

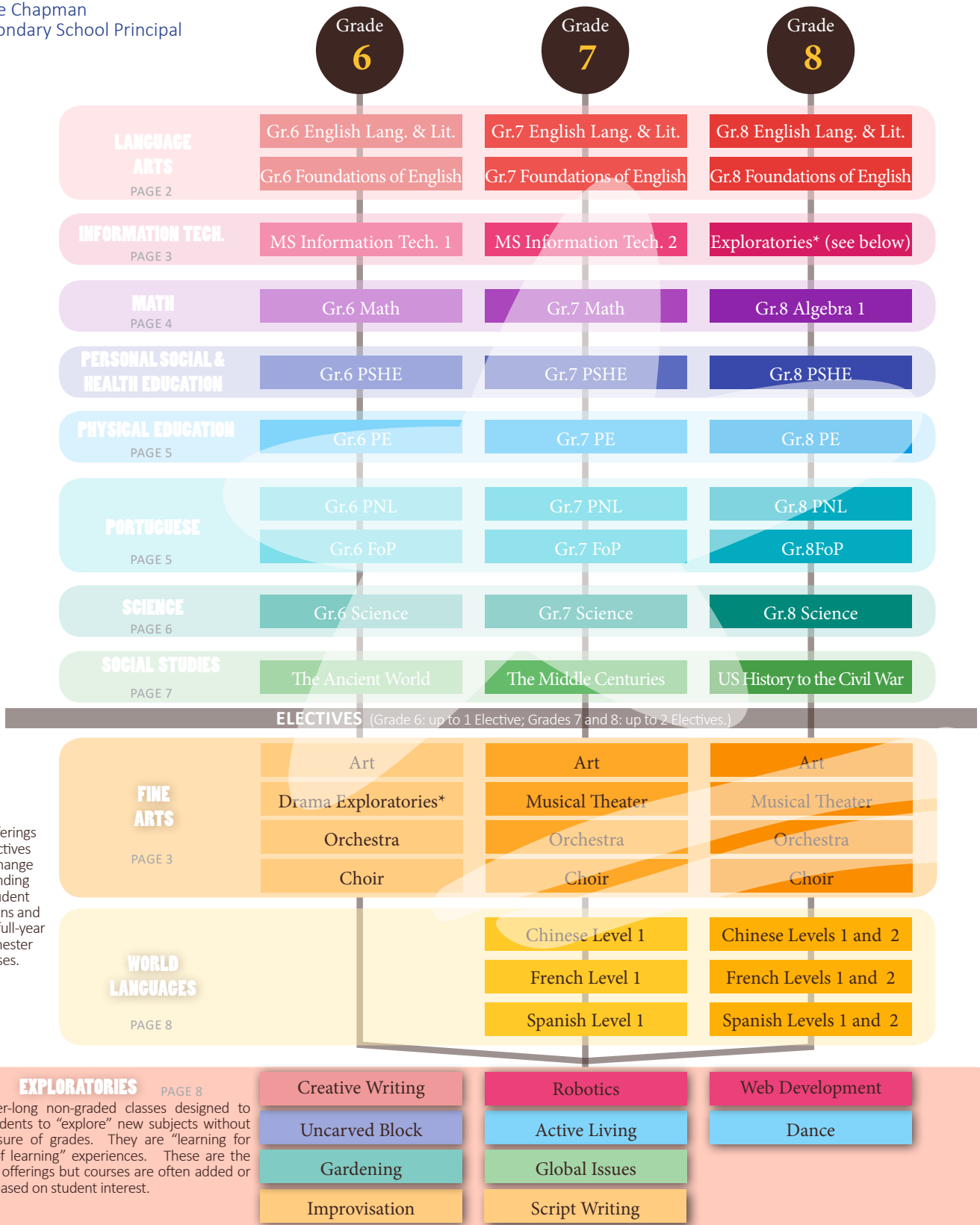
CAISL Middle School Curriculum Overview

INTRODUCTION

The Middle School program allows students to expand upon the skills and knowledge acquired during Elementary School while setting the academic foundations needed for High School. Middle School students continue to develop their critical thinking and organizational skills in an environment which encourages independence and academic risk-taking. Middle School students are provided with the opportunity to take elective classes in the Arts and Information Technology and, beginning in Grade 7, they may take an additional language.



Nate Chapman
Secondary School Principal



The offerings of Electives may change depending on student selections and may be full-year or semester classes.

*Semester-long non-graded classes designed to allow students to “explore” new subjects without the pressure of grades. They are “learning for the joy of learning” experiences. These are the probable offerings but courses are often added or deleted based on student interest.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Gr.6 English Language and Literature

In sixth grade, students read a variety of literature, comparing and contrasting texts of different genres. Students determine the theme, or central idea of a text, and how it is conveyed through particular details. They study how a story's plot unfolds in a series of episodes (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution), how characters evolve over the course of the story's action, and how the author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text. Students determine the meaning of words, including connotative and figurative, and analyze the impact of specific word choice on meaning and tone.

Students in sixth grade write routinely over both extended and short time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. They write arguments and informational text, supporting claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. They write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences using relevant descriptive details and well-structured event sequences. With some guidance and support from peers and adults, the students develop and strengthen their writing as needed, which incorporates the use of technology during development, collaboration, and production.

Sixth graders engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. They interpret information presented in diverse media and formats, and explain how it contributes to a topic or text under study. Students delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from those that are not. Students present claims and findings, including multimedia components and visual displays for clarification, and demonstrate command of formal register.

Gr.7 English Language and Literature

In seventh grade, students read a variety of literature, becoming more familiar with the language of literary analysis. Students determine the theme, or central idea of a text, analyze its development throughout the text, and provide an objective summary of the text. An important feature of seventh grade English is the use of textual evidence, both explicit and inferred, to support summary and analysis. In addition to determining the meaning of figurative and connotative language in a text, students think about authorial choice and consider the effects of a particular sound, word, or phrase on the reader. Furthermore, students analyze how the form or structure of a work contributes to its overall meaning.

Students in seventh grade write routinely over both extended and short time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. They use the writing process to write well-organized, multi-paragraph texts, with an introduction, a clear thesis statement, relevant supporting details, precise language and visual imagery, appropriate register, and a conclusion. Their writing incorporates the use of technology during development, collaboration, and production.

Seventh graders listen critically to speakers and media presentations, identify and analyze information from a variety of formats, engage in collaborative discussions, and deliver oral presentations. Students follow rules for collegial discussions, pose questions that elicit elaboration, and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant observations. In their presentations, students include multimedia components and visual aids for clarification, use appropriate eye contact and volume, and apply the same conventions of Standard English when speaking as in writing.

Gr.8 English Language and Literature

In eighth grade, students read a variety of literature, becoming more familiar with the language of literary analysis. Students determine the theme, or central idea of a text, analyze its development throughout the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting and plot, as well as analyzing how a text makes connections and distinctions through comparisons, analogies or categories. An important feature of eighth grade English is the use of textual evidence, both explicit and inferred, to support summary and analysis. In addition to determining the meaning of figurative and connotative language in a text, students think about authorial choice and analyze the role of particular sentences in developing and refining key concepts.

Eighth grade students write routinely over both extended and short time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. They use the writing process to write well-organized, multi-paragraph texts, with an introduction, a clear thesis statement, relevant supporting details, precise language and visual imagery, formal style and appropriate conclusion. Their writing incorporates the use of technology during development, collaboration, and production.

Students in eighth grade listen critically to speakers and media presentations, identify and analyze information from a variety of formats, engage in collaborative discussions, and deliver oral presentations. They follow rules for collegial discussions, pose questions that elicit elaboration, and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant observations. In their presentations, students include multimedia components and visual aids for clarification, use appropriate eye contact and volume, and apply the same conventions of Standard English when speaking as in writing.

Students who need language support to access curriculum in English are enrolled in the “Foundations of English Classes” which is designed to teach students to become socially and academically competent in English. Students who demonstrate beginner through advanced levels are designated as part of the program. Secondary students are given support based on their individual needs and may receive support in small Foundations of English groups, sheltered classes for science or history, or supported immersion in grade level classes.

Foundations of English teachers regularly monitor student progress during the year. English language curriculum is delivered through the Foundations of English Program which assesses each student individually on his or her progress. As students gain proficiency, adaptations are made to their program. This is done through work samples, observations, and official testing. Students transition from Foundations of English when they show the ability to produce work and demonstrate comprehension mostly comparable to their grade level peers.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Every Middle School student is taught how to use IT programs to support and enhance their work. Teachers of English, Math, Science, and Social Studies incorporate instruction in Basic Computer Operations, Research, Essay Production, Spreadsheet, and PowerPoint into their lessons as their use is valuable for the assignments they are doing. The full IT Skills Scope and Sequence can be found [on this link](#).

MS Information Technology 1

During this semester course, students will be exposed to a text-based programming language. This course covers some of the most important fundamental coding concepts, such as algorithms and debugging, sequence instructions, and loops to control program flow. Basic operations and concepts will also be covered during class time.

MS Information Technology 2

In this 18 hour-course, the students will be exposed to a coding-platform where they will advance their programming knowledge by including functions, events, and basic elements of game design using Python programming language. Coding lessons will be assigned according to student previous knowledge on this skill. Students will also develop an understanding of computer science principles that underlie all digital technologies. Information Technology 2 may be taken without having previously taken MS Information Technology 1.

Exploratories

Exploratories in Robotics, Coding, and Web Development are offered as one semester, non-graded classes, which encourage students to “explore” the subject. Exploratories are further explained at the end of this document.

MATH

Gr.6 Math

In order to cultivate an in-depth understanding of mathematics, students focus on developing their process skills through mathematical practices. They make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments, and critique the reasoning of others. Students model with mathematics and use appropriate tools strategically. They attend to precision, look for and make use of structure and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning. Process skills are the essential elements for the mastering of math and will be developed through the critical areas of focus shown below:

1. Apply previous experiences with multiplication, division, and fractions to develop an understanding of rate and ratio as well as completing concepts concerning dividing fractions.
2. Expand student’s understanding of the number system with the introduction of negative integers.
3. Introduce algebraic expressions and equations.
4. Develop statistical thinking.

Gr.7 Math

In order to cultivate an in-depth understanding of mathematics, students focus on developing their process skills through mathematical practices. They make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments, and critique the reasoning of others. Students model with mathematics and use appropriate tools strategically. They attend to precision, look for and make use of structure and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning. Process skills are the essential elements for the mastering of math and will be developed through the critical areas of focus shown below.

1. Develop an understanding of and apply proportional relationships.
2. Develop an understanding of operations with rational numbers and work with expressions and linear equations.
3. Solve problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and work with two and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume.
4. Draw inferences about populations based on samples.

Gr.8 Algebra 1

In order to cultivate an in-depth understanding of mathematics, students focus on developing their process skills through mathematical practices. They make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments, and critique the reasoning of others. Students model with mathematics and use appropriate tools strategically. They attend to precision, look for and make use of structure and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning. Process skills are the essential elements for the mastering of math and will be developed through the critical areas of focus shown below.

1. Use linear equations and systems of linear equations to represent, analyze, and solve a variety of problems.
2. Recognize equations for proportions as special linear equations, understanding that the constant of proportionality is the slope, and the graphs are lines through the origin.
3. Use a linear equation to describe the association between two quantities in bivariate data.
4. Reason on the structure of linear equations and formulas, as well as polynomials and expressions with exponents and radicals.
5. Strategically choose and implement procedures to solve linear equations in one variable, understanding that when they use the properties of equality and the concept of logical equivalence, they maintain the solutions of the original equation.
6. Solve systems of two linear equations in two variables and relate the systems to pairs of lines in the plane.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL & HEALTH EDUCATION

Gr.6 PSHE

The goal of PSHE is to offer students the opportunity to learn about their personal, social and health development and to help them find strategies to deal with the main problems that occur in this stage of development. Small group sessions, lunch time activities, guest speakers and collaborative projects, will address the following topics with the 6th grade students: coping skills, problem solving, friendship, cooperation/empathy, addictions, bullying, and cyberbullying, digital citizenship and media literacy, study skills (goal setting, time management, procrastination), puberty, stress management, happiness and positive thinking... 6th grade students will have close contact with the Personal Counselor so that their questions, concerns and comments can be addressed.

Gr.7 PSHE

The goal of PSHE is to offer students the opportunity to learn about their personal, social and health development and to help them find strategies to deal with the main problems that occur in this stage of development. Small group sessions, lunch time activities, guest speakers and collaborative projects, will address the following topics with the 7th grade students: coping skills, problem solving skills, self-esteem and identity, body image, emotions, the addiction cycle and the use/abuse of substances, bullying and cyberbullying, digital citizenship and media literacy, study skills (goal setting, time management, procrastination), puberty, stress management, happiness and positive thinking. 7th grade students will have close contact with the Personal Counselor so that their questions, concerns and comments can be addressed.

Gr.8 PSHE

The goal of PSHE is to offer students the opportunity to learn about their personal, social and health development and to help them find strategies to deal with the main problems that occur in this stage of development. Small group sessions, lunch time activities, guest speakers and collaborative projects, will address the following topics with the 8th grade students: coping skills, problem solving skills, bullying and cyberbullying, digital citizenship and media literacy, study skills (goal setting, time management, procrastination), addictions, peer pressure, communication skills, choices/consequences, media influence in teens, stress management, happiness and positive thinking, sexual health and coping with changes/moving to High School. 8th grade students will have close contact with the Personal Counselor so that their questions, concerns and comments can be addressed.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Gr.6 PE

The 6th Grade PE course teaches students about their physical selves and creates enthusiasm for physical activity while simultaneously help them adapt to the requirements of a Middle School program and schedule. We provide our students with a balanced program that builds a strong foundation in physical fitness, basic sport performance skills, lead-up games, introducing an understanding of tactics in sports.

Gr.7 PE

Gr.8 PE

The Grade 7 and 8 Physical Education courses teach students about their physical selves and creates enthusiasm for physical activity while developing each student's physical skills. We provide our students with a balanced program that builds a strong foundation in physical fitness, develops sport performance skills to an advanced level, lead-up games, and an intermediate-advanced understanding of tactics in sports.

PORTUGUESE

Gr.6 Portuguese Native Language (PNL)

Esta disciplina tem como objetivo solidificar as aprendizagens feitas em anos anteriores. Pretende-se que os alunos: desenvolvam as suas capacidades de expressão oral, através de variadas atividades como a apresentação de livros, o recontar de histórias ou a declamação de poemas; treinem a audição e a compreensão de vários textos; leiam e interpretem vários textos, desde contos tradicionais, diários e textos biográficos, poesia, até obras integrais narrativas, dramáticas e informativas. Os textos são o ponto de partida para variadíssimos trabalhos tais como pesquisas, produções escritas, apresentações orais e discussões em aula visando a melhor compreensão dos textos, mas também da gramática da língua portuguesa. Para fomentar o gosto pela Educação Literária, para além da leitura de obras na íntegra, na sala de aula, os alunos são também incentivados a fazer algumas leituras recreativas.

Gr.7 Portuguese Native Language (PNL)

Neste ano de escolaridade dá-se especial atenção à leitura e interpretação de textos narrativos (textos de tradição oral e de autor; outras obras de cariz memorialístico), textos dramáticos e textos poéticos. Desenvolver-se-á a consciência das diversas categorias que regem cada tipologia textual, entre outras características estruturais e linguísticas. Estimular-se-á, também, a interpretação e a inferência partindo desses mesmos textos. Para além destas competências, a disciplina de Língua Portuguesa 7 visa sedimentar e desenvolver os conhecimentos gramaticais adquiridos no ano anterior, recorrendo à veiculação de conteúdos de conhecimento explícito da língua e à prática dos mesmos, exigindo um nível mais desenvolvido de domínio linguístico e consciência gramatical tanto morfológica como sintática. Associada às práticas da língua, desenvolver-se-á a técnica de organização e redação de textos, tais como guiões de leitura, apreciações críticas das obras lidas e produções criativas.

Gr.8 Portuguese Native Language (PNL)

Esta disciplina tem como objetivo solidificar as aprendizagens feitas em anos anteriores. Pretende-se que os alunos desenvolvam as suas capacidades de expressão oral, através de variadas atividades como a apresentação de temas gramaticais e de livros; leiam e interpretem obras integrais (texto narrativo e texto dramático), texto jornalístico e texto poético; treinem a compreensão de vários textos. Trabalha-se ainda a produção escrita, nomeadamente a redação de textos do tipo jornalístico e a composição de texto com características narrativas. Os textos são o ponto de partida para variadíssimos trabalhos tais como pesquisas, produções escritas, apresentações orais e discussões em aula visando a melhor compreensão dos textos, mas também da gramática da língua portuguesa. Para fomentar o gosto pela Educação Literária, para além da leitura de obras na íntegra, na sala de aula, os alunos são também incentivados a fazer algumas leituras recreativas.

Gr.6 Foundations of Portuguese (FoP)

Gr.7 Foundations of Portuguese (FoP)

Gr.8 Foundations of Portuguese (FoP)

Foundations of Portuguese (FoP) is required of all students who are new to the language except to those who are just beginning to learn English. It is taught at Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced level. This program will give students the opportunity to express themselves in Portuguese, orally and in writing, and to understand the culture of Portugal. Students who successfully complete the PFL program through the Advanced level, may be eligible to move into Transitional PNL (Portuguese as a Native Language). During the transition, students will typically receive sheltered assessment.

SCIENCE

Gr.6 Science

In sixth grade we focus on developing the following science and engineering practices or skills:

- Asking questions and defining problems;
- Developing and using models;
- Planning and carrying out investigations;
- Analyzing and interpreting data;
- Using mathematics and computational thinking;
- Constructing explanations and designing solutions;
- Engaging in argument from evidence; Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

We develop these skills by studying the following content areas:

- Physical Science: Types of Energy and Energy Transfer
- Earth Science: Weather and Regional Climate; Global Climate Change- Causes and Solutions
- Life Science: Cells and Body Systems; Variation and Heredity

Gr.7 Science

In seventh grade we focus on developing the following science and engineering practices or skills:

- Asking questions and defining problems;
- Developing and using models;
- Planning and carrying out investigations;
- Analyzing and interpreting data;
- Using mathematics and computational thinking;
- Constructing explanations and designing solutions;
- Engaging in argument from evidence;
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

We develop these skills by studying the following content areas:

- Physical Science: Atoms, Molecules, States of Matter; Chemical Reactions
- Earth Science: Rock Cycle, Plate Tectonics; Resources Availability; Natural Hazards
- Life Science: Photosynthesis and Respiration; Ecosystems

Gr.8 Science

In eighth grade we focus on developing the following science and engineering practices or skills:

- Asking questions and defining problems;
- Developing and using models;
- Planning and carrying out investigations;
- Analyzing and interpreting data;
- Using mathematics and computational thinking;
- Constructing explanations and designing solutions;
- Engaging in argument from evidence; Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

We develop these skills by studying the following content areas:

- Physical Science: Magnetic and Electrical Forces; Motion and Stability; Kinetic Energy; Waves and Technology; Electromagnetic Radiation
- Life Science: Inheritance of Traits; Variation of Traits; Natural Selection and Adaptation; Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity
- Earth Science: Solar System; Cyclic Pattern of Lunar Phases; Gravity; Geologic Time Scale; Natural Resource Consumption

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Ancient World

The sixth grade Social Studies curriculum has four main areas of study:

- History, Culture & Perspective;
- Geography, People and the Environment;
- Economics, Innovation & Technology;
- Civics, Government and Human Rights.

Sixth grade Social Studies students will learn about the origins and developments of major ancient civilizations with a thematic focus on Systems, Society and Progress. The course topics include: Early Man, Sumer and Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Students will compare and contrast different aspects of these unique cultures that developed around the world during the ancient times, and analyze the factors that led to their rise and decline. Emphasis will also be placed on developing students' research skills by evaluating sources and studying a variety of informational texts.

The Middle Centuries

The Social Studies curriculum has four main areas of study:

- History, Culture & Perspective;
- Geography, People and the Environment;
- Economics, Innovation & Technology;
- Civics, Government and Human Rights.

This subject covers the Middle Centuries with a focus on the impact influence different cultures have had on the Iberian Peninsula. They will study the impact of trade, technology, culture, the availability of natural resources, and contact with other civilizations. Topics include: Monotheistic religions, Feudalism, MR, the Rise and Expansion of Islam, the Protestant Reformation, the Renaissance and The Age of Exploration. Emphasis will be placed on assessing the credibility of a source as well as developing students' research skills by studying a variety of informational texts.

US History

The Social Studies curriculum has four main areas of study:

- History, Culture & Perspective;
- Geography, People and the Environment;
- Economics, Innovation & Technology;
- Civics, Government and Human Rights.

Grade 8 US History covers the early history of the United States with a thematic focus on citizenship. Students will analyze changes in British policies and the subsequent responses in the North American colonies which led to the American Revolution. They will develop their awareness of Civics, Government, and Human Rights, and be able to explain the ideals in Founding Documents. Topics include: Slavery, American Revolution, and the origins of modern US government. Emphasis

will also be placed on developing students' research skills by evaluating sources and studying a variety of informational texts.

FINE ARTS

Art

Art

Art

Middle School students are all offered an Art elective as a full year course. It encompasses a range of technical and expressive exploration in the media of drawing, painting, sculpture and ceramics. Students will have the opportunity to work both individually and collaboratively and will maintain a sketchbook practice to assist in the development of their ability to plan, explore and communicate visual ideas.

Drama Exploratories

Musical Theater

Musical Theater

Students in Grade 6 will have the option of taking Drama Exploratory Electives for one or both semesters. Students in Grades 7 and 8 may elect to take Musical Theater which will develop performance skills both individually and as an ensemble, with an emphasis on rehearsal and audience etiquette. This class produces one major performance during the school year. There are also Drama Exploratories offered which are described in that section.

Choir

Choir

Choir

Orchestra

Orchestra

Orchestra

Middle School students have two music options: - choir or string orchestra. Choir is a year-long class with an opportunity to learn and grow in the area of vocal music. Orchestra is only available as a year-long class for novice string players. Orchestra students are required to either buy or rent their instrument for the entire school year. Both ensembles perform regularly throughout the year.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Chinese Level 1

French Level 1

Spanish Level 1

CAISL offers Chinese, French, and Spanish as Foreign Languages at level one. These courses are designed to develop students' interest in studying a foreign language. The aim is to provide a solid foundation in order to develop language competence and cultural knowledge through speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Chinese Levels 1 and 2

French Levels 1 and 2

Spanish Levels 1 and 2

CAISL offers Chinese, French, and Spanish as Foreign Languages at either levels one or two. These courses are designed to build on the students' foundation in a foreign language. The aim is to continue to provide skills so that students can further express themselves, with more ease, about familiar topics through speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

EXPLORATORIES

Middle School Exploratories are semester-long non-graded classes designed to allow students to "explore" new subjects without the pressure of grades. They are "learning for the joy of learning" experiences. The probable Exploratory offerings are listed below, but courses are often added or deleted based on student interest: Active Living, Creative Writing, Dance, Gardening, Global Issues, Improvisation, Robotics, Script Writing, Uncarved Block, Web Development.