10

Course Description:

Mandarin 4 takes your language skills to the next level by studying exciting, real-world topics like global culture and social issues through literature and art, and future innovations through STEM—diving into authentic stories, scientific discoveries, and creative works that spark curiosity and conversation. Whether you're debating current events, creating a cultural project, or collaborating with classmates, this course helps you become a fluent IB Proficient Phase 5 communicator and prepares you for success in the IB DP Mandarin SL or HL courses. If you're ready to use Mandarin in creative and meaningful ways, this course is for you!

Language Acquisition – Spanish

Spanish 1a

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 6-10

Course Description:

Embark on an exciting linguistic and communicative journey. Spanish 1a offers an engaging introduction to Spanish through real-life communication and cultural exploration. Build essential vocabulary and grammar while developing the ability to understand and express ideas related to everyday life. Foundational skills are introduced or reinforced through interactive lessons, multimedia, and hands-on tasks—such as interviewing a Spanish speaker or ordering at a restaurant. Key topics include introductions, school, family, hobbies, vacations, daily routines, and food. As an IB Emergent Phase 1 course aligned with the A1 level of the Common European Framework, this class lays the groundwork for confident, practical communication in Spanish.

Spanish 1b

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Spanish 1a, PYP Spanish, or Teacher Recommendation

Grade Level(s): 6-10

Course Description:

Spanish 1b continues the journey of language learning by expanding vocabulary, grammar, and practical communication skills in everyday contexts. This rigorous course builds confidence through interactive lessons, real-world scenarios, and cultural connections—such as conducting interviews or ordering food in Spanish. Course topics include self-introduction, school life, family, hobbies, vacations, routines, and food. As an IB Emergent Phase 2 course aligned with A2 levels of the Common European Framework, it strengthens the ability to engage in basic conversations and understand native speaker perspectives. Completion of this course earns high school credit for Spanish 1.

Spanish 2

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Spanish 1 for HS Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-10

Course Description:

Spanish 2 expands creative and expressive language use through advanced vocabulary, grammar, and authentic communication. The course focuses on building fluency through more complex conversations, detailed personal expression, and the integration of academic language. Real-world projects include writing stories and dialogues in past tenses, discussing environmental issues, sharing future goals, and conducting job interviews in Spanish. Topics include health, responsibilities, environmental concerns, city life, careers, and storytelling. As an IB Capable Phase 3 course aligned with the B1 level of the Common European Framework, it

prepares learners to communicate confidently in both everyday and academic contexts. Completion of this course earns a high school Spanish 2 credit.

Spanish 3

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Spanish 2 for HS Credit

Grade Level(s): 7-10

Course Description:

Spanish 3 builds on prior knowledge to unlock greater fluency and cultural competence. This course challenges learners to apply complex vocabulary and grammar in creative, meaningful ways while exploring themes such as personal relationships, travel, professional development, media, and Hispanic culture. With exposure to authentic, culturally rich materials and academic language, communication skills are refined through analysis, opinion expression, and narrative writing. Projects like performing telenovela scenes, writing travel posts, and presenting product or service descriptions foster fluency and confidence. As an IB Capable Phase 4 course aligned with the B2 level of the Common European Framework, it prepares learners to communicate with increased spontaneity and clarity in a wide range of contexts. Completion of this course earns a high school Spanish 3 credit.

Spanish 4 through STEM, Literary Arts and Humanities

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Spanish 3 for HS Credit

Grade Level(s): 8-10

Course Description:

Spanish 4 takes your language skills to the next level by studying exciting, real-world topics like global culture and social issues through literature and art, and future innovations through STEM—diving into authentic stories, scientific discoveries, and creative works that spark curiosity and conversation. Whether you're debating current events, creating a cultural project, or collaborating with classmates, this course helps you become a fluent IB Proficient Phase 5 communicator, aligning with C1 levels of the Common European Framework, preparing you for success in the IB DP Spanish SL or HL courses. If you're ready to use Spanish in creative and meaningful ways, this course is for you! Completion of this course earns a high school Spanish 4 credit.

Mathematics

Integrated Math 1

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite

Grade Level(s): 6

Course Description:

In the Integrated Math 1 course, students delve into a comprehensive exploration of 6th grade mathematical concepts. The curriculum encompasses number sense, operations, ratios, proportions, expressions, equations, beginning geometry, beginning statistics, and beginning probability. Students develop fluency in basic arithmetic, tackle algebraic expressions and equations, explore geometric shapes and transformations, and engage with statistical data. The course emphasizes problem-solving skills through real-world applications, fostering mathematical reasoning and communication. This course aims to provide a solid foundation in mathematical concepts, encourage critical thinking, and equip students with essential skills for further mathematical studies.

Integrated Math 2

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): Integrated Math 1 or Teacher Recommendation

Grade Level(s): 6-7

Course Description:

In the Integrated Math 2 course, students engage in a comprehensive exploration of 7th grade mathematical concepts. The curriculum covers ratios, rates, and proportional relationships with real-world applications, along with a focus on rational numbers, expressions, equations, and inequalities. Geometric figures and their properties are explored, with emphasis on calculating area, volume, and understanding angles. Statistical analysis, probability concepts, proportional relationships, and percentages are further developed. The course fosters inquiry-based problem-solving, encouraging critical thinking and mathematical reasoning. Building on foundational skills, this course provides students with a robust mathematical foundation and the ability to apply their skills in various contexts.

Integrated Math 3

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): Integrated Math 2 or Teacher Recommendation

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Course Description:

In the Integrated Math 3 course, students engage in a comprehensive exploration of advanced mathematical concepts. The curriculum covers the number system, expressions, equations, and functions, emphasizing the analysis and interpretation of linear and exponential functions. Geometric principles are applied to real-world problems, including Pythagorean theorem applications, congruence, and similarity. Students delve into statistical analysis, probability

concepts, and conditional probability, gaining proficiency in interpreting data using statistical measures. Transformational geometry, including translations, rotations, reflections, and dilations, is introduced. The course fosters inquiry-based problem-solving, cultivating advanced critical thinking and mathematical reasoning skills. This course equips students with a robust mathematical foundation for continued success in higher-level mathematics.

Algebra 1

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Integrated Math 3

Grade Level(s): 7-9

Course Description:

In the Algebra 1 course, students engage in an introductory study of Algebra, designed to provide you with a foundational understanding of essential algebraic skills, preparing you for success in Geometry and beyond. We will begin by delving into the symbolic language of variables. Developing proficiency in solving linear equations and the ability to substitute values into expressions and simplify algebraic expressions will be crucial for manipulating geometric formulas. Working with coordinates and understanding the coordinate plane will empower you to navigate the spatial aspects of our world. Additionally, the proficiency gained in translating word problems into algebraic expressions and equations will prove essential when tackling real-world challenges. This course will build a strong algebraic foundation, unlocking the door to a deeper understanding of geometry and setting the stage for your continued mathematical exploration.

Geometry

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Algebra 1

Grade Level(s): 8-10

Course Description:

In this Geometry course, students will embark on an introductory exploration of fundamental geometric concepts and relationships. Mastery of basic elements such as points, lines, angles, polygons, circles, and triangles lays the groundwork for more advanced investigations. The course delves into criteria for congruent and similar figures, utilizing transformations to solidify understanding. Properties of polygons and circles, including the relationships between angles, sides, and diagonals, are thoroughly explored. Proficiency in coordinate geometry and working with the Cartesian plane is emphasized. The study of geometric transformations, encompassing translations, rotations, reflections, and dilations, enhances spatial reasoning skills. Students will also calculate the area and volume of diverse geometric shapes, from polygons to cylinders and spheres. An introduction to trigonometric concepts, including sine, cosine, and tangent, further enriches the geometric toolkit. Throughout the course, an emphasis on problem-solving and geometric reasoning fosters a deep understanding of the interconnected nature of geometric principles, preparing students to further explore mathematics courses.

Algebra 2

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Algebra 1 and/or Geometry

Grade Level(s): 9-10

Algebra II is an engaging yearlong course designed to deepen students' understanding of advanced algebraic concepts and their real-world applications. Building upon prior knowledge from Algebra I and Geometry, this course covers a wide range of topics, including polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions; systems of equations and inequalities; sequences and series; probability; and matrices. Through problem-solving, collaborative projects, and technology integration, students will develop critical thinking skills and mathematical fluency. This course prepares students for future studies in Precalculus or any IB DP Mathematics SL/HL course.

Sciences

Physical Sciences

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Course Description:

Physical Sciences introduces students to key concepts in both physics and Earth science through hands-on exploration and scientific inquiry. Students investigate motion, forces, energy, waves, electricity, and magnetism, along with Earth's structure, geologic processes, weather, and climate. Using tools like PhET simulations and contributing real data to NASA's Globe Program, students connect classroom learning to real-world science. This course builds foundational skills in experimentation, data analysis, and scientific thinking, preparing students for further study in the sciences.

Natural Sciences

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Course Description:

Natural Sciences is an exciting, hands-on introduction to the worlds of life science and chemistry. In this course, you'll uncover what makes living things tick—from the smallest cells to entire ecosystems—and learn how your body, the environment, and even chemical reactions are all connected. You'll explore genetics, evolution, atoms, and the periodic table, and run experiments that show how matter transforms through physical and chemical reactions. Using cool tools like PhET simulations and NASA's Globe Program, you'll gather real data and see how science connects to the world around you. Be ready to think critically, collaborate with classmates, and dive into discovery—with your device, notebook, and curiosity in hand!

Astronomy

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): Physical Sciences or Natural Sciences

Grade Level(s): 7-8

Course Description:

Welcome to the exploration of Space Science and Astronomy. Throughout this exploration, students will journey into the cosmos, starting with an introduction to basic astronomy concepts, celestial objects, and the vast scale of the universe. The course delves into the dynamics of our solar system, exploring the sun, planets, moons, asteroids, and comets, unraveling their orbits and unique characteristics. Stellar astronomy unfolds the life cycles of stars and the captivating properties that define these celestial entities. Venturing further, students will explore galaxies, their classification, and the broader field of cosmology, delving into the Big Bang theory and the expansion of the universe. We will also be exploring Earth as a Planet, the global perspective, and early life on Earth, the Moon, and neighboring planets

including Venus and Mars. This course consistently uses resources provided by NASA, University of Arizona Astronomy Department, the NSF, and other media sources (Cosmos) to further the understanding of close and extremely distant cosmological objects as our space technology further advances with the Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes. Students will continue to utilize these robust resources to increase the relevance and real-world impact within this inquiry-based Astronomy Program at the International School of Texas.

Marine Biology

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Natural Sciences

Grade Level(s): 8-9

Course Description:

Marine Biology is an immersive yearlong course offering an in-depth exploration of life in Earth's oceans. Through the lens of the IB MYP Sciences framework, students will investigate the diversity of marine organisms, the structure and function of marine ecosystems, and the physical and chemical processes that govern oceanic systems. The curriculum emphasizes the interconnectedness of marine life and human society, addressing contemporary issues such as climate change, conservation, and sustainable resource management. Students will engage in hands-on activities, field studies, and research projects that foster critical thinking and scientific inquiry. This course prepares students for advanced studies in environmental and biological sciences and cultivates a lifelong appreciation for the marine environment.

Biology

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Natural Sciences or Marine Biology

Grade Level(s): 9-10

Course Description:

Biology offers an in-depth exploration of the living world, beginning with cell structures, organelles, and cell division. The course moves through Mendelian and molecular genetics, DNA structure, replication, and protein synthesis, followed by a focus on evolution, natural selection, and genetic variation. Ecosystems, biodiversity, population dynamics, and organism classification are examined alongside human anatomy and physiology. Emphasis is placed on interpreting visual and numerical data from tools like microscopes and simulations—including PhET models on gene expression, natural selection, and pH balance. Through hands-on inquiry, data analysis, and experimental design, this course builds scientific thinking and prepares learners for future study in life sciences. A charged device, notebook, writing utensil, and ability to perform basic calculations are expected. This course prepares students for advanced studies in IB DP Biology SL/HL and success in other IB DP Sciences courses.

Chemistry

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Biology, Marine Biology, or Physics

Grade Level(s): 10

Course Description:

Chemistry is a dynamic yearlong course offering an in-depth exploration of matter and its interactions. Aligned with the IB MYP Sciences framework, this course delves into atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical bonding, reactions, stoichiometry, thermochemistry, kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, electrochemistry, and nuclear chemistry. Emphasizing scientific inquiry and critical thinking, students engage in hands-on laboratory experiments, collaborative projects, and real-world problem-solving activities. This course prepares students for advanced studies in IB DP Chemistry SL/HL and fosters an appreciation for the role of chemistry in everyday life.

Physics

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Biology, Marine Biology, or Chemistry

Grade Level(s): 10

Course Description:

Physics is an engaging, inquiry-driven course that invites students to explore the forces, energy, and interactions that govern the natural world. Students investigate motion, gravity, and collisions through hands-on labs, analyze the behavior of waves and sound, build and test circuits, and experiment with electromagnetism and optics. As the course progresses, students explore modern physics topics like atomic structure and radiation. Using simulations, data collection, and real-world applications, students build strong conceptual understanding and scientific thinking. Designed within the IB MYP framework, the course prepares students for further studies in IB DP Physics SL/HL and other science, engineering, and technology courses.

Design

Introduction to Modeling & Architecture

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 6-10

Course Description:

Introduction to Modeling & Architecture explores the foundations of architectural design through the lens of sustainability, innovation, and user-centered thinking. Using the MYP Design Cycle, learners research, develop, and prototype architectural solutions that respond to real-world challenges. The course blends hands-on modeling with digital tools such as CAD software, while examining how architecture reflects cultural values, environmental needs, and social responsibility. Through iterative design, collaboration, and reflection, learners build creative problem-solving skills and an understanding of the built environment's impact on people and the planet.

Introduction to Digital Storytelling

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 6-10

Course Description:

Introduction to Digital Storytelling invites learners to explore the art of storytelling through digital media, guided by the IB MYP Design Cycle. The course focuses on crafting narratives using formats such as comic books and stop motion animation, while emphasizing key elements like plot, setting, and character development. By analyzing examples of digital storytelling, learners gain insight into what makes stories compelling and effective. Through the stages of inquiry, ideation, creation, and evaluation, they develop and refine original storytelling projects. The course builds creative and technical skills while fostering critical thinking, communication, and visual literacy in a design-focused context.

Introduction to Coding 1 (CSS Discoveries) & FLL Robotics

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 6-10

Course Description:

Introduction to Coding 1 & FLL Robotics introduces foundational programming and robotics through Code.org's "CS Discoveries" and the LEGO-based FIRST LEGO League platform. Learners use the IB MYP Design Cycle to design, build, and program robots, solve real-world challenges, and develop interactive digital projects. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving, collaboration, ethical computing, and the impacts of technology on society. Through hands-on coding and robotics challenges, this course builds essential computational thinking and design skills for future innovation.

Introduction to Coding 2 (CSS Discoveries) & FLL Robotics

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Coding & Robotics 1/2 or Teacher Recommendation

Grade Level(s): 7-10

Course Description:

Building upon foundational programming and robotics knowledge, Introduction to Coding 2 & FLL Robotics advances learners' skills in computer science and engineering. Utilizing Code.org's Computer Science Discoveries (CS Discoveries) curriculum alongside the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Robotics platform, participants engage in complex projects that emphasize algorithm development, data analysis, and system design. The course integrates the IB MYP Design Cycle, guiding learners through in-depth processes of inquiry, ideation, prototyping, and evaluation.

Basic Game Theory & Design

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Digital Storytelling 1/2 or Teacher Recommendation

Grade Level(s): 7-10

Course Description:

Basic Game Theory & Design introduces learners to the principles of game theory and the fundamentals of game design. Through the IB MYP Design Cycle, participants explore strategic decision-making, analyze classic game models, and apply computational thinking to create original games. The course emphasizes critical thinking, collaboration, and ethical considerations in game development, preparing learners to understand and design interactive experiences that reflect complex systems and human behaviors.

Introduction to VR Design (Unity)

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Digital Storytelling 3/4 or Teacher Recommendation

Grade Level(s): 9-10

Course Description:

Embark on an immersive journey into Virtual Reality (VR) design using Unity, a leading real-time 3D development platform. This course introduces the principles of VR development, guiding learners through the creation of interactive and immersive experiences. Utilizing the IB MYP Design Cycle, participants will engage in inquiry, ideation, prototyping, and evaluation to develop VR applications. The curriculum emphasizes computational thinking, user-centered design, and the ethical implications of VR technology, preparing learners to contribute thoughtfully to the evolving field of virtual environments.

Visual Arts

2-D Art 1: Drawing & Painting

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 6-10

Course Description:

2-D Art 1 – Drawing & Painting focuses on developing technical skills, creative thinking, and visual literacy through hands-on exploration of two-dimensional media. Learners build a strong foundation in the elements of art—line, shape, color, texture, value, and space—and apply principles of design such as balance, contrast, rhythm, and emphasis. Through focused practice in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage, the course emphasizes both skill refinement and conceptual development. Learners analyze artworks within historical, cultural, and contemporary contexts, engaging in critical reflection and visual inquiry. Portfolios showcase growth in technique, creativity, and personal expression, while reinforcing the role of art as a tool for communication and cultural understanding.

2-D Studio Art

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): 2-D Art 1: Drawing & Painting

Grade Level(s): 8-10

Course Description:

2-D Art Studio is an advanced-level visual arts course that deepens technical mastery, personal voice, and conceptual sophistication in two-dimensional art forms. Building on foundational skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage, learners pursue more independent, inquiry-driven work that reflects a strong understanding of artistic elements and design principles. The course challenges learners to experiment with media, develop thematic bodies of work, and critically engage with artworks across cultural and historical contexts. Emphasis is placed on self-direction, innovation, visual storytelling, and portfolio development as tools for communication and personal growth.

3-D Art 1

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 6-10

Course Description:

Welcome to the 3-D Art course, where students embark on an immersive journey into the realm of three-dimensional art forms. Throughout this dynamic exploration, students engage in a rich tapestry of sculpting techniques, ceramics, mixed media, and installation art, honing their skills and understanding of form, space, and composition. From wire sculpting to found object assemblage, students delve into the intricacies of environmental and site-specific art, integrating elements of nature and architecture into their creations. Through hands-on experimentation and reflection, students explore conceptual ideas and themes, fostering

creativity and critical thinking. Participation in critiques encourages students to analyze and discuss artworks, promoting a deeper understanding of form, technique, and concept. Join us on this transformative journey where students discover the boundless possibilities of three-dimensional art, igniting their passion for creativity and self-expression.

3-D Studio Art

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): 3-D Art 1

Grade Level(s): 8-10

Course Description:

3-D Art Studio is an advanced-level course that deepens engagement with sculptural practices, emphasizing technical mastery, conceptual exploration, and personal voice in three-dimensional artmaking. Building on the skills developed in 3-D Art 1, learners take creative risks with complex materials and processes—including ceramics, installation, mixed media, and sustainable or found materials. Through the lens of the IB MYP Arts framework, learners engage in inquiry, experimentation, critique, and portfolio development while creating sculptural works that reflect thoughtful engagement with space, form, and meaning.

Graphic Design 1

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): 2-D Art 1 or 3-D Art 1

Grade Level(s): 7-10

Course Description:

Welcome to the Graphic Design 1 course, where students embark on an enriching journey through the realm of Graphic Design. Throughout this dynamic exploration, students delve into the fundamentals of graphic design, mastering layout, composition, typography, color theory, and visual hierarchy. Through hands-on experiences with digital tools and software like Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, students develop proficiency in digital image editing, vector graphics, and layout design. They study typography principles, brand identity, logo design, and publication layout, crafting compelling visual narratives that captivate audiences. Ethical and cultural considerations underpin their exploration, fostering responsible design practices and sensitivity to representation and appropriation. Through the creation of a digital portfolio, students reflect on their design choices, processes, and growth as graphic artists, empowering them to communicate ideas effectively and ethically in a visually driven world. Join us on this transformative journey where creativity, critical thinking, and cultural awareness converge to shape the graphic designers of tomorrow.

Graphic Design 2

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Graphic Design 1

Grade Level(s): 8-10

Graphic Design 2 immerses students in the multifaceted world of graphic storytelling. Through the exploration of visual art techniques and narrative structures, students will conceptualize,

design, and produce their own graphic comics and novels. The course emphasizes the synthesis of imagery and text to convey compelling stories, fostering skills in illustration, composition, character development, and thematic exploration. Additionally, students will critically analyze existing works to understand the historical and cultural significance of graphic comics and novels.

Performing Arts

Concert Band

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS/HS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 6-10

Course Description:

Concert Band offers an engaging and collaborative experience in instrumental music performance. Musicians develop advanced techniques on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments while deepening their understanding of music theory, notation, and ensemble rehearsal processes. Through the study of diverse repertoire—including classical, contemporary, jazz, and global traditions—participants refine their skills in interpretation, musical expression, and stylistic awareness. The course emphasizes ensemble skills such as balance, blend, intonation, and rhythmic precision, while encouraging creativity through opportunities in improvisation, composition, and analysis. Regular performances foster stage presence, concert etiquette, and reflection, allowing musicians to connect with audiences and demonstrate their growth. Concert Band nurtures artistic development, critical thinking, and a lifelong appreciation for instrumental music.

Modern/Rock Band

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS/HS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 6-10

Course Description:

Modern/Rock Band provides a dynamic and collaborative experience focused on popular and contemporary music genres. Musicians build foundational and advanced skills on guitar, bass, keyboard, drums, and vocals while developing fluency in chord progressions, improvisation, and rhythmic precision. Emphasis is placed on playing by ear, reading chord charts and tablature, and performing in various ensemble settings. Through the rehearsal and performance of rock, pop, blues, indie, funk, and other modern styles, participants explore musical form, expression, and collaborative creativity. The course encourages original songwriting, arranging, and the use of digital tools to support composition and recording. Regular gigs, studio sessions, and live performances develop stage presence, audience engagement, and confidence. Modern/Rock Band empowers musicians to express themselves authentically while developing critical musical and ensemble skills for the modern music world.

Choir

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS/HS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 6-10

Course Description:

Sing with us! In Choir, the course focuses on the development of vocal technique, ensemble performance skills, and musical literacy through the study and performance of choral repertoire from diverse cultures, genres, and time periods. Guided by the IB MYP Arts framework, this course emphasizes creative expression, technical growth, and reflective practice. Learners explore musical interpretation, develop independent part-singing abilities, and collaborate as a unified ensemble through rehearsals and performances. Through inquiry, analysis, performance, and evaluation, this course fosters confidence, artistry, and a deeper appreciation for vocal music.

Theater Performance (in partnership with TexArts)

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 8-10

Course Description:

Theater Performance explores the craft of acting through voice, movement, and character development. Learners build core performance techniques, stage presence, and interpretive skills while analyzing character, emotion, and story through dramatic text. Grounded in the IB MYP Arts framework and aligned with national theatre standards, the course emphasizes ensemble collaboration, rehearsal discipline, and reflective practice. Through monologues, scene work, and full ensemble performances, learners gain confidence, versatility, and a deeper appreciation for the power of live theatrical storytelling.

Technical Theater (in partnership with TexArts)

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 8-10

Course Description:

Technical Theater provides hands-on experience in the behind-the-scenes world of stagecraft and theatrical production. Learners explore key areas such as set design, lighting, sound, costume, props, and stage management. Guided by the IB MYP Arts framework and aligned with national technical theatre standards, the course develops practical skills in production design, technical operation, and collaborative problem-solving. Learners contribute to real productions and simulations, taking ownership of design decisions, cue coordination, and backstage responsibilities. Through planning, building, and executing production elements, learners gain an understanding of how technical theatre shapes audience experience and supports creative storytelling.

Dance (in partnership with TexArts)

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 6-10

Course Description:

Dance is a technique- and performance-based course that builds physical skills, creative expression, and cultural understanding through the study of multiple dance genres. Learners engage in structured exploration of ballet, jazz, and tap, while building a strong foundation in movement principles, musicality, and choreographic design. Through study of dance history—including ballet and tap—learners develop critical awareness of dance as a reflection of social and cultural contexts. Using the IB MYP Arts framework, students analyze and reflect on their practice, create original choreography, and perform in both solo and ensemble formats.

Physical & Health Education

Beginning Physical & Health Education

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite courses

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Course Description:

Welcome to Beginning Physical Education, a dynamic course with an engaging curriculum that is crafted to foster a comprehensive approach to physical well-being, skill development, and a positive mindset towards physical activity. Students will embark on a journey that includes fundamental movement skills, including running, jumping, throwing, and striking, coupled with an introduction to fitness concepts like cardiovascular endurance and muscular strength. The course explores team sports, emphasizing collaboration and sportsmanship, and delves into individual and dual sports like tennis and badminton, promoting skill development and fair play. Outdoor education brings a breath of fresh air with activities in natural settings, fostering environmental awareness. Throughout, students will develop personal and social responsibility, with an emphasis on positive attitudes, teamwork, and respect. Assessment methods and self-reflection round out the experience, ensuring a comprehensive and enjoyable introduction to physical education. Join us as we embark on a journey that not only builds physical prowess but also instills a lifelong commitment to a healthy and active lifestyle.

Advanced Physical & Health Education

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 MS

Prerequisite(s): Beginning Physical & Health Education

Grade Level(s): 7-9

Course Description:

Welcome to Advanced Physical Education, an exhilarating course and advanced curriculum that is designed to elevate students' physical prowess, refining, and mastering fundamental movement skills while introducing complex techniques in running, jumping, throwing, catching, and striking. The course delves into an in-depth exploration of fitness concepts, integrating advanced cardiovascular workouts, muscular strength training, flexibility exercises, and body composition assessments. Students engage in advanced team sports, honing their understanding of strategies, tactics, and teamwork, with specialized training in soccer, basketball, and volleyball. Individual and dual sports reach new heights with advanced techniques in tennis, badminton, and track and field. Adventure education introduces challenges that develop physical and mental abilities, fostering teamwork, problem-solving, and leadership skills in outdoor adventure sports. Personalized fitness plans empower students to set and monitor goals, adapting exercises to individual needs. Advanced assessment methods and self-reflection strategies ensure a comprehensive approach to evaluating individual and group performance, fostering a lifelong commitment to physical well-being. Join us on this advanced journey, where physical education transcends boundaries and propels students to reach their full potential.

Advanced Fitness

Duration: One Year

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 1.0 HS

Prerequisite(s): Advanced Physical & Health Education

Grade Level(s): 8-10

Course Description:

Advanced Fitness is designed to elevate students' physical fitness levels by engaging them in comprehensive training programs that incorporate strength, endurance, flexibility, and cardiovascular exercises. Emphasizing the development of personalized fitness plans, the course fosters self-management skills and promotes lifelong health and wellness. Through theoretical and practical applications, students gain an in-depth understanding of exercise science, nutrition, and the psychological aspects of physical activity.