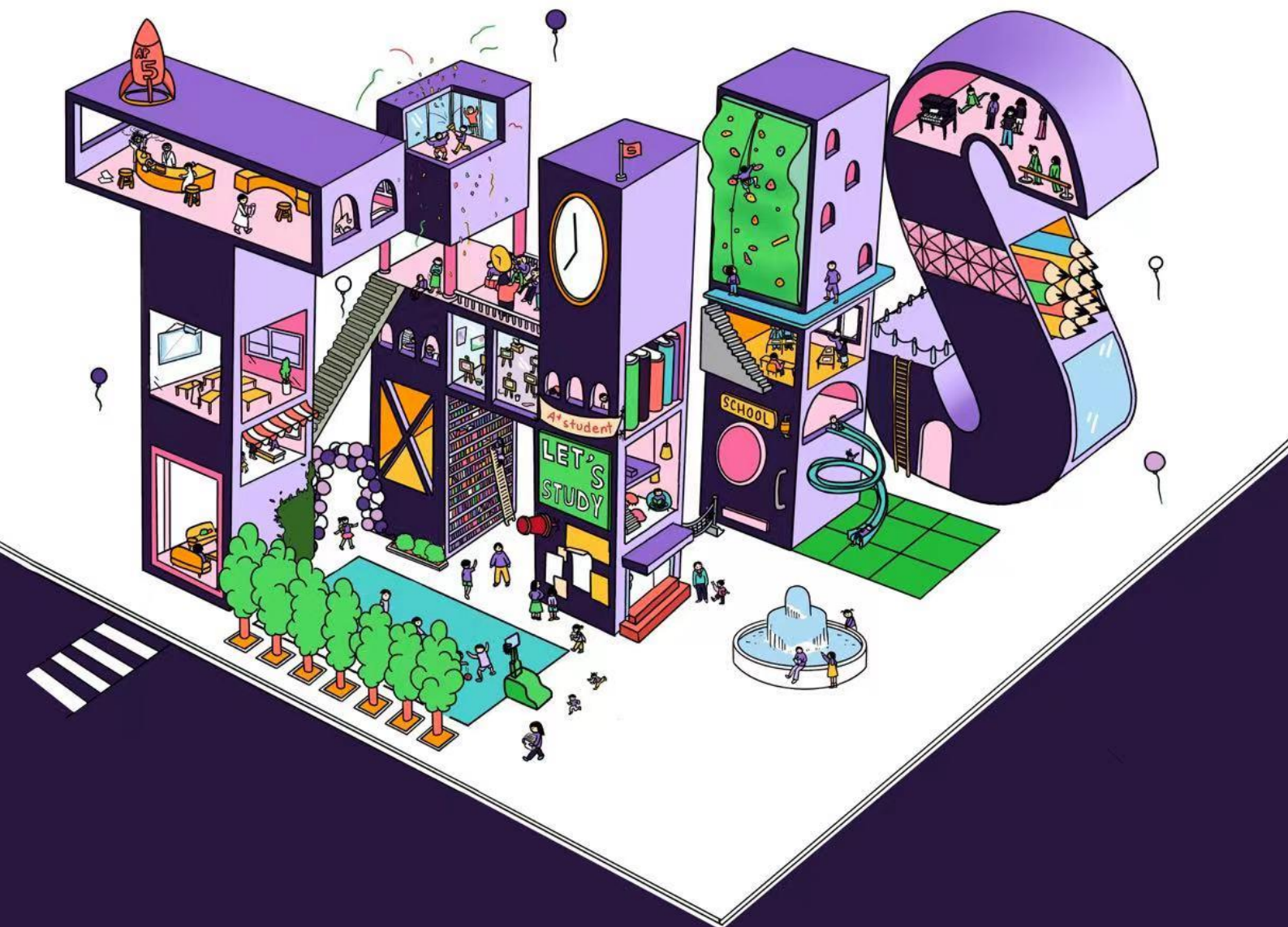


# Middle School Program of Study



清华大学附属中学 国际部  
Tsinghua International School

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Tsinghua International School fosters creative critical thinkers who have roots in China and are 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 have a moral responsibility to self-improvement in service of the well-being of Chinese society and to world development. Tsinghua Spirit directs and guides the THIS community of joyful learners—students, parents, teachers and staff as we cultivate our core values:



**Wellbeing**— Building healthy bodies and minds through habits that lead to a positive self-image and an active, productive life.

**Integrity**— Nurturing a strong moral character and social responsibility by adhering to the highest standards of conduct in public and private life.

**Respect**— Cultivating a global awareness and an open mind by honoring ourselves and others through welcoming differences while embracing the richness of Chinese culture.

**Leadership**— Developing and enacting a vision that makes positive contributions in service to our school, local, and global communities

**Collaboration**— Working with people with diverse identities to solve problems and achieve goals through sharing our gifts, strengths, and perspectives.

**Innovation**— Seeking out meaningful learning experiences that spark our curiosity in order to develop creative responses to challenges and opportunities.

## Courses at Each Grade Level

### **GRADE 6 – All courses are required**

Chinese A or B  
Chinese History A or B  
English Language Arts 6  
ELS 6 (based on English Level)  
Mathematics 6  
Integrated Science 6  
Geography  
Physical Education 6  
Eastern Art 6  
Western Art 6  
Vocal Music 6 or Band 6  
Computer Foundations  
Theatre 6  
MS Enrichment

### **GRADE 7 – All courses are required**

Chinese A or B  
Chinese History A or B  
English Language Arts 7  
ELS 7 (based on English level)  
Pre-Algebra  
Integrated Science 7  
Ancient World History  
Physical Education 7 and Health 7  
Eastern Art 7  
Western Art 7  
Vocal Music 7 or Band 7  
Computer Applications 7  
Theatre 7  
STEAM 7

### **GRADE 8 – Required Courses**

Chinese A or B  
Chinese History A or B  
English Language Arts  
Algebra 1  
Integrated Science 8  
Medieval World History  
Physical Education 8 and Health 8  
Computer Applications 8

### **GRADE 8 – Elective Courses**

**Students choose two of the following:**

Eastern Art 8  
Western Art 8  
Advanced Band  
Vocal Music 8  
Theatre 8  
ESL 8 (may be required based on English level.)  
French I or Spanish I

## Middle School Promotion Policy

In middle school, promotion from one grade to the next is based on overall student performance. Our goal is to help all Spartan Learners make substantial progress in their academic studies. When deciding upon middle school promotion, students must demonstrate significant progress toward proficiency in speaking, listening, reading and writing in English, regardless of grades earned. Students should also have good attendance and not have significant behavior issues. Additionally, students at each grade level are subject to the following conditions:

### For Grade 6

Any student earning a grade of “F” in one or more subjects and/or a grade of “D” in two or more subjects on their final report card will begin the next school year on Academic Probation. Students who remain on Academic Probation for both semesters of grade 7 will begin grade 8 with a conditional re-enrollment contract stating that the student must pass all their classes to be promoted to the High school or will not be invited back to THIS.

### For Grade 7

Any student earning a grade of “F” in one or more subjects and/or a grade of “D” in two or more subjects on their final report card will begin the next school year on Academic Probation. Students who remain on Academic Probation for both semesters of grade 8 will repeat grade 8 with a conditional re-enrollment contract stating that the student must pass all their classes to be promoted to the High school or will not be invited back to THIS.

### For Grade 8

Any student having a grade of “F” in one or more subjects or a grade of “D” in two or more subjects on the semester 2 Report Card will not be promoted to high school. The student will repeat grade 8 with a conditional re-enrollment contract stating that the student must pass all their classes to be promoted to high school or will not be invited back to THIS. Students must also pass their grade 8 Capstone Project to be promoted to high school.

## Special Circumstances

In some cases, teachers may describe a student’s coursework as “incomplete” instead of letter grades. This designation will be used for any student who, because of special circumstances, has not or cannot fulfill the course requirements. Before any such designation is used, the teacher will inform the Secondary Director, in writing, of the student’s missed coursework and the circumstances involved. The student can earn a letter grade in the course,

provided they complete all the missing work in an agreed timeframe. In the event the work is not completed in the timeframe prescribed, the student will earn an “F” and not receive credit for the course.

## Grade 6



**BAND (0.5 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING VOCAL MUSIC 6 OR SEI/ELS**

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 in grade 7.

**CHINESE 6A (1 credit) 中文 6 年级 A 班 (1 学分)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2 | 2 个学期**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING CHINESE 6B | 必修 (除非在中文 B 班)**

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 grade 6 Chinese class leads you into a wonderful, story-filled Chinese world. 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.

你想知道老舍是怎么养花的吗？你想知道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？你想知道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 (1 credit) 中文 6 年级 B 班 (1 学分)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2 | 2 个学期**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING CHINESE 6A | 必修（除非在中文 A 班）**

Do you want to introduce yourself and your family members to new friends in Chinese? Do you want to express your career pursuit and dreams in Chinese? Want to understand every landmark and billboard? Want to know more about 5000 years of Chinese civilization? You will start from here and roam in the vast and profound Chinese culture. In Chinese 6B, we will use *Easy Step to Chinese (1)* as our textbook. You will improve your spoken and written ability continuously. You can learn to read pinyin and learn how to write Chinese character component and monosyllabic characters for about 800-1000 basic words. What's more, you will also learn to communicate with others in Chinese and express yourself appropriately. Writing in Chinese is no longer difficult: you will learn to write simple essays, diary entries, and email combining language knowledge and language skills. By the end of the year, you will be able to use preliminary Chinese and grasp the foundations of the Chinese language. In addition, you will build your broad horizon of Chinese and western culture.

你是否想用中文向新朋友介绍自己和家人？是否想用中文表达自己的职业追求和理想？是否想读懂街上的每一块广告牌和路标？是否想更多的了解中华上下五千年的文明？你将从这里启航，徜徉在博大精深的中文世界中……六年级 B 班的中文课程将使用《轻松学中文 1》为教材，学习如何提高自己的书面和口语能力。你将掌握拼音拼读方法，学习偏旁部首和独体字，共学习约 800-1000 个基础、常用字词，并能够使用中文即兴与人沟通交流，恰当地表达自己的所思所想，使用中文写简单的文章（150 字左右）及日记、邮件等应用类文章，实现语言知识与语言技能的结合，具备初步运用汉语的能力。在《轻松学中文 1》的学习过程中夯实基础，为以后的中文学习奠定基础。同时，你将学习如何运用中西方文化视野解决问题。

### **CHINESE HISTORY 6A (0.25 credit) 中国历史 6 年级 A 班 (0.25 学分)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2 | 2 个学期**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING CHINESE HISTORY 6B | 必修（除非在中国历史 B 班）**

Do you want to know how 5000 years of Chinese civilization began? 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.

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？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。

**CHINESE HISTORY 6B (0.25 credit) 中国历史 6 年级 B 班 (0. 25 学分)****NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2 | 2 个学期****COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING CHINESE HISTORY 6A | 必修（除非在中国历史 A 班）**

Do you want to know the very beginning of the 5000-year-old 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 Chinese History 6B, 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《中国史导读》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 APPLICATIONS (1 credit)****NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2****COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

This course will help you acquire skills so you can efficiently, effectively and responsibly utilize technology. It integrates computer technology with your other classes to support and expand what you learn. Computer Applications 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 screencast. 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. You will also learn how to code and be able to create simple games using Scratch.

**EASTERN ART (0.5 credit)****NUMBER OF SEMESTERS:1****COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

You will have an opportunity to explore Chinese art, including traditional Chinese painting, kai shu calligraphy, Chinese character design, and folk art. You will learn art skills through designed projects, and gradually building an understanding about Eastern art!

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (1 credit)****NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2****COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING STRUCTURED ENGLISH IMMERSION 6**

Grade 6 English Language Arts is taught through the lens of Reader's and Writer's Workshop. In Reader's, students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in new novels while having meaningful discussions about these books with peers. You will study characters deeply and explore social issues with the support of non-fiction books discussed during book clubs.



In Writer's, you will continue your journey of becoming a better writer by analyzing the tools writers use to make their work compelling and powerful and then working to master these moves to bring your writing to a new level. You will focus on personal narrative, fantasy stories, and literary essays. Get ready to develop your reading and writing skills!

**GEOGRAPHY (1 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

Grade 6 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 chance to discover topics such as climate change, patterns of human movement and settlement, the physical world's impact on humans, and how these issues work together to make you who you are.

**INTEGRATED SCIENCE (1 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

In grade 6 Science class, you will explore four broad units that include different science content areas (earth, life and physical). Each unit revolves around one unifying theme and contains many different phenomena for you to investigate, explain, or problem-solve. At the end of each unit, you will complete a unit test and a project tying together what you have learned. The four units include Exploring Earth (the Interactions of Earth Systems and Space), Exploring Life (Classifying Living things, Evolution and Diversity in Plants and Animals), Understanding Matter (Atoms, Matter, Physical and Chemical changes) and Understanding Energy (Energy transformations). This year-long curriculum is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and includes an introductory groupwork unit.

**MATHEMATICS (1 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

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.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL ENRICHMENT (0.5 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

Are you excited about what you'll learn in middle school? Are you a little nervous, too? In Middle School Enrichment, you'll work on the skills you need to be successful in your courses,

from keeping track of your assignments to reading nonfiction texts. You will learn to explore topics, ask the right questions, and discover areas you wish to investigate. This class will help you collect evidence, evaluate and organize what you find, and put it to use in your assignments. The course will also develop and support your ability to make connections, deepen your understanding, and prepare you to express your ideas.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS:2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

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.

**STRUCTURED ENGLISH IMMERSION (SEI)/ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT (ELS) (1.5 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS:2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6**

In this class, we will follow the Reader's and Writer's model to help you develop your English language abilities. In Writer's Workshop, we will work on your writing by building vocabulary, practicing grammar, and organizing your ideas. You will learn to explore topics, ask the right questions, and discover areas you wish to investigate. This class will help you collect, evaluate, and use evidence in your assignments. In Reader's Workshop, you will read many diverse types of books including realistic fiction, informational texts, and books about social issues. The course will also develop your ability to make connections, deepen your understanding, and express your ideas. Throughout the course you will be encouraged to ask questions and work with your classmates. You will have plenty of one-on-one time with the teacher, giving you the support you need. You will learn strategies and skills that will help you be successful in all your classes at THIS.

**THEATRE (0.5 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING SEI/ELS**

What is acting and what is theatre? This class will help you learn the basics of improvisation and performance. You'll learn how to express yourself while working together as a team, since theatre is all about teamwork! This class includes games, discussion, acting exercises, reflection, and improvisation. You will build your character, your confidence, and begin to explore the craft of acting.

**VOCAL MUSIC (0.5 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING BAND 6 OR SEI/ELS**

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 choir music from around the world.

**WESTERN ART (0.5 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS:1**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

In Western Art class, you will be learning art concepts while you are creating art projects. In this class students will develop and improve your artistic skills in drawing, painting, designing, and modeling. Students will also develop your creativity and you will use it as a healthy way to express your feelings, emotions, and ideas through their artwork.

## Grade 7 Courses



### **ANCIENT WORLD HISTORY (1 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

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.

### **BAND (0.5 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING VOCAL MUSIC OR SEI/ELS**

Whether you already know how to play an instrument and can't wait to play with your friends or want to join the band but don't play a band instrument, Band 7 has a spot for you!! You will play more challenging and fun music on your chosen instrument in an ensemble, or if you are new to instrumental music, you will have an opportunity to explore instruments and find the one that expresses your soul, learn to read music, and play your instrument in an ensemble. This class will cover everything you need to know to join the 8th grade Advanced Band.

### **CHINESE 7A (1 credit) 中文 7 年级 A 班 (1 学分)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2 | 2 个学期**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING CHINESE 7B | 必修 (除非在中文 B 班)**

Grade 7 Chinese class will open a literary door for students, enabling them to get close to the masters and appreciate their beautiful literary works. Texts are selected intentionally to guide students through multi-dimensional reading: intensive reading, skip reading, scanning, declaiming, and silent reading. At the same time, books such as *Dawn Blossoms Plucked at Dusk*, *The Analects of Confucius*, *The Rickshaw Boy* and *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* will develop students' interests and aesthetic ability, guiding them to read and lay a solid foundation for life-long learning and personality development. We will also hone skills in

writing essays, unit compositions, and reading reports to motivate you to love writing, self-expression, and creative expression. By widening the scope of study in ancient poetry and sinology, this course will improve students' love for traditional Chinese culture and literature, with the added benefit of improving literacy.

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，为其终身学习和个性发展奠定坚实的基础；随笔、写作、自主表达、创意表达；通过加大对古诗文和国学内容的学习力度、反复诵读、提高学生对中国传统文化和文学的热爱，浸润其中，提高整体语文素养。

### **CHINESE 7B (1 credit) 中文 7 年级 B 班(1 学分)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2 | 2 个学期**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING CHINESE 7A | 必修（除非在中文 A 班）**

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? Do you want to know Chinese fairy tales? In Chinese 7B, we use Easy Steps to Chinese (2) and Easy Steps to Chinese (3) as our textbooks. Students will learn to pronounce and write 1000-1500 Chinese words, learn to communicate in Chinese about your life and your studies, learn to express themselves, and describe their experiences, write diary entries, emails, and easy articles. Meanwhile, through the comparison between East and West, students will also learn more about Chinese culture.

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？七年级 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 1000-1500 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。

### **CHINESE HISTORY 7A (0.25 credit) 中国历史 7 年级 A 班(0.25 学分)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2 | 2 个学期**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING CHINESE HISTORY 7B | 必修（除非在中国历史 B 班）**

We have recited so many Tang poems so far, but we have to wonder how these poems came about. Why are there so many different styles of Song Ci poetry? What history lies behind the paintings, Riverside Scene at Qingming Festival and A Panorama of Rivers and Mountains? How was China's rooster-shaped territory formed? This class will help students learn more about the Chinese civilization. They will learn the history of China from Sui and Tang to Yuan dynasties, including the background of Tang Poems and Song Ci Poetry, as well as the territorial changes in different dynasties. Students will gain a profound understanding of Chinese civilization.

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文明背后的故事。在八年级，我们将学习从隋唐时期到元朝时期的中国历史知识，了解唐诗宋词产生的时代背景，学习历史上中国朝代的疆域变化，加深对中华文明的认识。

**CHINESE HISTORY 7B (0.25 credit) 中国历史 7 年级 B 班 (0. 25 学分)****NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2 | 2 个学期****COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING CHINESE HISTORY 7A | 必修（除非在中国历史 A 班）**

How did China go through the wars of the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States period and move towards unity? What kind of emperor was Qin Shihuang? Why are the Chinese called “Han people?” What kind of era was the Three Kingdoms period? Students will learn the history of the Qin and Han Dynasties. In this process, the students are not only learners of history, but also historical explorers and interpreters. Students will find the truth of history through the evidence left behind by history.

中国是如何经历春秋战国的战乱走向统一的？秦始皇是个怎样的皇帝？中国人为什么又被称为“汉人”？三国时期究竟是个怎样的时代？在这个学年的学习中我们将会接触到秦汉两朝的历史。在这一过程中同学们不仅仅是历史的学习者，更是历史的探索者、解读者，大家还将会以探索者的身份进入到这段历史迷宫中去，通过历史所留下的蛛丝马迹来找寻历史的真相。

**COMPUTER APPLICATIONS 7 (0.5 credit)****NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2****COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

Students 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. You will also learn advanced topics in coding and be able to design simple apps.

**EASTERN ART (0.5 credit)****NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 1****COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

Students will continue to explore Chinese art based on what they have learned in grade 6, including traditional Chinese painting, Li Shu calligraphy, decorative painting, and folk art. Students will also learn art skills through designed projects, building a deeper understanding of Eastern Art.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (1 credit)****NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2****COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING STRUCTURED ENGLISH IMMERSION 7**

Grade 7 English Language Arts, students continue their journey through Readers and Writers workshop. In Readers, students will have the opportunity to immerse yourself in new novels while having meaningful discussions about these books with peers. Students will investigate characters through historical fiction and *Midsummer Night's Dream*. In Writers, students will continue the journey of becoming a writer. They will also build on the tools writers use to make their work compelling and powerful as you work to master these moves to bring your

writing to a new level. Students will focus on writing realistic fiction, writing about reading, argumentative essays, and poetry.

**HEALTH (0.25 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

Health 7 focuses on essential information that promotes a healthy lifestyle. During this class, students will study concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention, including demonstrating the ability to access valid health information and health promoting products and services, practice healthy behaviors, and reduce health related risks. They will also analyze the influence of culture, media, technology, and other social factors on health. Throughout this course, students will develop the literacy needed to advocate for personal, family, and community health.

**INTEGRATED SCIENCE 7 (1 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

Students in middle school Science develop an understanding of the key concepts to help them make sense of the Life Sciences, understand the core ideas of the Physical Sciences, and build upon a wide range of topics in the Earth & Space Sciences as well as engineering design. The curriculum is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and each unit revolves around one unifying theme and contains many different phenomena for students to explore, investigate, explain, and problem-solve. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade science, those units are as follows - Life: Structure and Function (Classifying Life, Cells, Reproduction); Life: Changes and Interactions (Genetics, Natural Selection, Body Systems, Interactions of Living Things); Energy and Matter (Foundational Chemistry, Periodic Table, Energy and Heat); Earth: A Dynamic Planet (Earth's Systems, Natural Resources, Atmosphere, Weather, Climate); and Exploring the Universe (Forces and Motion, Sun-Earth-Moon System, Solar System).

**MATHEMATICS (1 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

This course will introduce students to pre-Algebra topics. They will investigate Geometry topics such as angles, surface area, volume, triangles, transformations, and measurement. Students will also continue to discover pre-algebra topics such as linear relationships, equations, inequalities, exponents, probability, and data analysis. In all of these topics, students, along with their Math Study Teams, will work to express ideas using multiple representations.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**



Physical Education allows students to discover and explore new activities that they 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. Students will experience many different types of individual and team activities that will push them to have fun and learn new sports and experiences. The goal of Physical Education class is to develop your knowledge, skills, and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity.

**STEAM (0.5 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

Students will learn how to take their ideas and turn them into real-world applications. They will take what they learn in your Science, Technology, Art, and Math classes and use it to make things like windmills, roller coasters, and a working model home. Additionally, electrical circuits, 3D printing, and woodworking are just some of the things you will get to do in this class.

**STRUCTURED ENGLISH IMMERSION (SEI)/ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT (ELS) (1.5 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

In grade 7 SEI, students continue their journey through Readers and Writers workshop. In Readers, students will have the opportunity to immerse yourself in new novels while having meaningful discussions about these books. In Writers, students will continue the journey of becoming a writer. Meanwhile, the SEI/ELS course helps students hone their English-language skills with a focus on vocabulary, reading and listening strategies, speaking and pronunciation, and writing papers with flow of ideas and organization. Students will also learn grammar that will help in all areas of instruction including History, Math, Science, and more.

**THEATRE (0.5 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED UNLESS TAKING SEI/ELS**

Continuing with the foundations laid in grade 6 Theatre, students will explore their creative side as they develop vocal control, body movement, and stage presence. Students will also learn about all the fun theatre has to offer and learn to connect with the characters you portray. In this class, they will play theatre games, develop your improvisation skills, work with scripts, build confidence, and explore the world in a creative way.

**VOCAL MUSIC (0.5 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING BAND OR SEI/ELS**

In this course, students will learn music fundamentals, sight-reading skills, and how to collaborate with other choir members. Moreover, they will sing cool songs with others, and improve their singing skills. Music is an excellent medium to build confidence, one's own personality and community.

**WESTERN ART (0.5 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 1**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

In Western Art class, students will be learning art concepts while creating art projects. They will improve and develop skills, such as drawing, painting, and modeling. While honing creativity, student will also use it as a healthy way to express feelings, emotions, and ideas using art as a communication tool. Students will also collaborate with each other and create some collective artwork and share and present their projects to peers.

## Grade 8 Courses



### **ADVANCED BAND (1 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: ELECTIVE**

Want to continue playing in the band? Are you new to THIS or a returning student who already knows how to play an instrument and can't wait to play with friends? Students will continue playing their chosen instrument in an ensemble, playing more challenging and fun music. Students can also pick up a secondary instrument for the good of the ensemble (like bass clarinet, Bari sax, or tuba). This class covers everything they will need to know to join the High School Band.

### **ALGEBRA 1 (1 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

Algebra 1 will provide a solid base for future mathematical learning and 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. Students will learn how to write, solve, and graph linear, inequality, quadratic, and exponential equations and work with systems of equations. They 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. They will also discover and make connections between multiple representations of graphs, tables, equations, and everyday life contexts.

### **CHINESE 8A (1 credit) 中文 8 年级 A 班(1 学分)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2 | 2 个学期**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING CHINESE 8B | 必修（除非在中文 B 班）**

Learn from the optimism and perseverance of Su Dongpo and Shi Tiesheng as they faced adversity in life. Experience the family love of Zhu Ziqing and Kawabata Yasunari who learned that blood is thicker than water. Feel 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. Enjoy the magical beauty and natural charm of Chinese mountains and rivers under the pen of Yu Qiuyu and Zhang Dai? In Chinese 8A, we will be reading many works of literature – both ancient and modern, Chinese and foreign – to develop a rich vocabulary while enhancing reading ability. Students will develop as both a speaker and a writer. They 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 students in the last year of middle school. 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 (1 credit) 中文 8 年级 B 班 (1 学分)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2 | 2 个学期**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING CHINESE 8A | 必修（除非在中文 A 班）**

Become confident in explaining your school life in Chinese. Learn the cultural differences between Eastern and Western festivals. Learn the skills needed to take on the challenge of travelling in China. This class will use Chinese textbooks for grades 4 and 6 local schools to cultivate students' interest in learning Chinese. Students will improve their linguistic skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will learn the appropriate ways to use words and sentences by reading literature books. Every week, students will be given open topics for their essays, which allow them to express themselves independently and creatively. Students will improve their overall language literacy skills as well as collaboration and innovation abilities through participating in thematic practical activities such as Stories of Scientific Invention, Interesting Idioms, and Chinese Historical Myths.

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部编版《语文》四、六册为基础，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。我们将积累在平时阅读书目中读到的好词好句，以丰富语文积累；每周设计开放性作文题目，让学生自主、有创意地表达；通过专题性语文实践活动，如趣味主题系列：科学发明故事、趣味成语、中国历史神话故事等，让学生在语文学习中提高整体语文素养，提高合作能力和创新能力。

#### **CHINESE HISTORY 8A (0.25 credit) 中国历史 8 年级 A 班 (0.25 学分)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2 | 2 个学期**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING CHINESE HISTORY 8B | 必修（除非在中国历史 B 班）**

How was China's rooster-shaped territory formed? How did other countries surpass China during the Ming and Qing dynasty, when China was the leading country in the world for more than two thousand years? What was the society like in Ming and Qing when there were constant changes? How did Qing dynasty fall from its superior position? The grade 8 Chinese History class will teach students about the rise and fall of Ming and Qing dynasties and the Republic of China and explore how China achieved the nation's revival.

现在中国如雄鸡般广阔的国土是如何形成的？在世界上领先了两千余年的中国明清时期是怎样被其它国家慢慢超越的呢？处于大变动时期的明朝和清朝社会内部是什么样的状况？清朝怎样从“天朝上国”沦落为“被动挨打”？八年级的中国历史课程将带你了解经历了大起大落的明朝、清朝以及民国时期的中国，了解中国许多问题的历史根源，探寻中华民族的复兴之路。

### **CHINESE HISTORY 8B (0.25 credit) 中国历史 8 年级 B 班 (0.25 学分)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2 | 2 个学期**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING CHINESE HISTORY 8A | 必修（除非在中国历史 A 班）**

Explore why the Chinese wear “Tangzhuang” and why all the China towns are called “Tang Ren Street.” Learn about the fascinating, heroic and graceful Song lyrics. Delve into the historical evolution of the geographical map of China over 1000 million square kilometers. Chinese History 8B will take students along the historical timeline to a thousand years ago for a glimpse into the flourishing age of the Tang dynasty and of the vast expanse of the Yuan Dynasty. The historical pictures and stories will bring students back to that magnificent age. 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。

### **CAPSTONE (0.5 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 1**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

In the final year of middle school, students will conceptualize and complete a project that focuses on real-life challenges and solutions. In the first semester, the project begins with research and exploration of real-world challenges within different core courses together with building on research skills already acquired in grades 6 and 7. This is the culmination of a student's growth over the middle school years. This is followed by focused time in the second semester in STEAM class to bring the project to fruition.

### **COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (0.5 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 1**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

In this course, students will learn how to use many different computer applications to use technology creatively. Throughout the year, they will learn how to work collaboratively to code, design video games, create animation projects, and develop additional advanced

applications. Key programs include Scratch, iMovie, and more. This course will also help students develop the skills they'll need to use multimedia technology in their other classes.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (1 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

Grade 8 English Language Arts proceeds with Reader's and Writer's workshop. Students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in new novels while having meaningful discussions about these books with peers. They will be focusing on reading contemporary fiction, dystopian novels, and learning about identity reading graphic novels in Reader's. In Writer's, students will continue the journey of becoming a writer. Students will analyze the tools writers use to make their work compelling and powerful to take their writing to a new level. They will focus on historical fiction, literary essays, positions papers, and poetry.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT (1 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED, UNLESS TAKING ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

This class is designed to allow students to grow in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and study skills at a pace that best fits their learning style and needs. In a small class environment, students will be able to focus on the needs and concerns of their core classes. Students will have opportunities to identify areas of improvement in their own learning and use materials and content from other classes to build on their knowledge of English.

**HEALTH (0.25 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

Health 8 will help students become healthy individuals. Healthy individuals act as healthy members of society by making informed decisions based on understanding the impact of negative behaviors and having the knowledge, skills, and resources to make better choices. The health course focuses on important information to promote healthy living in practical situations that they will encounter in their growing years.

**INTEGRATED SCIENCE (1 credit)**

**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

In grade 8 Science, students will explore six broad units that include Motion and Energy, Interactions of Matter, Understanding the Universe, Earth and Geologic Changes, Exploring Ecology, and Heredity and Human Body Systems. Each unit revolves around one unifying theme and contains many different phenomena to investigate, explain, or problem-solve. At the end of each unit, students will complete a project or group assignment tying together what they have learned. This year-long curriculum is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and includes an introductory groupwork unit where scientific inquiry frameworks and method are explored.

**EASTERN ART (1 credit)****NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2****COURSE DESCRIPTION: ELECTIVE**

Students will have an opportunity to explore Chinese art through this year-long course that includes traditional Chinese painting “Gong Bi Hua Niao,” “Xie Yi Mei Zhu,” woodcut, calligraphy “Zhuan Shu,” tie dye, and folk art “Nian Hua.” Students will choose one or two from these projects and explore them more in-depth during the year. Students will learn art skills through designed projects, building deeper understandings about the tradition and cultural context of Chinese art.

**FRENCH I (1 credit)****NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2****COURSE DESCRIPTION: ELECTIVE (MUST CONTINUE WITH FRENCH II IN GRADE 9)**

*Parlez-vous français?* In French I students will learn the most basic of French language and culture, covering the level A1.1 of the CEFR. You will be able to ask and answer basic questions and state your tastes and preferences, as well as learn a bit about how life is for teenagers in French speaking countries. Students will be able to introduce themselves, ask and answer questions about identity, talk about school, talk about clothes and style and preferences, and more. The course uses the book system Adomania 1, a new textbook from 2016, designed specifically for teenagers, with topics appealing to them. French class is taught mostly in immersion style and is task oriented – you learn by doing and communicate with a purpose.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1 credit)****NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2****COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

Physical Education is a fun-filled, active class that improves one’s sports skills through a variety of games. Students will experience many different types of action-packed individual and team activities. Grade 8 Physical Education allows students to discover and explore new activities that they can enjoy for the rest of their lives! The aim of physical education is to develop foundational skills, knowledge and motivation that pave the way for a healthy, happy adulthood.

**SPANISH I (1 credit)****NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2****COURSE DESCRIPTION: ELECTIVE (MUST CONTINUE WITH SPANISH II IN GRADE 9)**

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 make the perfect trio with Spanish? In the Spanish I class, you’ll get your very first taste of the language and culture shared by 495 million native speakers in 21 countries on 4 continents. You will learn how to introduce and talk about yourself and your family, 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!

**STEAM (0.5 credit)**



**NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 1****COURSE DESCRIPTION: REQUIRED**

Students will learn how to take their ideas and turn them into real-world applications. They will take what they learn in your Science, Technology, Art, and Math classes and use it to identify real-life challenges, problem solve through solution design. Additionally, electrical circuits, 3D printing, and woodworking are just some of the things you will get to do in this class.

**THEATRE (1 credit)****NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2****COURSE DESCRIPTION: ELECTIVE**

Building on previous theatre courses, students will learn the depth to theatre and what's behind the scenes. Students will become familiar with many popular plays and what it means to put together a theatre production. This includes costumes, stage design, direction, technical aspects, and the actor's stage movements.

**VOCAL MUSIC (1 credit)****NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2****COURSE DESCRIPTION: ELECTIVE**

In this course, students will learn music fundamentals, sight-reading skills, choir music from around the world, and how to collaborate with other musicians. Moreover, they will sing cool songs with others, and improve their singing skills. Music is an excellent medium to build confidence, one's own personality and community.

**WESTERN ART (1 credit)****NUMBER OF SEMESTERS: 2****COURSE DESCRIPTION: ELECTIVE**

Grade 8 Western Art class is project-based, which means that students will learn art concepts while creating art projects. They will improve and develop skills, such as drawing, painting, and modeling. While honing creativity, students will also use it as a healthy way to express feelings, emotions, and ideas using art as a communication tool. Students will also develop skills in art criticism, research, discussion, and presentation. They will collaborate with each other and with other content areas. When appropriate, students will work on interdisciplinary projects connecting the arts with Science, Social Studies, and Literature.