

Seoul International School

Course Guide for Middle School 2022- 2023



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Vision Statement

Seoul International School will foster an earnest passion for learning that inspires students to work with others in creating a better world for all.

Mission Statement

Seoul International School develops inquisitive, independent thinkers and collaborative learners, who acquire the essential knowledge necessary to be caring and creative contributors to the world around them.

Core “TIGERS” Values

Students at Seoul International School will be:

- **T**rustworthy individuals who:
 - Demonstrate academic and personal integrity
 - Strive to reach their potential and have a realistic understanding of themselves
 - Volunteer time, energies and talents to improve the quality of life in the school
- **I**ndependent, critical thinkers who:
 - Solve problems creatively
 - Analyze, evaluate, synthesize and apply information
 - Show competence in research and study skills
- **G**lobal citizens who:
 - Value and preserve the environment
 - Understand that physical and mental well-being is a lifelong commitment
 - Accept and respect the diversity inherent in a multicultural world
- **E**ffective communicators who:
 - Understand oral and written information
 - Express themselves clearly, logically and creatively in oral, written and visual forms
 - Have the ability to integrate technology
- **R**eflective learners who:
 - Demonstrate knowledge with understanding
 - Apply and integrate skills and knowledge from multiple disciplines
 - Recognize and develop their strengths and talents
- **S**ocially responsible individuals who:
 - Collaborate meaningfully and efficiently on teams
 - Value their own contributions and those of others
 - Demonstrate responsibility and effective leaders

Middle School Grades 6, 7, and 8

Language Arts

Language Arts 6

Open To: 6
Leads To: Language Arts 7
Course Description:

In this course, students will be using a workshop format to develop the necessary skills and fluencies needed in a balanced reading and writing program. Typically there will be a mini-lesson, independent student reading and writing time, and conferences with the teacher, as well as opportunities to work in small groups to further develop their communicating, listening, and comprehending skills. Analysis of character, personal narratives, research-based information writing, study of text complexity, and essay writing are among topics of this course.

Language Arts 7

Open To: 7
Leads To: Language Arts 8
Course Description:

In this course, reading, writing and oral communication processes are developed and experienced in a workshop format. In the reader's workshops, students will be engaged in authentic reading experiences that develop reading strategies to improve fluency and comprehension. Students will explore a variety of genres, including narratives, historical fiction and nonfiction. The writer's workshops will incorporate collaboration, conferencing, and self-evaluation as students practice narrative, informational, and argumentative forms of writing.

Language Arts 8

Open To: 8
Leads To: English 9 & Communications 9
Course Description:

In this course, students will be using a workshop format to develop the necessary skills and fluencies needed to effectively analyze and discuss elements of literature, as well as develop students' writing and oral communication skills. Typically, there will be a mini-lesson, independent practice time, conferences with the teacher, as well as opportunities to work in small groups. Students will read and analyze a variety of genres, including cultural narratives, autobiographies/memoirs, nonfiction and media. The writing workshops will incorporate collaboration, conferencing, and self-reflection as students practice narrative, informational, and persuasive forms of writing. In addition, students will develop their public speaking skills by participating in debates and oral presentations.

Mathematics

Math 6

Open To: 6
Leads To: Math 7
Course Description:

This is an integrated math course. Topics include computational skills involving integers and rational numbers, proportional thinking (including percentages), setting up and solving simple linear equations and applying these skills in geometry, measurement, basic probability, and problem solving. The objective of the course is to provide students with a foundation for algebra and will apply skills to problem-solving situations.

Math 7

Open To:

7

Leads To:

Math 8

Course Description:

This course offers an integrated approach to mathematics. Topics include computational skills involving whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers as they relate to algebra, geometry, basic trigonometry, statistics, and problem solving. Math 7 helps students understand the “big picture” of mathematics to prepare them for Algebra I.

Math 8

Open To:

8

Leads To:

Geometry - Grade 9

Course Description:

This course is designed for students who have studied pre-algebra and covers the applications of algebraic relationships: linear equations, inequalities, and systems; polynomials with factoring; quadratic equations and functions; and radical expressions and equations. This course prepares students for Geometry 9.

Science

Science 6

Open To:

6

Leads To:

Science 7

Course Description:

Science 6 is an introductory course in which students will gain experience using the scientific method and critical thinking while studying disciplines of chemistry, biology, earth science, and physics. Students will develop methods of inquiry and be asked to delve into what they are curious about in science. Critical thinking will motivate students to question scientific explanations and confront current issues in science.

Science 7

Open To:

7

Leads To:

Science 8

Course Description:

Science 7 explores numerous scientific disciplines. Students are introduced to and discover a variety of topics such as geology, biology, physics, and environmental science. Students are encouraged to think scientifically, draw

conclusions and make connections. Methods of instruction include hands-on learning, reading, researching, reporting, investigating and experimenting.

Science 8

Open To: 8
Leads To: Biology & Ecology - Grade 9
Course Description:

Science 8 starts out bubbling with investigations about chemical reactions. We will learn how atoms, molecules, and compounds react and identify chemical reactions in our everyday lives. The journey of chemistry continues into biology as we construct models of the essential molecule of DNA. We will learn about the relationship between DNA, genes, chromosomes, proteins and traits to understand our own characteristics as well as our genetic relationship to all living organisms. This leads us to our last destination in 8th grade science, an introduction to ecology. The year will culminate with an end of course STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) project that has an emphasis on the human impact on the environment.

Social Studies

Social Studies 6

Open To: 6
Leads To: Social Studies 7
Course Description:

The 6th Grade Social Studies curriculum is a foundation in the study of geography. Students will focus on the physical and human characteristics of the earth, developing a deeper understanding of our planet and our place in it. Students will also learn map skills, processes shaping the earth, and the elements of culture all while highlighting Latin America, East Asia, and North America.

Social Studies 7

Open To: 7
Leads To: Social Studies 8
Course Description:

Social Studies 7 is primarily a geography course organized around the essential question of how cooperation and conflict have shaped the progress and development of our world over time. The course also integrates history, economics, and current issues. There are regional units on the Africa and South Asia, and a culminating unit on the Holocaust and 20th Century Genocide. The central themes throughout the course are the causes of social and political conflict and the development challenges facing poorer nations. Students will acquire general world geographic literacy while developing critical writing, reading, speaking, technology, and research skills.

Social Studies 8

Open To: 8
Leads To: World History - Grade 9
Course Description:

Social Studies 8 is a World History course organized around the essential question *Why Do Empires Rise and Fall?* Students will move chronologically

through the empires of the early Classical Period, the Middle Ages, the Early Modern Period, and the 20th century. There will be an emphasis on global coverage embedded in each of the units. In this way, students will be able to learn history through a comparative study that looks at wide range of different civilizations across the globe. Students will learn to: 1) identify, evaluate and analyze a variety of primary and secondary sources, 2) learn how scholars assess and revise the work of past historians, and 3) develop and support arguments based upon reliable evidence.

Art

Middle School Art

Open To: 6-8
Leads To: High School Art
Course Description:

Middle School Art is an exciting, comprehensive course that introduces students to a variety of historical periods, art skills, and artistic techniques. With a focus on art history and the elements and principles of design, units will cover such subjects as drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and digital technology. Work ethic and personal growth will be emphasized throughout the course. Students will be encouraged to do their personal best, to grow as individuals, and to have fun.

Art in the Middle School is designed to be engaging and developmentally appropriate for each individual student. The course may be repeated as often as a student chooses throughout the three years of Middle School. Students with skills from beginner to advanced will have the opportunity to learn and grow throughout each course.

Makerspace

Open to: 6-7
Course Description:

In our 6th & 7th Makerspace class, students will work on various hands-on projects that aim to foster inquiry, experiential learning, and technical competence. They will utilize a range of 2D and 3D materials and tools, such as, recyclables, circuit components, and appropriate and safe usage of shop machinery including a bandsaw, a drill press, and belt and disc sanders and convert their ideas into physical representations. In addition, they will have multiple opportunities to engage in meaningful discussions and learn to articulate their design processes. Topics that will be discussed include, but are not limited to, self-awareness, social justice, and sustainability. This course will help students not only deepen their understanding and appreciation of the world, but also build soft skills that are important in today's job market.

Band, Choir and Strings

Middle School Prelude Band

Open To: 6
Prerequisite(s): Must have basic ability to play a band instrument
Leads To: Middle School Opus Band or Middle School Coda Orchestra

Course Description:

The Prelude Band is where we begin to develop ensemble skills in young musicians. Students who already have basic ability to play a band instrument are encouraged to join. Through performance and rehearsal opportunities, students will develop greater skill on their individual instrument as well as listening and performance skills associated with performing in a large group. All assessments and evaluations in this course are designed to ensure that all students develop musically and perform at their full potential. Participation and practice are the key elements towards success in this program.

Middle School Opus Band

Open To: 7-8

Prerequisite(s): Students must have developing ability to play a band instrument

Leads To: High School Band

Course Description:

The Opus Band is designed to combine a rigorous music curriculum with a high quality performance experience. The opportunity to perform quality music repertoire is not only a rewarding and team building experience, but leads to the raising of self-esteem and the feeling of belonging to something successful and meaningful. All assessments and evaluations in this course are designed to ensure that all students develop musically and perform at their full potential. Participation and practice are the key elements towards success in this program. In order to provide a full orchestra experience, the Opus Strings and Opus Band will include a full orchestra unit in semester 2 and perform at the Spring Concert.

Middle School Prelude Strings

Open To: 6

Prerequisite(s): At least 1-2 years of experience on a string instrument, except for string bass

Recommendation Required: New students will be recommended after an audition in August

Leads To: Middle School Opus Strings or Middle School Coda Orchestra

Course Description:

The Strings program provides students with the opportunity to play in a string orchestra setting. These classes rehearse every other day and will run the entire year. Students will perform in the winter and spring concerts as well in other music events. Basic playing techniques are reviewed and Intermediate techniques are introduced through a variety of scales, etudes and string orchestra repertoire. Students will play level appropriate repertoire (1.5-2.5) on a scale of 1-6. In addition, students will study music literacy, knowledge of music terminology, and music theory.

Middle School Opus Strings

Open To: 7-8

Prerequisite(s): At least 2-3 years experience on a string instrument, except for string bass

Recommendation Required: Yes

Leads To: High School Strings

Course Description:

The Strings program provides students with the opportunity to play in a string orchestra setting. These classes rehearse every other day and will run the entire year. Students will perform in the winter and spring concerts as well in other music events. Intermediate playing techniques are reviewed and more advanced techniques are introduced through a variety of scales, etudes and string orchestra repertoire. Students will play level appropriate repertoire (2-3) on a scale of 1-6. In addition, students will study music literacy, knowledge of music terminology, and music theory. In order to provide a full orchestra experience, the Opus Strings and Opus Band will include a full orchestra unit in semester 2 and perform at the Spring Concert.

Middle School Choir 6/7

Open To: 6-7
Leads To: Middle School Opus Choir
Course Description:

Students study and practice the art of singing within the context of a treble choral ensemble. Concepts of tone production, technique, and articulation will be introduced. Students will also be introduced to the concepts of changing voice, which they will experience later in middle school. In addition, students will study music literacy (sight-singing), knowledge of music terminology, and basic (level 1) music theory. In choir, students will encounter numerous musical styles, levels and genres of choral music performances. Through a combination of classroom study and ensemble rehearsal, students will be introduced to the choral art in which they will learn the importance of aesthetic expression and the joy of singing. Prelude Choir offers students accompanist opportunities.

Middle School Opus Choir

Open To: 8 and 7 by teacher recommendation
Leads To: High School Choir
Course Description:

Students continue to study and practice the art of treble singing that is part of the middle school music curriculum. Within the context of a choral ensemble, concepts of tone production, technique, and articulation are studied. Students also study the concepts of changing voice which some experience at this level. In addition, students continue to study music literacy (sight-singing), knowledge of music terminology, and music theory. In choir, students will encounter numerous musical styles, levels and genre of choral music performances. Through a combination of classroom study and ensemble rehearsal, students study the choral art in which they will learn the importance of aesthetic expression and the joy of singing.

Drama

Middle School Drama

Open To: 6-8
Leads To: High School Drama
Course Description:

Grade 6/7 Drama is an elective foundation course - students are not required to have had any Drama experience. It's fun to learn how to use voice, body language, text, sound, and other elements of Drama to communicate with audiences. Through creative and collaborative activities, students develop critical thinking skills and self-confidence. Projects include *Storytelling*, *Theatre Sports*, *Text*, *Character*, and *Bullying*. This course leads to Grade 7 Drama.

Grade 8 Drama is a bridging course between middle and high school, focusing on creating, performing, and responding to theatre. This stage provides opportunities for interested students to direct their peers. There are many opportunities to perform in Grade 8 Drama, making this an enjoyable, engaging, and accessible course.

Physical Education and Health

Physical Education and Health

Open To: 6-8
Leads To: Physical Education - Grade 9
Course Description:

A comprehensive program of physical education in middle school provides students with the opportunity to learn and develop a variety of skills at their appropriate level. In grade 6 students are exposed to basic motor skills applicable to individual and team sports, which are further built upon in grade 7. In grade 8, students are continuing to develop skills leaning towards application into game play. This course is created to promote a healthy lifestyle through different fitness activities while reinforcing a spirit of cooperation, fair play, and sportsmanship.

World Languages

Chinese

Open to: 8
Leads To:
Course Description:
Chinese 1 is an introductory course to Mandarin Chinese (Standard Chinese). With communicative classroom activities and online practice, this course seeks to help students acquire rudimentary knowledge of Chinese and develop basic skills in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing. By the end of the course, students are expected to have a good command of the pronunciation system and basic grammar, be able to conduct daily conversation in simple Chinese, and to read and write short passages. In addition, students will be exposed to Chinese culture in order to better understand the cultural background in which their language skills will be used.

Spanish

Open to: 8
Leads to:
Course Description:
In this beginning course, students will build a foundation for language study

centered on speaking, listening, reading, writing, and culture. Even as beginners, students will use Spanish daily to express ideas, ask questions, interpret authentic materials, and build on previous learning. In addition to new vocabulary and grammar concepts learned, students will also be introduced to relevant cultural and geographical information. Spanish 1 is an engaging and interactive class designed to ignite interest in the Spanish language and Spanish speaking culture.

Supplementary Courses

Sixth and seventh grade students will take content-specific supplementary courses throughout the year. These courses will be one quarter in length. Students will receive a grade for these courses. The courses are as follows:

Introductory Chinese Level 1

Open to: 6

Leads To:

Course Description:

This course aims to help students get a taste of learning Chinese through a variety of interactive activities. Students will also gain a basic knowledge of Chinese culture.

Introductory Spanish Level 1

Open to:

Course Description:

Students will be introduced to the Spanish speaking world. Students can expect to learn numbers, letters, greetings, and other important phrases. They will also explore Spanish-speaking cultures by studying their music, dance, geography, and history.

Art History

Open to: Grade 6

Course Description:

This class will introduce students to basic elements of visual literacy through the exploration of art history in a variety of cultural traditions, geographic locations, and chronological periods. Students will learn about principles of design and form while exploring the art of different societies and cultures.

Current Events

Open to: Grade 6

Course Description:

Using current events, this elective course focuses on world and local issues that affect students' everyday lives. This course uses online news sources, cartoons, and newscasts to support class discussion and activities.

Creative Writing

Open to: Grade 6

Course Description:

In this supplementary course, students will explore creative writing genres and produce their original works that will captivate their readers. Some of the techniques the students will focus on are setting, point of view, description, use of language, and dialogue. Students will write scenes from prompts, short stories, and poems.

Fantasy in the Round

Open to:

Grade 6

Course Description:

You will get to work in small book clubs, reading a fantasy novel, and discuss how authors develop characters, setting, and themes in their stories. In this class, you will learn about roles and expectations of a literature circle. Learn alongside the characters and discover classic symbols that you, as readers, encounter!

Innovation Time

Open to:

Grade 6

Course Description:

Innovation Time is a quarter long course offered to 6th graders. Students will work on one project for the duration of the entire quarter. The project that the students work on is completely decided on by the individual student or group. They must meet the following criteria for their project idea to be approved: Are they passionate or very interested in the topic?, Is the project creative?, Will the project challenge them?, and Is the project innovative?. The students must use critical thinking and problem solving skills to guarantee they have a successful project.

Probability

Open to:

Grade 6

Course Description:

In this class, students will look at situations involving probability and expected value. They will learn how probabilities are used to make decisions and help predict long term outcomes. The following topics are included: Comparison of experimental and theoretical probabilities, design of "fair" games using knowledge of predicted outcomes, analysis of compound probabilities, use of area models to determine probabilities, appreciation for the usefulness of probability and expected value in everyday life.

Celebrating Human Ingenuity in Science and Engineering

Open to:

Grade 7

Course Description:

This course allows students to explore the processes and products of human ingenuity and creativity, and to consider their impact on life and society. Additionally, this course will also provide opportunities for students to appreciate the human capacity to create, transform, enjoy and improve the quality of life. Students will be able to explore more notable people in the areas of Science, Technology, and Engineering.

Exploring Data & Statistics

Open to: Grade 7

Course Description:

In this class students explore different ways of collecting and analyzing data to answer proposed questions. Using a process of statistical investigation students will evaluate samples, compare and analyze sample distributions using various statistical tools, use graphical displays to represent data and finally interpret data as well as the analysis to draw conclusions.

The Hero's Journey

Open to: Grade 7

Course Description:

Through a variety of mediums, novels, short stories, comic books, and movies, students will analyze the hero myth narrative. This is a common narrative template that involves a hero who goes on an adventure, is victorious in a crisis, and returns home transformed. Students will read, watch, and analyze classic as well as modern examples of this narrative structure.

History Through Film

Open to: Grade 7

Course Description:

We learn history in many ways. One of the most enjoyable and powerful ways we learn history is by watching films. History through Film will explore a variety of historical film genres; historical fiction, biography, and documentary. Students will be asked to watch, discuss and critique films. There will be a variety of hands-on creative projects to assess understanding and critical response to the films.

Teacher-Led Elective Classes

SIS Middle School values promote exploration and well-roundedness. To that end, we offer elective courses to our sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. Courses vary year-to-year based on student interest. The courses are each one quarter long which allows students to experience four per year. Students will not receive a grade for these courses. The courses for next year are as follows:

Arts and Crafts

Open to: Grade 6

Course Description:

This class is for students who love being creative and doing crafts. Students will have an opportunity to explore creativity and imagination while crafting various art projects. We will discover a variety of fun techniques and approaches all while learning valuable skills. This class is for all levels of crafters (beginner to advanced).

Robotics

Open to: Grade 7

Course Description:

Do you want to build and program robots? Robotics might be the ELECTIVE course for you. This elective course will provide you opportunities to build on skills like collaboration, communication, creativity and problem-solving. We will be using EV3 Mindstorm kit. You will also get to apply math and science concepts in Robotics. This course will give you a chance to get hands-on experience with an array of sensors, motors and intelligent units.

Chess & Othello

Open to:

Grade 7

Course Description:

The popularity of both these board games can be attributed to the growing depth of complex strategies that can be employed as a player becomes more proficient and knowledgeable about either game. The intent of this elective is to have students explore both games and learn the differing strategies at a level that meets their experience. Students do not need to have any previous experience in either game to participate.

Movie Review

Open to:

Grade 7-8

Course Description:

Do you like to talk about your opinions after watching a movie? In this elective, you will be able to offer your views on acting, writing, editing, cinematography, and more after watching movies. You will provide an analysis of each film and be able to compare it to other films of the same genre. We will even host an Academy Award!

School Of Rock

Open to:

Grade 7-8

Course Description:

This elective is for students that have a hidden desire to "rock and roll". There will be opportunities to learn to play guitar, bass, and ukulele, and to develop your voice. Students may also choose to create digital music and music videos using GarageBand and iMovie. Finally, we will also learn about, and listen to some of the most notable "rock" and "pop" performers of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Improv

Open to:

Grade 7-8

Course Description:

This is a performance-based course in which students will explore the fundamentals of improvisation for creating characters and scenes. Students will learn how to act out these scenes in teams against other students in short competitive tournaments. The last session will involve a Theatresports tournament open to the school community. Drama or performance experience preferred - so if you like improvising, then this is for

Props and Plays

Open to:

Grades 7-8

Course Description:

This is a stage tech-based course in which students will mainly explore the fundamentals of stage design and prop construction. Students will learn how to create physical environments for mini scenes and short plays. The final project will involve staging a scene for the school community. If there is time, we may also delve into costuming, sound design and stage make-up. Drama experience is preferred but not essential - as there will be performance work experimenting with created props and sets.

Jr. Model United Nations

Open to: Grade 8

Course Description:

This intro to MUN course for 8th grade students will include information and instructions for participating in MUN including how to perform topic research, policy statement writing, opening speech delivery and resolution writing. Apart from learning the procedures of MUN, students will learn about the history and mission of the United Nations and have the opportunity to research and understand contemporary global issues and topics.

Around the World

Open to: Grade 6-8

Course Description:

This course will offer a space for students and the instructor to take a deep dive into a different country every week. We will explore each country from a variety of angles, ranging from politics, arts and culture, society, technology, current events, economics, linguistics, geography, and any other aspect we deem interesting. These explorations will help crystallize our understanding of how and why current world maps came to look the way they look and also gain an appreciation for the cultural richness of our globe.

Media Arts

Open to: Grade 6

Course Description:

This class introduces students to the world of media arts and builds excitement for the discipline. In this elective, students work individually and collaboratively to learn the basic digital design and video production skills.

Podcasting

Open to: Grade 6

Course Description:

One of the most popular modern media these days are podcasts. There are podcasts for everything from cooking to education to entertainment and more. All on demand. In this course you'll learn podcasting from the inside out, we'll find topics we like and learn how to create something of our own that is similar. We'll learn sound editing, interview skills, storytelling strategies, and production skills. All will culminate where we will create and produce episodes of our own podcasts!

Broadcasting

Open to:

Grade 6

Course Description:

Everyone from big-budgeted Hollywood productions to Mukbang YouTubers and vloggers utilize the power of a green screen. I'm sure you have seen them before but this will be your opportunity to gain a better understanding of how broadcasting and production work. In this elective, we will also be diving into investigative journalism by practicing interviewing skills and building empathy around the stories of our diverse community.

Additional Classes

Language Arts Support

In Language Arts Support, students build on the instruction from their Language Arts classes in a smaller group setting. Students work with the instructor to develop skills and strategies to become stronger readers, writers, and communicators across all of their content area courses. Each student will focus on completing tasks designed to help demonstrate his/her potential. Major emphasis is placed on helping students develop active study strategies, as well as note taking, test taking, organizational, and time/task management skills.

Math Support

In Math Support, students build on their Mathematics instruction in a smaller group setting. Each student will focus on completing tasks designed to help demonstrate his/her potential. The major goals include reviewing content from grade-level math classes and basic math skills. Emphasis is also placed on helping students develop active study strategies including test taking, organizational, and time/task management skills.

Science Support

In Science Support, students build upon their scientific knowledge in a one to one or small group setting. Students will be able to use this time to complete class assignments and supplemental activities in order to develop a stronger understanding of course material. This class will also focus on assisting students in developing effective study strategies and organizational skills.

Advisory

Advisory period occurs Monday-Thursday and provides an opportunity for students to check in and ensure that every student knows he/she has an important place in the school community. All Middle School students have a faculty advisor who serves as a trusted adult, mentor, and advocate in the life of the student, and who leads the lessons and activities provided to them. Grade-levels have specific curriculum covering topics that are relevant and appropriate to their developmental stage. Each advisory group is also responsible for coordinating several grade-level assemblies throughout the year.

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