



**American School  
of Dubai**

2017-2018 MIDDLE SCHOOL  
**COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE**





## Using Your Course Description Guide

The American School of Dubai is committed to assisting students to succeed in a robust program of study during their middle school years and to be well prepared for the transition to high school. The pillars of this program are our challenging core courses in the disciplines of Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies. This academic rigor is one component of a multi-dimensional education that also emphasizes physical, artistic, musical and linguistic development. Our enrichment program has been enhanced through the development of *Pursuits*, a daily period that provide students with more opportunities to explore passions and to receive support.

This guide is designed to assist parents and students in navigating the course selection process for the middle school years by providing a greater understanding of the Middle School course offerings and a greater understanding of our overall program goals.

Students: please read carefully and explore the available options with your parents. Talk about long-term goals (e.g. learning to play an instrument, learning a language, becoming a scientist) when you make your selections for arts, languages and enrichments.

Parents: listen carefully to your children and help them to think through their choices in terms of their goals, ambitions and interests. Remember, middle school is a great time to explore something new.

The ASD faculty are here to assist you as you select your courses for the 2017-2018 academic year. Please contact us for more information.

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# American School of Dubai



The American School of Dubai, an independent not for profit American community school, offers what is the best about American education to provide learning experiences designed to promote the maximum potential of its students.

## **OUR MISSION**

The American School of Dubai's mission is to challenge and inspire each student to achieve their dreams and to become a passionate learner prepared to adapt and contribute in a rapidly changing world.

## **CORE VALUES**

Compassion | Excellence | Integrity | Respect | Responsibility

## **STUDENT PROFILE**

Thinker | Communicator | Contributor | Learner | Leader & Role Model

## **CONTACT**

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# Table of Contents

ASD Middle School	4
Overview of Courses	5
Information and Technology Literacy	5
Course Selection Process	6
<b>Grade 6 Core Course Descriptions</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Creative Arts and Technology</b>	<b>8</b>
Grade 6 Boys Choir	8
Grade 6 Girls Choir	8
Band 6	8
Drama 6	8
Art 6	8
Technology 6	8
<b>Grade 7 Core Course Descriptions</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Creative Arts and Technology</b>	<b>10</b>
Choir 7	10
Band 7	10
MS Art	10
Advanced 3D	10
Advanced 2D	11
Mixed Media	11
21st Century Art and Photography	11
Drama 7	11
Dance 7	11
Middle School Technology	11
<b>Grade 8 Core Course Descriptions</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Creative Arts and Technology</b>	<b>13</b>
Choir 8	13
Band 8	13
Drama 8	13
Dance 8	13
MS Art	14
Advanced 3D	14
Advanced 2D	14
Mixed Media	14
21st Century Art and Photography	14
Middle School Technology	15
Video Broadcasting	15
Robotics	15
<b>World Languages</b>	<b>16</b>
Arabic as a World Language	16
Arabic as a Native Language	17
French	19
Spanish	19
<b>Course Sequences</b>	<b>20</b>
Mathematics in the Middle School	20



## Middle School at the American School of Dubai

Early adolescence is a unique time in a child's life when physical and emotional characteristics are rapidly changing. Societal expectations for these emerging young adults increase. The middle school years are clearly a period of transition.

### PHILOSOPHY

We believe that students' intellectual growth must be stimulated with a pursuit of academic excellence.

We provide a challenging program based on the unique and diverse needs of our students.

We encourage the development of the aesthetic, social, physical, ethical, creative and emotional aspects of each individual.

We are caring and attentive role models.

We guide students in character development and personal growth.

We prepare students for future academic and emotional challenges.

### BELIEFS

Striving for excellence is critical to our success.

Every person has equal inherent value.

Embracing our diversity strengthens our community.

Integrity and honesty are essential to a safe and trusting community.

It is our responsibility to give help where needed.

Each person is responsible for his or her choices.

### GOALS

**Mastery:** To provide an academic program through which students master skills that will serve as a foundation for continued growth and intellectual development.

**Self-concept:** To assist students in the development of individuality, self-esteem, and interpersonal relationships so that they may regard themselves as contributing members of a global society.

**Multi-cultural awareness:** To provide a supportive environment where cultural diversity and international awareness is respected and appreciated. Students should view themselves as global citizens.

**Exploration:** To offer choices that allow students to explore a variety of relevant and meaningful educational experiences and interests that encourage creative thinking, decision-making, use of technology and problem solving skills.

**Responsibility:** To develop individual responsibility and accountability for personal choices and actions.

# Overview of MS Program

## ADVISORY

In the MS Advisory program, a small group of 10-13 students meet daily with an advisory teacher from their grade level. These small, supportive groups help students check in with one another, gain information, get organized and successfully start their days.

On Sunday and Thursday, grade-level advisory groups meet for a 45-minute period in which teachers and students work together on a program designed around themes of development, service and community. The advisory groups are complemented by nests, a small group of 10-13 students from across Grades 6-8 that offers a way for middle school students to interact across grade levels.

Teachers use many resources in their program preparation, but the day to day interactions with students are guided by the Advisory Handbook (Linda Crawford, Origins Press, 2012).

## CORE COURSES

Core courses are the foundational learning program of the Middle School experience. Each student in the Middle School will learn in full year core courses in Math, English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Physical Education and World Languages.

## ELECTIVES

Creative Arts courses are designed to expose middle school students to visual, performance, dance and music courses. These courses promote student creativity and develop deeper understanding of artistic concepts. In Grade 6, all students are introduced to basic courses in art, drama, technology and music. In Grade 7 and 8, these elective courses build on the foundational experience of Grade 6 and develop more sophisticated skills and concepts. Students are required to select an equivalent of two full-year creative arts and technology courses in Grade 7 and 8.

## PURSUIITS

In response to the ASD mission statement, *'We challenge and inspire each student to achieve their dreams and to become a passionate learner prepared to contribute and adapt in a rapidly changing world'*, we have sought ways within our schedule to provide students with opportunities to pursue their passions and to find support for their challenges. Pursuits offers both support for and extension of learning. This 45-minute period runs three days a week and provides:

Short courses designed to provide ample choice for pursuing personal interests guided by a teacher.

Support courses in various subject areas which students may enroll in, or be encouraged to attend by teachers or parents.

Regular reassessment of their needs and their interests

Toward the end of each 6 week period, with the support of their Advisory teacher, students register for the next 6 week block.

### Some of the planned Pursuits for 2017 - 2018 include:

Global Issues	School of Rock
Jazz Band	Poetry Writing
Digital Photography	Musical Theatre
Writing Workshop	The Aesthetics of Film
Math Counts	Survival Skills
Yoga	Minecraft
Robotics	Debate
Programming	

## INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY LITERACY

Information and Technology Literacy (ITL) expands the traditional definitions of literacy to include visual, textual, technological and digital competencies. These skills are essential for students to thrive as engaged, ethical contributors in a constantly evolving and complex global society.

Technology coaches in each division work closely with teachers to design technology and media-rich units and lessons that integrate the ISTE NETS Standards, essential information, and technology literacy skills into the core curriculum. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) opportunities are also offered for students who have an interest in further exploring these topics.





## The Course Selection Process

Students are introduced to the course registration process in grade level assemblies. Follow-up instruction occurs within individual Advisories. Parents are informed about course registration through an informational session. Students should consult with parents, advisors, teachers and counselors to make informed decisions about course requests.

## Summary of Courses

### GRADE 6

#### Core Courses

English Language Arts  
 Math  
 Science  
 Global Connections in the Ancient World  
 Physical Education and Health

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#### World Language

Spanish  
 French  
 Arabic

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#### Creative Arts & Technology

Girls or Boys Choir  
 Band  
 Art  
 Drama  
 Technology

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### GRADE 7

#### Core Courses

English Language Arts  
 Math or Pre-Algebra  
 Science  
 Globalization in the Modern World  
 Physical Education and Health

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#### World Language

Spanish  
 French  
 Arabic

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#### Creative Arts & Technology

Choir  
 Band  
 MS Art  
 Advanced 2D  
 Advanced 3D  
 Mixed Media  
 21st Century Art and Photography  
 Drama  
 Dance  
 Middle School Technology

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### GRADE 8

#### Core Courses

English Language Arts  
 Pre-Algebra or Algebra I  
 Science  
 Building Citizenship in U.S. History  
 Physical Education and Health

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#### World Language

Spanish  
 French  
 Arabic

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#### Creative Arts & Technology

Choir  
 Band  
 MS Art  
 Advanced 2D  
 Advanced 3D  
 Mixed Media  
 21st Century Art and Photography  
 Drama  
 Dance  
 Robotics  
 Video Broadcasting  
 Middle School Technology

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# Grade Six Course Descriptions

## Core Courses

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6

**Department:** English

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 6

English Language Arts 6 follows the Common Core State Standards to develop the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking and language use. Teachers use Columbia University's Teachers College Writers and Readers Workshop approach to present content, give individualized instruction and provide feedback for improvement. Students read, discuss and analyze various forms of literature to become open-minded, engaged and discerning readers. Students will use evidence of personal experiences, in-class readings and independent research to compose writing assignments, participate in oral presentations, discussions and debates. In addition, students will use technology to enhance reading, writing, speaking, listening and language skills.

### MATH 6

**Department:** Mathematics

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 6

Math 6 deepens and extends skills learned in Math 5. Units correspond to the five strands in Common Core Standards: number systems, algebraic thinking, proportional understanding, geometry, and statistics and probability. A heavy emphasis is placed on proportional relationship and use of the math practices aligned in the Common Core to promote and assess problem solving skills. Students are expected to show an in depth understanding of all Grade 6 Common Core standards.

### SCIENCE 6

**Department:** Science

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 6

Science 6 offers students the opportunity to explore a range of topics in physical, life and earth sciences, and engineering. Topics to be explored include: matter, energy, ecosystem, climate/weather, geology and the engineering design process. This content is explored through the development scientific skills, where students design investigations around relevant real world problems. Throughout the year, students will develop the ability to create testable questions, generate hypotheses, perform experiments, collect and analyze data and communicate results. The focus will be on fostering a curiosity and love of science while equipping students with the necessary skills to formulate their investigations.

### GLOBAL CONNECTIONS IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

**Department:** Social Studies

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 6

Global Connections in the Ancient World is an integrated study of select civilizations of the ancient world using the social science lenses of economics, geography, history, and political science. Both physical and human geography is woven throughout each unit of study in order to build students' understanding of the connection between people and the Earth as well as the economic, political, and social systems that humans created over time. Using the tools of a historian, students will gain an understanding of how these societies laid the foundation for modern culture as well as the impact they have on life today. Throughout the course, students will use a variety of research tools and presentation formats. The curriculum helps students recognize contributions made to society by different cultural, religious and ethnic groups throughout time and how they are still relevant today..

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH 6

**Department:** Physical Education and Health

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 6

The Physical Education program develops the knowledge, skills and attitude to lead an active, healthy lifestyle. Physical activity is vital to all aspects of normal growth and development and the health benefits are widely recognized. The curriculum is made of four strands: Health, Fitness, Sports and Aquatics. Students have to fully participate in all four components of the curriculum in order to complete the course.





## Creative Arts and Technology

### BOYS CHOIR 6

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 6

This performance-based ensemble gives Grade 6 boys the opportunity to sing high-level music from many different genres, cultures and time periods in a supportive and fun atmosphere. While learning more about the male voice, boys will learn and develop the techniques, skills and confidence needed to be a contributing member of a secondary choral ensemble. They will perform with other classes in winter and spring performances. Students will cultivate a lifelong appreciation of music and build friendships with other boys who love to sing.

### GIRLS CHOIR 6

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 6

This performance-based ensemble gives girls the opportunity to sing high-level and beautiful music from many different genres in a supportive and fun atmosphere. Girls will learn and develop the techniques, skills and confidence needed to be a contributing member of a secondary choral ensemble. The girls will also perform with other groups in winter and spring concerts. Students will cultivate a lifelong love of music and build meaningful friendships with peers who share a common interest.

### BAND 6

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 6

The purpose of Band 6 is to learn a new instrument, become a proficient performer and establish the foundation of knowledge necessary to contribute in an ensemble. Students will perform in winter and spring concerts with other middle and high school students. Students will learn skills that last a lifetime and the persistence of mastering an instrument reinforces the ideals of hard work, dedication and passion.

### GRADE 6 EXPLORATORY COURSES

In Grade 6, students explore the arts and technology through having one quarter each of drama, art and technology. In the fourth quarter students indicate which of these areas they would like to explore more deeply and are placed in a fourth quarter class in drama, art or technology that allows them to deepen their understanding and skills through a project-based approach.

### DRAMA 6

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Quarter

**Grade Level:** 6

Drama 6 is an introduction to theatre as an art form. This course focuses on the fundamentals of acting and theatre. Emphasis is placed on participation, creativity and a willingness to explore. The course objective is for students to gain confidence, discover the creativity in themselves and in others and grow through discussion and personal reflection.

### ART 6

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Quarter

**Grade Level:** 6

In Art 6, students will work with a variety of materials, techniques and processes in order to develop knowledge of the elements of art and principles of design. Students will complete projects in drawing, painting, ceramics and mixed media. Students will work towards using correct art vocabulary, improving craftsmanship and using materials and tools in a safe and responsible manner.

### TECHNOLOGY 6

**Department:** Information and Technology Information

**Length:** 1 Quarter

**Grade Level:** 6

Students will appreciate the ubiquity of computing and the ways in which computer science facilitates communication and collaboration. Furthermore, students will enhance their understanding of digital media through videography which will translate into communicating their ideas through video.

# Grade Seven Course Descriptions

## Core Courses

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

**Department:** English

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 7

English Language Arts 7 follows the Common Core State Standards to develop the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking and language use. Teachers use Columbia University's Teachers College Writers and Readers Workshop approach to present content, give individualized instruction and provide feedback for improvement. Students read, discuss and analyze various forms of literature to become open-minded, engaged and discerning readers. Students will use evidence of personal experiences, in-class readings and independent research to compose writing assignments, participate in oral presentations, discussions and debates. In addition, students will use technology to enhance reading, writing, speaking, listening and language skills.

### MATH 7

**Department:** Mathematics

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 7

Math 7 consists of units that correspond to the five strands in Common Core Standards: number systems, algebraic thinking, proportional understanding, geometry, and statistics and probability. The course deepens and extends previously learned skills at an appropriate pace as outlined and recommended by the Common Core. Emphasis is placed on proportional and linear situations using multiple representations as well as math practices that assess student reasoning and problem solving abilities. Students in this class are expected to show mastery of all Grade 7 Common Core Standards and will take Pre-Algebra in Grade 8.

### PRE-ALGEBRA 7

**Department:** Mathematics

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 7

Pre-Algebra 7 consists of units that correspond to the five strands in Common Core Standards: number systems, algebraic thinking, proportional understanding, geometry, and statistics and probability. The course deepens and extends previously learned skills at a rapid pace. Emphasis is placed on proportional and linear situations using multiple representations as well as math practices that assess student reasoning and problem solving abilities. Students in this class are expected to show mastery of all Grade 7 and 8 Common Core Standards and will take Algebra I in Grade 8.

### SCIENCE 7

**Department:** Science

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 7

Science 7 offers students the opportunity to explore a range of topics in physical, life earth and space sciences. Topics include: cell biology, astronomy, weather, motion and forces and chemistry. This content will be explored through the scientific inquiry process, where students design investigations around relevant real world problems. Throughout the year, students will develop the ability to create testable questions, generate hypotheses, perform experiments, collect and analyze data and communicate results. The focus will be on fostering a curiosity and love of science while quipping students with the necessary skills to formulate their investigations.

### GLOBALIZATION IN THE MODERN WORLD

**Department:** Social Studies

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 7

Globalization in the Modern World explores the disciplinary lenses of culture, civics, government, economics, geography and history to make connections from the past to contemporary times. With a focus on the concepts of globalization, this study includes an examination of increased economic interdependence and the exchange of ideas, beliefs, innovations and commodities. Students will analyze the conflicts that arise from differing points of view and ways nations have joined together for mutual progress. Using a skills based, inquiry-based and case study model, students will have the necessary skills and understandings that will lead to becoming better informed, engaged and globally competent citizens. By the end of this course, students will be able to answer the questions: How does understanding the past help us prepare for the future? And, where do we go from here?

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH 7

**Department:** Physical Education and Health

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 7

The Physical Education program develops the knowledge, skills and attitudes to lead an active, healthy lifestyle. Physical activity is vital to all aspects of normal growth and development and the health benefits are widely recognized. The curriculum is made of four strands: Health, Fitness, Sports and Aquatics. Students have to fully participate in all four components of the curriculum in order to complete the course.



## Creative Arts and Technology

### BOYS CHOIR 7

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 7

This class is offered for boys in Grade 7. Previous experience in choir is not required, just a love of singing. Each boy's voice change process is unique and a little unpredictable, and in this environment boys can feel confident and supported through that process, as well as have fun while making music. Throughout the year, students explore a wide variety of musical styles, developing a unified sound in two parts. In addition to performing as a group, students will sing in combination with other middle school choral ensembles for two concerts. Student will also practice their music-reading skills over the course of the year, becoming more competent musicians as a result.

### GIRLS CHOIR 7/8

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 7/8

This class is offered for girls in Grade 7 and 8. Previous experience in choir is not required, just a love of singing. Girls will build on their Grade 6 and 7 choral experiences in a combined grade environment, working together, meeting new friends, and learning more about their own voices and power to make beautiful music. Throughout the year, students explore a wide variety of musical styles, developing a unified sound in two parts. In addition to performing as a group, students will sing in combination with other middle school choral ensembles for two concerts. Student will also practice their music-reading skills over the course of the year, becoming more competent musicians as a result. Choir 7 is open to all Grade 7 students interested in singing, with the aim

of gaining appreciation for music through performance. Prior participation in choir is not required -- all who enjoy singing are welcome! Students will explore a wide variety of musical styles, working toward an ensemble sound in three and four parts. The students will perform at several school events, both as an ensemble and combined with other musical groups. Members of this choir are eligible and encouraged to audition for renowned, high-level regional and international festivals. Students will also refine and improve their music-reading skills.

### BAND 7

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 7

**Pre-Requisite:** 1 year of band experience or equivalent

Band 7 continues principles learned in Band 6. This exciting ensemble provides performance opportunities and lays a foundation of theoretical and historical knowledge in music. Students perform three times during the school year along with the opportunity to perform at community events at ASD and in Dubai.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL ART

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 7 or 8

MS Art explores concepts in more sophisticated terminology and depth than in Art 6. Students learn to appreciate the aspects of composition, color discrimination, perspective and positive and negative space. In MS Art, students focus on developing skills in drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking and mixed media while applying the elements of art and principles of design.

## ADVANCED 3D

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 7 or 8

**Pre-Requisite:** Middle School Art

Students will incorporate the elements of art and principles of design to create functional and non-functional sculptural pieces with a focus on technical skill, craftsmanship, originality, effort and responsibility. Students will work with a variety of media and will participate in class critique. Students will participate in class critiques of their work. Students are assessed on craftsmanship, visual unity, creative process, and written and oral critiques. This is an advanced course that should be considered by students who are truly interested in exploring sculptural concepts and skills.

## ADVANCED 2D

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 7 or 8

**Pre-Requisite:** Middle School Art

Students will explore in depth two-dimensional design, techniques and materials. The elements of art and principles of design will be emphasized as the technical skills of handling the media are further developed. Students will be encouraged to develop a personal style while working with a variety of media. Students are assessed on craftsmanship, visual unity, creative process, and written and oral critiques. This is an advanced course that should be considered by students who are truly interested in exploring drawing and painting concepts and skills.

## MIXED MEDIA

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 7 or 8

Mixed Media is an advanced arts course designed to challenge the conventions of traditional visual art methods, materials and techniques. Students will work with a combination of acrylic mediums, printing techniques, cut paper design, relief sculpture work, watercolor, ink and collage. Mixed Media helps students prepare for the challenges of more advanced art classes in high school; however it is also for anyone who is interested in creative expression and experimenting using a variety of techniques and materials.

## 21ST CENTURY ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 7 or 8

This course is based on concepts, artists, tools and techniques of the 21st century and focuses mainly on photography and digital art. Students will explore how art is changing and being created in our media-saturated world. They will learn how to use basic photographic compositional rules while exploring how photography intersects with contemporary art. They will also learn how to use current basic programs to create digital works. All students must have a digital camera to take this course (any kind from a point and shoot to DSLR); phone and tablets are not acceptable.

## DRAMA 7

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 7

Drama 7 explores the fundamentals of acting and theatre through three major units of study. Students learn the importance of the ensemble in theatre, how to develop characters and relationships on stage and the basics of theatre production. Students will create, stage, and perform original or scripted pieces of theatre. The course objective is that students gain confidence in themselves, discover the creativity in themselves and in others, and to develop a lasting appreciation of theatre.

## DANCE 7

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 7

Dance 7 introduces students to a variety of dances and provides students an opportunity to acquire basic overall knowledge of dance, develop dance skills and an appreciation of dance styles. Students will choreograph and perform their own dances. No previous dance experience is required. A costume fee will apply. This course can be repeated.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY

**Department:** Information and Technology Literacy

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 7 or 8

Students will explore ways in which technology facilitates communication and collaboration. Students will be empowered to become collaborative designers and coders. Some of the units covered: 3-D software design, webpage design and basic video skills. Students will practice their computational thinking skills and apply their coding knowledge to create simple design projects.

# Grade Eight Course Descriptions

## Core Courses

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

**Department:** English

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 8

English Language Arts 8 follows the Common Core State Standards to develop the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking and language use. Teachers use Columbia University's Teachers College Writers and Readers Workshop approach to present content, give individualized instruction and provide feedback for improvement. Students read, discuss and analyze various forms of literature to become open-minded, engaged and discerning readers. Students will use evidence of personal experiences, in-class readings and independent research to compose writing assignments, participate in oral presentations, discussions and debates. In addition, students will use technology to enhance reading, writing, speaking, listening and language skills.

### PRE-ALGEBRA 8

**Department:** Mathematics

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 8

**Pre-Requisite:** Math 7

Pre-Algebra 8 corresponds to the five strands in Common Core Standards: number systems, algebraic thinking, functions, geometry and statistics and probability. Emphasis is placed on operations with rational numbers and multiple representations of linear relationships. This course also teaches the math practices such as reasoning and attention to precision, preparing students for Algebra I.

### ALGEBRA I

**Department:** Mathematics

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 8

**Pre-Requisite:** Pre-Algebra 7

Algebra I concentrates on algebraic concepts such as linear relationships, their graphs and functions with systems of linear equations and linear inequalities, powers and exponents, and quadratic equations with polynomials and factoring. Problem solving and reasoning skills are emphasized throughout the course and assessed using math practices standards. Students will also use technology in problem solving. Although an online graphing calculator will be used, it is required that students have a handheld TI-84 calculator for class and on certain assessments.

### SCIENCE 8

**Department:** Science

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 8

Science 8 offers students the opportunity to explore a range of topics in physical, life and earth sciences. Topics include: electromagnetic waves, rocks and minerals, chemical reactions and genetics. This content will be explored through the scientific inquiry process, where students design investigations around relevant real world problems. Throughout the year, students will develop the ability to create testable questions, generate hypotheses, perform experiments, collect and analyze data and communicate results. The focus will be on fostering a curiosity and love of science while equipping students with the necessary skills to formulate their investigations.

### BUILDING CITIZENSHIP IN U.S. HISTORY

**Department:** Social Studies

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 8

Building Citizenship in US History is a full year course that uses the concepts of Citizenship to study the story of the United States. In a chronological manner, the students explore the persons, places and principles that shaped the US during the period from English Colonization (early 1600's) to the present day, focusing on the role of individuals and groups in the building of the nation. The main concept of citizenship is analyzed through the four lenses of History, Civics, Economics, and Geography to determine their influence on the lives of the American peoples. The course uses an inquiry-based approach so that student learning arises from investigation of essential questions, many generated by the student.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH 8

**Department:** Physical Education and Health

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 8

The Physical Education program develops the knowledge, skills and attitudes to lead an active, healthy lifestyle. Physical activity is vital to all aspects of normal growth and development and the health benefits are widely recognized. The curriculum is made of four strands: Health, Fitness, Sports and Aquatics. Students have to fully participate in all four components of the curriculum in order to complete the course.



## Creative Arts & Technology

### BOYS CHOIR 8

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 8

This class is offered for boys in Grade 8. Previous experience in choir is not required, just a love of singing. In Grade 8, students are ready to be leaders musically, and they motivate and encourage their fellow ensemble members through the challenges they each face, whether the challenge relates to confidence, voice change, a new type of genre or sight-reading. Throughout the year, students explore a wide variety of musical styles, developing a unified sound in two parts. In addition to performing as a group, students will sing in combination with other middle school choral ensembles for two concerts. Student will also practice their music-reading skills over the course of the year, becoming more competent musicians as a result.

### GIRLS CHOIR 7/8

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 7/8

This class is offered for girls in Grade 7 and 8. Previous experience in choir is not required, just a love of singing. Girls will build on their Grade 6 and 7 choral experiences in a combined grade environment, working together, meeting new friends, and learning more about their own voices and power to make beautiful music. Throughout the year, students explore a wide variety of musical styles, developing a unified sound in two parts. In addition to performing as a group, students will sing in combination with other middle school choral ensembles for two concerts. Student will also practice their music-reading skills over the course of the year, becoming more competent musicians as a result..

### BAND 8

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 8

**Pre-Requisite:** 2 years of band experience or equivalent

Grade 8 Band is the highest performing ensemble at ASD Middle School. The focus of this group is performance based but will continue to emphasize the importance of theoretical and historical knowledge in music. The class will perform three times per year along with the opportunity to perform at community events at ASD and in Dubai.

### DRAMA 8

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 8

Drama 8 explores the fundamentals of acting and theatre through three major units of study. The units of study are designed to help students learn the importance of the ensemble in theatre, how to develop characters and relationships on stage, and the basics of theatre production. Students will create, stage and perform original or scripted pieces of theatre. The course objective is for students to gain confidence in themselves, discover the creativity in themselves and in others, and to develop a lasting appreciation of theatre.

### DANCE 8

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 8

Dance 8 gives students with dance experience the opportunity to develop an advanced level of technique and refine their skills as a choreographer and performer. Students apply their creative and technical knowledge and skills through a variety of production and performance opportunities. Students learn to assess personal health and fitness, develop and achieve personal dance goals and integrate knowledge and skills with a variety of other content areas. Students will maintain a portfolio that contains written and/or visual examples of their work.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL ART

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 7 or 8

MS Art explores concepts in more sophisticated terminology and depth than in Art 6. Students learn to appreciate the aspects of composition, color discrimination, perspective and positive and negative space. In MS Art students focus on developing skills in drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking and mixed media while applying the elements of art and principles of design.

## ADVANCED 3D

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 7 or 8

**Pre-Requisite:** Middle School Art

Students will incorporate the elements of art and principles of design to create functional and non-functional sculptural pieces with a focus on technical skill, craftsmanship, originality, effort and responsibility. Students will work with a variety of media and will participate in class critiques. Students are assessed on their craftsmanship, creative unity, and written and oral critiques. This is a challenge level advanced course that should be considered by students who are truly interested in exploring sculptural concepts and skills.

## ADVANCED 2D

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 7 or 8

**Pre-Requisite:** Middle School Art

**Expected study time per lesson:** 15 - 45 minutes

Students will explore in depth two-dimensional design, techniques and materials. The elements of art and principles of design will be emphasized as the technical skills of handling the media are further developed. Students will be encouraged to develop a personal style while working with a variety of media. Students are assessed on craftsmanship, visual unity, creative process, and written and oral critiques. This is an advanced course that should be considered by students who are truly interested in exploring drawing and painting concepts and skills.

## MIXED MEDIA

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 7 or 8

Mixed Media is an advanced arts course designed to challenge the conventions of traditional visual art methods, materials, and techniques. You will have an opportunity to work with a combination of acrylic mediums, printing techniques, cut paper design, relief sculpture work, watercolor, ink and collage. Mixed Media helps students prepare for the challenges of more advanced art classes in High School; however it is also for anyone who is interested in expressing themselves and experimenting using a variety of techniques and materials.



## 21ST CENTURY ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY

**Department:** Creative Arts

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 7 or 8

This course is based on concepts, artists, tools and techniques of the 21st century and focuses mainly on photography and digital art. Students will explore how art is changing and being created in our media-saturated world. They will learn how to use basic photographic compositional rules while exploring how photography intersects with contemporary art. They will also learn how to use current basic programs to create digital works. All students must have a digital camera to take this course (any kind from a point and shoot to DSLR); phone and tablets are not acceptable.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY

**Department:** Information and Technology Literacy

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 7 or 8

Students will explore ways in which technology facilitates communication and collaboration. Students will be empowered to become collaborative designers and coders. Some of the units covered: 3-D software design, webpage design and basic video skills. Students will practice their computational thinking skills and apply their coding knowledge to create simple design projects.

## VIDEO BROADCASTING

**Department:** Information and Technology Literacy

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** 8

**Pre-Requisite:** Middle School Technology

Video Broadcasting covers basic broadcast production essentials and trains students in the function and operation of all basic facilities, including camera, microphones, switcher, media storage, editors and lighting equipment. The direction and production of basic types of programs are taught and practiced leading to the production of a student-led weekly news broadcast. Students learn the basic staff positions and leadership roles in the studio production team while broadcasting ASD performances.

## ROBOTICS

**Length:** 1 Semester

**Grade Level:** Grade 8

**Pre-Requisite:** Middle School Technology

Students build robots using LEGO Mindstorms. Students practice mechanical design, construction, programming and teamwork skills. Using LEGO blocks, motors and sensors, students build robots that can complete a variety of challenges and obstacles. Students use a control console or computer to program their robots to move, react, and make sounds. This course develops skills of design thinking as students are asked to work through processes of idea creation, planning, logical thinking, analysis and computational thinking to solve problems and accomplish goals. This is a great course for those interested in developing programming and engineering skills.

## Arabic Program

The Arabic courses aim to cater to the various Arabic language learning needs of both Native and Non-Native Arabic students. Courses within the same proficiency grouping may be taught together as one class. In these cases, differentiated instruction will be provided to assist students to progress at the appropriate pace across the Arabic language proficiency continuum.

### Arabic As A World Language (AWL)

#### ARABIC I

**Department:** World Languages

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade level(s):** Grade 6-8

**Proficiency Outcomes:** Novice Mid

This course serves the needs of students across the Novice Low to Novice Mid Arabic language proficiency range. By the end of this course students will be able to communicate and present information about themselves and other familiar topics using single words and phrases that they have practiced and memorized. This includes exchanging greetings, giving identity, answering simple questions and naming familiar objects from the immediate environment. Additionally, learners will be able to identify, read and write some high-frequency words or phrases related to familiar people, places and objects when strongly supported by context. Moreover, students will begin to develop a basic insight into main practices, perspectives and products of Arabic culture.

#### ARABIC II

**Department:** World Languages

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level(s):** Grade 6-8

**Proficiency Outcomes:** Novice High

This course serves the needs of students across the Novice Mid to Novice High Arabic language proficiency range. By the end of this course students will be able to communicate and present information about themselves and other familiar topics using a variety of words, phrases and expressions that they have practiced and memorized. This includes asking and answering a variety of simple questions, introducing others, expressing likes and dislikes and describing daily activities. Additionally, learners will be able to understand, read and write lists and contextualized phrases on familiar topics related to everyday life such as supplying basic biographical information on simple forms and documents. Moreover, students will further develop an insight into main practices, perspectives and products of Arabic culture.

#### ARABIC III

**Department:** World Languages

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level(s):** Grade 6-8

**Proficiency Outcomes:** Intermediate Low

This course serves the needs of students across the Novice High to Intermediate Low Arabic language proficiency range. By the end of this course students will be able to communicate, exchange and present information about familiar topics using phrases and simple sentences. This includes handling short social interactions, asking for and giving directions, telling about a familiar experience or event and making plans with others. Additionally, learners will be able to understand, read and write short messages, notes, descriptions, postcards and other simple texts on familiar topics related to everyday life. Moreover, students will further develop an insight into some practices, perspectives and products of Arabic culture.

#### ARABIC IV

**Department:** World Languages

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level(s):** Grade 6-8

**Proficiency Outcomes:** Intermediate High

This course serves the needs of students across the Intermediate Low to Intermediate Mid Arabic language proficiency range. By the end of this course students will be able to participate in conversations and make presentations on familiar subjects using series of connected sentences. Additionally, learners will be able to handle social interactions in everyday situations by asking and answering a variety of questions. Furthermore, students will be able to understand, read and write non-complex texts on a wide array of familiar topics related to everyday life and personal interests. Moreover, students will further develop an insight into several practices, perspectives and products of Arabic culture.

# Arabic As A Native Language

## ARABIC NATIVE I

**Department:** World Languages

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level(s):** Grade 6-8

**Proficiency Outcomes:** Intermediate Low

This course serves the needs of students across the Novice High to Intermediate Low Arabic language proficiency range. By the end of this course students will be able to understand and respond to simple spoken and written texts. They will be able to identify messages, facts, opinions, feelings and ideas presented in oral, visual and written language, and demonstrate their comprehension in short oral and written form. Furthermore, learners will be able to interact to share information in a limited range of familiar situations, using basic language appropriate to a limited range of interpersonal and cultural contexts. Students will become aware that language varies according to purpose and audience.

## ARABIC NATIVE II

**Department:** World Languages

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level(s):** Grade 6-8

**Proficiency Outcomes:** Intermediate Mid

This course is intended to serve the needs of students across the Intermediate Low to Intermediate Mid Arabic language proficiency range. By the end of this course students will be able to understand and respond to simple spoken and written texts. They will be able to identify messages, facts, opinions,

feelings and ideas presented in oral, visual and written language, and demonstrate their comprehension in short oral and written form. Learners will also be able to interact to share information in a limited range of familiar situations, using basic language appropriate to a limited range of interpersonal and cultural contexts. Students will become aware that language varies according to purpose and audience.

## ARABIC NATIVE III

**Department:** World Languages

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level(s):** Grade 6-8

**Proficiency Outcomes:** Intermediate High

This course is intended to serve the needs of students across the Intermediate Mid to Intermediate High Arabic language proficiency range. By the end of this course students will be able to understand and respond to a variety of spoken and written texts. Additionally, they will be able to interpret specific information, main ideas and some detail presented in complex oral, visual and written language, draw conclusions and recognize implied opinions and attitudes in texts read and viewed. Learners will also be able to engage in conversations and write structured text to share informative and organized ideas on topics of personal interest and global significance, in a range of interpersonal and cultural contexts. Students will be able to communicate substantial information containing relevant and developed ideas and justified opinions on events, experiences and some concepts explored in class. Furthermore, they will be able to identify aspects of format and style, and speak and write with a clear sense of audience and purpose.





## ARABIC NATIVE IV

**Department:** World Languages

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level(s):** Grade 6-8

**Proficiency Outcomes:** Intermediate High

This capable communicator course is intended to serve the needs of students within the Intermediate High Arabic language proficiency range. By the end of this course students will be able to understand and respond to a variety of spoken and written texts. Additionally, they will be able to interpret specific information, main ideas and some detail presented in complex oral, visual and written language, draw conclusions and recognize implied opinions and attitudes in texts read and viewed. Learners will also be able to engage in conversations and write structured text to share informative and organized ideas on topics of personal interest and global significance, in a range of interpersonal and cultural contexts. Students will be able to communicate substantial information containing relevant and developed ideas and justified opinions on events, experiences and some concepts explored in class. Furthermore, they will be able to identify aspects of format and style, and speak and write with a clear sense of audience and purpose.

## ARABIC NATIVE V

**Department:** World Languages

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level(s):** Grade 6-8

**Proficiency Outcomes:** Advanced Low

This proficient communicator course is intended to serve the needs of students across the Intermediate High to Advanced Low Arabic language proficiency range. By the end of this course students will be able to evaluate the important information, details and ideas presented in spoken, written

and visual language, in social and academic contexts. They will be able to analyze the information, draw conclusions and make inferences about ideas, opinions and attitudes implied in a wide range of spoken, visual and written texts. Learners will also be able to engage actively in conversations in social and academic situations to contribute substantial information and give detailed analysis and explanation. Moreover, students will be able to organize information and ideas logically and effectively to communicate their understanding, opinions and perspectives to a wide range of audiences and for a variety of social and academic purposes.

## ARABIC NATIVE VI

**Department:** World Languages

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level(s):** Grade 6-8

**Proficiency Outcomes:** Advanced High

This proficient communicator course is intended to serve the needs of students within the Advanced Arabic language proficiency range. By the end of this course students will be able to evaluate the important information, details and ideas presented in spoken, written and visual language, in social and academic contexts. They will be able to analyze the information, draw conclusions and make inferences about ideas, opinions and attitudes implied in a wide range of spoken, visual and written texts. Learners will also be able to engage actively in conversations in social and academic situations to contribute substantial information and give detailed analysis and explanation. Moreover, students will be able to organize information and ideas logically and effectively to communicate their understanding, opinions and perspectives to a wide range of audiences and for a variety of social and academic purposes.

# French Program

## FRENCH I

**Department:** World Languages

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 6-8

**Proficiency Outcomes:** Novice High

French 1 aims to introduce students to french and its culture. The course stresses language acquisition through the development of communicative skills, with heavy emphasis placed on interpersonal speaking. Speaking, listening, reading, and writing are all addressed in this course. Grammar is introduced as needed to help students understand the structure of the language. By the end of this course, students should be able to carry on basic conversations, follow more complex conversations, read simple texts, and write short compositions about themselves and aspects of their life.

The main topics of study are school, family and friends, free time activities, food, clothing, as well as basic phrases to facilitate communication in the target language in class..

## FRENCH II

**Department:** World Languages

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 6-8

**Proficiency Outcomes:** Intermediate Low

French II continues to develop students' language to the intermediate low proficiency level while further exposing students to french and its culture. The course stresses language acquisition through the development of communicative skills, with heavy emphasis placed on interpersonal speaking and expanded experiences in listening, reading, and writing. At the intermediate low proficiency level, students are able to use practiced vocabulary from a wide range of familiar themes and topics, show consistent control of present time frame and practiced structures, and begin to use past and future time frames. By the end of this course, students should be able to ask a variety of questions to continue conversations and extend their own responses with a range of details or description. Cultural comparisons and traditions are explored throughout the year.

The main topics of study are everyday life, taking care of myself, celebrations, at the mall, city and rural life, vacation and travel.

## FRENCH III

**Department:** World Languages

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grades Level(s):** 6-8

**Proficiency Level:** Intermediate Mid

French III reinforces the proficiency-oriented approach, which focuses on communicative competence and performance at the intermediate mid level. The use of acquired structures and vocabulary is intensified and the creative process of language is emphasized. The course prepares students to be confident and comfortable using multiple sentences that span a variety of topics, and to be more aware of verb tenses that go beyond present, allowing them to get in and out of daily situations without complication. Students at this proficiency level use a range of vocabulary from familiar themes, can speak to topics of personal interest, and recognize and use some culturally appropriate expressions and gestures in everyday interactions.

# Spanish Program

## SPANISH I

**Department:** World Languages

**Length:** 1 Year

**Proficiency Outcomes:** Novice High

Spanish 1 aims to introduce students to spanish and its culture. The course stresses language acquisition through the development of communicative skills, with heavy emphasis placed on interpersonal speaking. Speaking, listening, reading, and writing are all addressed in this course. Grammar is introduced as needed to help students understand the structure of the language. By the end of this course, students should be able to carry on basic conversations, follow more complex conversations, read simple texts, and write short compositions about themselves and aspects of their life.

The main topics of study are school, family and friends, free time activities, food, clothing, as well as basic phrases to facilitate communication in the target language in class.

## SPANISH II

**Department:** World Languages

**Length:** 1 Year

**Grade Level:** 6-8

**Proficiency Outcomes:** Intermediate Low

Spanish II continues to develop students' language to the intermediate low proficiency level while further exposing students to spanish and its culture. The course stresses language acquisition through the development of communicative skills, with heavy emphasis placed on interpersonal speaking and expanded experiences in listening, reading, and writing. At the intermediate low proficiency level, students are able to use practiced vocabulary from a wide range of familiar themes and topics, show consistent control of present time frame and practiced structures, and begin to use past and future time frames. By the end of this course, students should be able to ask a variety of questions to continue conversations and extend their own responses with a range of details or description. Cultural comparisons and traditions are explored throughout the year.

The main topics of study are everyday life, taking care of myself, celebrations, at the mall, city and rural life, vacation and travel.

## SPANISH III

**Department:** World Languages

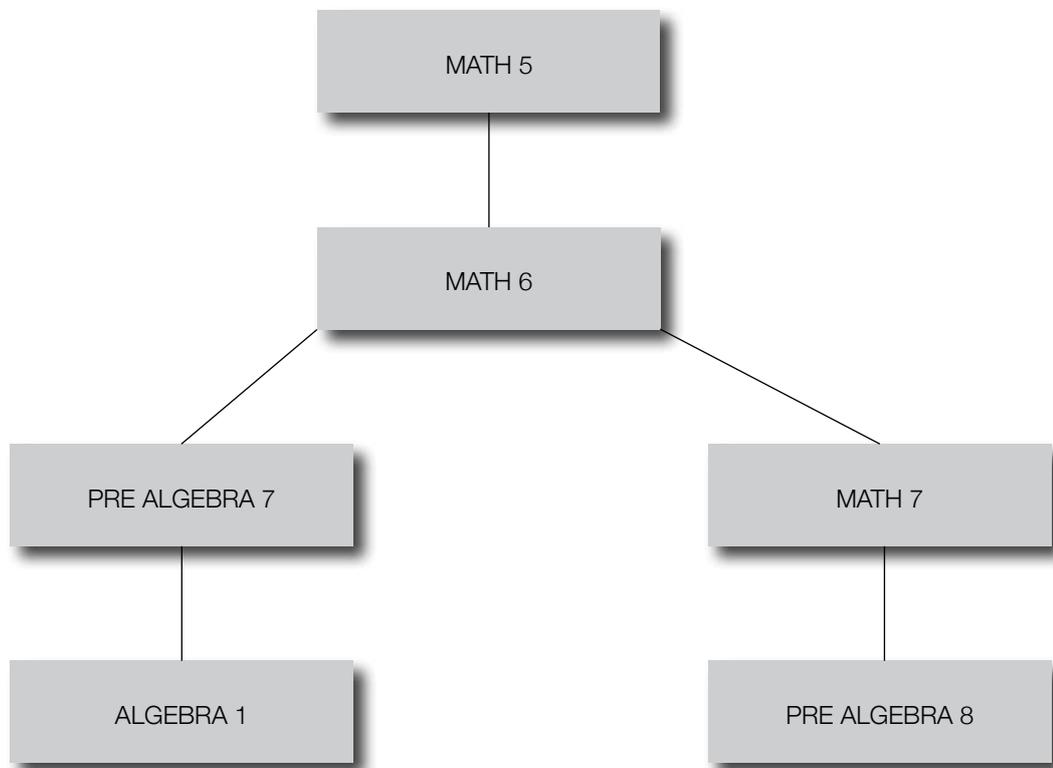
**Length:** 1 Year

**Grades Level(s):** 6-8

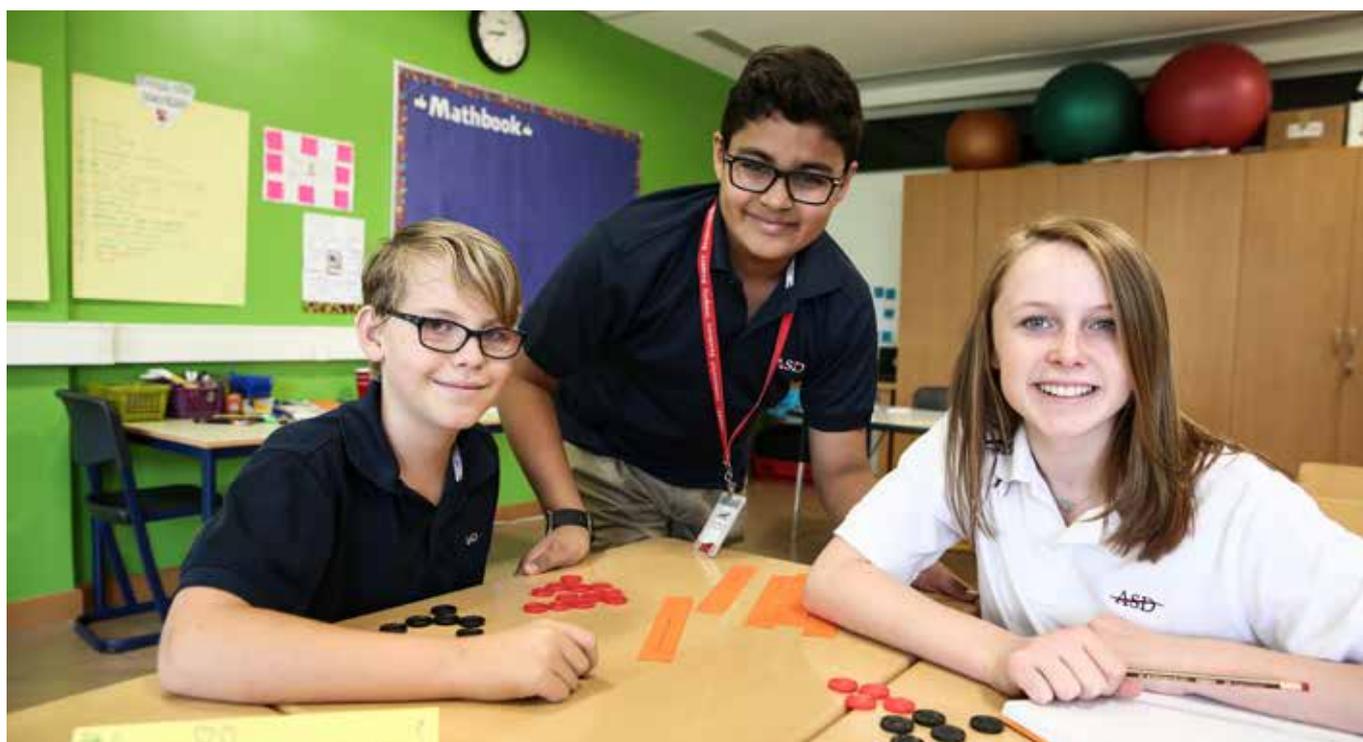
**Proficiency Level:** Intermediate Mid

Spanish III reinforces the proficiency-oriented approach, which focuses on communicative competence and performance at the intermediate mid level. The use of acquired structures and vocabulary is intensified and the creative process of language is emphasized. The course prepares students to be confident and comfortable using multiple sentences that span a variety of topics, and to be more aware of verb tenses that go beyond present, allowing them to get in and out of daily situations without complication. Students at this proficiency level use a range of vocabulary from familiar themes, can speak to topics of personal interest, and recognize and use some culturally appropriate expressions and gestures in everyday interactions.

## Mathematics Course Sequence



\* Placement of students in Math 7, Pre-Algebra and Algebra courses is based on student readiness, teacher recommendation and performance on both external and classroom assessments.







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