Middle School at Tsinghua International School is an exciting experience. You have many opportunities to develop and explore new interests during your classes and after school programs.

The teachers plan interesting lessons to help you achieve the expected standards in all your subjects. Students learn new skills, gain more knowledge and develop an understanding of the deeper meaning of all content. Understandings help you see how learning one skill relates to learning others. You also begin to see the relationship of one subject to other subjects.

As a staff, we want you to be happy, work hard in your classes, make lots of friends and be actively involved in afterschool activities and sports. We look forward to spending meaningful time with you during the 2018-19 school year!

The Course Booklet

This booklet is written for you, our students. It describes for you the various courses you take in middle school. Please read over the descriptions so you can understand a little about what you will learn as you move from grade 6 to 7 and finally grade 8. These courses will provide you with challenging opportunities this year and will also prepare you for the deeper, more intense courses you will experience in high school. Have a wonderful 2018 – 19 school year!!
Table of Contents

Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Core Values .............................................. 3

Courses At Each Grade Level ................................................................................. 4

Grade 6 Courses .................................................................................................. 5

Grade 7 Courses .................................................................................................. 13

Grade 8 Courses .................................................................................................. 20
Mission Statement

Tsinghua International School fosters creative critical thinkers who are rooted in China and prepared to lead in the global community.

Vision Statement

Tsinghua International School will be the model international school harmonizing the best of Western and Chinese education and culture. The school will develop the whole child, nurturing individuals of exceptional character who will make positive contributions to the world.

Core Values

With the motto of ‘Self-Discipline and Social Commitment’ and the spirit of ‘Actions Speak Louder than Words,’ Tsinghua University and its affiliate schools are dedicated to the well-being of Chinese society and to world development. THIS is a community of joyful learners—students, parents, teachers and staff. We cultivate this joy through our Core Values:

Collaboration—Sharing our gifts, strengths and perspectives; working together to solve problems and achieve goals.

Discovery—Pursuing ideas and topics that pique our curiosity, and developing creative responses to challenges and opportunities.

Engagement—Nurturing meaningful learning experiences that require active participation and critical thinking, lead to deep understanding, and foster lifelong learning.

Tsinghua Spirit—Promoting independence, caring, courage and integrity, positive moral and ethical values and a peaceful community.

Cultural Diversity—Respecting ourselves and others, welcoming difference, and embracing the richness of Chinese culture.
COURSES AT EACH GRADE LEVEL

GRADE 6 – All courses are required
Chinese A or B
English/Language Arts
Structured English Immersion (based on English Level)
Math
Geography
Earth Science
Chinese History A or B
Physical Education
Eastern Art (1 semester)
Western Art (1 semester)
Choir or Band
Computer Foundations
Theatre

GRADE 7 – All courses are required
Chinese A or B
English/Language Arts
Structured English Immersion (based on English level)
Pre-Algebra
Ancient World History
Life Science
STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics)
Physical Education and Health
Eastern Art (One Semester)
Western Art (One Semester)
Choir or Band
Computer Applications
Theatre

GRADE 8 – Required Courses
Chinese A or B
English/Language Arts
Structured English Immersion (based on English level)
Algebra I
Medieval World History
Physical Science
Chinese History A or B
Physical Education and Health

GRADE 8 – Choice Courses (All courses last the entire year)
Students will choose 2 of the following
Eastern Art
Western Art
Band
Choir
Theatre
ESL – May be required based on English level.
French I
Spanish I
(Spanish and French may be chosen if the student is on grade level in both Chinese and English. Both are the same as the high school Level I courses.)
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
GRADE LEVEL: 6
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
What could be on the other side of a door? Is it possible to swim in a sea of knowledge? In this course we will answer all these questions and create our own in the process. By joining us in Grade 6 English language Arts you will not only develop your reading, writing, and conversation skills but also your comprehension and analyses skills that will last you a lifetime. In this course we will grow our English language skills through exploration of words by using it to expand and visualize our imaginations. We will build on your current skills through upbeat writing workshops, novel studies, and creative writing. We will spend time reading a variety of texts as a class, alone, and in groups. We will discover the joy and creativity that can be a part of the writing, reading, and thinking process in Grade 6.

STRUCTURED ENGLISH IMMERSION (SEI)
GRADE LEVEL: 6
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will help you grow your English language abilities. In this small class, we will work on your writing by building vocabulary, practicing grammar and by learning new ways to organize and show your ideas. There will also be time for reading practice. Do you like graphic novels? As a class we will be reading a spooky adventure with wonderful comic style drawings. Throughout the course you will be encouraged to explore, ask questions and work with your classmates through group projects.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT: RESEARCH SKILLS (ELS)
GRADE LEVEL: 6
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 1
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
What are you interested in? In the Research Skills ELS classroom, you will be asked to look deeper into topics that interest you! In this class you will learn how to find sources for your school projects and how to look for key information when researching. Working in a small group, you will have lots of one on one time with the teacher, giving you extra support. You will learn strategies and skills that will help you in all your classes at THIS.

RESEARCH SKILLS
GRADE LEVEL: 6
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 1
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Has your teacher asked you to do research and you have no idea where to start? In Research Skills, you will learn to explore topics, ask the right questions, and discover areas you wish to investigate. This class will teach you how to find and use that information. The course also develops and supports your ability to organize information in order to make connections, deepen your understanding and prepare you to express your ideas.

GEOGRAPHY
GRADE LEVEL: 6
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
6th grade geography is all about investigating the world around you and growing your geographic abilities in your journey to understanding the world we live in. In this class you will learn about different parts of the world through case studies, research, detective work, and interviews. You will have the opportunity to discover topics such as climate change, patterns of human movement and settlement, impact of the physical world on human beings; and how all of these work together to make you who you are.
MATHEMATICS
GRADE LEVEL: 6
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will expand on what you learned in Mathematics in Grade 5. Within our learning community, we will go deeper into foundational topics like fractions, decimals, ratios, proportions and statistics; we will investigate geometry topics like measurement and graphing, and begin to discover pre-algebra topics like expressions, equations, tables and graphs.
The course will be collaborative, so you will be working in Math Study Teams where you will have a unique role to play so that your group succeeds and learns. This will build your teamwork skills as well as your level of individual responsibility.

CHINESE 6A
GRADE LEVEL: 6
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Do you want to know how Lao She grows flowers? Do you want to know the image of Lu Xun in the eyes of his little niece? Do you want to know why Feng Jicai, a famous writer, was beaten by his father when he was a child? Do you want to know the story behind Ms. Bing Xin’s closeness to nature? Do you want to know the story of the four masters and disciples in the Chinese classic Journey to the West? The sixth grade Chinese class will lead you into a wonderful, story-filled Chinese world and explore the truth behind the stories. We will not only learn new words and recite ancient poems, but also learn to write and express clearly. Words and phrases, reading competitions, reading reports five minutes before class and one book a month are your stage. In addition, you will see loving and childlike philosophies, and learn from the Analects of Confucius about how to get along with parents, teachers and friends.

中文 6 年级 ( 1 学分 )
适用年级：6A
学期：2
课程描述：必修
　　你想知道老舍是怎么养花的吗？你想了解鲁迅在他小侄女眼中的形象吗？你想知道赫赫有名的文学家冯骥才儿时为什么被爸爸痛打吗？你想了解冰心先生亲近大自然背后的故事吗？你想知道中国经典名著《西游记》中师徒四人取经的故事吗？……六年级的语文课堂将引领你走入充满奇妙、饱含故事的中文世界，探索故事背后的道理。在六年级，我们不仅要积累基础字词，诵读古诗
词，还要学会条理清晰地去写作和表达。字词大比拼、朗读比赛、课前五分钟以及每月一书的读书报告，是你尽情展示自己的舞台。此外，你还会看到富于爱心与童趣的哲理美文，并从《论语》里了解到古人与父母、师长及朋友相处和交往的道理。

CHINESE 6B
GRADE LEVEL: 6
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Do you want to talk about the weather in Beijing and your vacation with your Chinese friends? Do you want to make a phone call to order food in Chinese by yourself? Do you know how to see a doctor in China? Do you want to take a taxi by using an app like DiDi in China? Do you want to know Chinese fairy tales? ...In Grade 6 Chinese class B, we use Easy Step to Chinese(2) and Easy Step to Chinese(3) as our textbooks. You will learn to pronounce and write 1500-1800 Chinese characters, learn to communicate in Chinese about your life and your study, learn to express yourself and describe your experience, write diary, emails and easy articles. Meanwhile, through the comparison between East and West, you will learn some Chinese culture.

中文 6B 年级 (1 学分 )
适用年级：6B
学期：2
课程描述：必修

你是否想和朋友用中文聊聊北京的天气和你旅行的经历？是否想在周末时自己打电话订个餐？你是否想知道在中国的医院怎样看病？是否想用中国的 Uber 来打车？你想知道中国的神话故事吗？......六年级 B 班的中文课将以《轻松学中文 2》及《轻松学中文 3》为教材，带你学习地道的中文发音，书写工整的汉字，掌握 1500-1800 个基础、常用词语，用汉语完成生活、学习等方面的交际任务，在交流中较为清楚地表达自己的观点，较为流利地描述自己的经历，写简单的日记、邮件和文章，也会用中西方对比的方式学习中国的文化。
Do you want to know how 5000 years of Chinese civilization originated? Want to explore the time of Confucius? Want to know why the ancients built the Great Wall? Want to know how the Silk Road, which connected China and Europe, started? Want to know the most exotic stories of the Three Kingdoms period? Together, we will explore the vastness of Chinese history, from the legends of Huang Di and Yan Di, to the Northern and Southern dynasties. We will mainly discuss the Spring and autumn and Warring States periods, Qin, Han dynasties and the Three Kingdoms period. You will have a preliminary understanding of the glorious and resplendent Chinese civilization.

中国历史六年级（1/2 学分）
适用年级：6A
学期：2
课程描述：必修
你想知道五千年中华文明如何起源吗？想了解孔子这位大思想家生活在怎样的时代吗？想知道巍峨的长城是在怎样的环境下建造起来的吗？想知道沟通中外的丝绸之路怎样兴起的吗？想知道最真实的三国故事吗？中国历史课与你一起探索浩瀚的中国历史知识。我们将学习从传说中的黄帝炎帝到三国时期的历史知识，重点讲述春秋战国、秦汉、三国等时期的历史，了解中国先民的伟大创造，初步认识灿烂辉煌的中华文明。

Do you want to know the very beginning of 5000-year Chinese civilization? Do you want to explore the time of Confucius? Do you want to know why the Great Wall is built? Do you want to know how the Silk Road, which connected China and Europe, started? Do you want to know the stories of the Three Kingdoms period? ... In Grade 6 Chinese History class B, we use A Chinese History Reader as our textbook. You will explore the Chinese history from the legends of Huang Di and Yan Di, to the Three Kingdoms period. You will have a preliminary understanding of the glorious and resplendent Chinese civilization.
你想知道五千年的中华文明是如何起源的吗？想了解孔子这位大思想家生活在怎样的时代吗？想知道巍峨的长城是在怎样的环境下建造起来的吗？想知道沟通中外的丝绸之路是怎样兴起的吗？想知道最真实的三国故事吗？......六年级 B 班的中国历史课将以 *A Chinese History Reader* 为教材，与你一起探索浩瀚的中国历史知识。我们将学习从传说中的黄帝炎帝时期到三国时期的历史知识，了解中国先民的伟大创造，初步认识灿烂辉煌的中华文明。

**COMPUTER FOUNDATIONS**

**GRADE LEVEL:** 6  
**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS:** 2  
**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will help you acquire skills, so you can efficiently, effectively and responsibly utilize technology. It integrates computer technology into the curriculum to support and expand it. Computer Foundations aims to aid in your preparation to meet the challenges of a changing world. You will learn how to use word processing software (Word/Pages), spreadsheet software (Excel/Numbers), presentation software (PowerPoint/ Keynote/ Prezi), as well as how to podcast and screen cast. You will also develop good Digital Citizenship skills including those related to Internet safety, privacy and security, prevention of cyber bullying, self-image and identity, information literacy and copyright policies.

**VOCAL MUSIC**

**GRADE LEVEL:** 6  
**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS:** 2  
**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Want to sing cool songs with others? Want to improve your singing skills? Want to perform on stage? Come on the choir!  
You will learn music fundamentals, sight-reading skills, and choir music around the world.
6th GRADE BEGINNING BAND  
GRADE LEVEL: 6  
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2  
COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
Want to join the band but don’t play a band instrument? This is the class for you!! You will have an opportunity to explore instruments and find the one that expresses your soul, learn to read music and play your chosen instrument in an ensemble. This class covers everything you need to know to join the band 7th grade band.

WESTERN ART  
GRADE LEVEL: 6  
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS:1  
COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
The Western Art class is project-based, which means that you will be learning the art concepts while you are creating art projects. In this class you will develop and improve your artistic skills in drawing, painting, designing and modeling. You will also develop your creativity and you will use it as a healthy way to express your feelings, emotions and ideas through your artwork.

EASTERN ART  
GRADE LEVEL: 6  
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS:1  
COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
You will have an opportunity to explore Chinese art, including traditional Chinese painting, Calligraphy Kai Shu, Chinese character design, folk art. You will learn art skills through designed projects, gradually building understanding about Eastern art!  
在六年级的东方艺术课上，你可以学习到中国画（白描花卉）、书法（楷书）、汉字设计和民间美术。通过每一个项目的学习和探索，你不仅可以学习到艺术表达技巧，还可以建立并逐步发展你对东方艺术的理解！

THEATRE 6  
GRADE LEVEL: 6  
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS:2  
COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE...  
And in Gr. 6, you will learn how to be an actor upon it. But first you will need to learn how to work together as a team since theatre is all about teamwork. Through
games, discussion, acting exercises, reflection and improvisation, you will begin to explore the craft of acting.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**GRADE LEVEL:** 6

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS:** 2

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**
Physical Education allows you to find and explore new activities and sports that you can enjoy for the rest of your life. It keeps you healthy, strong and ready for any challenge! Grade 6 Physical Education is an active class that involves movement and sports skills in different game settings and activities. You will experience many different types of individual and team experiences, that will push you to have fun and learn new sports and activities. The goal of Physical Education class is to develop your knowledge, understanding, skills and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
GRADE LEVEL: 7
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Are you excited to read and write? Grade 7 English is the place for you to enjoy the wonders of Greek Mythology, to discover how to survive in the wild and to learn more about fantasy novels. You will write original stories, improve your writing skills for reading and debate on many topics that interest young people. Through projects and discussions, this aims to be a fun and active course for all students.

STRUCTURED ENGLISH IMMERSION
GRADE LEVEL: 7
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Do you like to read adventurous survival stories? Want to pretend to be a powerful Greek god or goddess? Perhaps you’d like to write a script about one of Hercules’ famous tasks? You can do all of these things and more in SEI. In this course we focus on helping you learn vocabulary, reading and listening strategies, speaking and pronunciation skills and writing papers that show a flow of ideas and organization. You will also learn grammar skills that will help in all areas of instruction including History, Math, Science and Health. The best part is this will be in a small class with plenty of one on one instruction helping you strengthen your language skills in a safe, fun and friendly environment.
LIFE SCIENCE
GRADE LEVEL: 7
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Life Science is a 7th grade course that will provide you with the opportunity to learn that Life science is the study of living things. The life sciences make all fields of science that involve the scientific study of living organisms, like plants, animals, and human beings.
You will learn about environmental and global issues which affect our world. Emphasis will be placed on skill development to provide you with the basic tools you need to be successful in this course as well as those you will study in the future.

ANCIENT WORLD HISTORY
GRADE LEVEL: 7
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Do you like mummies and mysteries, Greek gods and myths, and ancient Chinese inventions? Then you will love ancient world history!!! We will study the ancient world beginning with the early humans and ending with ancient Rome. We will include the rise of the early civilizations, ancient Egypt and the Middle East, and ancient India, China, Greece, and Rome. We will explore how these civilizations came to be, how they grew and influenced others, the differences in their cultures and beliefs, and the major achievements of each civilization.

MATHEMATICS
GRADE LEVEL: 7
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will begin to introduce you to Pre-Algebra topics. Within our learning community, we will investigate geometry topics such as angles, surface area, volume, triangles, transformations and measurement. We will also continue to discover pre-algebra topics such as linear relationships, equations, inequalities, exponents, probability and data analysis. In all of these topics, you, along with your Math Study Team, will work to express your ideas using multiple representations.
The winds blow in spring and it rains in summer, it frosts in autumn and snows in winter. This cycle will always repeat itself and the four seasons are always beautiful.

Do you want to know how to appreciate the beauty of nature, and what language you should use to describe the poetry of nature? Family affection is one of the most common and beautiful emotions in the world. How can we understand, write and embrace the family affection from literary works? Childhood is short and precious. Looking back to your childhood, do you feel the eternal innocence, fun, friendship and love?...The 7th grade Chinese class will open a literary door for you, making you get close to the masters and appreciate their beautiful literary works. We will select the text elaborately and guide students to do multi-dimensional reading: intensive reading, skipping reading, scanning, declaiming and silent reading. At the same time, we will choose “Dawn Blossoms Plucked at Dusk”, “The Analects of Confucius”, “The Rickshaw Boy” and “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea” as the classic reading books to develop your interests and aesthetic ability, guiding you to read the entire books and to lay the solid foundation for your life-long learning and personality development.

We will also lead you to write essays, unit compositions and reading reports to motivate you to love writing, self-expression and creative expression. By enlarging the study of ancient poetry and sinology learning, we will improve your love for traditional Chinese culture and literature. In this way can we improve your literacy.

中文 7A 年级 ( 1 学分 )
适用年级：7A
学期：2
课程描述：必修

春风夏雨，秋霜冬雪，大自然生生不息，四时美景美不胜收。你想知道怎样去感知大自然之美，又应该用什么样的语言去描绘出自然景物的诗情画意吗？亲情，是人间最普遍、最美好的情感之一，我们如何从文学作品中读出、书写以及拥抱厚重的亲情？童年时光短暂而珍贵，回首童年，你是否感受到了那永恒的童真、童趣、友情与爱？……七年级的语文课堂将为你打开一扇文学之门，亲近名家，品鉴美文。在中文课的学习中，我们将精选课文，引导学生进行多维阅读：精读、略读、浏览、朗读和默读；同时，对课内必读名著《朝花夕拾》、《论语译注》、《骆驼祥子》和《海底两万里》开展名著导读课，旨在培养学生对名著的阅读兴趣和审美能力，引导学生整本阅读经典，为其终身学
初到中国的你，是否想跟身边的中国朋友介绍你的学校生活？是否想知道中西方的节日文化有什么不同？是否想挑战一下自己独自在中国旅行？本课程的主要目标是以《轻松学中文》4 的主体课文为基础，以培养学生学习汉语的兴趣，提高学生听、说、读、写的能力为目标。本课程以单元依据不同主题进行教学，如学校活动、美食、节日、外出就餐、社区、旅游、意外事故、长相、性格、职业等。课程学习主要通过小组讨论与合作、角色扮演、口头报告等活动互动进行。本课程也会补充阅读大量中国名人和历史、文学和艺术等内容相关的小故事。
COMPUTER APPLICATIONS
GRADE LEVEL: 7
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
You will use computers and application software including word processing, presentation, database, spreadsheets, Internet, and email to prepare elementary documents and reports. This course is designed to use the advanced features of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, and to integrate data between the applications. The impact of computers on society and ethical issues are presented. Students will gain basic hands-on experience using the integrated programs of Microsoft Office 2011.

VOCAL MUSIC
GRADE LEVEL: 7
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Want to sing cool songs with others? Want to improve your singing skills? Want to perform on stage? Come join the choir!
You will learn music fundamentals, sight-reading skills, and how to collaborate with other choir members.

7th GRADE BEGINNING BAND
GRADE LEVEL: 7
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Want to join the band but don’t play a band instrument? Are you new to the school or a continuing student and missed being in band last year? This is the class for you!!
You will have an opportunity to explore instruments and find the one that expresses your soul, learn to read music and play your chosen instrument in an ensemble. This class covers everything you need to know to join the 8th grade Advanced band.

7th Grade INTERMEDIATE BAND
GRADE LEVEL: 7
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Want to continue playing in the band? Are you new to the school or a continuing student and already know how to play an instrument and can’t wait to play with your friends? This is the class for you!! You will continue playing your chosen instrument in an ensemble, playing more challenging and fun music. This class covers everything you need to know to join the 8th grade Advanced band.
WESTERN ART
GRADE LEVEL: 7
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 1
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The Western Art class is project-based, which means that you will be learning the art concepts while you are creating art projects. We are going to spend our time improving and developing some artistic skills, such as drawing, painting and modeling. You will also develop your creativity and you will use it as a healthy way to express your feelings, emotions and ideas using art as a communication tool. You will also collaborate with each other and create some collective artwork and share and present your projects to your peers.

EASTERN ART
GRADE LEVEL: 7
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 1
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
You will continue to explore Chinese art based on what you have learned in 6th grade, including traditional Chinese painting, Calligraphy li shu, decorative painting, and folk art. You will learn art skills through designed projects, building deeper understanding about Eastern art!

在七年级的东方艺术课上，你可以学习到中国画（壁画人物白描）、书法（隶书）、装饰绘画和民间美术。通过每一个项目的学习和探索，你不仅可以学习到艺术表达技巧，还可以建立并逐步发展你对东方艺术的理解！

THEATRE 7
GRADE LEVEL: 7
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
THEATRE IS MAGIC!!
What is the magical world of theatre all about? In Grade 7, you will continue your exploration of acting through games, discussion, exercises, reflection and improvisation. In addition, you will delve into how a production is put on. What happens behind the scenes? Who decides on the costumes, the make-up, the lighting? How is all that magic created?
STEAM
GRADE LEVEL: 7
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Do you want to learn how to take your ideas and turn them into something you can hold in your hands? The grade 7 STEAM course will get you started! We will take what you learn in your Science, Technology, Art, and Math classes and use it to make things like windmills, roller coasters, and a working model home. Electrical circuits, 3D printing, and woodworking are just some of the things you will get to do in this class!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
GRADE LEVEL: 7
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Physical Education allows you to discover and explore new activities that you can enjoy for the rest of your life! Grade 7 Physical Education is a physically active class that promotes movement and sports skills in a variety of game settings and activities. You will experience many different types of individual and team activities that will push you to have fun and learn new sports and experiencers.
The goal of Physical Education class is to develop your knowledge, skills and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity.
Physical Education class course will be combined with Health Education. The health course focuses on important information that promotes a healthy lifestyle.
ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS
GRADE LEVEL: 8
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
In eighth grade, you will read a variety of fictional and historical texts to gain insight into how literature can help you make sense of the world. You will learn to write in a variety of genres, including responses to literature, reflective essays, and stories. In addition, you will create multimedia presentations and art to demonstrate your understanding of essential questions. You will also write research essays to develop your skills of argumentation. There will be many in class discussions, opportunities to practice reading literature expressively, and deliver presentations. By the end of the eighth grade, you will be ready to begin studying complex aspects of literature in high school.

STRUCTURED ENGLISH IMMERSION
GRADE LEVEL: 8
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will help you to improve all your English Language skills. As it is a small class, you will have lots of extra time with the teacher to practice, reading, writing, speaking and listening, in a fun, and safe classroom. You will increase your English vocabulary, learn new reading strategies, and build on your ability to write papers that clearly present all of your great ideas. These lessons will help you to do well in your other classes at THIS.
**ALGEBRA 1**  
**GRADE LEVEL:** 8  
**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS:** 2  
**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**  
Algebra I will provide a solid base for future mathematical learning as well as an awareness of the many uses of mathematics in society. Included in the course is the study of rational numbers, variables, quadratic equations, functions, and more. You will learn how to write, solve, and graph linear, inequality, quadratic equations, and exponential equations as well as learn to work with systems of equations. You will develop the ability to: explore and solve mathematical problems, think critically, justify your thoughts, work collaboratively with others in your groups, and communicate your reasoning of mathematical ideas clearly to those around you. You will discover and make connections between multiple representations of graphs, tables, equations and everyday life contexts. You will often work together in groups and under the guidance of the teacher, you will engage each other and discover together, the core concepts of Algebra I.

**PHYSICAL SCIENCE**  
**GRADE LEVEL:** 8  
**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS:** 2  
**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**  
Physical Science is a lab-based class that introduces you to chemistry and physics. For about half the year you will look at matter, and things like atoms, elements, the periodic table, acids and bases, and chemical reactions. For the rest of the year you will look at energy and forces, and study how things move. You will focus on things like gravity, speed, acceleration, and the Laws of Motion to find out how skateboards, parachutes, and rollercoasters work.

**CHINESE 8A**  
**GRADE LEVEL:** 8  
**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS:** 2  
**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**  
Do you want to learn from the optimism and perseverance of Su Dongpo and Shi Tiesheng as they faced adversity in life? Do you want to experience the family love of Zhu Ziqing and Kawabata Yasunari who learned that blood is thicker than water? Are you ready to be brokenhearted at how Du Fu and Wen Tianxiang faced broken mountains and rivers and were not able to realize their ambitions, but still persevered out of love for country? Do you want to enjoy the magical beauty and natural charm of Chinese mountains and rivers under the pen of Yu Qiuju and Zhang Dai?  
In Grade 8A Chinese class, we will be reading many works of literature – both ancient and modern, Chinese and foreign – to develop a rich vocabulary while enhancing
reading ability. You will develop as a both a speaker and a writer and share your findings with your classmates. You will read “The Gay Genius”, “The Temple of Earth and I”, and “Fu Lei’s Family Letter” to gain an in-depth interpretation about the writers’ life experience. Finally, the Chinese classics "Mencius Annotate" and "The Book of Rites", will inspire you in your last year of middle school.

课程名称：八年级中文 A 班
适用年级：8A
课程描述：必修
如果你想感受苏东坡、史铁生在逆境中的旷达和坚毅吗？你想品味朱自清、川端康成笔下血浓于水的至爱亲情吗？你想领悟杜甫、文天祥等志士仁人面对山河破碎而壮志难酬时的幽愤与凛然正气吗？你想欣赏余秋雨、张岱笔下中国名山大川的神奇秀丽与天然神韵吗？……八年级的语文课，我们将精读教材里古今中外的经典名篇，继续积累优美词句，提升品读鉴赏能力。每节课的“主题演讲”可以让你提高公众表达能力，进行有效的口语表达；定期的“创意写作”可以让你更真切地表达你自己的细致观察和独特感悟；《苏东坡传》、《我与地坛》和《傅雷家书》的名著导读课，可以让你更深入地解读作家笔下的百态人生，同时提高略读和浏览的速度。此外，国学经典《孟子》和《礼记》的选读，都将陪伴你度过初中最后一年的中文学习时光。

CHINESE 8B
GRADE LEVEL: 8
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Do you want to know all these fables, such as Plugging One’s Ears While Stealing a Bell, Hold a position without qualification, and so on? Do you want to explore the customs and traditions of southern China? Do you want to go into the nature and see what's in Faber's pocket? The Grade 8 class B will open the door to literature, learn about famous writers and evaluate articles of various genres. Our study will continue with learning new words and sentences and with developing the habits of reading and writing. The students will share their stories while having fun learning about their enriching reading and writing experiences. In a written and oral communication, each unit will commence with a composition topic and a five-minute lecture. Learning about Chinese festivals, tourist attractions and Chinese architecture will also be addressed as the students analyze the differences between the cultures of the Western world and China.
中文 8B 年级 (1 学分)
适用年级：8B
学期：2
课程描述：必修

你想了解《掩耳盗铃》、《滥竽充数》等这些寓言故事吗？你想探究中国塞北江南的风土人情吗？你想走进大自然，看看法布尔的口袋里装满什么吗？……八年级 B 的语文课堂将为你打开一扇文学之门，亲近名家，品鉴美文，将继续积累美词美句，养成读写习惯，分享阅读乐趣。在写作与口语交际方面，每个单元都有开放性作文题目和每节课的课前五分钟演讲，与此同时，也会用中西方对比的方式学习中国的节日文化、旅游景点、建筑风格等等。

CHINESE HISTORY 8A
GRADE LEVEL: 8
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
We have recited so many Tang poems so far, but have you ever wondered how did they appear? Why there are so many different styles of Song Ci Poetry? What kind of history does the historic painting, Riverside Scene at Qingming Festival and A Panorama of Rivers and Mountains contain? How was China’s rooster-like territory, formed? This class will help you learn more about the profound civilization of China. We will learn the history of China from Sui and Tang to Ming and Qing dynasties, including the background of Tang Poems and Song Ci Poetry, as well as the changes of territory in different dynasties. The students will gain a profound understanding on Chinese civilization.

中国历史八年级 (1/2 学分)
适用年级：8A
学期：2
课程表描述：必修

我们从小就背诵的唐诗是怎样出现的？宋词为什么又有这么多风格迥异的流派？《清明上河图》、《千里江山图》等千古名画背后蕴含怎样的历史？现在中国如雄鸡般广阔的国土是如何形成的？中国历史课带你进一步了解探索五千年的文明背后的故事。在八年级，我们将学习从隋唐时期到明清时期的中国历
Do you want to know why we Chinese wear “Tangzhuang”, and why all the China Towns are called “Tang ren street”? Are you fascinated by the heroic and graceful Song lyrics? Do you know that the geographical map of China has been taking over half of the Eurasian continent? ... Grade 8B Chinese history class will take you along the historical timeline, go back to thousand years before, have a glimpse of the flourishing age of Tang dynasty, experience the literary beauty of Song lyrics, take a view of the vast expanse of Yuan dynasty. Let the historical pictures and stories bring you back to that magnificent scene.

中文历史八年级（1/2 学分）
适用年级：8B
学期：2
课程描述：必修
你是否想知道为什么我们中国人穿“唐装”，国外的 China Town 都叫“唐人街”呢？你是否一样为沉雄豪迈又不乏细腻婉约的宋词所着迷呢？你是否知道中国的地理版图曾纵横驰越，占领欧亚大陆半壁江山？……8 年级 B 的中文历史课堂将带你沿着历史的时间轴，一眼千年，一睹唐朝的盛世华章，一品宋朝文学的韵美清丽，一览元朝的雄壮辽阔……让一张张历史图片，一段段历史故事把我们带回到那个盛世景象。

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS
GRADE LEVEL: 8
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will provide students with computer applications that are utilized in many courses at THIS and that most colleges and universities now require. Extensive hand-on experiences using a variety of different software applications will include the following areas: advanced word processing skills, database management,
spreadsheets, desktop publishing, presentation, research using the internet and an introduction to HTML coding and web design.

SPANISH I  
GRADE LEVEL: 8  
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2  
COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
Did you know that today Spanish is the second most taught language in the world after English? Did you know that it has more native speakers than any other language in the world except for Mandarin? If your English and Mandarin are already good enough, why not complete the perfect trio with Spanish? In the Spanish 1 class, you will get your very first taste of the language and culture shared by 450 million of native speakers in 24 countries in 4 continents. You will learn how to introduce and talk about yourself, how to order food, how to ask for directions and how to share a little bit of your own culture and, above all, how to make friends in Spanish!

FRENCH I  
GRADE LEVEL: 8  
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2  
COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
Parlez-vous français?  
In French I, you will learn to speak the most basic of French language. You will learn to:

• Talk about yourself.  
• Talk about common topics as hobbies, sports, cinema etc.  
• Ask for information when travelling, shopping or going to the restaurant.  
• Learn about French speaking countries.  

You will of course also learn basic grammar in order to be able to write small postcards or invitations to your friends in French. The course focuses on the speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. However, there will also be an opportunity to work with creative projects.  
In French I, you use the book system Taxi 1, and by the end of the school year most of you will be able to pass the DELF A1 test, an internationally recognized test based on the European Standards (CEFR), and receive a diploma for the skills you have achieved.  
Students who take French I must continue with French II in Grade 9  
Bienvenue en classe de français 😊
VOCAL MUSIC
GRADE LEVEL: 8
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Want to sing cool songs with others? Want to improve your singing skills? Want to perform on stage? Come join the choir!
You will learn music fundamentals, sight-reading skills, choir music around the world, and how to collaborate with other musicians.

8th GRADE ADVANCED BAND
GRADE LEVEL: 8
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Want to continue playing in the band? Are you new to the school or a continuing student and already know how to play an instrument and can’t wait to play with your friends? This is the class for you!! You will continue playing your chosen instrument in an ensemble, playing more challenging and fun music. You can also pick up a secondary instrument for the good of the ensemble (like bass clarinet, bari sax, or tuba). This class covers everything you need to know to join the High School Band.

BEGINNING GUITAR
GRADE LEVEL: 8
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Really love music but don’t want to sing (my voice is changing!!!) Playing in the band doesn’t turn you on. But Guitars are cool! No experience necessary. You’ll learn to tune your guitar, play chords, read chord charts and lyric sheets and play lots of your favorite songs. You should have a guitar at home to practice on every day (otherwise your fingers will always hurt).

WESTERN ART
GRADE LEVEL: 8
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2
COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The Western Art class is project-based, which means that you will be learning the art concepts while you are creating art projects. We are going to spend our time improving and developing some artistic skills, such as drawing, painting and modeling. You will also develop your creativity and you will use it as a healthy way to express your feelings, emotions and ideas using art as a communication tool.
You will also develop your skills in art criticism, research, discussion, and presentation. You will be asked to collaborate with each other and with other content areas. When appropriate, you will work on interdisciplinary projects connecting the arts with science, social studies, and literature.

EASTERN ART  
GRADE LEVEL: 8  
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2  
COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
You will have an opportunity to explore Chinese art through this year long course, that includes traditional Chinese painting “GongBiHuaNiao”, “XieYi MeiZhu”, woodcut, Calligraphy “ZhuanShu”, Tie Dye, Folk art “NianHua”. You will choose one or two from these projects and explore them more in-depth during this year. You will learn art skills through designed projects, building deeper understanding about the tradition and cultural context of Chinese art.

在八年级的东方艺术课一年的学习时间里，你可以学习到中国工笔花鸟画、写意梅花、写意竹子、书法（篆书）、扎染和民间美术（年画）。通过每一个项目的学习和探索，你可以从中找到一两个你感兴趣的内容来深入学习，通过所学的艺术样式表达自己的情感。你不仅可以学习到艺术表达技巧，还可以建立并逐步发展你对东方艺术文化和传统的理解！

THEATRE 8  
GRADE LEVEL: 8  
NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2  
COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
WANTED: WANNABE ACTORS!!  
Do you have an inner actor that is aching to escape? This is the class for you! Since you have already had 2 years of introductory theatre arts, it is now time to strut your stuff. Eighth Grade Theatre Arts is primarily a performance class in which you will practice and refine your acting skills: voice, movement, characterization, improvisation, etc. Let your inner actor out to shine!
Physical Education is a fun filled, active class that improves your sports skills in a variety of games. You will experience many different types of action-packed individual and team activities.

Grade 8 Physical Education allows you to discover and explore new activities that you can enjoy for the rest of your life! The aim of physical education is to develop the skills, knowledge and motivation to make sure that you grow into a healthy, happy adult.

The Grade 8 Physical Education course will be combined with Health Education. The health course focuses on important information to promote healthy living and practical situations that you will encounter as you grow up.