



**INTERNATIONAL
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL**



COURSE OFFERING BOOKLET

MIDDLE SCHOOL 2023-2024

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Middle School Course Offerings Booklet for the 2023-2024 academic year! During the middle school years, students experience many physical, emotional, and social changes as they transition from childhood to adolescence. Students are exploring who they are, learning to deepen their thinking skills, and beginning to test their independence. At ICS, we view the middle school years as a time of growth and opportunity.

Our middle school program provides a broad range of subjects and experiences that aim to nurture students' existing abilities and give them opportunities to discover new interests and talents. It is important that you familiarize yourself with this Course Offerings Booklet, the procedures it contains, and the requirements needed for middle school success.

We will have a one-day new student orientation before the start of the first day of school so new students can see the 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. In addition, our school counselor will arrange to meet individually with new students several weeks into the new school year to help them further acclimate to the school culture and identify any potential problems before they develop.

There is also an annual orientation for incoming sixth grade students who have already attended the ICS Elementary School, but new students enrolled in the sixth grade may also attend. Normally, this orientation is conducted at the end of the academic year. 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.

Sincerely,

Kathy Gordon
Academic Coordinator

Table of Contents

<u>School Mission and Goals</u>	4
<u>Contact Details</u>	5
<u>Key Dates</u>	6
<u>Overview of Middle School Program</u>	7
<u>Department Philosophy and Descriptions</u>	
<u>Grade 6 Courses and Programs</u>	10
<u>Grade 7 Courses and Programs</u>	12
<u>Grade 8 Courses and Programs</u>	14
<u>Grades 6-8 Music Instruction</u>	17
<u>Grades 6-8 World Languages</u>	19
<u>Extra-Curriculars Middle School Program</u>	25

SCHOOL MISSION AND GOALS

Mission Statement

ICS equips 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

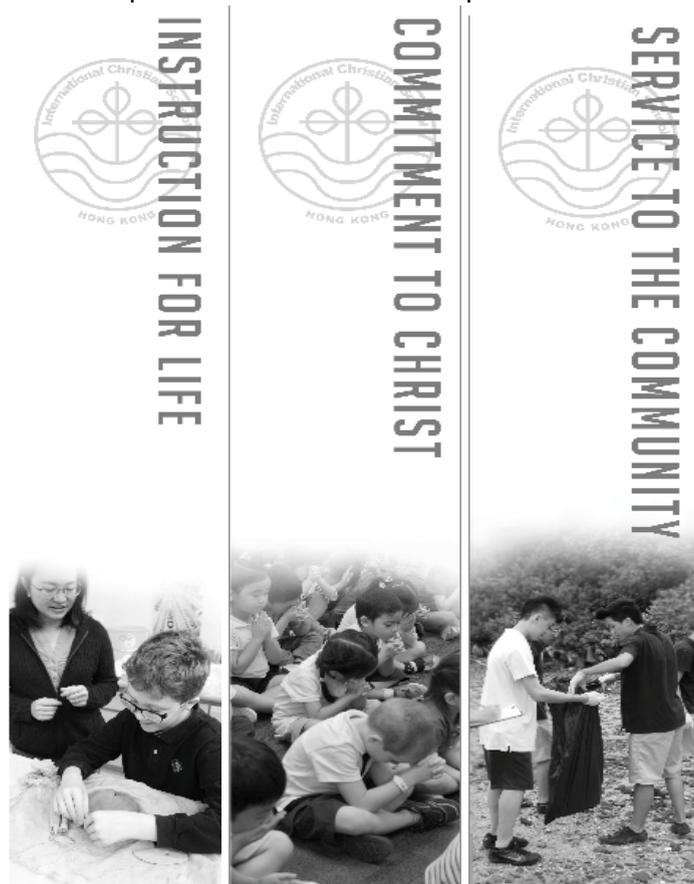
Act as responsible members of the global community

Know, understand, and apply Biblical principles

Think independently, creatively, and analytically

Motto

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



CONTACT DETAILS

Head of Schools Mr. Nic Seward sewardn@ics.edu.hk

MS Principal Mr. Stephen Taylor taylors@ics.edu.hk

Dean of Curriculum and
Instruction Mr. Phillip Taylor taylorp@ics.edu.hk

Dean of Co-Curricular, Service
Learning and Pastoral Care
(MAD, WWW) Mr. Brian Van Tassel vantasselb@ics.edu.hk

Academic Coordinator Mrs. Kathy Gordon gordonk@ics.edu.hk

Curriculum Department Chairs

English Language Arts Ms. Debs Taylor taylord@ics.edu.hk

Bible Mr. Kiel Nation nationk@ics.edu.hk

Mathematics Mrs. Kathy Gordon gordonk@ics.edu.hk

Social Sciences Scott Poole pooles@ics.edu.hk

Science and Technology Ms. Carmel Kilpin kilpinc@ics.edu.hk

PE/Health Mr. William Schroeder schroederw@ics.edu.hk

World Languages Mrs. Christine Van Tassel vantasselc@ics.edu.hk

Fine and Performing Arts Mr. Chris Meyer meyerc@ics.edu.hk

University Advisors Ms. Jinny Wong wongj@ics.edu.hk

Mr. Wilson Wu wuw@ics.edu.hk

2022-23 KEY ACADEMIC ADVISORY & SCHEDULING DATES

Acad. Advisory & Scheduling Events	Dates
Key Dates for Course Scheduling	2023-2024
Preliminary Course Selection for 2024-25	Nov 3
G8 Course sign-up begins	Nov 3
G8 Student Deadline	Nov 17
G8 Parent Deadline	Nov 21
Final Course Selection for 2024-25	
G8 Parent Intro. to HS	Feb 23
G8 Course sign-up begins	Feb 29
G7 Course sign-up begins	Mar 4
Advisory course sign-up prep in Facegroup	Feb 28, 29 & Mar 4
Individual advising with Admin Advisors for course sign-ups	Mar 4-5 & 11-15
G7-8 Student Deadline	Mar 15
G7-8 Parent Deadline	Mar 18
Add/drop session for 2024-25	May 8-15

OVERVIEW OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Advisory: Facegroup Program

Middle School teachers recognize the middle school years are 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 a 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 supports MS courses by providing resources for teachers and students to use for reading and research purposes. The library has purchased a number of novels sets and informational (non-fiction) books specifically to support the MS curriculum. The Library also subscribes to several online databases, including EBSCO, JSTOR, and GALE In Context that provide students with access to up-to-date eBooks and encyclopedias, as well as newspaper and journal articles, for when they engage in inquiry. The Secondary Teacher-Librarian works closely with Humanities, Science, Bible and TAPs faculty to teach students research and citation skills, including how to evaluate information and the importance of acknowledging their sources. The ICS Library has a large MS fiction collection sorted by genre and runs several programs to encourage middle school students to read for pleasure, including quarterly Facegroup visits to the library to discuss books, and clubs such as Kids Lit Quiz and Battle of the Books.

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 Coordinator, School Counselor, or College Advisors as they select courses for their first year in high school. Special workshops and seminars are provided for these students prior to this process. Although the University Advisors primarily work with high school students, they are available by appointment to any student or parent enrolled at ICS. They also conduct several parent workshops on the university admissions process.

Learning Support

Students with diverse learning needs receive differentiated learning support 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 student 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. These parent sessions may also 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 we 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.

Course Numbering System

The first digit of the course number indicates which department to which the course belongs. For example, all Middle School (MS) courses with numbers beginning with 0 are in the English Language Arts department. Higher course numbers do not necessarily imply a more advanced course or higher grade level.

Department indicated by the first digit:

0	English Language Arts	3	Social Sciences	6	World Languages
1	Bible	4	Science	7	Fine & Performing Arts
2	Math	5	PE or Health	8	Information and Technology Literacy



Grade 6 Courses and Programs

Course Descriptions

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 behaviour.

Bible (101)

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.

English Language Arts (001)

(Humanities Block)

This course integrates English Language Arts (Common Core) and Social Science. Students are given multiple opportunities to read both Literature and Informational texts, while engaging in Social Science content. Using an inquiry approach to learning, students are encouraged to ask questions, research sources, and present their conclusions, both verbally and in writing. Students will write narrative, argumentative, and informative pieces, while building their vocabulary and presentation skills. This course focuses on developing a strong Language Arts foundation. Students will become familiar with multiple text types, including novels, infographics, historical non-fiction, news articles, and poetry.

Social Science (301)

(Humanities Block)

Using the C3 Framework for Social Science, this course is integrated with English Language Arts. Students will inquire about their world using a thematic approach using the dimensions of history, civics, economics and geography. Students will learn to ask questions, research using reliable sources, and communicate their conclusions in multiple ways. They will analyze and evaluate the consequences of key historical and current events, develop historical thinking skills, such as cause and effect, and seek to understand how cultures influence human behaviour, broader society, and themselves.

Grade 6 Mathematics (217)

This mathematics course is aligned to Common Core State Standards. In this course, students continue to build skills that are needed to investigate the wonder and order of God's creation. Students will review previous skills and knowledge in the areas of patterning, whole numbers, fractions, decimals, ratio and percentage and use those skills to solve higher-level word problems. New skills with integers 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 math skills in our grade level economy of ICS money, which is earned, spent, and saved.

Science (461)

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, organisms, and 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.

MS STEM 1 (474)

MS STEM 1 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 will 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 have a hands-on opportunity to interact with the biblical narrative: Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration as it relates to design and engineering. Students will be assessed on a set of standards drawn from the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and International Society for Technology in Education Standards (ISTE).

World Languages

Students progressing to Grade 6 can choose either Chinese or Spanish in order to continue their learning in a modern world language. 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.

Physical Education (543/544)

Sixth grade PE 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). Students will be asked to think and reflect on how God created humans in His image and what that means for their physical bodies. 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.

Art (771)

Grade 6 Art is the foundation course of the Middle School Art program. Students will explore different art mediums and styles, and will apply the elements of art and principles of design to their projects. Students will build their technical skills, learn basic color theory, and focus on personal expression and creativity. They will develop artistic ideas and document their process in their sketchbook. This course emphasizes fundamental skills of drawing and painting along with units in mixed media and 3D art. Students will also be encouraged to see art from the Christian context, to communicate responsibly through their artwork, and appreciate works from history and modern times. They will learn about artistic movements such as expressionism, cubism, surrealism, and modern art.



Grade 7 Courses and Programs

Course Descriptions

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.

Bible (102)

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 they make, influences they follow, how they stand up in faith, and how they can recognize God's desire for them and the world they live in.

English Language Arts (002) **(Humanities Block)**

This course integrates English Language Arts (Common Core) and Social Science. Students are given multiple opportunities to read both Literature and Informational texts, while engaging in Social Science content. Using an inquiry approach to learning, students are encouraged to ask questions, research sources, and present their conclusions, both verbally and in writing. Students will write narrative, argumentative, and informative pieces, while building their vocabulary and presentation skills. This course focuses on developing a strong Language Arts foundation. Students will become familiar with multiple text types, including novels, infographics, historical non-fiction, and news articles.

Social Science (302) **(Humanities Block)**

Using the C3 Framework for Social Science, this course is integrated with English Language Arts. Students will inquire about their world using a thematic approach using the dimensions of history, civics, economics and geography. Students will learn to ask questions, research using reliable sources, and communicate their conclusions in multiple ways. They will analyze and evaluate the consequences of key historical and current events, develop historical thinking skills, such as cause and effect, and seek to understand how cultures influence human behaviour, broader society, and themselves.

Grade 7 Mathematics (202)

This course is aligned to the Grade 7 Common Core State Standards and is designed to review necessary concepts while preparing students for Grade 8 Mathematics.

Grade 7 Pre-Algebra (203)

This course is aligned with Common Core State Standards and is designed to review necessary concepts while preparing students for grade 8 and 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, a beginner programming site called Scratch and a beginner coding site called 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.

Integrated Science (462)

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 include photosynthesis and reproduction in plants, and how matter and energy flow and cycle in organisms and ecosystems. In addition to hands-on learning tasks and inquiry labs, students will also be exposed to engineering tasks and challenges, and will explore design thinking.

MS STEM 2 (477)

MS STEM 2 will build on the engineering and design principles taught in grade 6. Greater emphasis will be placed on the interactive nature of the design cycle through students completing individual and group projects. Students will have a hands-on with the biblical narrative: Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration as it relates to design and engineering. 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).

Physical Education (545/546)

Seventh grade physical education classes build on the sixth grade curriculum. Students will learn a wider variety of interesting, challenging, and unique physical activities. It is at this level that students begin to be more challenged in their knowledge and understanding of how the body works and the effect this understanding has on their performance. Students in seventh grade will explore how God has given us one physical body and how to care for that one body. Units incorporate fitness and skill development, teaching new concepts, strategies, and tactics while pushing higher order thinking skills. Seventh grade physical education classes provide the preparation for the next progression of physical activities offered in the eighth grade.

World Languages

Students progressing to Grade 7 can choose either Chinese or Spanish in order to continue their learning in a modern world language. 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.

Art (772)

Grade 7 Art builds on concepts introduced in Grade 6 Art, such as applying the elements of art and principles of design. Students learn more in-depth about color theory and will continue to advance their artistic technical skills. There will be a stronger focus on looking at art as a visual language, and how it can help us understand the lives of people of different times, places, and cultures. Students will continue to develop their skills in a variety of mediums. Units include drawing, color theory, painting, mixed media, and 3D art, along with an ongoing portfolio and sketchbook. Students will continue to be encouraged to see art from the Christian context, to communicate responsibly through their artwork, and appreciate works from history and modern times. They will learn about artistic movements such as pop art, post-impressionism, and modern art.

Theater and Public Speaking (7751)

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.

Course Sign-ups for Grade 8

Grade 8 students can choose between Chinese, Spanish or another world language from ICS' online partners. There are also 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.

Grade 8 Courses and Programs

Course Descriptions

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.

Bible (103)

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.

English Language Arts (003) (Humanities Block)

This course integrates English Language Arts (Common Core) and Social Science. Students are given multiple opportunities to read both Literature and Informational texts, while engaging in Social Science content. Using an inquiry approach to learning, students are encouraged to ask questions, research sources, and present their conclusions, both verbally and in writing. Students will write narrative, argumentative, and informative pieces, while building their vocabulary and presentation skills. This course focuses on developing a strong Language Arts foundation. Students will become familiar with multiple text types, including novels, infographics, historical non-fiction, news articles, and poetry.

Social Science (303) (Humanities Block)

Using the C3 Framework for Social Science, this course is integrated with English Language Arts. Students will inquire about their world using a thematic approach using the dimensions of history, civics, economics and geography. Students will learn to ask questions, research using reliable sources, and communicate their conclusions in multiple ways. They will analyze and evaluate the consequences of key historical and current events, develop historical thinking skills, such as cause and effect, and seek to understand how cultures influence human behaviour, broader society, and themselves.

Grade 8 Mathematics (223)

This course is aligned with Grade 8 Common Core State Standards. Students will be placed in this course to prepare them for Algebra 1 in high school. This will allow them to reinforce their foundational skills and increase the likelihood of 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.

Mathematics – Algebra 1 (205)

This course is aligned with Common Core State Standards. Students begin the year by studying the properties and operations of real numbers followed by a fairly comprehensive study of solving equations. Students then learn how to graph linear equations, 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 before they will be allowed to progress to Geometry..

Mathematics – Geometry (254)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

This course is aligned with Common Core State Standards. Students will study the essential concepts needed to perform geometric proofs, along with 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.

Integrated Science (463)

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, and Life on Earth.

In Chemical Interactions, students will study the atomic structure and the way 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 units 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 origin theories, including 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.

Grade 8 Integrated Science will also 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 further their knowledge of science and have the opportunity to develop their thinking skills as well.

MS STEM 3 (491)

MS STEM 3 continues to teach engineering concepts and principles from STEM 2 that will translate into "real-world" application. The premise of the class is to address local and global environmental issues with STEM solutions. Students will brush up on 3D modeling skills through an Assistive Design Project and conduct an in-depth study of the environmental issues connected to alternative energy solutions that engineers are working through in our world today. We will revisit and advance our skills in technical drawing, computer aided design programs and 3D printing. Students will have an opportunity to interact hands-on with the biblical narrative: Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration as it relates to design and engineering. 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).

World Language

In grade 8, students may choose between Chinese or Spanish, or they may choose to take another language online from one of our approved online providers. 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.

Physical Education (547/548)

Eighth grade physical education classes reinforce existing skills and knowledge, along with appreciations learned in the previous years. All units incorporate fitness, skill development, new concepts, strategies, tactics, and physical activity appreciation. Students are challenged to become more autonomous in their learning and their projects reflect this focus. Students in eighth grade will explore how God has given us unique gifts and talents to pursue and enjoy. After completing the eighth grade physical education program each student will have a solid foundation for high school physical education classes.

Theater and Public Speaking (7761)

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 second 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.

8th Grade Elective Art (7732)

The Art elective is one of the choices for 8th grade students during the Music and Fine Arts Block (M block). This yearlong course is the culmination of the Middle School Art Program, in which students develop a higher level of artistic skills. They will continue to apply the elements of art and principles of design, working on more challenging and conceptual projects. Different art media and styles will also be further explored. There will be a stronger focus on refining ideas and designs, clearly documenting their process, and honing craftsmanship to create quality work. Projects will allow students to discover and build their God-given abilities and creativity. They are encouraged to not only advance their skills, but to also enjoy the creative process.

This course is also designed to help students transition into Grade 9 foundation art classes, and includes drawing, painting, mixed media, printing, sculpture and ceramics, along with an ongoing portfolio and sketchbook.

Grade 8 Electives

Students will have two M-block sessions of year-long Fine and Performing Art courses, chosen from Band, Strings, Choir, and the Visual Art elective.

High School 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

Course Descriptions

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. Our students not only perform in annual concerts and activities, but also use their talents in other community service events through-out the school year. Additionally, students can elect to join co-curricular vocal ensembles, jazz band, string ensemble, or other small instrumental ensembles.

Beginning Band (719)

Students who 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.

Middle School Bands (7461/7871/7261/7231)

Middle school students in Grades 6-7 will take band or orchestra. Students in Grade 8 are encouraged to continue in an instrumental ensemble, especially if they want to play in a high school ensemble. 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 a deeper understanding of previously learned elements of instrumental music and enhance their performance skills on their chosen instrument.

By playing various technical exercises and instrumental literature of different musical periods, students will reinforce proper playing habits, such as correct posture, breathing, tone quality, intonation, and articulation, as well as sight-reading techniques and music theory. A student must demonstrate a higher level of technical ability 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.

Middle School Strings (7964-5)

Prerequisites: Audition and Director's Recommendation

Middle School Strings courses 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. These performance-based classes will learn Intermediate and Advanced concert literature. Students participating must be available for public performances, festivals, and occasional after-school rehearsals.

Middle School Choirs (777/778/779/780)

Middle school students in Grades 6-7 will be divided into four choirs corresponding with their band or orchestra. The choirs are: Jubilate, Con Brio, Presto, and Symphonic. Students in Grade 8 are encouraged to continue to participate in one of the four choral ensembles, especially if they want to sing in a high school choral ensemble. Students will be placed in one of the four choral ensembles based on their corresponding band, orchestra, art, and music & culture classes.

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.

Grades 6 -8 World Languages Instruction Course Descriptions

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, and 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 cultivate students' ability to communicate in these languages with cultural competence, enrich students' knowledge about political, economic, and social aspects of the Chinese and Spanish-speaking communities, enable higher-order thinking, and equip students with the necessary language skills to face the challenges of the 21st century.

ICS currently offers Chinese in both Middle and High School, and Spanish from Grade 7 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.

Courses and Progression in MS

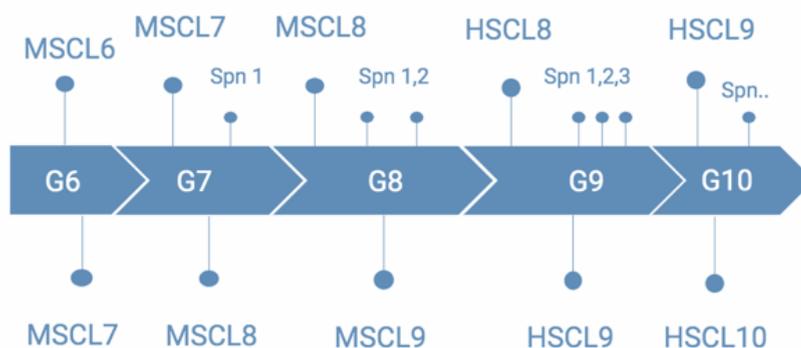
Normal progression from middle school Chinese classes into high school Chinese classes will be indicated by moving to the *same* level number, even though the course in high school will be more rigorous. Normal progression from a high school Chinese class to the next high school Chinese class will be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

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, Singapore, and the United States, which are designed primarily for overseas Chinese learners. Resources from the Hong Kong local community and authentic materials are also integrated to enrich learning.

Possible Pathways: CL Stream

Courses offered:		Pathways:						
MSCL9		G9	HSCL8	HS Spn 3	HS Spn 2	HSCL9	HS Spn 3	HS Spn 2
MSCL8		G8	CL8	Spn 2	Spn 1	CL9	Spn 2	Spn 1
MSCL7		G7	CL7	Spn 1	CL7	CL8	Spn 1	CL8
MSCL6		G6	CL6	CL6	CL6	CL7	CL7	CL7



Typical Progression in CL Stream

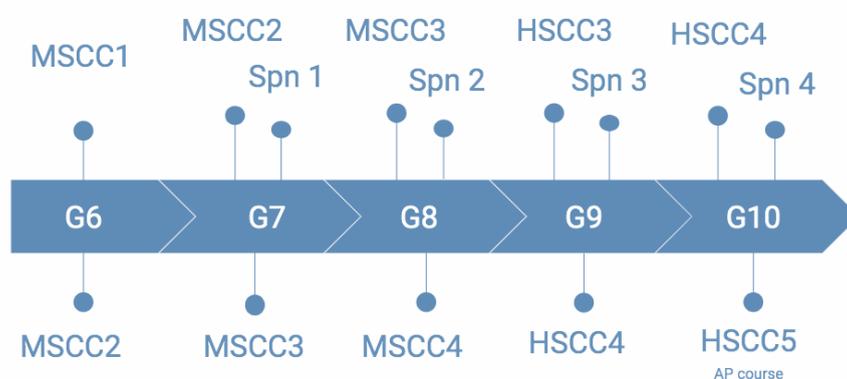
Chinese Communication Stream (CC)

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.

Possible Pathways: CC Stream

Courses offered:	Pathways:					
CC4	G9 HS CC3	HS Spn 3	HS Spn 2	HS CC4	HS Spn 3	HS Spn 2
CC3	G8 CC3	Spn 2	Spn 1	CC4	Spn 2	Spn 1
CC2	G7 CC2	Spn 1	CC2	CC3	Spn 1	CC4
CC1	G6 CC1	CC1	CC1	CC2	CC2	CC3



Typical Progression in CC Stream

MS Chinese Communication Foundation (638)

Prerequisites: Students who have very little or no previous knowledge in Chinese language.

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 their opinions with basic information.

MS Chinese Communication 1 (639)

Prerequisites: Students who attained a pass with a C+ in the MS Chinese Com. Foundation or ES G5 CC courses, or the equivalent, and with department approval.

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.

MS Chinese Communication 2 (640)

Prerequisites: Students who attained a pass with a C+ in the MS Chin Com 1 or performed outstandingly in ES G5 CC course, or the equivalent, and with department approval.

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 neighborhoods 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.

MS Chinese Communication 3 (641)

Prerequisites: Students who attained a pass with a C+ in the MS Chin Com 2, or equivalent, and with department approval.

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, neighborhoods 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.

MS Chinese Communication 4 (642)

Prerequisites: Students who attained a pass with a C+ in the MS Chin Com 3, or equivalent, and with department approval.

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 writing techniques. Topics include many authentic themes such as communication within relationships, hobbies, social services, traditions and customs, and various aspects of Chinese culture. Students will be guided to communicate through discussions, debates, and presentations. Proficiency in typing with Pinyin is expected by the end of the course. This course will lead to HS Pre-Advanced Placement Chinese Communication 4 course in high school.

MS Chinese Literacy 6 (651)

Prerequisites: Students who attained a pass with a C+ in ES G5 CL Foundation or Regular courses, or the equivalent, and with department approval.

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 introducing a variety of vocabulary and syntax. Literary forms such as narrative writing, with emphasis on incident narration and character narration and non-complex opinion writing will be developed. Students will be able to communicate information, make presentations, and express personal thoughts about familiar topics, using sentences and series of connected sentences through spoken or written language.

MS Chinese Literacy 7 (652)

Prerequisites: Students who attained a pass with a C+ in ES G5 CL course, or MS Chin Lit 6, or equivalent, and with department approval.

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, informational interpretive writing, opinion writing and illustrative writing on objects will be taught to further develop writing skills. Students will be able to communicate information, make presentations, and express personal thoughts about familiar topics, using series of connected sentences and paragraphs through spoken, written language.

MS Chinese Literacy 8 (653)

Prerequisites: Students who attained a pass with a C+ in MS Chin Lit 7, or equivalent, and with department approval.

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 further focused on narrative writing, persons and scenery, interview summarising and opinion writing. Students will be able to communicate information, make presentations, and express personal thoughts about familiar topics, using coherent sentences and paragraphs through spoken, written language.



MS Chinese Literacy 9 (655)

Prerequisites: Students who attained a pass with a C+ in MS Chin Lit 8, or equivalent, and with department approval.

This CL course aims to further enhance students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students will be exposed to literature in a variety of genres. Analysis and appreciation will be a focus. The language proficiency of expressing critical thinking towards community issues, social events and biblical opinions will be developed in this course. Students will be able to deliver detailed and organized presentations on familiar as well as unfamiliar concrete topics, in paragraphs and using various time frames through spoken, written language.

Spanish Language Program Course Descriptions

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 range 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.

MS Spanish 1 (665)

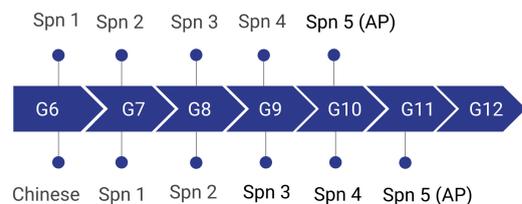
Prerequisites: Students who have very little or no previous knowledge in Spanish language.

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.

MS Spanish 2 (666)

Prerequisite: Students who attained a pass with a C+ in MS Spanish 1 or equivalent, and with department approval.

In Spanish 2, students will reinforce their prior knowledge and continue to develop grammar. Students will demonstrate use of the language in describing leisure activities, travel and immigration, school life, personal life, historical events, and people of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will be writing texts such as emails, stories, news articles, travel brochures, informal letters and narrative writings, incorporating one's opinion when comparing or contrasting information.



EXTRA-CURRICULARS MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Grades 6 - 8 Music Activities

Extra-curricular Instrumental Ensembles

All students are encouraged to participate in jazz band, chimes 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 Monday, MS music day, and performs at the Christmas and Spring concerts. This group often had many opportunities to sing for hospitals and elderly homes.

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, and 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 most 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 week, 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

Middle School Camp is a required event which has students travelling 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 clean-up 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, and 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. In addition, each Facegroup elects a representative to help brainstorm ideas and 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 (HKSMSA)
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.



INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

www.ics.edu.hk