

• **ics addis ababa** •

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**Middle School Course Guide**  
2011–2012

# International Community School Middle School

## **Students and Parents:**

This Course Guide is intended to help students and parents know more about our programs and courses. We have carefully structured a curriculum to ensure a smooth transition from Elementary School to Middle School to High School. Although we are a small school, we attempt to provide a broad range of options to cater to student's interest and ability.

Regardless of their path through our curriculum and courses, it is our hope that all ICS students will be prepared for success beyond ICS, and will have the character skills and attitudes that will empower them to contribute to their future communities and our modern world.

This Course Guide will assist students and parents in their discussions with counselors and teachers in choosing the right classes.

Deron P. Marvin  
Middle School Principal

## **ICS Mission Statement**

The International Community School of Addis Ababa, accredited in the United States, develops the talents and intellects of a multicultural student body using learner-centered, holistic instructional methods, empowering each student to contribute in an evolving modern.

*Adopted by the ICS Board of Governors, Spring 2006*

## **Philosophy Statement**

We of the International Community School promote an interactive, holistic learning environment, which encourages freedom of inquiry, initiative, creativity and academic achievement. Emphasis is placed on providing students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to face the challenges of the future. We teach respect for the richness and diversity of individuals, cultures and spiritual beliefs. We build self-esteem and sustain self-discipline, and above all, we cultivate and celebrate a passion for learning. Within a dynamic multicultural environment, we acknowledge our responsibility to and involvement with the global community.

## Welcome to the ICS Middle School

We implemented many important changes for the ICS Middle School for the 2010–2011 school-year and are refining those changes to make the 2011–2012 school year even better for our Middle School students. If you are a new family to ICS, the following pages will give you a good description of the classes our Middle School students take. If you are a returning family, please read the following pages carefully so that you can learn more about the courses you can select.

1. New to middle school for the 2011–2012 school-year is The Arts. Middle school students take Survey of Music, Choir, Survey of Art, and Drama in grades 6, 7 and 8.
2. In most cases, the Middle School shares a timetable with the High School. There are eight classes in the timetable and these eight classes meet once every two days. This means there are only three transitions during the day. The schedule also accommodates the time for morning announcements and advisory.
3. One feature of our Middle School schedule is our **quarter classes**. In these periods, Middle School students take different required or elective classes that rotate every quarter. This allows all students to have a good exposure to important topics that do not require a year-long class. For example, Health is required for all Middle School students, and is taught in one of the quarters.
4. Elective classes meet every other day for one period, just like all our required classes. Some electives will meet all year long, such as Band. Some electives only meet for a semester, so that students can take two electives during the year in that period. Some students may be required to take a certain elective to support their learning, such as extra English or a learning support class. Details about the electives we expect to offer are included in this guide.
5. We have an early release every Wednesday. The early release days are important days for our faculty and staff to work together on school improvement issues, on professional development tasks, and on curriculum writing.

## Grade Six Core Classes

Students in grade six are required to take the following year-long core classes:

- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Science
- Modern Language
- Physical Education

When possible, one teacher may teach both English language arts and social studies, and a second teacher will teach both math and science. This reduces the number of teachers that grade six students meet each day and reduces the amount of movement around the campus during the day.

## Grade Six English Language Arts

Following an internationally recognized set of standards and benchmarks, students will develop their English language skills in listening, writing and oral communication. Using the Reading/Writing Workshop model, students will improve their comprehension, composition, spelling, punctuation and oral presentation skills. Throughout the year, students will work independently and in large or small groups on a variety of activities designed to enhance intellectual and emotional growth. Many language arts activities will be integrated with social studies or other subject areas.

## Grade Six Social Studies

Students will study the development of civilization and the basics of anthropology, archaeology, history and geography, including map-reading skills. Emphasis will be placed on Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, and the Roman Empire. Other geographic areas and time periods may also be studied. Many social studies activities will be integrated with language arts or other subject areas.

## Grade Six Mathematics

The *Everyday Mathematics* series that is used in the ICS Elementary School is continued for grade six math. It provides a variety of activities to challenge each student at her/his own level. Daily warm-up activities emphasize review of basic skills, mental math, estimation, logic and problem-solving. Grade six math includes decimals, percents, fractions, graphing and interpreting graphs, statistics, geometry, and a basic introduction to algebra. All topics are related to real-life situations and given in a real-modern context. Problem-solving and math vocabulary are integrated throughout each unit.

## Grade Six Science

Our grade six science curriculum is based on “Foundational Approaches to Science Teaching” (FAST) Level 1, which emphasizes inquiry-based, hands-on learning focused on the “Local Environment.” The grade six science program is an exploration of scientific topics in life, earth and physical sciences. Theoretical knowledge is combined with hands-on laboratory work or field study. Students will use the scientific method throughout the year as they investigate their topics. Topics in FAST Level 1 are interdisciplinary and include matter, temperature, heat, buoyancy, density, plant growth, animal care and field ecology, as well as pollution and water resource management.

## Grade Six Modern Languages

The Middle School Modern Language classes are designed for students working to acquire an additional language. Each ascending language level develops the student's increasing fluency in the speaking, listening, reading and writing skills and overall communicative competence. Students also study the target language culture.

### ***French 1A or Spanish 1A:***

This course is for students who have little or no background in French or Spanish. This course highlights basic written and oral communication skills. There is an emphasis on building vocabulary and development fluency in listening and speaking. Reading and writing are also stressed as students gain competence. Target language geography and culture are introduced at this level. Extensive use of interactive activities such as games, songs,

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# Grade Six Academic Program

plays, role playing and projects are employed at this level. Students who successfully meet the standards for this course will be eligible to enroll in French 1B or Spanish 1B.

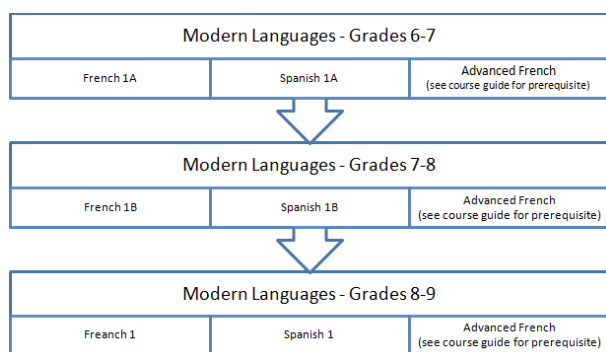
**French 1B or Spanish 1B:**

This course is for students who have met the standards of French 1A or Spanish 1A. This course continues to highlight oral communication skills through improving pronunciation, intonation and fluency. Students work with a variety of text types to increase vocabulary and expand reading comprehension skills. Students become increasingly aware of the grammatical aspects of the language and are expected to demonstrate this in writing and in oral communication. Elements of the target language culture are woven into the lesson. Extensive use of interactive activities such as games, songs, plays, role playing and projects are employed at this level. Students who successfully meet the standards for this course are eligible to enroll in the French 1 class.

**Middle School Advanced French:**

*Prerequisite: teacher recommendation, interview and advanced level placement on OPI*

This course is for students have placed at the advanced level on the Oral Proficiency Institute (OPI). Students must either speak French at home, have studied at a French school, or have lived in a French-speaking country. This is a literature based course where students will be reading French novels and writing at an advanced level.



**Physical Education**

All students in grades six through eight take physical education. The year is divided into activity blocks lasting five weeks. Activities include ensemble (team building), fitness testing, volleyball, soccer, basketball, track and field, badminton or tennis, with some additional units if time allows, such as ultimate Frisbee and handball. Assessments are based on technical skills and personal effort. Some units will have written tests or assignments. Students will keep a journal for each unit as well as a record of fitness tests throughout the year.

Students will be expected to dress appropriately for PE lessons, including purchasing an ICS PE t-shirt and shorts. During outdoor units, this includes a hat and water bottle! Classes are mixed gender and depending on class size, mixed grade level.

**The Arts**

Middle school students take four courses in the arts sequence. Through the middle grades, students will take Survey of Music, Survey of Art, Drama, and Choir. Each course finishes with a performance or showpiece.

**Survey of Music:**

*Semester course*

Survey of Music will offer students the chance to explore musical styles from baroque to hip hop. Students will have the opportunity to listen to and study various genres and will expand their appreciation of all types of music.

**Survey of Art:**

*Semester course*

This course will provide students with an overview of key figures, aesthetic styles, and movements in visual art. Students will learn about the interaction between art, history, and culture, and create artwork in a variety of media, including but not limited to drawing, painting, clay, and collage. As students become familiar with these different art-making techniques, the development of creative thinking skills and personal forms of expression will be emphasized. Students will also engage in constructive critiques of their own work and the work of others.

**Drama:**

*Semester course*

MS Drama focuses on the following standards: performance skills, production and design and scriptwriting. It will lead to an evening performance in which students are required to take part (either on-stage or backstage).

**Choir:**

*Semester course*

Middle School Choir teaches students the basics of musicianship, sight-reading, music theory, and history. Public performances are required.

electives can be found later in this course guide.

**Additional Grade Six Classes**

Other classes for grade six students include our quarterly classes and other electives.

**Required quarterly classes:** For sixth grade students Health, Study Skills, and Ethiopian Studies are required for one quarter.

**Health - 6**

Health courses in Middle School are provided so that students will gain a better insight into the nature and function of their bodies, their environment and their relationships with each other as they experience growing up. These courses help students develop confidence, self-esteem, responsibility and real life connections. Topics discussed include: making good decisions, setting healthy goals, and leading a healthy life, building life skills, and resisting pressure from others.

**Study Skills**

The study skills course is closely integrated with students' core classes. It aims to consolidate and expand their academic skills. This course focuses on listening skills, reading for meaning and understanding directions, time organization, note taking, etc.

**Ethiopian Studies**

Students will learn about the culture of our host country, Ethiopia. We will take field trips to local sites, and will learn about Ethiopian holidays, religious customs, tribes and languages. Students will also learn greetings, phrases and basic conversational Amharic.

**Electives:** Grade six students also may choose further electives. Information about all our

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# Grade Six Academic Program

## Grade Seven Core Classes

Students in grade seven are required to take the following year-long core classes:

- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Science
- Modern Language
- Physical Education

## Grade Seven English Language Arts

Following an internationally recognized set of standards and benchmarks, students will develop their English language skills in listening, writing and oral communication. Using the Reading/Writing Workshop model, students will experience, a multitude of approaches and tasks: however, reading and writing will be emphasized. The class will include individual and group work assignments to achieve quality results in areas such as presentation and critical analysis.

## Grade Seven Social Studies

Students will study the development of civilization and the basics of anthropology, archaeology, history and geography, including map-reading skills. Emphasis will be placed on the study of the Middle Ages and feudalism across the modern. Throughout the course, students will work independently and in groups on a variety of activities designed to enhance intellectual and emotional growth. Emphasis is given towards improving critical thinking and study skills.

## Grade Seven Science

Our grade seven science curriculum is based on “Foundational Approaches to Science Teaching” (FAST) Level 2, which emphasizes inquiry-based, hands-on learning. The FAST 2 course approaches the study of science as a way of learning about the natural modern through direct observations and hands-on investigations. Scientific inquiry is emphasized through lab investigations. The course includes topics from physical science (chemical building blocks, physics of light, atomic theory), ecology (photosynthesis, respiration, cycling of matter, and flow of energy) and interrelationships (history of chemistry, use of models in science, and interactions of science, technology and society).

## Grade Seven Mathematics

This course prepares students for more advanced courses in math. It emphasizes reasoning, communication skills, problem-solving, number relationships and theory, patterns and functions, and algebraic concepts. After grade seven math, students will be ready to take PreAlgebra or Algebra in grade eight, and will be placed according to teacher recommendation.

## Grade Seven Advanced Math (Pre-Algebra)

This course will provide students with the skills and background needed to succeed in the Algebra and Geometry sequence. A review and extension of PreAlgebra skills and the development of problem-solving skills will enhance students’ preparation for the study of college preparatory mathematics. Topics include graphs and their interpretation, rational numbers, ratios and percents, plane geometry, variables, equations and inequalities, coordinate graphing and an introduction to probability. Students who succeed in Advanced Math will be placed in Algebra in grade eight, if recommended by the teacher.

## Grade Seven Modern Languages

The Middle School Modern Language classes are designed for students working to acquire an additional language. Each ascending language level develops the student’s increasing fluency in the speaking, listening, reading and writing skills and overall communicative competence. Students also study the target language culture.

### *French 1A or Spanish 1A:*

This course is for students who have little or no background in French or Spanish. This course highlights basic written and oral communication skills. There is an emphasis on building vocabulary and development fluency in listening and speaking. Reading and writing are also stressed as students gain competence. Target language geography and culture are introduced at this level. Extensive use of interactive activities such as games, songs, plays, role playing and projects are employed at this level. Students who successfully meet the standards for this course will be eligible to enroll in French 1B or Spanish 1B.

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# Grade Seven Academic Program

### **French 1B or Spanish 1B:**

This course is for students who have met the standards of French 1A or Spanish 1A. This course continues to highlight oral communication skills through improving pronunciation intonation and fluency. Students work with a variety of text types to increase vocabulary and expand reading comprehension skills. Students become increasingly aware of the grammatical aspects of the language and are expected to demonstrate this in writing and in oral communication. Elements of the target language culture are woven into the lesson. Extensive use of interactive activities such as games, songs, plays, role playing and projects are employed at this level. Students who successfully meet the standards for this course are eligible to enroll in French 1 or Spanish 1.

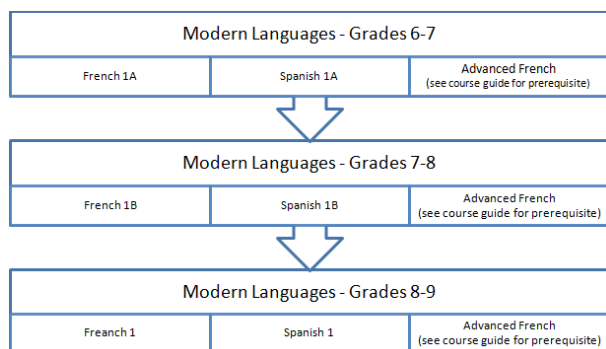
### **French 1 or Spanish 1:**

Students learn the fundamentals of the target language through the five basic components of communication: listening, understanding, speaking, reading and writing. The textbook is supplemented by games, oral presentations, and other individual and class activities. Oral expression is greatly emphasized. Students will also learn about Spanish or French culture and that of other Latin or francophone countries.

### **Middle School Advanced French:**

*Prerequisite: teacher recommendation, interview and advanced level placement on OPI*

This course is for students have placed at the advanced level on the Oral Proficiency Institute (OPI). Students must either speak French at home, have studied at a French school, or have lived in a French-speaking country. This is a literature based course where students will be reading French novels and writing at an advanced level.



## **Physical Education**

All students in grades six through eight take physical education. The year is divided into activity blocks lasting five weeks. Activities include ensemble (team building), fitness testing, volleyball, soccer, basketball, track and field, badminton or tennis, with some additional units if time allows, such as ultimate Frisbee and handball. Assessments are based on technical skills and personal effort. Some units will have written tests or assignments. Students will keep a journal for each unit as well as a record of fitness tests throughout the year.

Students will be expected to dress appropriately for PE lessons, including purchasing an ICS PE t-shirt and shorts. During outdoor units, this includes a hat and water bottle! Classes are mixed gender and depending on class size, mixed grade level.

## **The Arts**

Middle school students take four courses in the arts sequence. Through the middle grades, students will take Survey of Music, Survey of Art, Drama, and Choir.

### **Survey of Music:**

*Semester course*

Survey of Music will offer students the chance to explore musical styles from baroque to hip hop. Students will have the opportunity to listen to and study various genres and will expand their appreciation of all types of music.

### **Survey of Art:**

*Semester course*

This course will provide students with an overview of key figures, aesthetic styles, and movements in visual art. Students will learn about the interaction between art, history, and culture, and create artwork in a variety of media, including but not limited to drawing, painting, clay, and collage. As students become familiar with these different art-making techniques, the development of creative thinking skills and personal forms of expression will be emphasized. Students will also engage in constructive critiques of their own work and the work of others.

**Drama:**

*Semester course*

MS Drama focuses on the following standards: performance skills, production and design and scriptwriting. It will lead to an evening performance in which students are required to take part (either on-stage or backstage).

**Choir:**

*Semester course*

Middle School Choir teaches students the basics of musicianship, sight-reading, music theory, and history. Public performances are required.

emphasizes the analytical side of research, where students construct knowledge and draw conclusions.

**Electives:** Grade seven students also may choose further electives. Information about all our electives can be found later in this course guide.

**Additional Grade Seven Classes**

Other classes for Grade Seven students include our quarterly classes and our electives.

**Required quarterly classes:** For seventh grade students, Health and Research Methods are required for one quarter.

**Health - 7**

Health courses in Middle School are provided so that students will gain a better insight into the nature and function of their bodies, their environment and their relationships with each other as they experience growing up. These courses help students develop confidence, self-esteem, responsibility and real life connections. Topics discussed include: reaching your potential, taking responsible actions, building character, and growing and changing.

**Research Methods - 7**

The Research Methods course develops middle school student research skills that can then be applied to inquiry-based assignments and activities across the entire middle school curriculum, as well as in high school and beyond. Based on an area of inquiry, students will learn how to formulate meaningful and relevant questions, select the information resources that are most appropriate for the task, focus their search with keywords, locate relevant sources, take paraphrased notes in abbreviated form, credit sources appropriately, and share their findings with others. Throughout the process, students are expected to experiment with a range of strategies and reflect on the decisions they make. Rather than treating research as an exercise in collecting random facts, the Research Methods course

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# Grade Seven Academic Program

## Grade Eight Core Classes

Students in grade eight are required to take the following year-long core classes:

- English Language Arts
- World Cultures
- Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1
- Science
- Modern Language
- Physical Education

\*Math placement is based on several criteria including teacher recommendation, grade seven math performance and standardized test scores.

## Grade Eight English Language Arts

Following an internationally recognized set of standards and benchmarks, students will develop their English language skills in listening, writing and oral communication. Using the Reading/Writing Workshop model, students will increase their understanding of literary response, critical analysis and creative thinking. A variety of assessments and instructional methods will be used, including multimedia presentations, research papers, journals, video work and drama.

## Grade Eight World Cultures

Welcome to grade 8 Social Studies - World Cultures! In this year-long course, students undertake an exciting voyage of discovery into the way humans live, work and play together. Traveling in time from the end of the Middle Ages, through the Renaissance, onto the Reformation and Scientific Revolution and finally into the Rise of Islam, students explore how concepts such as community, culture, technology, geography, economics, faith and history are all interconnected. Using AERO based standards, research skills, gathering, analyzing, applying, presenting and reflecting on information will be developed. Group and interpersonal skills and problem solving skills will also be developed, through assignments such as discussions, debates, research papers, and multi media reports.

## Grade Eight Science

Our Grade Eight Science curriculum is based on “Foundational Approaches to Science Teaching” (FAST) Level 2 and Level 3, which emphasizes inquiry-based, hands-on learning. Topics include physical science (force, work,

energy, Newton’s laws, stellar evolution and formation of elements), ecology (origins and structure of the universe and Earth, weathering and erosion, organic molecules, geologic time) and interrelationships (change, constancy, human impact on the environment, land use, energy use, and interactions of science, technology and society). Students will act as independent researchers, experimenting and testing their ideas within a framework of common inquiry goals.

## Pre-Algebra

This course will provide students with the skills and background needed to succeed in Algebra and Geometry in high school. A review and extension of problem-solving skills will enhance students’ preparation for the study of college preparatory math. Topics include graphs, rational numbers, ratios and percents, variables, plane geometry, equations and inequalities, coordinate graphing and an introduction to probability.

## Algebra 1

*Prerequisite: Completion of grade seven math with a grade of 'B-' or better and the recommendation of the math teacher.*

This high school course will give students a solid foundation in elementary algebra concepts and skills. We study the properties of real number arithmetic and apply them to algebraic expressions, formulae, linear and quadratic equations, and inequalities. Solving word problems and making real-life applications are woven into the course material; applications include topics in geometry, elementary statistics, business and the science disciplines.

*Note: this is a high school class and students who take it may have to eat lunch with the high school on some days. Students do not earn high school math credit for taking Algebra in middle school.*

## Grade Eight Modern Languages

The Middle School Modern Language classes are designed for students working to acquire an additional language. Each ascending language level develops the student’s increasing fluency in the speaking, listening, reading and writing skills and overall communicative competence. Students also study the target language culture.

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# Grade Eight Academic Program

### **French 1 or Spanish 1:**

Students learn the fundamentals of the target language through the five basic components of communication: listening, understanding, speaking, reading and writing. The textbook is supplemented by games, oral presentations, and other individual and class activities. Oral expression is greatly emphasized. Students will also learn about Spanish or French culture and that of other Latin or francophone countries.

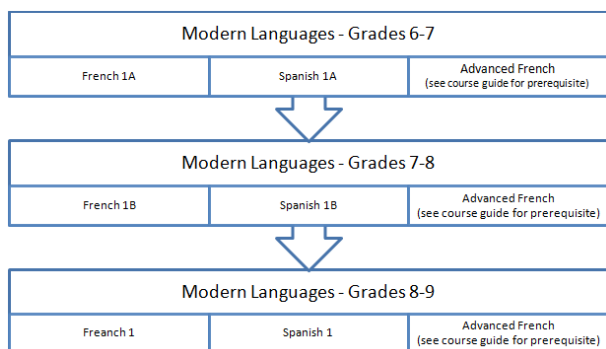
### **French 2 or Spanish 2:**

Students will learn basic vocabulary and grammar structures. There will be reading and writing, but the main focus will be on oral expression; therefore, students should be prepared to speak mostly French or Spanish in the classroom. This course includes the study of some literature adapted at this level.

### **Middle School Advanced French:**

*Prerequisite: teacher recommendation, interview and advanced level placement on OPI*

This course is for students have placed at the advanced level on the Oral Proficiency Institute (OPI). Students must either speak French at home, have studied at a French school, or have lived in a French-speaking country. This is a literature based course where students will be reading French novels and writing at an advanced level.



## **Physical Education**

All students in grades six through eight take physical education. The year is divided into activity blocks lasting five weeks. Activities include ensemble (team building), fitness testing, volleyball, soccer, basketball, track and field, badminton or tennis, with some additional units if time allows, such as ultimate Frisbee and handball. Assessments are based on technical skills and personal

effort. Some units will have written tests or assignments. Students will keep a journal for each unit as well as a record of fitness tests throughout the year.

Students will be expected to dress appropriately for PE lessons, including purchasing an ICS PE t-shirt and shorts. During outdoor units, this includes a hat and water bottle! Classes are mixed gender and depending on class size, mixed grade level.

## **The Arts**

Middle school students take four courses in the arts sequence. Through the middle grades, students will take Survey of Music, Survey of Art, Drama, and Choir.

### **Survey of Music:**

*Semester course*

Survey of Music will offer students the chance to explore musical styles from baroque to hip hop. Students will have the opportunity to listen to and study various genres and will expand their appreciation of all types of music.

### **Survey of Art:**

*Semester course*

This course will provide students with an overview of key figures, aesthetic styles, and movements in visual art. Students will learn about the interaction between art, history, and culture, and create artwork in a variety of media, including but not limited to drawing, painting, clay, and collage. As students become familiar with these different art making techniques, the development of creative thinking skills and personal forms of expression will be emphasized. Students will also engage in constructive critiques of their own work and the work of others.

### **Drama:**

*Semester course*

MS Drama focuses on the following standards: performance skills, production and design and scriptwriting. It will lead to an evening performance in which students are required to take part (either on-stage or backstage).

### **Choir:**

*Semester course*

Middle School Choir teaches students the basics of musicianship, sight-reading, music theory, and history. Public performances are required.

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# **Grade Eight Academic Program**

## **Additional Grade Eight Classes**

Other classes for grade eight students include our quarterly classes and our electives.

**Required quarterly classes:** For eighth grade students Health and Research Methods are required for one quarter.

### **Health - 8**

Health courses in Middle School are provided so that students will gain a better insight into the nature and function of their bodies, their environment and their relationships with each other as they experience growing up. These courses help students develop confidence, self-esteem, responsibility and real life connections. Topics discussed include: human biology and health.

### **Research Methods - 8**

The Research Methods course develops middle school student research skills that can then be applied to inquiry-based assignments and activities across the entire middle school curriculum, as well as in high school and beyond. Based on an area of inquiry, students will learn how to formulate meaningful and relevant questions, select the information resources that are most appropriate for the task, focus their search with keywords, locate relevant sources, take paraphrased notes in abbreviated form, credit sources appropriately, and share their findings with others. Throughout the process, students are expected to experiment with a range of strategies and reflect on the decisions they make. Rather than treating research as an exercise in collecting random facts, the Research Methods course emphasizes the analytical side of research, where students construct knowledge and draw conclusions.

**Electives:** Grade eight students also may choose further electives. Information about all our electives can be found later in this course guide.

## Middle School Elective Classes

Some of our elective courses meet for the entire academic year; others meet for one semester, as well as quarterly. All courses meet every other day.

**Some elective classes are offered only upon teacher availability and student interest.**

### MS Concert Choir

*Off timetable – please inquire with MS office*

- *Grades: 6–8*
- *Year-long course*
- *Prerequisite: singing or previous music experience preferred*

This vocal ensemble will perform several times in the year. Attendance at all performances is required. The students will explore vocalization, proper tone production, vowel and consonant analysis, sight-singing techniques, and posture. Through a wide range of styles of music, the students also learn aspects of music history and apply them to the music performed in class and at vocal concerts.

### MS Concert Band

- *Grades: 6–8*
- *Year-long course*
- *Prerequisite: playing experience is recommended but not required*

Our Middle School Concert Band is a full year course and is performance-based. Attendance at all performances is required for full credit for the class. This ensemble begins to develop basic instrumental technique and performance through ensemble experience. Each student develops a better understanding of their instrument including tone production, intonation tendencies, and technical agility in a variety of styles. During the school year each student will learn aspects of music history, theory, performance and composition.

### Book Arts

*Quarterly*

In this course students will be exposed to the world of book making as an art and craft form. They will learn how to make hand-made books using a variety of methods: accordion binding, stab stitching, signature sewing, and post-binding. Students will also learn how to utilize the tools commonly employed in creating hand-made books. For each book made, the

contents or topics of the books will follow a creative theme.

### Printmaking

*Quarterly*

In this introductory printmaking course, students will learn basic methods of creating prints and, in conjunction, will study the different artists noted for a particular printing medium. They will engage in relief, monotype, and linocut printmaking techniques and will learn how to use the tools and materials of the printmaking process.

### Culinary Arts

*Semester course*

Students learn how to choose nutritious meals, make healthful menu choices and use money wisely to plan out meals. The focus is on international cooking, including research into national cuisines to experience many aspects of cuisine. Students will learn to choose and evaluate recipes, plan meals, and prepare foods in a safe environment.

### Media Studies

*Semester course*

This course is project-based and students spend a significant amount of time practicing and refining previously learned skills such as writing, drawing, photography, and editing using computers. The course takes advantage of a content management system that easily allows students to publish work as part of a middle school website. Students are also faced with the challenge of how to advertise and *sell* the website to their peers through analysis of mass media sources like TV, newspapers, magazines and the Internet.

### Odyssey of the Mind

*Semester course*

This course provides creative, holistic problem-solving opportunities for everyone. By working in teams, participants learn teamwork, appreciation, understanding and respect of others and their respective views, talents and abilities. The ultimate goal of the class is to solve problems in an exciting, challenging and fun atmosphere. This course is split up into a series of short- and long-term projects wherein students role-play, develop skits, solve mathematical riddles, design and engineer bridges and egg-drop landing pads,

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# Middle School Elective Classes

write effective commercials, compelling songs and so on.

## **Books & Film**

*Semester course*

This elective encourages reading and critical evaluation of both books and films. Whenever possible, a book that has been filmed will be compared and contrasted with the book itself. Emphasis is on settings, characters and character development, and plot. Both group work and individual work are used.

## **Global Issues Local Action (GILA)**

*Semester course*

This course is designed to help students apply their leadership skills in the school and local community. Working cooperatively, students will identify sustainable ways in which they can give service to others and come up with solutions to help build the community. As part of their course of study, students will reflect on their experiences by way of discussions, reflection journals, and other forms of written expression. They will also express themselves through drama and the arts. The class will be results-based; therefore participants must be involved in providing community service to others.

## **Origins of Knowledge**

- *Quarterly*
- *Recommended for grades 7 and 8 only*

Theory of Knowledge is the study of what we know and how we know it. In this course we will explore how perception, reason, language and emotion shape our knowledge in math, science, history, ethics, and the arts. Each topic will be explored through activities, in-class discussions, real-life situations, and short response papers. Students are expected to take an active role in shaping the course and making connections between it and their other subjects.

## **Percussions Techniques**

*Quarterly*

In this class you will learn and discuss basic concepts of various percussion techniques. You will have the opportunity to play many different types of instruments that are part of the percussion family. Students should be prepared to make a lot of rhythmic noise.

## **Astronomy**

*Semester long*

This course offers a hands-on approach to astronomy. Students will create tools, record observations, and become amateur astronomers, learning about the objects and structures of space. Everything from near-Earth satellites to distant quasars will be discussed in this survey course of Astronomical ideas. The goal of this course is to acquaint students with the newest ideas in the field of Astronomy, covering not only what we know but how we know what we know.

## **Digital Multimedia**

*Semester long – Grade 8 only*

Don't just watch - create! Learn how to manipulate photos and other graphics, edit videos, create podcasts and webpages, and program videogames. This semester-long course will teach students the basic skills for creating multimedia projects as well as introduce them to the basics of computer programming, web design and structure, and problem solving using computers.

## **Middle School Resource**

Middle School Resource provides an environment for guided study. Students will receive tutoring in written language skills, organizational skills, math skills and other study skills. The goal of this class is to supplement the middle school curriculum. This class is taken on a pass/fail basis.

## **English as an Additional Language**

Our English as an Additional Language Program (EAL) offers intensive support in English for speakers of other languages who are at the intermediate or advanced levels. The course curriculum focuses on all four language skills—listening, speaking, reading and writing—with emphasis on reading speed and comprehension, and academic writing.

The goal of the course is to increase academic language proficiency so that students can transfer to their regular Language Arts grade level.

# ICS math course flowchart

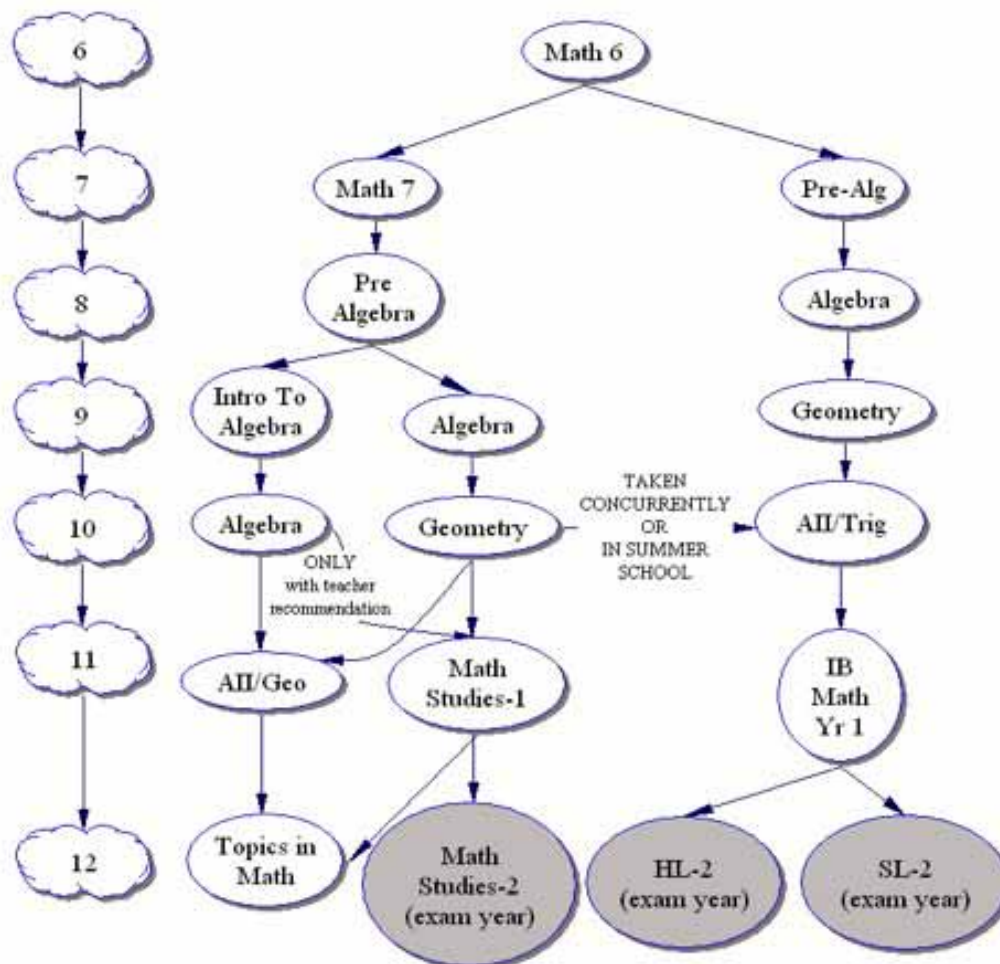
## Philosophy

The age of information and technology has rapidly expanded the field of mathematics. In order to develop confident, effective students of mathematics, the mathematics teachers at ICS Addis endorse four primary beliefs.

- Students are capable of learning mathematics and gaining confidence in their understanding.
- Students can appreciate and value the connections of mathematics in their daily lives.
- Students are able to communicate mathematical ideas.
- Students can become effective, versatile problem solvers with the ability to reason logically.

## ICS Mathematics Course Flowchart

ICS has planned a sequence that allows students to take four years of mathematics at an appropriate level. The flowchart below illustrates the recommended mathematical paths for students. The boxes that are shaded represent courses that offer IB certificates of completion. Students wishing to sit an exam in Math Studies MUST complete Algebra by the *beginning* of their Grade 10 year, or make arrangements for additional summer study before beginning Grade 11. Students wishing to sit an exam in Higher or Standard Level Math MUST complete Algebra 2 /Trig by the beginning of their Grade 11 year.



**notes:**

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