



INTERNATIONAL
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

2019 - 2020
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SCHOOL MISSION AND GOALS

Mission Statement

To equip students to serve and transform their communities by delivering excellent Christian education designed to cultivate their character, nurture their God-given abilities, and prepare them for life, including tertiary education.

Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs)

All students will...

Identify and develop God-given abilities

Communicate effectively

Strive for excellence

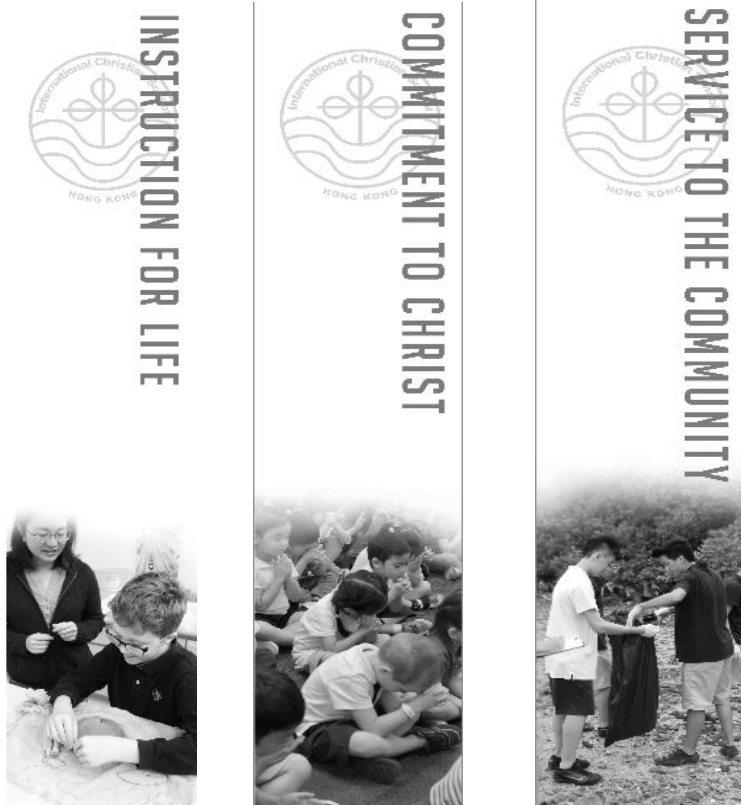
Act as responsible members of the global community

Know, understand, and apply Biblical principles

Think independently, creatively, and analytically

Motto

Instruction for Life | Commitment to Christ | Service to the Community



CONTACT DETAILS

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Overview of Middle School Program

During the middle school years students experience many physical, emotional, and social changes as they transition from childhood to adolescence. Students are learning to deepen their thinking skills, explore who they are, and beginning to test their independence. Here at ICS we view the middle school years as a time of growth and opportunity. As such the middle school program provides a broad range of subjects and experiences that aim to nurture existing abilities and give opportunities to discover new interests and talents.

New Student Orientation

A one-day new student orientation program is conducted before the start of the first day of school in order to view school facilities and learn about the school's various functions, policies and procedures. This is an informal time of sharing and very helpful to new students. Also, our school counselor arranges to meet individually with new students several weeks into the new school year to further acclimate them to the school culture, as well as to identify any potential problems before they develop. Transitioning to a new school, culture, and environment can be a challenging experience. We want to take every step possible to ensure a student's success. Additionally, there is an annual orientation for incoming sixth grade students. This is primarily for students who have already attended the ICS Elementary School, as well as new students enrolled into the sixth grade. Normally, this orientation is conducted at the end of the academic year.

Advisory "FaceGroup" Program

Middle School teachers recognize the middle school years as a unique period of time in the life of a student. Students are going through numerous changes (physical, emotional, social, and spiritual) and need to work with teachers who understand them. To help facilitate this period of growth, ICS has implemented an advisory program with the purpose of:

- Providing an adult advocate for each student in the school.
- Promoting positive school climate.
- Promoting small, caring communities of learners.
- Promoting mutually respectful and meaningful relationships.
- Providing individual attention to students.
- Providing each student with an opportunity to "belong."
- Emphasizing the social and emotional development of every young adolescent.
- Assisting students with interpersonal communication skills development.
- Providing instruction on health-related topics.

Advisory groups, or FaceGroups, provide the students the opportunity to develop a deeper level of trust with the same smaller group of students and teacher advisor over the course of their middle school years. Students start each day meeting with their FaceGroup.

1:1 Laptop Program

ICS is committed for our students to be better equipped with 21st Century Skills (*Communicating, Innovating and Creating, Collaborating, Thinking Analytically, Solving Problems, and Finding and Evaluating Information*). These skills are needed to be successful leaders, workers, and citizens. To better accomplish this, every middle school student is responsible to bring his/her own MacBook computer to school each day. It is important for students to have a common platform between home and school for consistency and increased learning opportunities. Learn more about the 1:1 Laptop Program by clicking [ICS FAQ](#)

Middle School Chapel

Middle School chapel aims to provide students a venue for presenting their understanding of Christianity, hearing a range of speakers on topics of biblical faith, and participating in communal worship through singing and prayer.

Chapels contain an interesting mix of dynamic speakers and grade level drama productions with a spiritual twist, teacher testimonies and skits, and outstanding student-led worship teams.

Core Academic Curriculum

The ICS Middle School curriculum provides a broad variety of instructional areas or subjects. These include Bible, English, Social Science, Mathematics, Science, Chinese Language, Art, Theater and Public Speaking (TAPS), Physical Education, and Instrumental and Vocal Music. In the following sections, we have provided an overview of our curricular offerings.

Library Services

The ICS library has several programs that are designed especially for middle school students. The library has purchased thousands of books specifically for the MS students and also subscribes to several online databases that will help your child with their homework and other assignments. Foremost among these is the NewsBank system that contains over 6000 periodicals, newspapers and magazines going all the way back to 1971. It is topically searchable and is a wonderful resource for all kinds of assignments.

Six + 1 Traits of Writing

Learning to communicate is a critical skill for all students. The ICS Middle School Program uses a holistic approach to teach the writing process assessed by using the Six + 1 Traits Writing Program. This program is more than an assessment; it is a critical curricular support in teaching the various components needed to result in successful writing. The various aspects of six traits include conventions, fluency, ideas, organization, voice, word choice, and presentation. These keys to writing are introduced in the English Language Arts program and reinforced by all teachers in all courses in the Middle School Program.

Annual Academic Fair

Each year in the spring, the middle school conducts an annual Academic Fair that is used to highlight students' problem solving, research, and investigative achievements in science, social sciences, and math. Students are guided by teachers in selecting a problem or area of research in which they will develop and complete a research project in their chosen area of investigation. Currently, the sixth grade focuses on mathematics, the seventh grade on social science, and the eighth grade on science. Depending on the school goals and/or needs the various grade level focuses may be modified from year-to-year.

Academic and General Counseling

The secondary school has two full-time counselors to assist in identifying and meeting the emotional needs of students. This is a part of the school's total focus on the student, that includes spiritual development. Each middle school FaceGroup teacher is a part of the school's advisory and counseling focus. These individuals strive to serve the needs of students by engaging them in activities related to social and emotional development and growth. The majority of courses for middle school students follow a predetermined selection. From Grade 7 onwards students may choose to opt into the Spanish language program. During the Spring semester, eighth-graders will be advised by the academic dean, school counselor, or college advisor as they select courses for their first year in high school. Special workshops and seminars are provided for these students prior to this process. The college advisors primarily work with upper class students, however, they are available by appointment to any student or parent in the school, and they conduct several parent workshops on the college admission process.

Learning Support

Students with diverse learning needs receive differentiated learning strategies through an integrated team approach involving parents, teachers, administrators, counselors, learning support services, and the student (as appropriate). A Tiered-Model system is applied to support achievement and behavioral needs.

Parent Workshops

Periodically, the school conducts several workshops and seminars for parents designed to inform and/or promote the school's programs. Also, these parent sessions may focus on various parenting topics, like "How to Communicate with a Teenager?" Annually, we provide a seminar on the topic, "Life in the Middle" that deals with specific issues related to being a parent of a middle school-aged student. From time-to-time, the school also conducts programs that have developed from the input and needs of parents. The school's faculty and staff, as well as other professionals outside the school, teach these sessions.

Grade 6 Courses and Programs

The sixth grade program serves as the bridge from the elementary to secondary programs. During this year students are adjusting to new schedules, lockers, having more teachers, and varied combinations of students. Teachers work in grade level teams to help monitor student learning and behavior.

101 Bible

The sixth grade Bible course covers the Old Testament period from Creation to the reign of King David. This course gives an overview of God's dealings with mankind in their sin, including both historical background and important characters who played a major role in God's plan to establish His people, Israel, as those through whom redemption from sin would come to earth. Skills developed include: related memory work, in-depth reading of Old Testament passages (Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Judges), general knowledge of God's plan for Israel, application of Biblical principles to students' lives, and recognition of the way that God has blessed the world through His plan for Israel.

ELA/Social Science (Humanities Block)

The English and social science courses have sought to integrate both subjects to create a greater sense of continuity, producing deeper connections with the content. This is an ongoing goal of the Humanities program to enhance the learning of each student.

301 Social Science

This course focuses on the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, Greece, Rome, and ends with a unit on survival as students develop skills in interpreting geographical information, making inferences, analyzing events of the past, making connections, summarizing, and outlining. Students analyze cause and effect, and develop their understanding of how events of the past have affected the present.

001 English

Reading, writing, grammar, along with the skills of listening, speaking, viewing, and presenting are the essential elements of this course. Students will continue to develop their writing proficiency, focusing on the skills emphasized in the Six + 1 Traits of Writing, as well as using correct grammar and sentence structure. In addition, the eight parts of speech will be identified and used correctly in both written and oral presentations. Students will read, respond to, and analyze various written works as the focus is on the elements of literature and poetry including: alliteration, simile, metaphor, onomatopoeia, setting, plot, theme, conflict, climax, flashback, foreshadowing, and character. The poetry unit contains Biblical Worldview Integration (BWI).

217 Mathematics

This math course is aligned to Common Core State Standards. This mathematics course continues to build skills that are needed to investigate the wonder and order of God's creation. Previous skills and knowledge in the areas of patterning, whole numbers, fractions, decimals, ratio and percentage will be reviewed and used to complete higher-level word problems. New skills with integers, algebraic expressions, equations, basic functions, exponents, geometry, and measurement concepts will be integrated with the skills learned in fifth grade. Students will be required to build mastery with numerical operation skills, develop organizational skills, and learn to present formal mathematical solutions. Students will use Internet sites to practice math skills and research math concepts. Where possible, students use investigation to develop a deeper understanding of math concepts. During the year students will complete a variety of projects that prepare them to produce a project for the Academic Fair. Students will apply these numeracy skills in our grade level economy of ICS money, which is spent, earned, and saved.

461 Science

In Grade 6 Integrated Science, students will use a variety of Science and Engineering Practices from the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to examine units in Physical Science (Structure and Properties of Matter), Life Science (Cells, Organ Systems, and Organisms; Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems), and Earth Science (Weather and Climate). Students take part in a variety of hands-on inquiry-based investigations, and demonstrate learning in a variety of ways, including written, spoken, and multimedia products. Students are asked to reflect upon the order and complexity of the natural world, and our responsibility as stewards of God's creation.

474 MS STEM 1: Design Foundations

Design Foundations is an introductory course aimed at giving students a snapshot of engineering principles and building a foundation of engineering skills. These skills involve gaining knowledge/use of the engineering design process, applying the principles of design, and developing the mindset of an engineering problem solver. Through individual and group design projects, students learn science topics including forces and motion, and energy transfer between potential/kinetic energy. At the same time, they gain hands on practice with technical drawing, computer aided design programs and 3D printing. Students will be assessed on a set of standards drawn from the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the International Society for Technology in Education Standards (ISTE), and Common Core State Standards (CCSS Math).

543/544 Physical Education

Sixth grade classes learn a wide variety of transferable skills across multiple platforms including invasion games, net/wall games, striking and fielding games, aquatics, fitness,

and Outdoor Adventure Activities (OAA). They will be exposed to fun, fast lessons where they will combine the skills of self and peer assessment with their physical abilities to progress through units that are physically and cognitively demanding.

771 Art

The Middle School three semester art program begins in sixth grade. This program is designed to open the student's eyes to appreciate the beauty and language of art, and hone the artist's skills. The students learn how all creation intentionally reflects beauty, and how we are creative at our core. This course emphasizes the fundamentals of drawing in pencil and ink. Students also learn to use acrylic and tempera paint, oil and chalk pastels, charcoal, Conte crayon, and watercolor. Sketchbook drawing explorations are ongoing. Students are introduced to Renaissance art and its history as well as modern artists, color theory, and fundamentals of design.

Academic Fair - Math Fair

Students will be asked to complete a research statistics project and present their findings to demonstrate their understanding of the statistics and data management standards. Their presentation will incorporate skills developed in other courses.

World Language Choices for Grade 7

Students progressing to Grade 7 can choose either Chinese or Spanish to continue their learning in a modern world language. The Middle School Principal will provide students more details in February. Parents must approve this choice. Once committed, the course choices are considered locked in. Subsequent changes that clearly support student learning will only be considered with the approval of the Middle School Principal and Academic Coordinator.

Progression from 6th grade to 7th grade is conditional upon demonstrating learning, that is typically indicated in passing grades.

Grade 7 Courses and Programs

The seventh grade program continues to build on the foundations established in sixth grade. With guidance from the seventh grade level teachers, students are encouraged to continue to be more independent and responsible for their learning. This is an exciting year with new adventures.

102 Bible

The seventh grade Bible course covers the period in Israel's history from David to the fall of Israel and Judah. Major content themes include: the dividing of the Kingdom of Israel because of sin, the choices and influence of kings who led Israel away from God, and the balance of God's judgment and mercy as He dealt with the sinful but chosen people of Israel. The skills and knowledge developed are: appropriate memory work, in-depth reading of selected Bible passages (history, poetry, minor and major prophets), use of the inductive Bible study method, research into the influences exerted by Israel's neighbors, and the recognition of God's redemptive plan at work throughout the Bible to the present, even in the midst of seeming chaos (through the coming of Christ to rescue the world from sin). Students will be given opportunities to discover how this Bible content relates to them - regarding what/who they trust, choices, influence, how to stand up in faith and recognizing God's desire for them and the world they live in.

ELA/Social Science (Humanities Block)

Over the past few years, the social sciences and English courses have sought to integrate both subjects to create a greater sense of continuity, producing deeper connections with the content. This is an ongoing goal of the Humanities program to enhance the learning of each student.

302 Social Science

This class begins by examining the Age of Exploration and the race to acquire land and riches in the New World. The students continue to study several topics of American history including: The Colonization of the Americas, the American Revolution, the creation of the Constitution and New Nation, Westward Expansion, and finish the year studying the Civil War and Reconstruction. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to go past the typical historical knowledge for the who, what, and when of events and people, to answer the more important question of "How does my knowledge of these events impact the world and society in which I live?"

002 ELA

This class focuses on reading and writing. Students will hone their writing skills using the Six + 1 Writing Traits Model. Assignments may include: narrative stories, persuasive papers, research papers, and smaller descriptive writings. Students delve into the experience of reading ten different genres of literature by accepting the Reader's Escape Challenge: 20 books from the various genres over a period of four Quarters. Through Reader's Escape, they will learn reading strategies and vocabulary

development, as well as share their reading experiences with their peers through book conferences, book reviews, and book commercials. Many of these experiences are integrated into social science units to make the learning more authentic and applicable.

203 Mathematics - Pre-Algebra

This course is aligned with Common Core State Standards. Those students in seventh grade will be enrolled in Pre-Algebra. This class is designed to review necessary concepts while preparing them for grade 8, Algebra I. This year the students will cover the following topics: Positive and Negative Numbers, Rational Numbers, Solutions, Geometric Figures, Ratio, Proportion, and Percent, Percentages and Problem Solving, Equations and Inequalities, Coordinate Plane, Area and Volumes, and Applying Algebra to Right Triangles. Students will use technology in the area of learning and reinforcing their keyboarding skills, which are skills that are relevant for the modern computer age. The students will also work with an online math program called Lure of the Labyrinth, as well as a beginner programming site called Scratch and learn coding on code.org. It is exciting to see technology being integrated into math. Students will use group work, individual work, collaboration and revision to learn the necessary math skills and concepts.

462 Science

In Grade 7 Integrated Science, students will use a variety of Science and Engineering Practices (NGSS) to access two units of Earth Science (Earth's Systems, History of Earth) and two units of Life Science (Growth, Development and Reproduction in Organisms, Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems).

Topics in Earth Science include Earth's Systems (biosphere, litho/geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, rocks and minerals, rock cycle, weathering and erosion, the water cycle) and History of Earth (plate tectonics, geologic time scale, fossils).

Topics in Life Science includes photosynthesis and reproduction in plants, and how matter and energy flow and cycle in organisms and ecosystem.

In addition to hands-on learning tasks, and inquiry labs, students will also be exposed to engineering tasks and challenges, and explore design thinking.

545/546 Physical Education

Seventh grade physical education classes carry over from the sixth grade curriculum. Students learn to participate in a wider variety of interesting, challenging, and unique physical activities. It is at this level that students begin to be more challenged on their knowledge and understanding of how the body works and the effect this understanding has on their performance. Units incorporate fitness and skill development, learning new concepts, strategies, and tactics while still heavily pushing higher order thinking skills. Seventh grade physical education classes provide the preparation for the next level of progression of physical activities offered in the eighth grade.

772 Art

In seventh grade, students learn how the creative language of art is used to communicate ideas. Students continue their development of basic drawing skills and

medium studies. Their art notebooks focus on the study of Chinese style drawing and painting. Chinese art history is studied in conjunction with Chinese art making. Projects include landscape painting, paper making, Chinese ink drawing, and the use of perspective to create dimensional space, and ceramic vessels. A variety of styles of major artists and art eras will be studied. Students will have regular sketchbook assignments to contribute to lessons in Art and Culture.

7751 Theater and Public Speaking

Seventh grade theater and public speaking class utilizes a wide variety of activities to build self-confidence and enhance quick thinking, cooperation, expression, and improvisation. We will work on understanding the elements of theater and public speaking, as well as developing characters through use of voice, facial expression, and body movement. Students will culminate the course by writing, directing, designing, and performing in a short original scene. Above all else, theater and public speaking class is about self-expression and fun. The class is designed so that students will become comfortable in front of an audience and increase their self-confidence.

Academic Fair – Humanities Fair

For the Academic Humanities Fair, students will research social justice issues from a Biblical perspective, which deeply impacts society and culture. This directly relates to the social sciences unit on slavery. The research on social justice issues culminates in writing a paper and creating a display presentation. Through this process, students will develop research, writing, and oral communication skills.

Course Sign-ups for Grade 8

Students progressing to Grade 8 can choose a world language between Chinese, Spanish or another world language from ICS' online partners. There are more choices during M-block in addition to choir and instrumental ensembles. Students will be provided details of these electives in a Grade 7 Course Sign-up Assembly in February.

Students and parents are responsible for signing up and approving these courses online. Once committed, the course choices are considered locked in. Subsequent changes that clearly support student learning may be considered with the approval of the Middle School Principal and Academic Coordinator.

Progression from 7th grade to 8th grade is conditional upon demonstrating learning, that is typically indicated in passing grades.

Grade 8 Courses and Programs

The final year in the middle school is one of transition and change. Classes and instruction are designed to help students prepare for the challenges that they will experience in high school. There is a big focus on study skills and note taking. Advisory times are also a great help as some are designed to help students think about their futures and goals for themselves. Students are also encouraged to take a greater role in their own education and to find ways that they can help themselves succeed in school and in their future.

Grade 8 Electives

In grade 8, students are offered electives in World Languages and Fine and Performing Arts. Students may choose to continue learning Chinese or they may choose to take Spanish. Students can also choose two year-long Fine and Performing Art courses including Band or Strings, Choir, Music and Culture, and/or a Visual Art elective.

103 Bible

Students will take an in-depth look at the gospels and the life of Jesus through our study of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Students will also look at the growth of the early church by studying the book of Acts. Throughout the year students will read through a portion of the Bible as part of the grades 6-12 Bible reading program and will commit scripture to memory. Students will focus on Bible study skills that equip them to observe, interpret and apply the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles as found in the four Gospels and the book of Acts. Students will have opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ by service in their home, school, world, and community.

ELA/Social Science Block (Humanities Block)

Over the past few years, the social science and English courses have sought to integrate both subjects to create a greater sense of continuity, producing deeper connections with the content. This is an ongoing goal of the Humanities program to enhance the learning of each student.

303 Social Science

This class continues from where the seventh grade finished, exploring the changes in the United States beginning with industrialization and immigration in the late 1800s and onward to America's involvement in World War I, the Roaring 20s and the Great Depression, the United States in World War II, and the Civil Rights Movement. Through studying these units students will develop study skills such as note taking, summarizing, key wording and outlining, as well as connecting past events to our world today. They will also explore major social science concepts in the areas of economics, sociology, politics, and geography.

003 ELA

The eighth grade English Language Arts course is designed to help students improve their skill with the English language and explore a variety of types of literature. Students will work at improving their writing by extending their knowledge of English grammar, broadening their vocabulary, and assessing their own and others' writing using the Six + 1 Writing Traits model. Students will become critical thinkers as they examine how the literature they read connects with their own lives and the world around them.

205 Mathematics - Algebra 1

This course is aligned with Common Core State Standards. The algebra students begin the year by studying the properties and operations of real numbers followed by a fairly comprehensive study of solving equations. Then, students learn how to graph linear equations as well as represent and manipulate linear equations using the standard, slope intercept and point slope forms of a line. Students will master the manipulation of exponents and exponential functions in order to factor polynomials by greatest common factor, grouping, trinomials, difference of two squares, and perfect square trinomials. Finally, students will learn to solve systems of equations by graphing, substitution, and elimination. Note: Algebra 1 students will not automatically go into Geometry in grade 9. Students must demonstrate that they have met the standards for Algebra 1.

218 Mathematics - Intro to Algebra

This course is aligned with Common Core State Standards. Students who have struggled with the pace of learning in previous math courses will be recommended and placed in this course to prepare them for Algebra 1 in high school. This will allow for foundational skills to be further reinforced and increase the likelihood for greater success while taking high school math courses. Some of the topics covered include: Positive and Negative Numbers, Rational Numbers, Solutions, Geometric Figures, Ratios and Proportions, Percentages and Problem Solving, Equations and Inequalities, Coordinate Plane, Area and Volumes, Applying Algebra to Right Triangles, Statistics and Probability.

254 Mathematics - Geometry

This course is aligned with Common Core State Standards. Students will learn the essential concepts needed to perform geometric proofs, as well as relationships of topics in two-dimensional and three-dimensional geometry. The topics to be covered are Introduction to Geometry, Basic Reasoning and Proofs, Parallel and Perpendicular Lines, Triangles, Polygons, Circles, Surface Area and Volume, Transformations, Trigonometry, and Enrichment Topics. Prerequisites: Algebra 1

463 Science

Continuing from Grade 7, science in Grade 8 will continue to develop scientific thinking through the application of Engineering Practices (NGSS) within science content. Over the course of the year, students will look at Chemical Interactions, Forces and Interactions, Energy, Earth and Space Systems as well as Life on Earth.

In Chemical Interactions, students will study gain a basic understanding of the atomic structure and have a good understanding of how atoms come together to form molecules. In Forces and Interactions, students will learn about Newton's Laws and how they apply to the world around us. The Energy unit focuses on the way Energy is used on Earth and how it can change into different forms that are either chemical or mechanical in nature. The Earth and Space systems will be looking into Earth as a part of the greater cosmos. Finally, the life on Earth unit will consist of a broader review and analysis of different origins theories include evolution and natural selection as well as young earth creationist theories. Students will be asked to evaluate evidence from each theory and reflect on the accounts in the Bible and seek a personal understanding of how the World was created.

The Grade 8 integrated science will focus on the use of models to represent concepts which will be incorporated with hands on activities that will demonstrate and explore the world of science. Students will not only further their knowledge of science but will have the opportunity to develop their thinking skills as well.

477 MS STEM 2: Real World Engineering/Environmental Engineering

MS STEM 2 is a continuation of learning engineering concepts and principles that will translate into "real-world" application. The premise of the class will be to address local and global environmental issues with STEM solutions. Students will conduct an in-depth study of the environmental issues connected to alternative energy solutions that engineers are working through in our world today. Skills on technical drawing, computer aided design programs and 3D printing will be revisited and furthered. Students will be assessed on a set of standards drawn from the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the International Society for Technology in Education Standards (ISTE), and Common Core State Standards (CCSS Math).

547/548 Physical Education

Eighth grade physical education classes reinforce existing skills, knowledge, along with appreciations learned in the sixth and seventh grades. All incorporate fitness, skill development, learning new concepts, strategies, and tactics, along with numerous other fun components. Students are challenged to become more autonomous in their learning and their projects reflect this. After completing the eighth grade physical education program each student will have a solid foundation for high school physical education classes.

7763 Theater and Public Speaking

Eighth grade theater and public speaking class utilizes a wide variety of activities to build self-confidence and enhance quick thinking, cooperation, expression, organization, and improvisation. As this is the third year of theater and public speaking instruction, the eighth grade course focuses on applying previously studied dramatic skills to real-life situations. They will acquire the tools necessary to create engaging and entertaining speeches, compelling persuasive arguments, strong debates, and a stage

presence that commands the audience's attention. Theater games and improvisation workshops will also be used to increase creativity and thinking skills. The class is designed so that students will become comfortable in front of an audience and increase their self-confidence.

7732 8th Grade Elective Art

The 8th grade art elective is one of the choices for 8th grade students during the Music and Fine Arts Block (M block). This course is meant to further enhance the middle school art experience by taking a more in-depth look at painting, digital media (including 3D-printing), drawing, and ceramics. Each project is designed to allow students to build on their God-given abilities and creativity, and to develop the techniques learned in the regular middle school courses to a higher level.

Academic Fair - Science Fair

The eighth grade students will take part in the annual science fair. This project is a culmination activity based off their last three years of middle school science. This project includes a research component and investigative experiment.

Progression from 8th grade to 9th grade is conditional upon demonstrating learning, which is typically indicated in passing grades.

HS Course sign-ups procedures and guidelines

In seeking to meet the personal needs and interests of our students moving to High School, the ICS high school (HS) course schedule is demand-driven where possible. Grade 8 students will undergo preliminary course sign-ups in November and final course sign-up in February. Each time, students are required to attend an informational assembly, and to follow up with signing up for courses online. In February, the final course sign-up season starts and it is more extensive including an Introduction to HS Parent Night, a final course sign-up assembly, academic advising meetings, and PowerLearning communications. It is important that students and parents sign-up and approve online. For more information, please see the HS Course Offerings Booklet available on the [ICS Website](#).

Grades 6 – 8 Music Instruction

Instrumental and Choral Music

All middle school students participate in both choral and instrumental music programs at ICS. We believe in providing students with broad experiences that will serve to help them to identify their God-given talents, as well as their own desires and goals in many areas of learning. Students in middle school will be placed into one of five bands or two orchestras and one of four choruses based on ability and instrumentation/voice part needs. For students with no instrumental background, beginning lessons are provided for them. Our students not only perform in annual concerts and activities, but also use their talents in other community service events throughout the school year. Additionally, students can elect to join extra-curricular vocal ensembles, jazz band, string ensemble, or other small instrumental and vocal ensembles.

719 Beginning Band

Students who either have not played a band instrument or do not have the necessary foundations in music will be placed in Beginning Band. It is taught in a small group setting with occasional sectionals. It is not a performance group, but once a student has mastered the basics of their instrument they will be moved to another band.

7461/7871/7261/7231 Middle School Bands

All middle school students will take band or orchestra. Students enrolled in band will be divided into one of four bands: Intrada, Rondo, Toccata, or Sinfonia Concert Bands. Students will be divided based on ability and instrumentation needs of the ensembles. All classes will provide students with deeper understanding of previously learned elements of instrumental music and enhance their performance skills on their chosen instrument.

Through various technical exercises and instrumental literature of different musical periods the proper playing habits such as correct posture, breathing, tone quality, intonation, and articulation will be reinforced, including sight-reading techniques and music theory. A higher level of technical ability must be demonstrated in class or through audition to be placed in Sinfonia Concert Band. Besides the Christmas and Spring Concerts, band students may also be asked to perform for the "Hong Kong Schools Music Festival" and the "South East Asia Band Festival," as well as other community service events and concerts.

759MS Middle School Orchestra

Middle School Orchestra is open to all students in grades 6 – 8 who play violin, viola, cello, or the double bass. Proper technique, ear training skills, music theory, music history, and appropriate rehearsal and performance etiquette will be taught and maintained within the group. Enrollment is by audition and director recommendation only. This performance-based class will learn Intermediate and Advanced concert literature. Students participating must be available for public performances, festivals,

and occasional after-school rehearsals. Prerequisites: Audition and Director's Recommendation

7003 Music and Culture

This is an elective course open to all eighth graders. This course will examine how music has been shaped by various world cultures, current and past events, thus, students will play non-traditional instruments and create and write unique compositions to name a few of the activities. Students who take this course must choose between an instrumental, choral music or art class.

777/778/779/780 Middle School Chorus

All middle school students will be divided into four choirs corresponding with their band placement. The choirs are: Jubilate, Con Brio, Presto, and Symphonic.

Through the study of various technical exercises and choral literature, students will develop performance skills to the best of their abilities. This course reinforces proper singing habits such as correct posture, breathing, and tone production. Students will learn vocal fundamentals, basic music theory, and sight-reading techniques. Occasionally students will sing in languages other than English. This is a performance class, and all students will be expected to participate in concerts and dress rehearsals.

Extra-curricular Instrumental Ensembles

All students are encouraged to participate in jazz band, and symphony that meet on Mondays after school. Students will perform in the Christmas and Spring Concerts, in addition to other performances.

Extra-curricular Vocal Ensembles

Middle School Madrigal meets after school on MS music day, and will be required to perform for concerts and have an opportunity for community service. This group requires higher levels of commitment both to the development of repertoire, as well as attending rehearsals. Auditions will be held in the beginning of the school year.

Grades 6 – 8 World Languages Instruction

Communication is at the heart of the human experience. It is our belief that the learning of languages is vital to an independent but global society. With the integration of Christian values, the learning of languages will reinforce students' respect and understanding of other cultures from a Biblical perspective and will enhance their willingness and readiness to communicate God's love to the world.

Through a practical and interactive approach, with the integration of instructional technology, students will develop the four communication skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing, which enable them to interact effectively and actively in the global community.

The Chinese and Spanish programs at International Christian School cultivates students' ability to communicate in these languages with cultural competence, enriches students' knowledge about political, economic, and social aspects of the Chinese and Spanish-speaking communities, enables higher-order thinking, and equips students with the necessary language skills to face the challenges of the 21st century. Chinese Language will be taught throughout Middle and High School, and Spanish Language will be taught in from Grade 8 onwards.

ICS currently offers Chinese in both Middle and High School, and Spanish from Grade 8 through High School. From Grade 8 students can consider pursuing languages not offered by ICS that may be useful for future study or higher education through online courses. Please note that all online courses need to be approved by the Academic Coordinator at least two weeks in advance of starting the course, not after the fact. Online courses need to be from an accredited provider, and all associated costs are in addition to ICS tuition fees and shall be covered by parents.

Chinese Language Program

Students in ICS represent a diverse range of linguistic and cultural backgrounds, from Chinese heritage families who speak Putonghua or a Chinese dialect, to those from Asian countries such as Japan and Korea, to those who are brought up with English as their only language. In order to accommodate different academic needs in Chinese learning, the school offers two streams of study: the Chinese Literacy Stream (CL) and the Chinese Communication Stream (CC). The placement of students takes into account their learning aptitude and potential in reading and writing. The medium of instruction is simplified characters in written form and Putonghua in spoken form.

Chinese Literacy Stream (CL)

The CL stream provides a Chinese language curriculum for students who demonstrate some ability to converse in Putonghua or a Chinese dialect and some knowledge in reading and writing Chinese. Students are prepared for a higher degree of competence in reading and writing in various literary forms and communication skills both orally and in writing. Putonghua is the instructional language.

Teaching materials are selected from those published in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Singapore, which are designed primarily for overseas Chinese learners. Resources from the Hong Kong local community and authentic materials are also integrated to enrich learning. At present, we use a series of teaching materials published by Jinan University Press for Teaching Chinese as a second Language, with corresponding online support.

Chinese Communication Stream (CC)

The CC stream is designed to provide a Chinese language course for students who have little or no experience in Chinese language. Students are prepared with the pronunciation system (Pinyin), orthography, sentence structure, discourse and culture of the language. Communicative function is emphasized both orally and in practical writing forms. The language of instruction is mainly Putonghua, with English used for explanation where necessary.

Our teaching materials for the CC stream are designed for learning Chinese as a second language. They are published in mainland China, Taiwan, Australia, and the United States. Authentic materials and useful sites from the internet are also integrated for learning. Students will be prepared to sit for the Advanced Placement examination in Chinese Language and Culture during High School. An appropriate level of typing skill will be necessary for the examination.

Courses and Progression in MS

Normal progression from middle school Chinese classes into high school Chinese classes will be indicated by moving to the *same* level number, even though the course in high school will be more rigorous. Normal progression from a high school Chinese class to the next high school Chinese class will be indicated by moving to the *next* level.

The charts below show the possible world language courses open for each grade with a .

MS	MSCC Found- ation #638	MS CC1 #639	MS CC2 #640	MS CC3 #641	MS CC4 #642	MS CL6 #651	MS CL7 #652	MS CL8 #653	MS CL9 #655M
G6	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
G7	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
G8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

HS Chinese	HS Chin Com 1 #643	HS Chin Com 2 #644	HS Chin Com 3 #646	HS Pre- AP Chin Com 4 #672	HS AP Chin Com 5 #673	HS Prac Wkpl Chin #656	HS Adv Hon Chin Lit 7 #671	HS Adv Hon Chin Lit 8 #654	HS Adv Hon Chin Lit 9 #661	HS Adv Hon Chin Lit 10 #662	HS Adv Hon Chin Lit 11 #663
										HS Pro Wkpl Chin #657	
G9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
G10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
G11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
G12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

638 MS Chinese Communication Foundation

This course introduces the rules of Pinyin – the Romanization system, basic vocabulary, and simple grammar. Students will demonstrate use of the language in daily situations, describing friends, family, and common daily objects. Students will read and write with the assistance of Pinyin, and express orally in Putonghua or in written form one’s opinions with basic information. Prerequisites: Students who have very little or no previous knowledge in Chinese language.

639 MS Chinese Communication 1

This course continues to develop the basic communication skills. More vocabulary and sentence structures regarding spatial relationship, directions, season and weather, hobbies, diet, and living environment are covered. Foundation skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing are developed. Students will read and write with less assistance of Pinyin, and demonstrate more complex ideas in Putonghua and in Chinese characters. Chinese culture is introduced and the accuracy in Chinese character writing is expected. Prerequisites: Students who attained a pass in the MS Chin Com Foundation, ES G5 CC course, or equivalent.

640 MS Chinese Communication 2

This course continues to further develop the language ability in the four macro skills. More vocabulary and sentence structures regarding appearance, sickness and treatment, school life, hobbies, meals and eating out, and neighborhood are covered. Authentic materials are adopted in discussing Chinese culture and cross-cultural awareness. Students will read and write with little assistance of Pinyin. Students will learn practical genres to construct effective written pieces with accuracy and fluency. Prerequisites: Students who attained a pass in the MS Chin Com 1, or performed outstandingly in ES G5 CC course, or equivalent.

641 MS Chinese Communication 3

This course aims to develop students with a more competitive level of Chinese language ability in the four macro skills. More vocabulary and sentence structures regarding personality and appearance, daily life, study and examination, festival and cuisines, travelling and accidents, neighborhood and facilities are covered. Authentic materials are adopted in discussing Chinese culture and cross-cultural awareness. Students will read and write from Chinese characters. Practical genres and narrative writing will be practiced. Prerequisites: students who attained a pass in the MS Chin Com 2, or equivalent.

642 MS Chinese Communication 4

This course is the highest level in the Chinese Communication Stream in middle school. Students will be guided to further develop the fluency to communicate in Chinese through learning more advanced and commonly used structures. Topics like family issues, tourism, health and accidents, charity work, traditions and customs, and various aspects of Chinese culture will be incorporated in the course. Students will be guided to communicate through discussions, debates, and in writings. Proficiency in typing with Pinyin is expected by the end of the course. This course will lead to HS Advanced Placement Chinese Communication 4 course in high school. Prerequisites: Students who attained a pass in the MS Chin Com 3, or equivalent.

651 MS Chinese Literacy 6

This CL course is designed for students who have demonstrated a foundational level in reading and writing, Chinese language. It aims to enhance the usage of the language by inputting a variety of vocabulary and syntax. Literary forms such as narrative writing, with emphasis on incident narration and character narration, letter writing, and movie reviews will be taught. Prerequisites: Students who attained a pass in ES G5 CL foundation course, or equivalent.

652 MS Chinese Literacy 7

This CL course aims to further enhance the skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and typing Chinese. A variety of vocabulary and syntax will be introduced to enrich the usage of the language. Literary forms such as narrative writing, speeches, movie reviews and illustrative writing on objects will be taught to further develop writing skills. Prerequisites: Students who attained a pass in ES G5 CL course, or MS Chin Lit 6, or equivalent.

653 MS Chinese Literacy 8

In this CL course, students will be introduced to articles in a variety of genres. Students also delve into some literature extracts and other contemporary materials. Writing will be more focused on narrative writing, persons and scenery, speeches, illustrative writing on objects and movie reviews. Prerequisites: Students who attained a pass in MS Chin Lit 7, or equivalent.

655 MS Chinese Literacy 9

This CL course aims to further enhance students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students will be exposed to literatures in a variety of genres. Analysis and appreciation will be a focus. Students are expected to write in illustrative writing on principles, speeches, application letters, and movie reviews. Critical thinking will be involved in expressing one's opinions. Prerequisites: Students who attained a pass in MS Chin Lit 8, or equivalent.

Spanish Language Program

Students at ICS represent a diverse range of linguistic and cultural backgrounds, including American, Australian, British, Chinese, European, Japanese, Korean, and South Asian. The World Languages Department at ICS offers Spanish as one of the world languages, with four levels of instruction. These courses cover from the beginner to an advanced level, equipping students with diverse skills from basic vocabulary and grammar to sophisticated analysis of literary texts of past centuries, from conversational Spanish to detailed study of modern film. Students will discover and reflect Biblically on cultures rich in centuries of history in Spain and Spanish-speaking countries. The major portion of study is devoted to skills and content knowledge, which develops desired student progress in the areas of Spanish phonology and phonetics, syntax and structure, vocabulary, and culture.

Courses and Progression in HS

Placement of students takes into account their interest and/or prior learning. The medium of instruction is Spanish, with English used for explanation where necessary. Middle School Spanish 1, an introductory Spanish language course, is offered starting from Grade 7.

Spanish h	MS Spanish 1 #665	Spanish 1 #667	Spanish 2 #668	Spanish 3 #669	Pre-AP Spanish 4 #670
G8	✓				
G9		✓	✓	✓	✓
G10		✓	✓	✓	✓
G11		✓	✓	✓	✓
G12		✓	✓	✓	✓

665 MS Spanish 1

1

In Spanish 1, students will be introduced to the Spanish alphabet and pronunciation. Students will demonstrate use of the language in greetings, date/time, introducing oneself and family with basic personal information including physical appearance, character and clothing; shopping; the home; the neighborhood; weather and location of Spanish-speaking regions and their arts and crafts, etc. Students will be writing simple texts such as notes, emails and journal entries.

Grades 6 - 8 PE and Sports Activities

Curricular Sports

All ICS students participate in the annual Aquatics Festival and Sports Day. Students challenge themselves and others, score points for their house team, and honor God by giving it their very best effort. The Swim Gala is an event designed to help students explore their personal capabilities and determination in water and have some good clean fun. All students engage in friendly competitions in a safe and supportive environment and are encouraged to participate in as many swimming activities as they wish. Every year at the Sports Day, students strive to equal or surpass records previously set by former students. They compete in a combination of running, jumping, and throwing events.

Co-curricular Sports

The competitive sports program provides students with the opportunity to represent the school and compete in a wide variety of competitive sports including soccer, volleyball, swimming, cross-country, basketball, tennis, badminton, ball hockey, softball, and track and field. These activities are designed to teach and promote fundamental values such as teamwork, fair play, competitive spirit, and skills related to the activity or event, that will assist students in their lives in many different ways. It is also a fantastic way to stay fit and healthy, build self-confidence, learn self-discipline, and spend time with friends. ICS teams compete with other schools at various levels of competition in the [International School Sports Federation of Hong Kong \(ISSFHK\)](#) and the Asia Christian Schools Conference (ACSC), as well as invitational tournaments.

Co-Curricular Activities and Events

Co-curricular activities encompass all school-sponsored or school-affiliated activities outside of the classroom / course structure (student council, sports, music groups, clubs, Week Without Walls, service activities, school camp, small group Bible studies, etc). These activities allow for student development in a wide range of areas (such as skills, attitudes, character, knowledge, sense of identity, relationship with God and with others) in a range of contexts outside of the classroom, in ways that are consistent with a biblical worldview. We desire students to see all aspects of their lives as part of God's world.

Several co-curricular activities are already an integral part of the Middle School program. Other options including after school sports and clubs are reviewed, updated and published each year.

Week Without Walls

One of the exciting components of the Middle School program is Week Without Walls (WWW). This program provides students with learning opportunities outside the confines of the traditional classroom setting. Students choose from a variety of teacher-organized activities. Some of the selections in recent years have included local service, water kayaking, rock/wall climbing, an adventure weeks, a pottery experience, and service trips to other countries in South East Asia. Students must attend one service oriented WWW trip while in middle school.

Middle School Camp

Each year middle school students travel to a local camp for a three-day adventure to focus on relationship building and spiritual development. Each year we have a speaker who presents challenging messages based on that year's theme. Camp is a special time when students often deepen friendships and Christian commitments.

Service Learning

Service opportunities in middle school are diverse and numerous, ranging from single service days to ongoing activities. Examples would include cleanup in a park, working with animals, helping at an orphanage, small instrumental and vocal groups performing at nursing homes and hospitals, assisting students with their English, and a regularly scheduled Friday afternoon visit to an elderly home. These opportunities are offered through Bible classes, the Student Council, as well as school arranged partnering with neighboring primary schools.

Students are encouraged not to overload their schedule with too many extra-curricular activities. We stress that they develop and maintain a balanced schedule that provides opportunities for academics, spiritual growth, community service, recreation, and relaxation. The habit of leading a balanced lifestyle and managing one's time well begins in these formative years.

Student Council

ICS has an active student leadership program. Each year the student body votes to elect 6-8 Middle School students that act as executive officers and share the leadership roles throughout the year. Additionally each Facegroup elects a representative to help brainstorm ideas as well as update their classmates on upcoming events. The student council is very active in many areas of the school. They promote spirit days, and other middle school-wide activities that happen usually once a semester.

Organizational Memberships

American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham)
Asia Christian Schools Conference (ACSC)
Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
East Asia Regional Council of Overseas Schools (EARCOS)
Hong Kong Schools Music and Speech Association (HKMSMA)
International Schools Sports Federation of Hong Kong (ISSFHK)
National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
National Honor Society (NHS)
Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

Note: ICS is an ACSI and WASC accredited school.

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