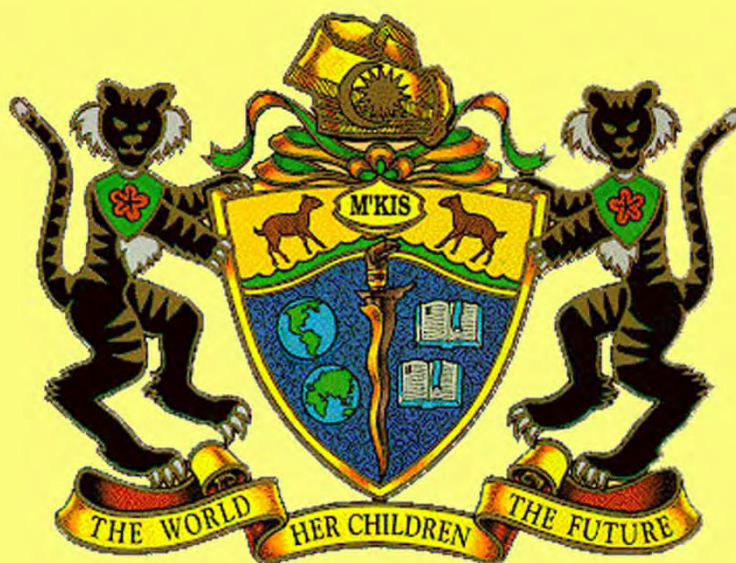


# MONT'KIARA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Middle School Course Description Guide  
2011/2012



# **Middle School Course Guide 2011-2012**

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Dear Students,

This year's Middle School Course Description Guide provides you important information to help you plan for your 2011-2012 school year at Mont'Kiara International School. There are a few revisions from last year, so please make sure you review the information carefully. This is our fourth year of publishing separate middle and high school guides and we have also continued to separate the middle and high school elective classes. These changes are possible and necessitated by the continued growth of the middle and high schools.

Last year we added some exploratory courses in study skills, speech communication, and computer basics which will continue to provide important support for our middle school students' academic success. We also offered semester options for our elective courses to provide additional flexibility and opportunities for our students. Our entire middle school staff works very hard to ensure that you have a very positive and educationally enriching experience during your middle school years at Mont'Kiara. We want to provide you with learning and activities that are as specific to your age group and your individual needs as possible.

I believe that you will find this guide to be a very important resource and planning tool throughout your middle school years. It is our goal to provide you with the most accurate information possible. Please read the course descriptions closely so that you know better what awaits you next year. Mrs. Daley and Ms. Tan, our middle school counselors, will be working closely with you, discussing your course selections and helping to ensure that they are right for you. Also, do not hesitate to speak with your teachers to learn more about the courses in which you are interested.

Mr. Munro, Mrs. Daley, Ms. Tan, and I welcome your feedback on the content and format of this year's guide. Your comments will be considered in making improvements for future course guidance. We feel confident that we will have a great year ahead as a middle school and we are excited that you will be a part of it.

Sincerely,

Gary P. Melton  
Middle-High School Principal

# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE

## 2011-2012

The Middle School Course Guide presents an overview of courses offered in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. The purpose of this guide is to help students with their course selections, by offering detailed and up-to-date descriptions of classes currently offered at M'KIS. We encourage students to read the descriptions of both core and elective classes, and to choose courses that will be both challenging and interesting to them. We also encourage students to speak with their teachers and the counselor for specific details on course content, expectations and suitability.

Middle School students: Remember to consider these factors when selecting your classes - challenge yourself, investigate your options, and research available courses.

### Middle School Daily Schedule

Classes meet on Monday to Friday from 8:20 am - 3:00 pm. School begins every morning at 8:20 am, where students are expected to be in their classroom for attendance and daily announcements.

Block	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
<b>First</b> 8:30-9:50	<b>A</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>BREAK</b> (9:45-10:00)						
<b>Second</b> 10:05-11:25	<b>B</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>LUNCH</b> (11:25-12:00)						
<b>Third</b> 12:00-1:25	<b>C</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>G</b>
<b>Fourth</b> 1:35-3:00	<b>D</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>E</b>

Students have four classes a day (blocks of 80-85 minutes each), which rotate based on a 6-day schedule. Students have the same classes on Days 1, 3, 5 (odd days), and on Days 2, 4, 6 (even days), but in a different order.

Students attend a Homeroom for 5 minutes every Tuesday and Friday morning and have a Student Connection time on Wednesday with the same group.

Block	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		<b>Homeroom</b> 8:20-8:25			<b>Homeroom</b> 8:20-8:25
<b>First</b>	8:20-9:45	8:30-9:45	8:20-9:45	8:20-9:45	8:30-9:45
<b>BREAK</b> (9:45-10:00)					
<b>Second</b>	10:05-11:25	10:05-11:25	10:05-11:25	10:05-11:25	10:05-11:25
<b>LUNCH</b> (11:25-12:00)					
<b>Third</b>	12:00-1:25	12:00-1:25	12:00-1:25	12:00-1:25	12:00-1:25
<b>Fourth</b>	1:35-3:00	1:35-3:00	1:35-2:30	1:35-3:00	1:35-3:00
			<b>Student Connections</b> 2:30-3:00		

# Helpful Tips for Middle School

**Preparation:** Before you come to school, make sure that you have the right school bag/binders for the day. If you have homework to submit, double check that you have it with you, in addition to everything else you need for the day (ex. PE uniform).

**Organization:** Use your student agenda to record homework assignments at the end of each class. Before leaving school at the end of the day, double-check your agenda to ensure that you have all the books and materials you need to do your homework. If you like, use a separate bag and binders for odd/even days. Be sure to clean out and organize your school bag and locker frequently – you may be surprised by what you find!

**Study Skills:** Establish a routine for studying and for completing homework. Choose a time that is best for you and let your family know when your study time is and commit to it. Set up a comfortable work station that is free of distractions and clutter. Mark the due dates of all tests, quizzes, projects and assignments on a large calendar, so you can plan and schedule your work in advance.

**Communication:** If there is something you do not understand, or if you have questions about an assignment, test or project, ask your teacher. Teachers are available for extra-help, and are interested in helping you succeed. If you are having difficulties with anything, let them know.

**Balance:** Learn to prioritize so you are able to make the best use of your time and energy. It is important that you plan ahead so that you can enjoy your free time after your work is completed. Remember to take a break when you are feeling stressed or overwhelmed!





# **Grade 6 Curriculum**



# GRADE 6 CURRICULUM

Welcome to the Course Description Guide. Here you will find information for all the courses offered in grade 6 at M’KIS. The school year begins on August 11<sup>th</sup> 2011 and ends June 14<sup>th</sup> 2012. The school year is divided into two semesters and four quarters. Middle School students take **eight** subjects each year, of which, **six subjects** are required. All students are required to take one **modern language** and an **elective** that students choose based on their own interests.

<b>6th Grade Required Courses</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Courses*</b>	
<b>1. English 6</b>	<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
<b>2. Social Studies 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drawing</li> <li>• Computer Art</li> <li>• MS Choir</li> <li>• Modern Dance</li> <li>• Drama</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3D Art</li> <li>• Ceramics</li> <li>• 3D Virtual World Stories and Games</li> <li>• MS Choir</li> <li>• Modern Dance</li> <li>• Drama</li> </ul>
<b>3. Math 6</b>	<b>Year Long Course</b>	
<b>4. Science 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Band (year long course)</li> <li>• String Orchestra (year long course)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>* See course descriptions for details/prerequisites</i></p>	
<b>5. Physical Education 6</b>		
<b>6. Modern Language *</b>		
<b>7. Exploratory Courses</b> (one per Quarter) a) Health b) Malaysian Studies c) Music d) Study Skills		
<b>8. Elective Choice</b> (see next column)		
<b>* Modern Languages</b>	<b>Student Support Services</b>	
A Modern language is compulsory for all Middle School students. Generally, students will take the language course corresponding to the grade level.  a) French A b) Spanish A c) Mandarin A	English Language Learner (ELL) 6 Learning Assistance 6  <i>*These courses are only available for students who have been approved by the Student Support Services Coordinator.</i>	

# REQUIRED COURSES FOR GRADE 6

## English 6

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 6

The sixth grade course includes themes of Challenges, Adversity and Change, Finding Your Own Voice, and Being an Individual. Through exposure to a variety of literature (fantasy, historical fiction, mystery, mythology, poetry, biography, non-fiction, realistic fiction, and science fiction), students will continue to develop a love of reading as they expand their vocabularies, comprehension, and familiarity with literary elements. Oral presentations, discussions, group tasks and reflective journals are key features of speaking, listening and understanding concepts in literature. The writing process is supported with specific instruction in the six traits of writing, which include idea development, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions. Assessment strategies utilized in sixth grade include diagnostic, formative, summative, portfolio, and rubric-based assessment; students also participate in self-assessment.

## Social Studies 6

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 6

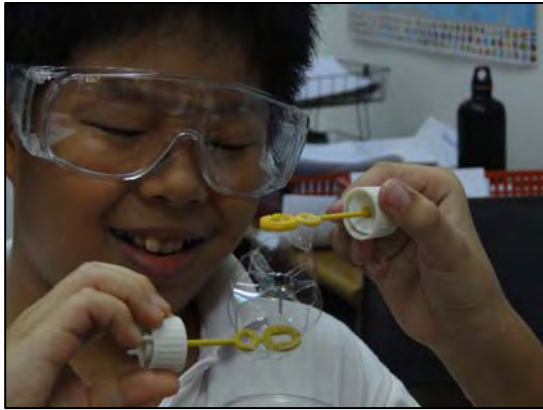
Throughout the year, students will explore the concepts of cultural and physical geography, examine a modern-day case study, as well as, analyze current events and the impact they have on the rest of the world. Further, students will utilize a variety of learning styles and activities to study the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Greece, and Africa. Some of the activities may include essay writing, group discussions, oral presentations, research topics, projects, role playing, and debates.

## Mathematics 6

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 6

This integrated mathematics course introduces students to basic concepts from algebra, geometry and data analysis. Topics include number operations, algebraic patterns, data collection & analysis, an introduction to geometry, and measurement. Discover how math is related to real world situations and applied in sports, science, engineering, and other areas. The course work also includes a creative project for every topic including artwork, creative stories, and hands-on activities to reinforce concepts learned. A four-function calculator that can also perform square roots and higher fraction operations is recommended for this course.



## Science 6

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 6

Science 6 is a blend of life, physical, and earth sciences delivered as a series of integrated units. It is designed to lay a good foundation for middle school sciences, using the scientific method. Science 6 aims at fostering the development of creative thinking skills

and abilities, and at developing an understanding of how science relates to every-day life.

The emphasis is on developing practical skills, acquiring content knowledge, learning by experience and the application of the scientific method to problem solving. The students will also reinforce basic achievement in reading and writing skills and the application of these to writing laboratory reports.

## Physical Education 6

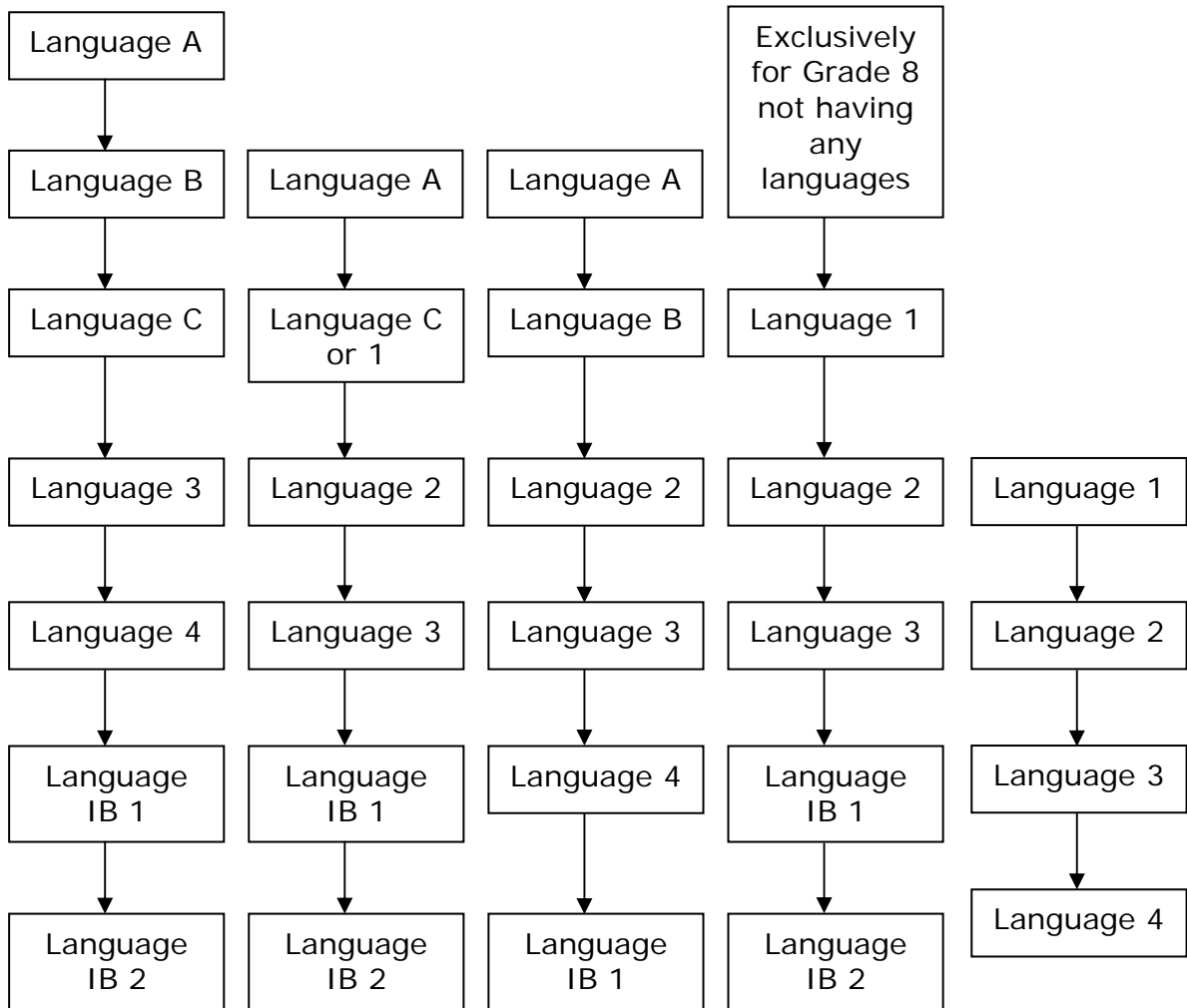
**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 6

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade physical education program focuses on physical fitness and the acquisition of sport skills for application to team and individual sports. Socialization, teamwork, cooperation, leadership and fair play will be emphasized in classes. In addition, students will begin to monitor their fitness and health habits throughout the year, while also setting individualized goals based on acquired knowledge and understanding of oneself. Units of study include: swimming, volleyball, wall climbing, basketball, archery, track and field, various fitness & conditioning activities, dance, badminton, and soccer.



# LANGUAGE FLOW CHART



## **MODERN LANGUAGE**

In today's rapidly evolving global economy the demand for language skills continues to grow as governments, businesses and organizations develop international interests. In harmony with our school's mission, a modern language is compulsory for all Middle School students. Generally, students will take the language course corresponding to the grade level.

### **Language A (French-Spanish-Mandarin)**

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 6, 7

**Prerequisite:** Little or no previous knowledge. Suitable both for beginners and for students who have developed some spoken language, but who have limited grammatical proficiency.

**Homework:** Average

This course combines a communicative approach with clear structural and grammatical progression. Equal emphasis is given to the four skills of reading, listening, speaking and writing. Students learn through a variety of teacher and student centered activities including: spontaneous and prepared conversations, oral presentations, language games, listening tasks, written exercises, videos, individual and group projects, and internet-based research. Students also gain an appreciation of the culture(s) from which the language comes whilst learning about countries where the language is spoken.

# 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE EXPLORATORIES

(STUDENTS TAKE ONE EXPLORATORY COURSE PER QUARTER)

## Health 6

**Length:** Quarter year

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Health curriculum is an introductory course that explores several new themes. Students will be introduced to concepts of general health and wellness and how they apply to, and affect their lives. During this course students will also learn about the principles of nutrition and weight management and will understand the physical and emotional changes that occur during puberty.

## Malaysian Studies 6

**Length:** Quarter year

Malaysian Studies 6 is a quarter-long exploratory class. The aim of the program is to provide students with a better understanding of the country and its people. Students will learn about the religious and cultural celebrations of the various ethnic groups and to appreciate the cultural norms of the different groups of people. Students will also be introduced to the physical geography and the flora and fauna of Malaysia.

The Malaysian Studies program promises to be an interesting study of exploration and discovery. Lessons consist of collaborative learning, research, oral presentations, as well as individual and group assignments. As this class is an exploratory class, the bulk of the work will occur during time in class. Whenever possible, field trips are planned to enhance the contents of the unit and for students to participate in a unique cultural and learning experience.



# 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE EXPLORATORIES

(STUDENTS TAKE ONE EXPLORATORY COURSE PER QUARTER)

## **Music 6**

**Length:** Quarter year

Music 6 Exploratory is all about appreciating, creating and re-creating music! This is an active, fun course which will expose students to many styles of music through listening, composing and performing, in order to increase their musical knowledge. Some of the highlights include learning to play guitar and various percussion instruments with an emphasis on rhythmic and technical development; singing songs from modern musicals; studying important composers in music history; and becoming familiar with music from other cultures. Students will also have an opportunity to produce a presentation on their favorite musician/group and complete an IT-related project using music mixing and sequencing software.

## **Study Skills 6**

**Length:** Quarter year

This quarter length course is intended to support students as they adjust to the curricular demands of middle school. Language Arts, Information Literacy, and Information Technology skills are integrated for this course in order to assist students in learning how to use the resource materials at the school, developing strategies for enhancing their comprehension of content material, and utilizing a few key organization strategies to help them balance the expectations of all their courses.

# 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

## SEMESTER 1

### Drawing

**Length:** Half Year

Students will explore a variety of techniques, mark making, and material. Units of study include, portrait, still life, landscape, cartoons, and abstract. Students will learn to draw with charcoal, pastel, pencil, oil pastel, color pencils, ink, and markers. Lessons

are structures around units designed to incorporate art history, Malaysian culture and artists, elements and principles of design.



### Computer Art

**Length:** Half Year

Students will be introduced to the world of computer art and graphics. They will learn the basics of Photoshop and Illustrator. Projects tend to be based around different art movements, elements & principals of design as well as graphic design techniques.

### MS Choir

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

The MS Choir is a semester long course designed to provide an atmosphere for the enjoyment, appreciation and performance of all types of vocal music, including classical, jazz, pop, musical theatre, contemporary and multi-cultural genres. In addition to learning musical repertoire, students will continue to develop vocal technique - voice production, diction (pronunciation), breathing and intonation, as well as gaining rhythmic and melodic music-reading skills, as well as sight-singing and ear training skills. They will also learn about the elements of music, music theory, the use of IT to create, re-create and appreciate vocal music, and learn about the historical/cultural significance of their musical repertoire. Students are expected to attend all performances which will range from school assemblies and lunchtime recitals to shopping mall performances and formal evening concerts in the School Theatre.

# 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

## SEMESTER 1

### Modern Dance

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

A performing art course designed to generate interest, enthusiasm and an appreciation for dance. Students will be made aware of their body's movement potential, develop dance skills that lead to choreography and the ability to express themselves through performance. We will also explore a wide spectrum of dance and its styles.



### Drama

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

This course is designed to generate awareness, enthusiasm and appreciation for theater and the performing arts. Students will explore the basic elements of acting and performing for the stage that are geared towards overcoming stage fright, building confidence, developing self-awareness and working collaboratively with peers.

*It is by the discretion of the teacher if drama students will be part of the drama production.*

# 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

## SEMESTER 2

### 3D Art

**Length:** Half Year

Students will be introduced to a variety of techniques and material. They will have the opportunity to learn about carving, casting, papier mache, modeling sculpting, maquette, and constructing techniques. They will work with wood, plaster, wire, clay, metal, foam boards, paper pulp, and cardboard. Unit of study will be designed around art history theme, artists, Malaysian culture, elements and principles of design.



### Ceramics

**Length:** Half Year

This course will allow students to explore many areas of the ceramic arts. Students will learn or develop various skills such as pinching, rolling, draping, slip moulds, extruding and other techniques. Some may choose to focus and develop skills on the pottery wheel and for these students there will be time to develop an ability to make pots such as; cylinders, covered containers, tea pots, sets of plates and sculptures made with thrown pieces. As the course is 'theme' based the students get to pursue their own personal interests and have many chances to develop their ceramic skills in an individual way. As a result, beginners to advanced students can take this course.

### 3D Virtual World Stories and Games

**Length:** Half Year

3D Virtual World technology is used to make animated movies like Avatar and games like Sims. In this course, students will learn to create virtual worlds and animated characters to tell stories and make games of their own.

# 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

## SEMESTER 2

### **MS Choir**

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

The MS Choir is a semester long course designed to provide an atmosphere for the enjoyment, appreciation and performance of all types of vocal music, including classical, jazz, pop, musical theatre, contemporary and multi-cultural genres. In addition to learning musical repertoire, students will continue to develop vocal technique - voice production, diction (pronunciation), breathing and intonation, as well as gaining rhythmic and melodic music-reading skills, as well as sight-singing and ear training skills. They will also learn about the elements of music, music theory, the use of IT to create, re-create and appreciate vocal music, and learn about the historical/cultural significance of their musical repertoire. Students are expected to attend all performances which will range from school assemblies and lunchtime recitals to shopping mall performances and formal evening concerts in the School Theatre.

### **Modern Dance**

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

A performing art course designed to generate interest, enthusiasm and an appreciation for dance. Students will be made aware of their body's movement potential, develop dance skills that lead to choreography and the ability to express themselves through performance. We will also explore a wide spectrum of dance and its styles.

### **Drama**

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

This course is designed to generate awareness, enthusiasm and appreciation for theater and the performing arts. Students will explore the basic elements of acting and performing for the stage that are geared towards overcoming stage fright, building confidence, developing self-awareness and working collaboratively with peers.

*It is by the discretion of the teacher if drama students will be part of the drama production.*

# FULL YEAR ELECTIVES

## Band

**Length:** Full Year

**Recommended prerequisite:** One year of experience playing a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument or teacher approval.



Students will continue to develop their performance skills through the study of music on a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. Regular rehearsals will utilize modern method books and

exciting ensemble repertoire, culminating in prominent school and public performances. The course will increase the student's understanding of music theory, music history and the role of Information Technology in the music industry. Listening and composition are an integral part of the course with students also completing a project on their instrument and on famous performers. There will be an opportunity to extend high achieving students through the challenge of playing in small music performance ensembles.

## String Orchestra

**Length:** Full Year

**Recommended prerequisite:** One year of experience playing a stringed instrument or piano/keyboard or teacher approval.

The string orchestra is a performance-based class for students who have been playing the violin, viola, violoncello, double bass or piano/keyboard. Students will rehearse, perform, evaluate and discuss a wide variety of ensemble music, with a view to increasing their musical knowledge and participating in regular school and public performances.

The course will increase the student's understanding of music theory, music history and the role of Information Technology in the music industry. Listening and composition are an integral part of the course with students also completing a project on their instrument and on famous performers. There will be an opportunity to extend high achieving students through the challenge of playing in small music performance ensembles.

# **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES COURSES**

## **English Language Learners (ELL) 6**

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

**Open to:** Qualifying Students from Grade 6

**Prerequisite:** Approval by Coordinator-Student Support Services

**Note:** Non-Native English speakers may be required to take one or two ELL classes depending on their abilities. Once entered, students will remain in the ELL program for at least one semester. Students may exit the program only after successful completion of an English proficiency test, and recommendations by teachers.

This course is for students at an intermediate level in the acquisition of the English language. These learners of English will develop in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking through the study of grammar, daily language review, and will understand and apply the six traits writing process. Through an integration strategy, students in this class will also receive support on tasks related to the content of their other classes. Special emphasis will be placed upon helping students feel and be successful by gaining an operative command of English for use in both socialization and academic situations.

## **Learning Assistance 6**

**Length:** Full Academic Year (Half Year or Full Year)

**Open to:** Qualifying Students from Grades 6

**Prerequisite:** Approval by Coordinator-Student Support Services

This is an individualized study course designed to support students in organization, time management, and the development of a wide range of learning strategies. Students who enter this course must have a current Individual Student Support Plan (ISSP) in place to qualify. An integrated instructional strategy is utilized. An important component of this program is the designation of a mentor teacher who will be available to lend support on a regular basis. Students may exit the program only after successful completion of an exit plan based on academic achievement, normative assessments and recommendations by teachers.



# **Grade 7 Curriculum**



# Grade 7 Curriculum

Welcome to the Course Description Guide. Here you will find information for all the courses offered in grade 7 at M'KIS. The school year begins on August 11<sup>th</sup> 2011 and ends June 14<sup>th</sup> 2012. The school year is divided into two semesters and four quarters. Middle School students take **eight** subjects each year, of which, **six subjects** are required. All students are required to take one **modern language** and an **elective** that students choose based on their own interests.

<b>7th Grade Required Courses</b>	<b>7th Grade Elective Courses*</b>	
<b>1. English 7</b>	<b>Students in Language A</b>	
<b>2. Social Studies 7</b>	<b>Semester 1 Courses</b>	<b>Semester 2 Courses</b>
<b>3. Math 7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drawing</li> <li>Computer Graphics</li> <li>MS Choir</li> <li>Modern Dance</li> <li>Drama</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3D Art</li> <li>Ceramics</li> <li>3D Virtual Worlds, Animated Stories and Games</li> <li>MS Choir</li> <li>Modern Dance</li> <li>Drama</li> </ul>
<b>4. Science 7</b>	<b>Year Long Courses</b>	
<b>5. Physical Education 7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Band (year long course)</li> <li>String Orchestra (year long course)</li> </ul> <p><i>* See course descriptions for details/prerequisites.</i></p>	
<b>6. Modern Language *</b>	<b>Students in Language B</b>	
<b>7. Exploratory Courses</b> (one per Quarter)	<b>Semester 1 Courses</b>	<b>Semester 2 Courses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Health</li> <li>b) Malaysian Studies</li> <li>c) Intro to Theater</li> <li>d) Information Technology Fundamentals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theater Tech</li> <li>Modern Dance</li> <li>Newspaper</li> <li>MS Choir</li> <li>Drama</li> <li>Printing</li> <li>Ceramics</li> <li>3D Virtual Worlds, Animated Stories and Games</li> <li>Digital Photography</li> <li>Global Citizenship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theater Tech</li> <li>Modern Dance</li> <li>Newspaper</li> <li>MS Choir</li> <li>Drama</li> <li>Painting</li> <li>Computer Graphics</li> <li>Digital Photography</li> <li>Global Citizenship</li> </ul>
<b>8. Elective Choice</b> (see next column)	<b>Year Long Courses</b>	
<b>*Modern Languages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Band (year long course)</li> <li>String Orchestra (year long course)</li> </ul> <p><i>* See course descriptions for details/prerequisites</i></p>	
A modern language is compulsory for all Middle School students. Generally, students will take the language course corresponding to the grade level.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) French A or B</li> <li>b) Spanish A or B</li> <li>c) Mandarin A or B</li> </ul>		
<b>Student Support Services</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Language Learner (ELL) 7</li> <li>Learning Assistance 7</li> </ul> <p><i>* These courses are only available for students who have been approved by the Student Support Services Coordinator.</i></p>		

# REQUIRED COURSES FOR GRADE 7

## English 7

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 7

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade English course focuses on five major themes: Challenges, Other Worlds, Life in the Middle Ages, Drama, and Journeys. Throughout each unit of study, students will be reading a variety of rich literature to further develop their vocabularies, comprehension, and familiarity with literary elements. Students will be writing for varied audiences and purposes for each unit. The writing process is supported with specific instruction in the 6 traits of writing through our *WriteTraits* program. Students will learn grammar in conjunction with their writing, will expand their vocabulary through literature studies, and will be expected to apply their growth in those two language areas to their writing. Interdisciplinary connections will extend and enrich student learning across the curriculum.

## Social Studies 7

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 7



Students will utilize a variety of learning styles and activities to study the ancient civilizations of Rome, Medieval and Renaissance Europe. Then they will explore the Reformation and the Age of Discovery. Each unit of study focuses on the geography, religion, achievements, political, economic and social structure of ancient Europe. In addition, a Geography unit on European populations is designed to

introduce students to modern issues related to changing populations. Activities will include map work, research papers, group discussions, oral presentations, simulations, dramatic re-enactments, and debates.

## **Mathematics 7**

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 7

The 7th-grade integrated mathematics course expands upon the foundation laid in the previous courses. Topics include more complex number operations, algebraic problem solving and modeling, more complex geometry, fractions and decimals, and problem solving strategies. Mathematical concepts are applied to real world situations to help solidify understanding. Projects, homework, and class work assignments as well as quizzes and tests allow students to display their mastery of content. A TI-84 calculator is required for this course.

## **Science 7**

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 7

Seventh grade science is driven by trying to understand how the world works through the lens of a scientist. Curiosity and observations will lead students on a pathway of forming questions, conducting research, designing investigations, collecting data, building models, making sense of discoveries and communicating the results. Class time will be divided between class work, lab work, and field work.

It is an integrated course combining life, physical, and earth sciences, and is activity-oriented, project-based, and focuses on developing critical thinking and problem solving skills. An effort is made to allow the students to appreciate the relationship between science, technology, and everyday life.

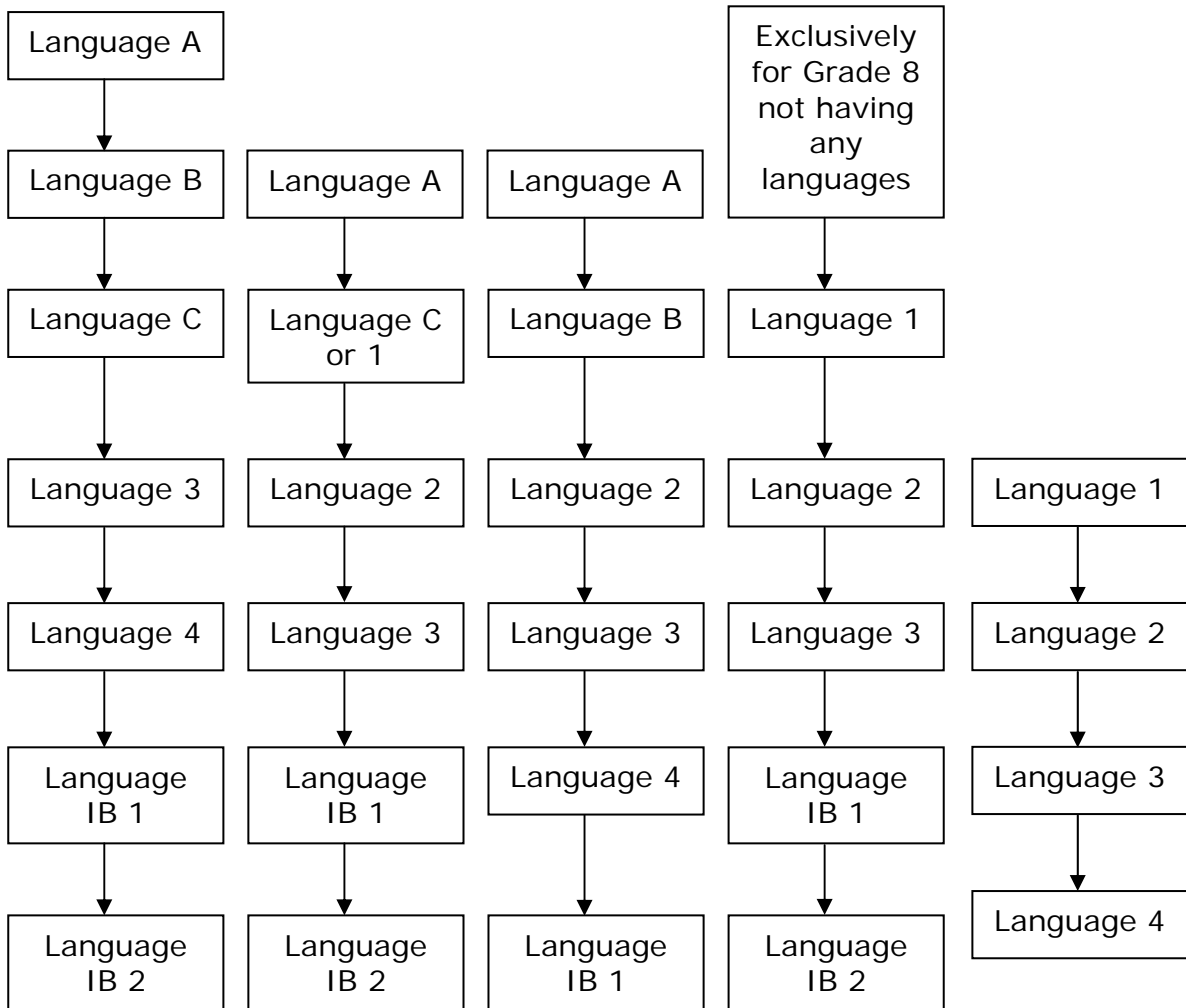
## **Physical Education 7**

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 7

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade physical education program focuses on physical fitness and acquisition of sport skills for application to team and individual sports. Socialization, teamwork, cooperation, leadership and fair play will be emphasized in classes. In addition, students will continue to monitor their fitness and health habits throughout the year, while also setting individualized goals based on acquired knowledge and understanding of oneself. Units of study include: swimming & water rescue & safety, Ultimate Frisbee, track & field, softball, soccer, floor hockey, volleyball, wall climbing, orienteering, dance, table tennis, and various components of fitness & conditioning.

# LANGUAGE FLOW CHART



## **MODERN LANGUAGE**

In today's rapidly evolving global economy the demand for language skills continues to grow as governments, businesses and organizations develop international interests. In harmony with our school's mission, a modern language is compulsory for all Middle School students. Generally, students will take the language course corresponding to the grade level.

### **Language A (French-Spanish-Mandarin)**

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 6, 7

**Prerequisite:** Little or no previous knowledge. Suitable for both beginners and for students who have developed some spoken language, but who have limited grammatical proficiency.

**Homework:** Average

This course combines a communicative approach with clear structural and grammatical progression. Equal emphasis is given to the four skills of reading, listening, speaking and writing. Students learn through a variety of teacher and student centered activities including: spontaneous and prepared conversations, oral presentations, language games, listening tasks, written exercises, videos, individual and group projects, and internet-based research. Students also gain an appreciation of the culture(s) from which the language comes whilst learning about countries where the language is spoken.

### **Language B (French-Spanish-Mandarin)**

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** 7, 8

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Language A.

**Homework:** Average

This course is an extension of Language A, and prior knowledge of the language is essential. This course builds on existing knowledge, whilst new material continues to be introduced thematically. Equal emphasis is placed on the four skills of reading, listening, speaking and writing. Students learn through a variety of activities including spontaneous and prepared conversations, oral presentations, language games, listening tasks, reading suitable texts, written exercises, videos, music, and computer activities. Cultural topics are closely integrated with language instruction.

# 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE EXPLORATORIES

(STUDENTS TAKE ONE EXPLORATORY COURSE PER QUARTER)

## Health 7

**Length:** Quarter Year

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Health curriculum builds on the knowledge acquired in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and expands some of the themes of general health and wellness. The students will focus on learning coping mechanisms for stress and emotions as well as building self-esteem. They will also learn important information about how these themes affect people's attitudes towards alcohol and drug abuse, and chemical dependency as a whole.

## Malaysian Studies 7

**Length:** Quarter Year

Malaysian Studies 7 is a quarter-long exploratory class. The aim of the program is to provide students with a better understanding of the early history and economy of Malaysia. Students will learn about the influence of the Malacca Sultanate on modern-day government and historical personalities who contributed to the development of modern Malaysia. Students will also examine the impact of the various natural resources on the present economy of Malaysia. The Malaysian Studies program promises to be an interesting study of exploration and discovery. Lessons consist of collaborative learning, research, oral presentations as well as individual and group assignments. As this class is an exploratory class, the bulk of the work will occur during time in class. Whenever possible, field trips are planned to enhance the contents of the unit and for students to participate in a unique cultural experience.



# **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE EXPLORATORIES**

**(STUDENTS TAKE ONE EXPLORATORY COURSE PER QUARTER)**

## **Intro to Theater**

**Length:** Quarter Year

This quarter-long exploratory course is designed to introduce students to the joys of theater and teach them basic skills in drama such as physical theater, vocal technique and oral interpretation. Students play theater games geared towards building confidence and overcoming stage fright.

## **Information Technology Fundamentals**

**Length:** Quarter Year

This course will cover keyboarding skills, productivity tools (word processing basics and spreadsheets), and internet, software/hardware and network security fundamentals.

# **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES**

## ***FOR STUDENTS TAKING LANGUAGE A:***

### **SEMESTER 1**

#### **Drawing**

**Length:** Half Year

Students will explore a variety of techniques, mark making, and material. Units of study include, portrait, still life, landscape, cartoons, and abstract. Students will learn to draw with charcoal, pastel, pencil, oil pastel, color pencils, ink, and markers. Lessons are structures around units designed to incorporate art history, Malaysian culture and artists, elements and principles of design.

#### **Computer Art**

**Length:** Half Year

Students will be introduced to the world of computer art and graphics. They will learn the basics of Photoshop and Illustrator. Projects tend to be based around different art movements, elements & principals of design as well as graphic design techniques.

#### **MS Choir**

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

The MS Choir is a semester long course designed to provide an atmosphere for the enjoyment, appreciation and performance of all types of vocal music, including classical, jazz, pop, musical theatre, contemporary and multi-cultural genres. In addition to learning musical repertoire, students will continue to develop vocal technique - voice production, diction (pronunciation), breathing and intonation, as well as gaining rhythmic and melodic music-reading skills, as well as sight-singing and ear training skills. They will also learn about the elements of music, music theory, the use of IT to create, re-create and appreciate vocal music, and learn about the historical/cultural significance of their musical repertoire. Students are expected to attend all performances which will range from school assemblies and lunchtime recitals to shopping mall performances and formal evening concerts in the School Theatre.

# 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

## FOR STUDENTS TAKING LANGUAGE A:

# SEMESTER 1

## Modern Dance

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

A performing art course designed to generate interest, enthusiasm and an appreciation for dance. Students will be made aware of their body's movement potential, develop dance skills that lead to choreography and the ability to express themselves through performance. We will also explore a wide spectrum of dance and its styles.

## Drama

**Length:** Half a year or Year

This course is designed to generate awareness, enthusiasm and appreciation for theater and the performing arts. Students will explore the basic elements of acting and performing for the stage that are geared towards overcoming stage fright, building confidence, developing self-awareness and working collaboratively with peers.

*It is by the discretion of the teacher if drama students will be part of the drama production.*



# **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES**

## ***FOR STUDENTS TAKING LANGUAGE A:***

### **SEMESTER 2**

#### **3D Art**

**Length:** Half Year

Students will be introduced to a variety of techniques and material. They will have the opportunity to learn about carving, casting, papier mache, modeling sculpting, maquette, and constructing techniques. They will work with wood, plaster, wire, clay, metal, foam boards, paper pulp, and cardboard. Unit of study will be designed around art history theme, artists, Malaysian culture, elements and principles of design.

#### **Ceramics**

**Length:** Half Year

This course will allow students to explore many areas of the ceramic arts. Students will learn or develop various skills such as pinching, rolling, draping, slip moulds, extruding and other techniques. Some may choose to focus and develop skills on the pottery wheel and for these students there will be time to develop an ability to make pots such as; cylinders, covered containers, tea pots, sets of plates and sculptures made with thrown pieces. As the course is 'theme' based the students get to pursue their own personal interests and have many chances to develop their ceramic skills in an individual way. As a result, beginners to advanced students can take this course.

#### **3D Virtual Worlds, Animated Stories and Games**

**Length:** Half Year

3D Virtual World technology is used to make animated movies like Avatar and games like Sims. In this course, students will learn to create virtual worlds and animated characters to tell stories and make games of their own.

# **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES**

## **FOR STUDENTS TAKING LANGUAGE A:**

### **SEMESTER 2**

#### **MS Choir**

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

The MS Choir is a semester long course designed to provide an atmosphere for the enjoyment, appreciation and performance of all types of vocal music, including classical, jazz, pop, musical theatre, contemporary and multi-cultural genres. In addition to learning musical repertoire, students will continue to develop vocal technique - voice production, diction (pronunciation), breathing and intonation, as well as gaining rhythmic and melodic music-reading skills, as well as sight-singing and ear training skills. They will also learn about the elements of music, music theory, the use of IT to create, re-create and appreciate vocal music, and learn about the historical/cultural significance of their musical repertoire. Students are expected to attend all performances which will range from school assemblies and lunchtime recitals to shopping mall performances and formal evening concerts in the School Theatre.

#### **Modern Dance**

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

A performing art course designed to generate interest, enthusiasm and an appreciation for dance. Students will be made aware of their body's movement potential, develop dance skills that lead to choreography and the ability to express themselves through performance. We will also explore a wide spectrum of dance and its styles.

#### **Drama**

**Length:** Half Year or Year

This course is designed to generate awareness, enthusiasm and appreciation for theater and the performing arts. Students will explore the basic elements of acting and performing for the stage that are geared towards overcoming stage fright, building confidence, developing self-awareness and working collaboratively with peers.

*It is by the discretion of the teacher if drama students will be part of the drama production.*

# FULL YEAR ELECTIVES

## Band

**Length:** Full Year

**Recommended prerequisite:** Two years of experience playing a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument or teacher approval.



Students will continue to develop their performance skills through the study of music on a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. Regular rehearsals will utilize modern method books and exciting ensemble repertoire, culminating in prominent school and public performances. The course will increase the student's understanding of music theory, music history and the role of Information Technology in the music industry. Listening and composition are an integral part of the course with students also completing a project on their instrument and on famous performers. There will be an opportunity to extend high achieving students through the challenge of playing in small music performance ensembles.

## String Orchestra

**Length:** Full Year

**Recommended prerequisite:** Two years of experience playing a stringed instrument or piano/keyboard or teacher approval.

The string orchestra is a performance-based class for students who have been playing the violin, viola, violoncello, double bass or piano/keyboard.

Students will rehearse, perform, evaluate and discuss a wide variety of ensemble music, with a view to increasing their musical knowledge and participating in regular school and public performances. The course will increase the student's understanding of music theory, music history and the role of Information Technology in the music industry. Listening and composition are an integral part of the course with students also completing a project on their instrument and on famous performers. There will be an opportunity to extend high achieving students through the challenge of playing in small music performance ensembles.

# **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES**

## ***FOR STUDENTS TAKING LANGUAGE B:***

### **SEMESTER 1**

#### **Theater Tech**

**Length:** Half Year

Students will learn the basics of theater lighting, sound, make-up, set construction, special effects, painting, and stage props construction. This is a project-based class with grades based upon product quality and completion. Students will work on producing the school play each semester.

#### **Newspaper**

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

The Newspaper class focuses on keeping the school informed with the latest news through the Tiger's Eye Online. The course utilizes "cutting edge" technology to create and manage an interactive website. Through the Tiger's Eye Online students will be introduced to the world of journalism and writing to inform and entertain. Students will learn how to carry out investigative reports, write news stories, conduct interviews, layout, design, and manage a website, and much, much more! The course will be offered as either a semester or year-long elective. Interested students should check out the Tiger's Eye Online under student links on the M'KIS homepage for further information.

#### **MS Choir**

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

The MS Choir is a semester long course designed to provide an atmosphere for the enjoyment, appreciation and performance of all types of vocal music, including classical, jazz, pop, musical theatre, contemporary and multi-cultural genres. In addition to learning musical repertoire, students will continue to develop vocal technique - voice production, diction (pronunciation), breathing and intonation, as well as gaining rhythmic and melodic music-reading skills, as well as sight-singing and ear training skills. They will also learn about the elements of music, music theory, the use of IT to create, re-create and appreciate vocal music, and learn about the historical/cultural significance of their musical repertoire. Students are expected to attend all performances which will range from school assemblies and lunchtime recitals to shopping mall performances and formal evening concerts in the School Theatre.

# 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

## FOR STUDENTS TAKING LANGUAGE B:

### SEMESTER 1

#### Modern Dance

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

A performing art course designed to generate interest, enthusiasm and an appreciation for dance. Students will be made aware of their body's movement potential, develop dance skills that lead to choreography and the ability to express themselves through performance. We will also explore a wide spectrum of dance and its styles.

#### Drama

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

This year-long course is designed for students to develop performance skills such as acting, improvisation, oral interpretation and dramatic role-playing. The students will work on developing their vocal technique, stage movement and presentation skills. They will learn to creatively interpret text, control their voices and perform for a live audience. This is a performance course and the students are expected to be a part of the drama production.

*It is by the discretion of the teacher if drama students will be part of the drama production.*

#### Printing

**Length:** Half Year

Students will learn about a variety of printing techniques and material. They will experiment working with lino cut, wood block, foam board, silkscreen, etching, and embossing. Units are designed based on art history, Malaysian culture, elements and principles of design.



# **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES**

## ***FOR STUDENTS TAKING LANGUAGE B:***

# **SEMESTER 1**

## **Ceramics**

**Length:** Half Year

This course will allow students to explore many areas of the ceramic arts. Students will learn or develop various skills such as pinching, rolling, draping, slip moulds, extruding and other techniques. Some may choose to focus and develop skills on the pottery wheel and for these students there will be time to develop an ability to make pots such as; cylinders, covered containers, tea pots, sets of plates and sculptures made with thrown pieces. As the course is 'theme' based the students get to pursue their own personal interests and have many chances to develop their ceramic skills in an individual way. As a result, beginners to advanced students can take this course.

## **3D Virtual World Stories and Games**

**Length:** Half Year

3D Virtual World technology is used to make animated movies like Avatar and games like Sims. In this course, students will learn to create virtual worlds and animated characters to tell stories and make games of their own.

## **Digital Photography**

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

This semester-long, project-based course will advance each student's understanding and execution of digital capture, including the elements of exposure, texture, tone and composition. Photographic editing, manipulation and storage using Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Bridge will also be addressed in this course.

Due to the unique nature of this elective course, students must supply: (1) their own digital camera (see camera specifications below) and (2) their own memory cards (at least 2).

Camera specifications: fixed lens is okay as long as it has a minimal zoom capacity of 4x, at least 10 mega-pixel digital definition, and manual control capability for shutter speed, aperture, and ISO.

**7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES**  
***FOR STUDENTS TAKING LANGUAGE B:***

# **SEMESTER 1**

## **Global Citizenship**

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

This semester-long, project based course supports our Expected School-Wide Learning Results for Involved Citizens. Students will reflect on the world around them, how the world functions, and ways they can make a positive impact with a focus on service projects that support our school and local community needs. This course will use current articles, guest speakers, and student experiences to connect the students to global and local needs and guide them in developing service-based solutions. This course will support students for upcoming high school service learning requirements and through participation in 2-3 local community projects developed and selected by the students. Field trips will be scheduled to support these projects.

# **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES**

## ***FOR STUDENTS TAKING LANGUAGE B:***

### **SEMESTER 2**

#### **Theater Tech**

**Length:** Half Year

Students will learn the basics of theater lighting, sound, make-up, set construction, special effects, painting, and stage props construction. This is a project-based class with grades based upon product quality and completion. Students will work on producing the school play each semester.

#### **Newspaper**

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

This class is an introduction to journalism and the inner workings of informative digital media. Throughout the year we will learn how to carry out investigative reports, write news stories and conduct interviews as well as learning how to keep a deadline, layout a page and much, much more. This class will prepare you with skills in writing, editing and preparing layouts for newspapers as well as electronic media.

#### **MS Choir**

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

The MS Choir is a semester long course designed to provide an atmosphere for the enjoyment, appreciation and performance of all types of vocal music, including classical, jazz, pop, musical theatre, contemporary and multi-cultural genres. In addition to learning musical repertoire, students will continue to develop vocal technique - voice production, diction (pronunciation), breathing and intonation, as well as gaining rhythmic and melodic music-reading skills, as well as sight-singing and ear training skills. They will also learn about the elements of music, music theory, the use of IT to create, re-create and appreciate vocal music, and learn about the historical/cultural significance of their musical repertoire. Students are expected to attend all performances which will range from school assemblies and lunchtime recitals to shopping mall performances and formal evening concerts in the School Theatre.

# **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES**

## **FOR STUDENTS TAKING LANGUAGE B:**

### **SEMESTER 2**

#### **Drama**

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

This year-long course is designed for students to develop performance skills such as acting, improvisation, oral interpretation and dramatic role-playing. The students will work on developing their vocal technique, stage movement and presentation skills. They will learn to creatively interpret text, control their voices and perform for a live audience. This is a performance course and the students are expected to be a part of the drama production.

*It is by the discretion of the teacher if drama students will be part of the drama production.*

#### **Painting**

**Length:** Half Year

Students will learn about a variety of techniques, styles and material. They will work with watercolor, tempera, acrylic and palette knife. Units are designed based on art history, elements and principles of design and Malaysian culture. We will focus on technique, creativity, and experimentation.

#### **Computer Graphics**

**Length:** Half Year

Students will be introduced to the world of computer art and graphics but with a real-world view. They will learn the basics of Photoshop and Illustrator but projects will be more pragmatic. Projects will be real-life poster and logo designs, as well as magazine advertising that will be designed for other classes and groups around the school. MS Computer Art is recommended but not necessary.

# **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES**

## ***FOR STUDENTS TAKING LANGUAGE B:***

### **SEMESTER 2**

#### **Digital Photography**

**Length:** Half Year

This semester-long, project-based course will advance each student's understanding and execution of digital capture, including the elements of exposure, texture, tone and composition. Photographic editing, manipulation and storage using Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Bridge will also be addressed in this course.

Due to the unique nature of this elective course, students must supply: (1) their own digital camera (see camera specifications below) and (2) their own memory cards (at least 2).

Camera specifications: fixed lens is okay as long as it has a minimal zoom capacity of 4x, at least 10 mega-pixel digital definition, and manual control capability for shutter speed, aperture, and ISO.

#### **Global Citizenship**

**Length:** Half Year

This semester-long, project based course supports our Expected School-Wide Learning Results for Involved Citizens. Students will reflect on the world around them, how the world functions, and ways they can make a positive impact with a focus on service projects that support our school and local community needs. This course will use current articles, guest speakers, and student experiences to connect the students to global and local needs and guide them in developing service-based solutions. This course will support students for upcoming high school service learning requirements and through participation in 2-3 local community projects developed and selected by the students. Field trips will be scheduled to support these projects.

# FULL YEAR ELECTIVES

## Band

**Length:** Full Year

**Recommended prerequisite:** Two years of experience playing a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument or teacher approval.

Students will continue to develop their performance skills through the study of music on a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. Regular rehearsals will utilize modern method books and exciting ensemble repertoire, culminating in prominent school and public performances. The course will increase the student's understanding of music theory, music history and the role of Information Technology in the music industry. Listening and composition are an integral part of the course with students also completing a project on their instrument and on famous performers. There will be an opportunity to extend high achieving students through the challenge of playing in small music performance ensembles.

## String Orchestra

**Length:** Full Year

**Recommended prerequisite:** Two years of experience playing a stringed instrument or piano/keyboard or teacher approval.



The string orchestra is a performance-based class for students who have been playing the violin, viola, violoncello, double bass or piano/keyboard.

Students will rehearse, perform, evaluate and discuss a wide variety of ensemble music, with a view to increasing their musical knowledge and participating in regular school and public performances. The course will increase the student's

understanding of music theory, music history and the role of Information Technology in the music industry. Listening and composition are an integral part of the course with students also completing a project on their instrument and on famous performers. There will be an opportunity to extend high achieving students through the challenge of playing in small music performance ensembles.

# STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES COURSES

## English Language Learners (ELL) 7

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year  
**Open to:** Qualifying Students from Grade 7  
**Prerequisite:** Approval by Coordinator-Student Support Services

**Note:** Non-Native English speakers may be required to take one or two ELL classes depending on their abilities. Once entered, students will remain in the ELL program for at least one semester. Students may exit the program only after successful completion of an English proficiency test, and recommendations by teachers.

This course is for students at an intermediate level in the acquisition of the English language. These learners of English will develop in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking through the study of grammar, daily language review, and will understand and apply the six traits writing process. Through an integration strategy, students in this class will also receive support on tasks related to the content of their other classes.

Special emphasis will be placed upon helping students feel and be successful by gaining an operative command of English for use in both socialization and academic situations.

## Learning Assistance 7

**Length:** Full Academic Year, Half Year or Full Year  
**Open to:** Qualifying Students from Grades 7  
**Prerequisite:** Approval by Coordinator-Student Support Services

This is an individualized study course designed to support students in organization, time management, and the development of a wide range of learning strategies. Students who enter this course must have a current Individual Student Support Plan (ISSP) in place to qualify. An integrated instructional strategy is utilized. An important component of this program is the designation of a mentor teacher who will be available to lend support on a regular basis. Students may exit the program only after successful completion of an exit plan based on academic achievement, normative assessments and recommendations by teachers.



# **Grade 8 Curriculum**



# Grade 8 Curriculum

Welcome to the Course Description Guide. Here you will find information for all the courses offered in grade 8 at M’KIS. The school year begins on August 11<sup>th</sup> 2011 and ends June 14<sup>th</sup> 2012. The school year is divided into two semesters and four quarters. Middle School students take **eight** subjects each year, of which, **six subjects** are required. All students are required to take one **modern language** and an **elective** that students choose based on their own interests.

8th Grade Required Courses	8 <sup>h</sup> Grade Elective Courses*	
<b>1. English 8</b>	<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
<b>2. Social Studies 8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theater Tech</li> <li>• Modern Dance</li> <li>• Newspaper</li> <li>• MS Choir</li> <li>• Drama</li> <li>• Printing</li> <li>• Ceramics</li> <li>• Interactive Animation and Game Design</li> <li>• Digital Photography</li> <li>• Global Citizenship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theater Tech</li> <li>• Modern Dance</li> <li>• Newspaper</li> <li>• MS Choir</li> <li>• Drama</li> <li>• Painting</li> <li>• Computer Graphics</li> <li>• Digital Photography</li> <li>• Global Citizenship</li> </ul>
<b>3. Science 8</b>	<b>Year Long Course</b>	
<b>4. Math 8</b>		
<b>5. Physical Education 8</b>	<i>* See course descriptions for details/prerequisites</i>	
<b>6. Modern Language *</b>		
<b>7. Exploratory Courses</b> (one per Quarter) a) Health b) Malaysian Studies c) Art d) Speech Communication	English Language Learner (ELL) 8 Learning Assistance 8  <i>*These courses are only available for students who have been approved by the Student Support Services Coordinator.</i>	
<b>8. Elective Choice (see next column)</b>		
<b>* Modern Languages</b>		
A Modern language is compulsory for all Middle School students. Generally, students will take the language course corresponding to the grade level.  d) French C, I e) Spanish C, I f) Mandarin C, I		

# REQUIRED COURSES FOR GRADE 8

## English 8

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 8

In this course students will explore five major themes: Prejudice/Survival, Mysteries, Greed/Oppression, Fantasy, and Conflict and Resolution. Students will study the literary genres of short story, novel, poetry, and drama to develop a greater understanding of and appreciation for the breadth and depth of literature. Studies include classical and contemporary literary selections, such as Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl, The Pearl, The Tempest, The Ruby in the Smoke, and The Outsiders. Students will be challenged to examine and evaluate literature dealing with themes such the role of the individual in society, conformity, and rebellion. Analysis and discussions will revolve around the literary content and the social-historical context in which the literature was written. Studies will emphasize the elements of romance, tragedy, irony, satire and comedy in literature. Students will also focus on narrative, expository, and persuasive writing with specific instruction in the six traits of writing through our WriteTraits program. This interdisciplinary approach connects and enriches student learning across the curriculum.

## Social Studies 8

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 8

Grade 8 Social Studies focuses on the integration of physical geography and historical analysis. During the first semester, students will explore the early American civilizations of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca. Through a comparative study of each civilization's geography, religion, achievements, politics, economics, and social structures, students will make inferences and draw conclusions about the impact of early American civilizations on the world. The units of study during the second semester will continue with the examination of the effects of conquest and colonization in North America, the interactions of cultures in English colonies of America, and the building of a new nation through a study of the American Revolution and the foundations of the United States of America. The students will be required to write essays, research topics, deliver oral presentations, analyze moral dilemmas, and participate in a variety of group discussions and activities that will enable them to develop a more complete understanding of the world that we live in today.

## Mathematics 8

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 8

The 8th-grade integrated mathematics course builds further on the algebra, geometry and statistics concepts taught in the previous courses. Topics include algebraic concepts, an introduction to two step equations, inequalities, binomial expansion, probability, and quantitative statistics. Application of the Pythagorean Theorem, volume, surface area, area of complex figures, and the equation of the slope of the line are also explored. This course is a requirement for integrated mathematics 9th grade.

## Science 8

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 8

Eighth grade science forms the interface between middle and high school science. It is an integrated course combining life, physical, and earth sciences and is delivered as a series of units. The course will continue to develop critical thinking skills and problem solving through practical activities and research based learning. The students will also be expected to aim for concept mastery in the topics studied. Wherever possible, students will be able to integrate technology into their learning and relate this to everyday life.

## Physical Education 8

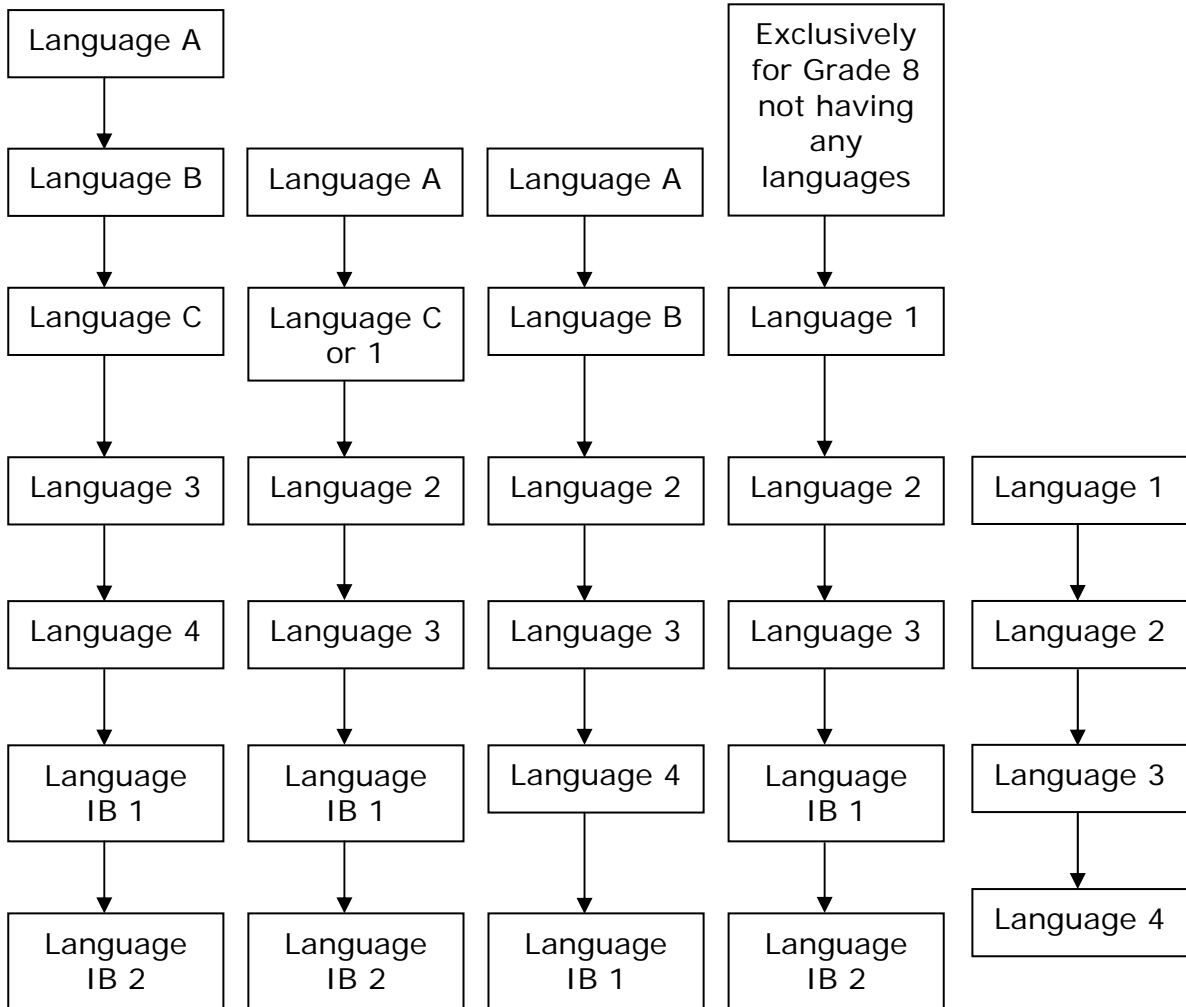
**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** Grade 8

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade physical education program focuses on physical fitness and acquisition of sport skills for application to team and individual sports. Socialization, teamwork, cooperation, leadership and fair play will be emphasized in classes. In addition, students will improve their fitness and health habits throughout the year, while also setting individualized goals based on acquired knowledge and understanding of oneself. Units of study include: swimming & water survival skills, touch rugby, track & field, lacrosse, team handball, basketball, wall climbing, badminton, dance, yoga, and various components of fitness & conditioning.



# LANGUAGE FLOW CHART



## **MODERN LANGUAGE**

In today's rapidly evolving global economy the demand for language skills continues to grow as governments, businesses and organizations develop international interests. In harmony with our schools mission, modern language is compulsory for all Middle School students. Generally, students will take the language course corresponding to the grade level.

### **Language C (French-Spanish-Mandarin)**

**Length:** Full Year

**Open to:** 8

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Language B

**Homework:** Average

This course is for students who have completed Language A and B. It consolidates the grammatical structures learnt previously and requires students to extend their language usage. It also adds more complex grammatical structures in order to provide students with additional skills for increased communication. Equal emphasis is given to the four skills of reading, listening, speaking and writing. Students learn through a variety of activities including spontaneous and prepared conversations, oral presentations, reading suitable texts, listening tasks, videos, music, and computer activities. Cultural topics are closely integrated with language instruction.

### **Language I (French-Spanish-Mandarin)**

**Length:** One year

**Open to:** Grades 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

**Prerequisites:** Little or no previous knowledge of the target language

Designed for beginners, this course provides students with basic abilities in speaking, listening, writing and reading. More emphasis is placed on listening and speaking, since these are essential to basic communication. This subject introduces students to the target language as well as to the culture of the countries where this language is spoken. By the end of the school year, students will be able to engage in simple conversations, as well as read and write short texts.

# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE EXPLORATORIES

(STUDENTS TAKE ONE EXPLORATORY COURSE PER QUARTER)

## Health 8

**Length:** Quarter Year

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Health curriculum has a greater focus on relationships and communication. As adolescents, they will understand their responsibilities in relationships and the importance of effective communication towards a healthy family life. The students will also learn the basics of reproductive health, pregnancy and child development. Students will then use previous knowledge to understand concepts related to the prevention of abuse and violence.

## Malaysian Studies 8

**Length:** Quarter Year

Malaysian Studies 8 is a quarter-long exploratory class. The aim of the program is to provide students with a better understanding of the historical period from the British colonization to its independence in 1957, the economic development and the focus of modern-day government. Students will also learn about the future vision for Malaysia – Vision 2020.

The Malaysian Studies program promises to be an interesting study of exploration and discovery. Lessons consist of collaborative learning, research, oral presentations, as well as individual and group assignments. As this class is an exploratory class, the bulk of the work will occur during time in class.

Whenever possible, field trips are planned to enhance the contents of the unit and for students to participate in a unique cultural experience.

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the contents of the unit and for students to participate in a unique cultural experience.

# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE EXPLORATORIES

(STUDENTS TAKE ONE EXPLORATORY COURSE PER QUARTER)

## Art 8

**Length:** Quarter Year

Students will continue understanding and applying the art elements and principles through a specific medium as determined by the teacher. Emphasis on both technique and creativity as well as a concentration on individual and group work will enable each student to understand how art helps function in the real world. This course acts as a continuation of the Grade 7 Art Exploratory but it brings in more complex projects, more detailed techniques, and higher expectations, which will help prepare students for high school art classes.

## Speech Communication

**Length:** Quarter Year

Public Speaking is a much needed skill and can positively impact a person's life. This course is designed based on our belief that everyone has the potential to become an effective communicator, but the potential needs to be developed. Some topics that will be covered in this class include organization, preparing a captivating opener, utilizing visual aids to enhance the presentation, and innovative ways to engage the audience. Learning to speak in public is a way of building self confidence personally, at school, and socially. In this course students will learn strategies to overcome nervousness as well as to help their speech recall. Using these new skills, students will become entertaining, informative, and confident speakers.



# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

## SEMESTER 1

### Theater Tech

**Length:** Half Year

Students will learn the basics of theater lighting, sound, make-up, set construction, special effects, painting, and stage props construction. This is a project-based class with grades based upon product quality and completion. Students will work on producing the school play each semester.

### Modern Dance

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

A performing art course designed to generate interest, enthusiasm and an appreciation for dance. Students will be made aware of their body's movement potential, develop dance skills that lead to choreography and the ability to express themselves through performance. We will also explore a wide spectrum of dance and its styles.



### Newspaper

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

The Newspaper class focuses on keeping the school informed with the latest news through the Tiger's Eye Online. The course utilizes "cutting edge" technology to create and manage an interactive website. Through the Tiger's Eye Online students will be introduced to the world of journalism and writing to inform and entertain. Students will learn how to carry out investigative reports, write news stories, conduct interviews, layout, design, and manage a website, and much, much more!

The course will be offered as either a semester or year-long elective. Interested students should check out the Tiger's Eye Online under student links on the M'KIS homepage for further information.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

# SEMESTER 1

### MS Choir

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year



The MS Choir is a semester long course designed to provide an atmosphere for the enjoyment, appreciation and performance of all types of vocal music, including classical, jazz, pop, musical theatre, contemporary and multi-cultural genres. In addition to learning musical repertoire, students will continue to develop vocal technique - voice production,

diction (pronunciation), breathing and intonation, as well as gaining rhythmic and melodic music-reading skills, as well as sight-singing and ear training skills. They will also learn about the elements of music, music theory, the use of IT to create, re-create and appreciate vocal music, and learn about the historical/cultural significance of their musical repertoire. Students are expected to attend all performances which will range from school assemblies and lunchtime recitals to shopping mall performances and formal evening concerts in the School Theatre.

### Drama

**Length:** Half Year

This year-long course is designed for students to develop performance skills such as acting, improvisation, oral interpretation and dramatic role-playing. The students will work on developing their vocal technique, stage movement and presentation skills. They will learn to creatively interpret text, control their voices and perform for a live audience. This is a performance course and the students are expected to be a part of the drama production.

*It is by the discretion of the teacher if drama students will be part of the drama production.*

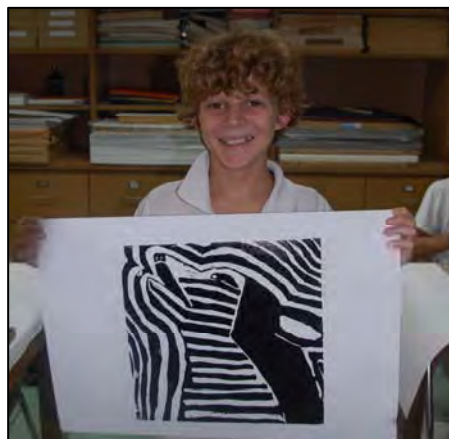
# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

## SEMESTER 1

### Printing

**Length:** Half Year

Students will learn about a variety of printing techniques and material. They will experiment working with lino cut, wood block, foam board, silkscreen, etching, and embossing. Units are designed based on art history, Malaysian culture, elements and principles of design.



### Ceramics

**Length:** Half Year

This course will allow students to explore many areas of the ceramic arts. Students will learn or develop various skills such as pinching, rolling, draping, slip moulds, extruding and other techniques. Some may choose to focus and develop skills on the pottery wheel and for these students there will be time to develop an ability to make pots such as; cylinders, covered containers, tea pots, sets of plates and sculptures made with thrown pieces. As the course is 'theme' based the students get to pursue their own personal interests and have many chances to develop their ceramic skills in an individual way. As a result, beginners to advanced students can take this course.

### 3D Virtual World Stories and Games

**Length:** Half Year

3D Virtual World technology is used to make animated movies like Avatar and games like Sims. In this course, students will learn to create virtual worlds and animated characters to tell stories and make games of their own.

# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

## SEMESTER 1

### **Digital Photography**

**Length:** Half Year

This semester-long, project-based course will advance each student's understanding and execution of digital capture, including the elements of exposure, texture, tone and composition. Photographic editing, manipulation and storage using Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Bridge will also be addressed in this course.

Due to the unique nature of this elective course, students must supply: (1) their own digital camera (see camera specifications below) and (2) their own memory cards (at least 2).

Camera specifications: fixed lens is okay as long as it has a minimal zoom capacity of 4x, at least 10 mega-pixel digital definition, and manual control capability for shutter speed, aperture, and ISO.

### **Global Citizenship**

**Length:** Half Year

This semester-long, project based course supports our Expected School-Wide Learning Results for Involved Citizens. Students will reflect on the world around them, how the world functions, and ways they can make a positive impact with a focus on service projects that support our school and local community needs. This course will use current articles, guest speakers, and student experiences to connect the students to global and local needs and guide them in developing service-based solutions. This course will support students for upcoming high school service learning requirements and through participation in 2-3 local community projects developed and selected by the students. Field trips will be scheduled to support these projects.

# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

## SEMESTER 2

### Theater Tech

**Length:** Half Year

Students will learn the basics of theater lighting, sound, make-up, set construction, special effects, painting, and stage props construction. This is a project-based class with grades based upon product quality and completion. Students will work on producing the school play each semester.

### Modern Dance

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

A performing art course designed to generate interest, enthusiasm and an appreciation for dance. Students will be made aware of their body's movement potential, develop dance skills that lead to choreography and the ability to express themselves through performance. We will also explore a wide spectrum of dance and its styles.



### Newspaper

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

This class is an introduction to journalism and the inner workings of informative digital media. Throughout the year we will learn how to carry out investigative reports, write news stories and conduct interviews as well as learning how to keep a deadline, layout a page and much, much more. This class will prepare you with skills in writing, editing and preparing layouts for newspapers as well as electronic media.

# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

## SEMESTER 2

### **MS Choir**

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

The MS Choir is a semester long course designed to provide an atmosphere for the enjoyment, appreciation and performance of all types of vocal music, including classical, jazz, pop, musical theatre, contemporary and multi-cultural genres. In addition to learning musical repertoire, students will continue to develop vocal technique - voice production, diction (pronunciation), breathing and intonation, as well as gaining rhythmic and melodic music-reading skills, as well as sight-singing and ear training skills. They will also learn about the elements of music, music theory, the use of IT to create, re-create and appreciate vocal music, and learn about the historical/cultural significance of their musical repertoire. Students are expected to attend all performances which will range from school assemblies and lunchtime recitals to shopping mall performances and formal evening concerts in the School Theatre.

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**Length:** Half Year

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*It is by the discretion of the teacher if drama students will be part of the drama production.*

### **Painting**

**Length:** Half Year

Students will learn about a variety of techniques, styles and material. They will work with watercolor, tempera, acrylic and palette knife. Units are designed based on art history, elements and principles of design and Malaysian culture. We will focus on technique, creativity, and experimentation.

# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

## SEMESTER 2

### **Computer Graphics**

**Length:** Half Year

Students will be introduced to the world of computer art and graphics but with a real-world view. They will learn the basics of Photoshop and Illustrator but projects will be more pragmatic. Projects will be real-life poster and logo designs, as well as magazine advertising that will be designed for other classes and groups around the school.

### **Digital Photography**

**Length:** Half Year

This semester-long, project-based course will advance each student's understanding and execution of digital capture, including the elements of exposure, texture, tone and composition. Photographic editing, manipulation and storage using Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Bridge will also be addressed in this course.

Due to the unique nature of this elective course, students must supply: (1) their own digital camera (see camera specifications below) and (2) their own memory cards (at least 2).

Camera specifications: fixed lens is okay as long as it has a minimal zoom capacity of 4x, at least 10 mega-pixel digital definition, and manual control capability for shutter speed, aperture, and ISO.

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**Length:** Half Year

This semester-long, project based course supports our Expected School-Wide Learning Results for Involved Citizens. Students will reflect on the world around them, how the world functions, and ways they can make a positive impact with a focus on service projects that support our school and local community needs. This course will use current articles, guest speakers, and student experiences to connect the students to global and local needs and guide them in developing service-based solutions. This course will support students for upcoming high school service learning requirements and through participation in 2-3 local community projects developed and selected by the students. Field trips will be scheduled to support these projects.

# FULL YEAR ELECTIVES

## Band

**Length:** Full Year

**Recommended prerequisite:** Two years of experience playing a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument or teacher approval.

Students will continue to develop their performance skills through the study of music on a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. Regular rehearsals will utilize modern method books and exciting ensemble repertoire, culminating in prominent school and public performances. The course will increase the student's understanding of music theory, music history and the role of Information Technology in the music industry. Listening and composition are an integral part of the course with students also completing a project on their instrument and on famous performers. There will be an opportunity to extend high achieving students through the challenge of playing in small music performance ensembles.

## String Orchestra

**Length:** Full Year

**Recommended prerequisite:** Two years of experience playing a stringed instrument or piano/keyboard or teacher approval.



The string orchestra is a performance-based class for students who have been playing the violin, viola, violoncello, double bass or piano/keyboard. Students will rehearse, perform, evaluate and discuss a wide variety of ensemble music, with a view to increasing their musical knowledge and participating in regular school and public performances. The course will increase the student's understanding of music theory, music history and the role of Information Technology in the music industry. Listening and composition are an integral part of the course with students also completing a project on their instrument and on famous performers. There will be an

opportunity to extend high achieving students through the challenge of playing in small music performance ensembles.

# STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES COURSES

## English Language Learners (ELL) 8

**Length:** Half Year or Full Year

**Open to:** Qualifying Students from Grade 8

**Prerequisite:** Approval by Coordinator-Student Support Services

**Note:** Non-Native English speakers may be required to take one or two ELL classes depending on their abilities. Once entered, students will remain in the ELL program for at least one semester. Students may exit the program only after successful completion of an English proficiency test, and recommendations by teachers.

This course is for students at an intermediate level in the acquisition of the English language. These learners of English will develop in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking through the study of grammar, daily language review, and will understand and apply the six traits writing process. Through an integration strategy, students in this class will also receive support on tasks related to the content of their other classes.

Special emphasis will be placed upon helping students feel and be successful by gaining an operative command of English for use in both socialization and academic situations.

## Learning Assistance 8

**Length:** Full Academic Year Half Year or Full Year

**Open to:** Qualifying Students from Grade 8

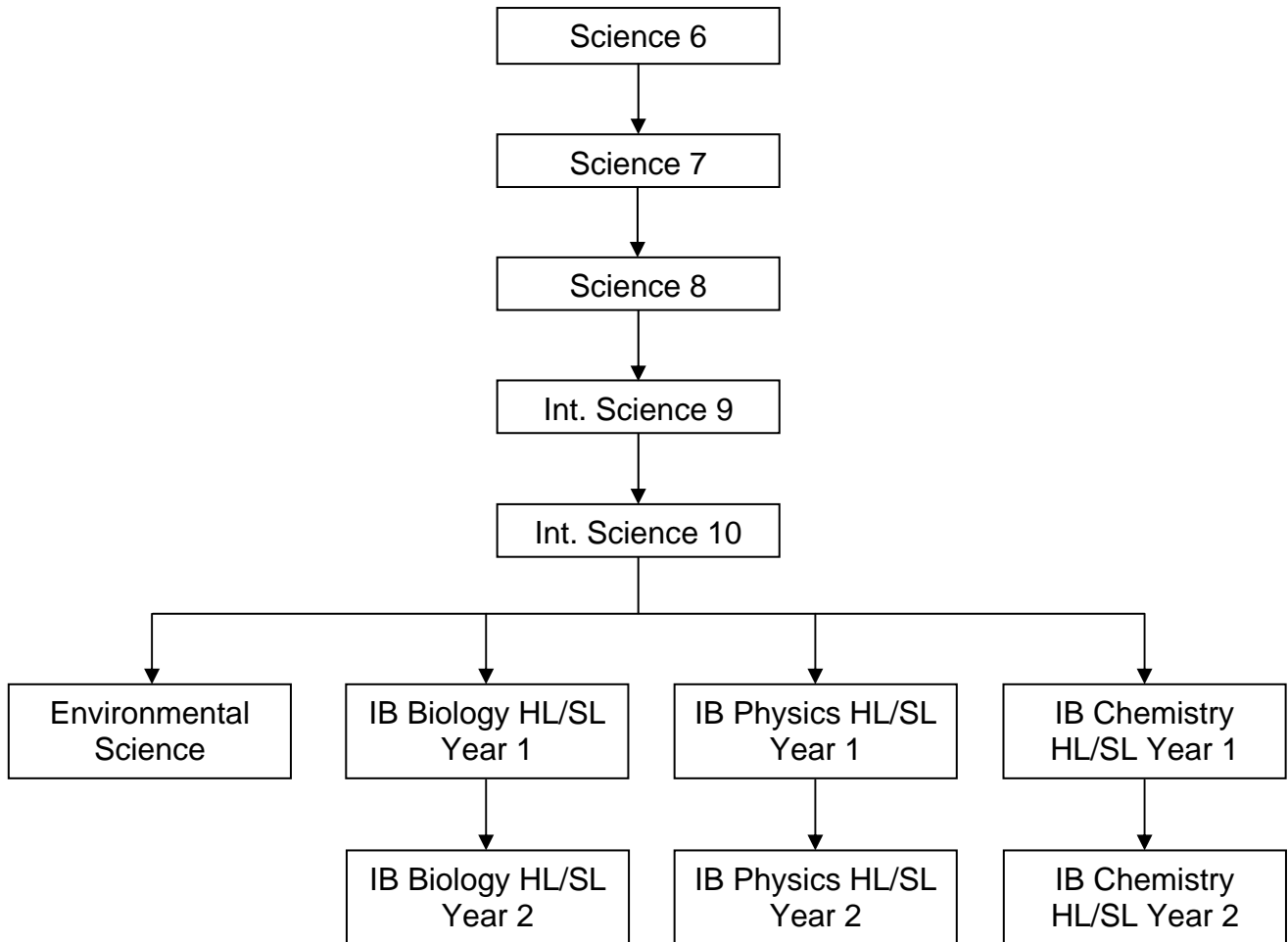
**Prerequisite:** Approval by Coordinator-Student Support Services

This is an individualized study course designed to support students in organization, time management, and the development of a wide range of learning strategies. Students who enter this course must have a current Individual Student Support Plan (ISSP) in place to qualify. An integrated instructional strategy is utilized. An important component of this program is the designation of a mentor teacher who will be available to lend support on a regular basis. Students may exit the program only after successful completion of an exit plan based on academic achievement, normative assessments and recommendations by teachers.

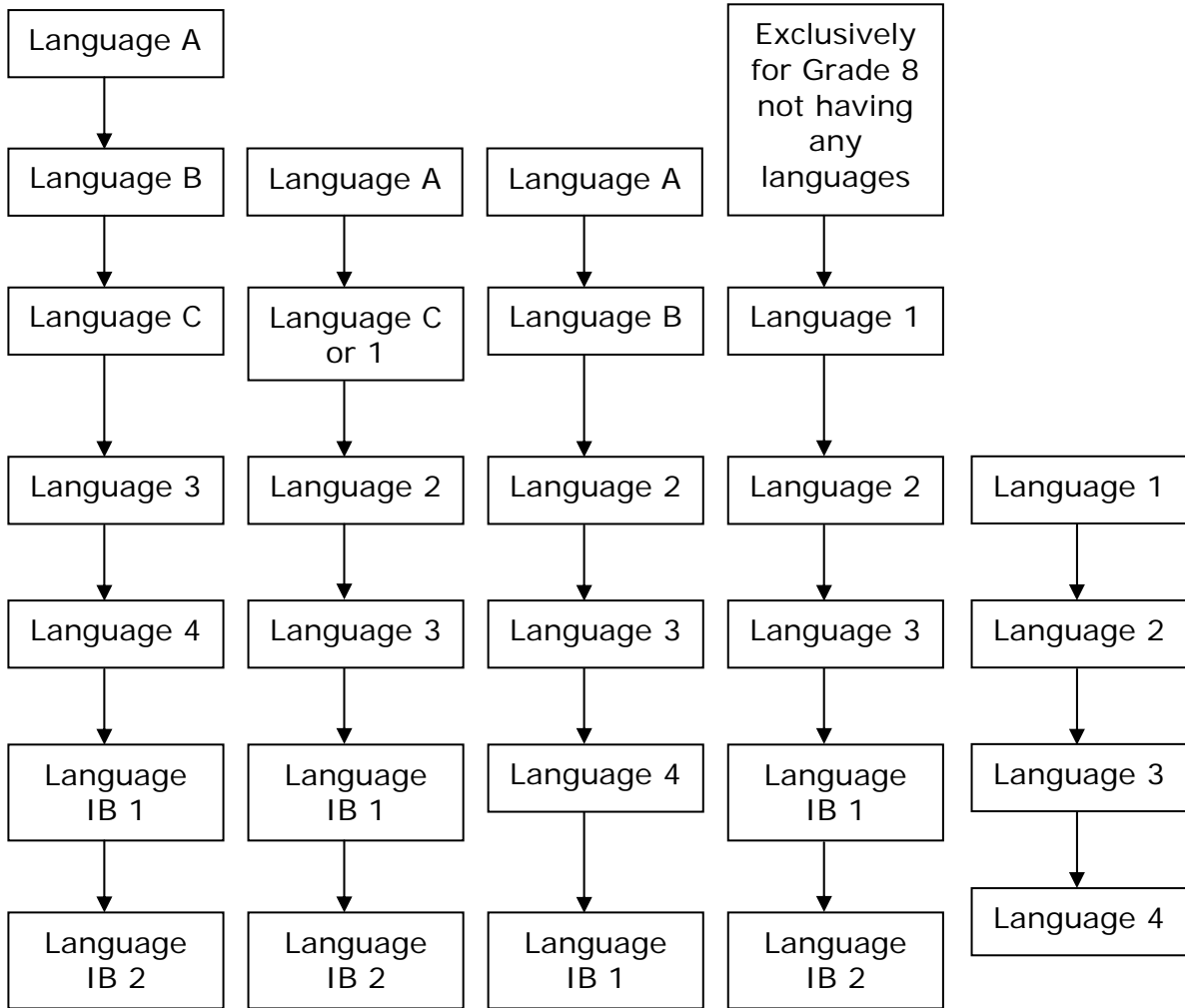
# Flow Charts



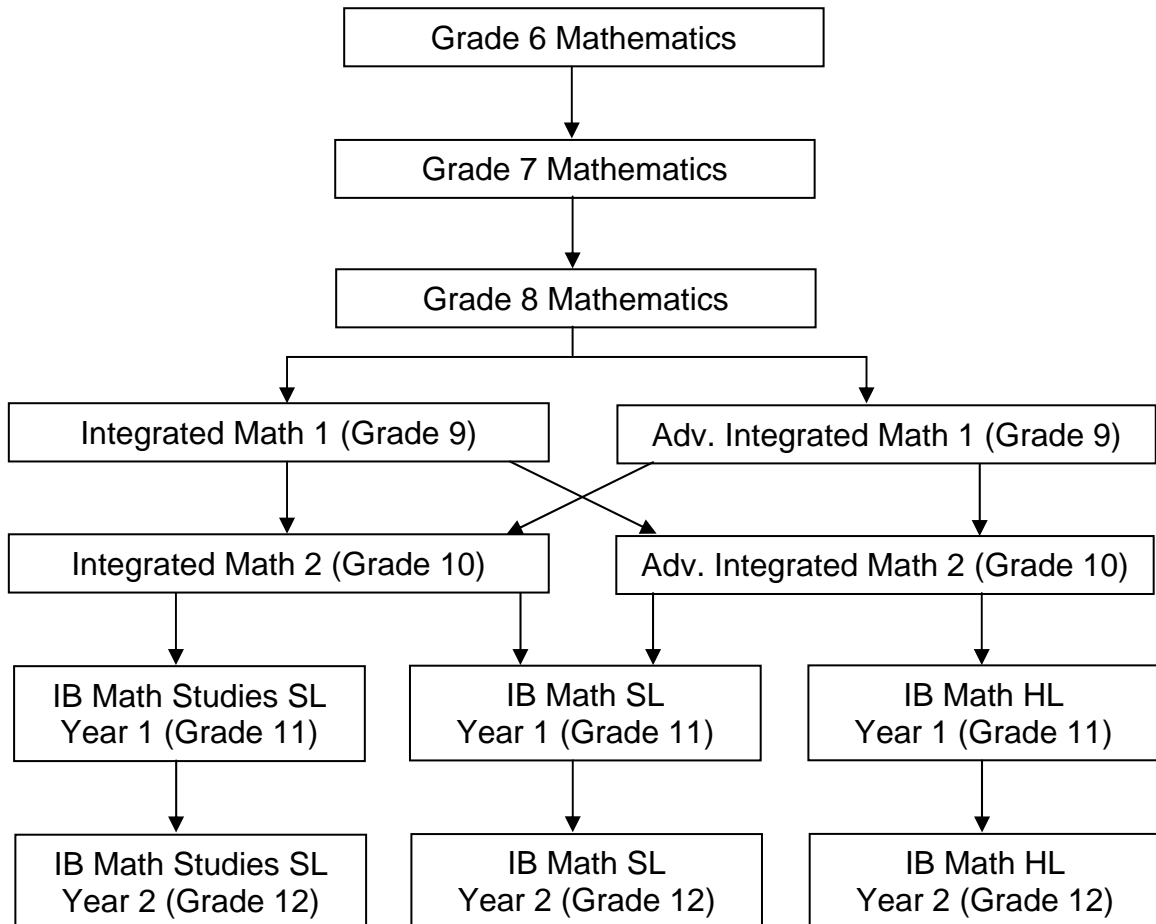
# SCIENCE FLOW CHART



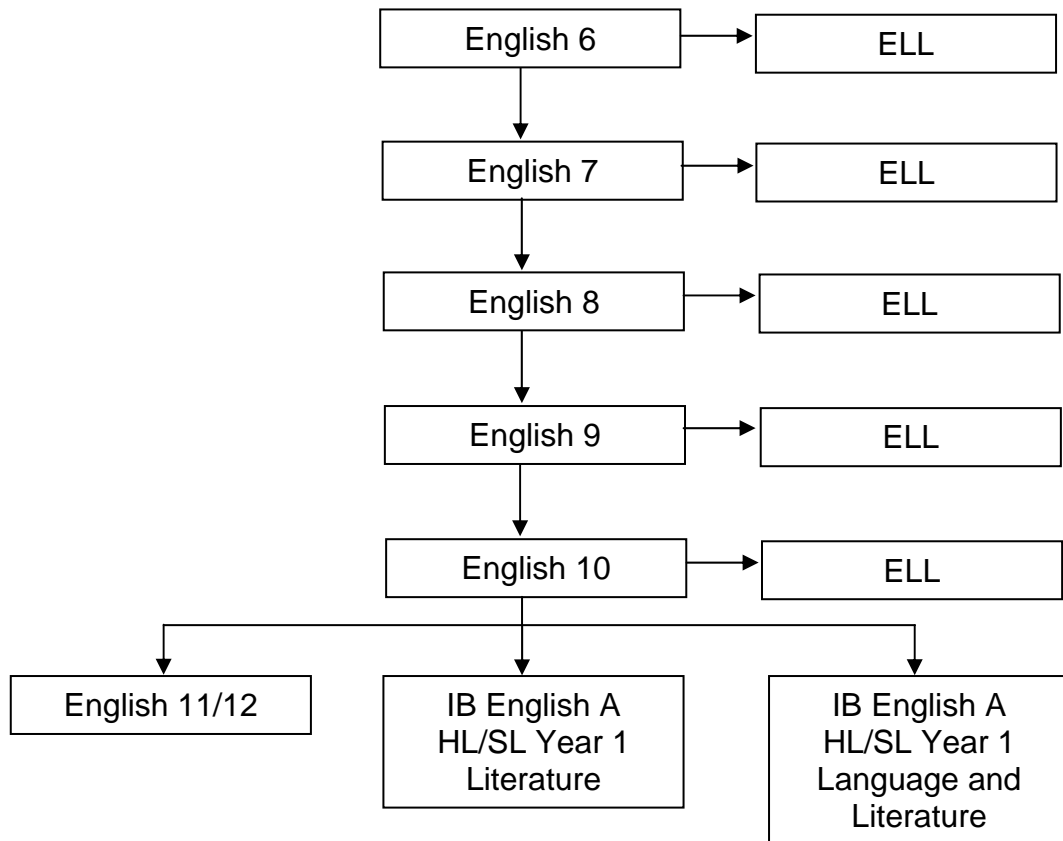
# LANGUAGE FLOW CHART



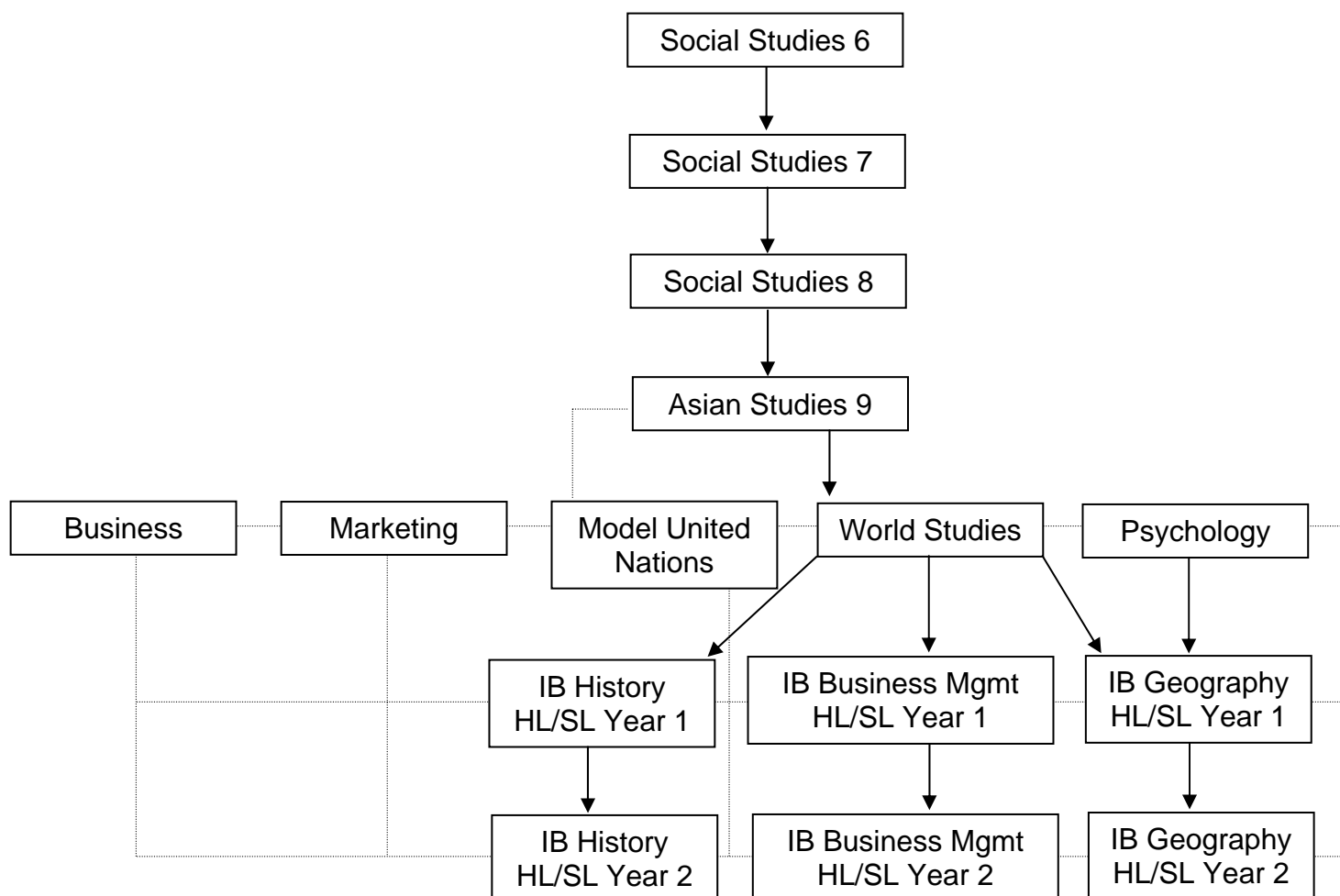
# MATHEMATICS FLOW CHART



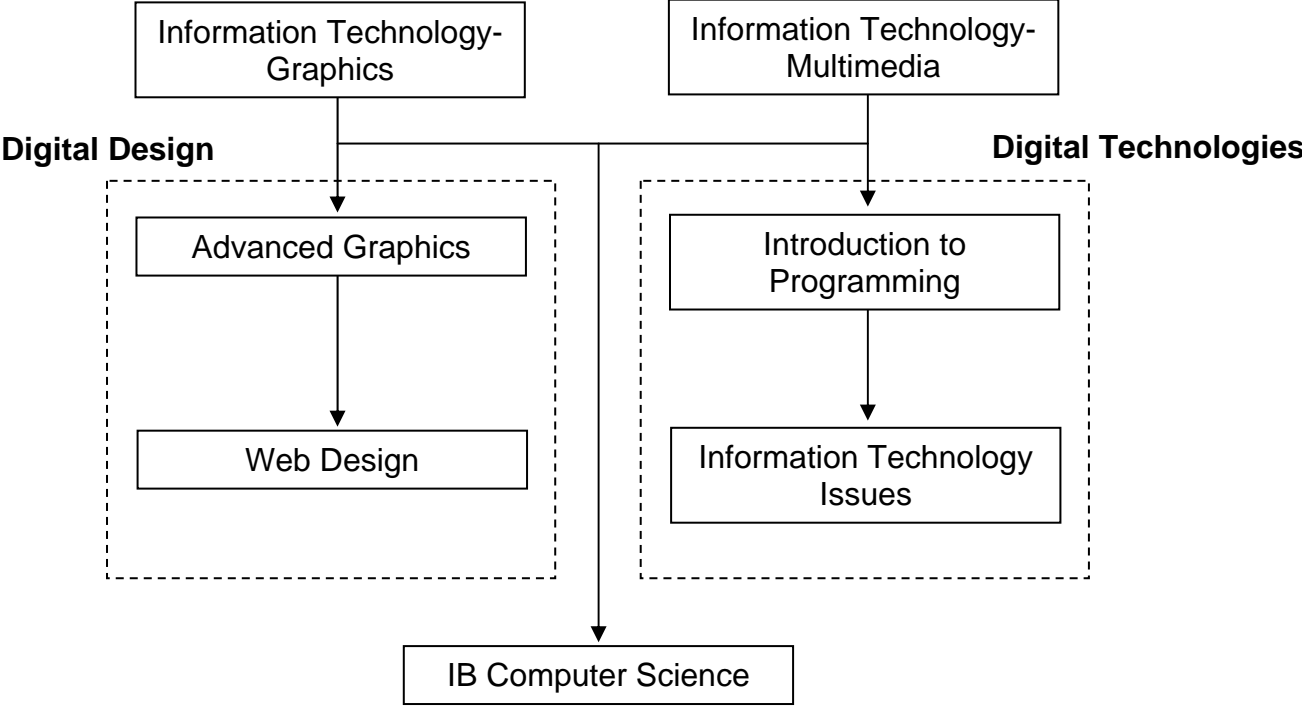
# ENGLISH FLOW CHART



# SOCIAL STUDIES FLOW CHART



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FLOW CHART





<http://www.mkis.edu.my>



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