LEYSIN AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

A Guide to Learning in the Preparatory Years
Grades 9 and 10

2021-2022

Developing innovative, compassionate and responsible citizens of the world.

Preparatory Years: Course Descriptions

LAS High School Diploma

This program of study requires a minimum of 24 course credits, as specified in our graduation requirements. Students completing this program receive a US High School Diploma, with the endorsement of the New England Association of Schools and Universities and of the Council of International Schools.

LAS Diploma for English Language Acquisition (ELA)

For students whose first language is not English: A program of study requiring a concentration in ELA coursework, 5.5 on the IELTS examination, and a minimum of 24 course credits. The goal of the ELA program is to support students whose first language is not English to acquire social and academic proficiency in English, while learning content in the sciences, social studies, math and arts. LAS offers distinct levels of ELA courses, in addition to individualized support for English language learners.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma at LAS

LAS is an International Baccalaureate World School and offers students the opportunity to earn the rigorous IB Diploma or to take AP courses with the LAS High School Diploma *in grades 11 and 12*. Some LAS students may also choose to pursue individual IB courses in order to earn IB Certificates or AP courses along with the LAS High School Diploma. The school can advise students and their parents to decide if an AP or IB based course of study fits the student's current and future needs. AP/IB coursework usually begins in Grade 11. The IB diploma requires two years to complete.

LAS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must meet a number of requirements to be eligible for the LAS High School Diploma. These requirements include satisfactory completion of required coursework, and, in the case of ELA students, earning a minimum score of 5.5 on the IELTS examination at any time prior to graduation. The school year, composed of two semesters, begins in late August and ends in early June. All students take at least seven classes each semester. In order to graduate, a student must earn a minimum of 24 credits. One half-credit is awarded for the successful completion of a course each semester.

Credit requirements are distributed across the following disciplines as shown:

	Mainstream	ELA
English/English Lang Acquisition	4 credits	7 credits
Math	3 credits	3 credits
Science	3 credits	3 credits
Modern Foreign Language	3 credits	0 credits
Social Studies	3 credits	3 credits
Visual Art, Music, Theater	1 credit	1 credit
Electives, Core, Activities	6 credits	6 credits
Theory of Knowledge	1 credit	1 credit
Minimum requirements:	24 credits	24 credits

Typical mainstream course selection:

Courses	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	
English	Pre-AP English 1	Pre-AP English 2	IB HL English	IB HL English	4
Math	Algebra 1	Algebra 2	IB SL/HL Math	IB SL/HL Math	4
Science	Bio/Chem/Phy/Lab	Bio/Chem/Phy/Lab	IB Bio/Chem/Phy	IB Bio/Chem/Phy	3-4
Modern Languages	French/Spanish	French/Spanish	IB Language Acquisition	IB Language Acquisition	3-4
Social Studies	Social Studies 1	Pre-AP Geography and World History	IB Bus/Econ/His/Psych/GPol	IB Bus/Econ/His/Psych/GPol	3
Art/Music/Theater	Art/Music/Theater (1 course or more)		(IB Visual Art)	(IB Visual Art)	1+
Electives	1 course	1 course	TOK	TOK	4+
Activities	1 unit	1 unit	1 unit + CAS	1 unit + CAS	4-6
	8 credits	8 credits	6 credits + CAS	6 credits + CAS	24-28

Typical English Language Acquisition (ELA) course selection:

Courses	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	
ELA	ELA Foundations (1 credit)		IB SL English	IB SL English	7
	ELA Lit/Reading 1	ELA Lit/Reading 2			
	ELA Skills 1	ELA Skills 2			
Math	Algebra 1	Algebra 2	IB SL/HLMath	IB SL/HL Math	4
Science	Integrated Lab 1	Integrated Lab 2	Bio/Chem/Phy	IB Bio/Chem/Phy	3-4
Modern Languages	n/a	n/a	IB Mother Lang	IB Mother Lang	2
Social Studies	ELA World History 1	ELA World History 2	Bus/Econ/His/Psych/GPol	Bus/Econ/His/Psych/GPol	3
Art/Music/Theater	Art/Music/Theater (1 course or more)		(IB Visual Art)	(IB Visual Art)	1+
Electives	1 course	1 course	TOK	Foundations of Learning and Knowledge	4+
Activities	1 unit	1 unit	1 unit + CAS	1 unit + CAS	4-6
	8 credits	8 credits	6 credits + CAS	6 credits + CAS	24-28

English Language Courses- Prep Years

Pre-AP English 1 (1 credit)

English 1 (Grade 9) focuses on the reading, writing, and language skills that have immediate relevance for students and that will be essential for their future coursework. Texts take center stage in the Pre-AP English 1 classroom, inspiring and preparing all students for close, critical reading and analytical writing. The course trains the reader to observe the small details in a text to arrive at a deeper understanding of the whole. It also trains the writer to focus on crafting complex sentences, building this foundational skill en route to more sophisticated, longer-form analyses. Works studied will include fictional works including novels and short stories, drama, poetry and nonfiction texts including essays and arguments. By analyzing the course texts through the perspective of important global concerns, the students will be able to make larger, interdisciplinary connections between fiction, the real world, and their own personal experiences.

Pre-AP English 2 (1 credit)

English 2 (Grade 10) builds on the foundation of English 1, with an emphasis on the recursive moves that matter in preparing students for the challenges of university-level reading, writing, and discussion. While English 1 introduces the fundamental routines of close observation, critical analysis, and appreciation of author's craft, Pre-AP English 2 requires students to apply those same practices to a new host of nonfiction and literary texts. As readers, students develop a vigilant awareness of how the poet, playwright, novelist, and writer of nonfiction alike can masterfully manipulate language to serve their unique purposes. As writers, students compose more nuanced analytical essays without losing sight of the importance of well-crafted sentences and a sense of cohesion.

ELA Foundation Writing, Guided Reading, Skills (1 credit each)

The goal of the English Language Acquisition (ELA) Foundation courses is to give students the opportunity to develop basic communication skills needed to go on to further academic studies in English. Classes focus on conversational and academic topics ranging from school life, nature, community life, health and media. Students will improve listening and speaking skills, as well as reading and writing skills. They will develop their vocabulary and knowledge of English grammar. Throughout the courses, students will practice using the library as a source for finding reading materials, use various registers and text types for writing in English and communicating in English for socializing, studying and working.

ELA Literature and Reading 1 & 2 (1 credit each)

As students develop proficiency in the English language, they will move through the progression of English Language Acquisition (ELA) courses at LAS. The goal of ELA Literature & Reading is to improve student reading ability in English. Classes focus on the reading process and the skills needed to become a good reader including inferring, predicting, and analyzing.

Advanced students will also undertake the study of literary analysis, where the goals are similar to that of mainstream literature courses, but the pace is modified and vocabulary study is emphasized. Assigned texts may include *The Outsiders, Go Ask Alice, Night, Of Mice and Men, Catcher in the Rye, Among the Hidden & Artemis Fowl*, whose characters are teenagers or young adults. The novels are representative of different cultures, time periods, and styles. Projects and activities will give students opportunities to extend their understanding of the different novels studied and their contexts. In analyzing literary works, students will discuss symbolism, theme, character development, plot, narrative point of view, setting, and tone.

ELA Skills 1 & 2 (1 credit each)

English Language Acquisition (ELA) 1 & 2 Skills is an intermediate and advanced level course in English for speakers of other languages. The course is an introduction to English for academic purposes so that students can communicate, collaborate, and create at an academic level in English. The focus is primarily on writing and reading skills. Throughout the course students develop an awareness of grammatical structures and vocabulary used in informal and formal communication, including a review of basic tenses and developing complex sentence structure. Students will learn how to write academic essays and other text types that include narrating, explaining and arguing, in addition to giving formal presentations. Grammar structures are taught through topics on various global issues. In terms of reading skills, there is a focus on comprehension of informational/nonfiction texts. ELA Skills courses are complemented by ELA

Literature & Reading courses, where fiction texts are explored and basic elements of literary analysis are introduced.

Math Courses- Prep Years

Algebra 1 (1 credit)

This course is designed to give students the chance to explore the connections between number, algebra, geometry and data. The focus in Algebra 1 is developing routine skills that can help build a solid mathematical foundation. The specific skills of this course are similar to the Algebra 1 Extended course. However, students in this course will not study sets and basic trigonometry until the subsequent course, Algebra II.

As will all courses at LAS, it will accommodate all learning experiences and abilities. Furthermore, students will engage in learning experiences that foster problem solving skills. Each year, students in this course will complete at least one investigation that draws on their lesson content and challenges them to investigate and communicate their findings mathematically.

Algebra 1 Extended (1 credit)

This course is for students who demonstrate a solid foundation of basic mathematical skills. It is designed to give students the chance to explore the connections between number, algebra, geometry and data. As part of the study of geometry, students *will* study basic trigonometry in this course. They will also be introduced to basic set notation. Efficient algebra skills are crucial in this course as well as subsequent math courses. Therefore, students in this course will be challenged not only by mathematics, but by the expectation to work efficiently.

As with all courses at LAS, it will accommodate all learning experiences and abilities. Furthermore, students will engage in learning experiences that foster problem solving skills. Each year, students in this course will complete at least one investigation that draws on their lesson content and challenges them to investigate and communicate their findings mathematically.

Algebra 2 (1 credit)

This course is for students who have completed the Algebra 1 course or who have demonstrated the equivalent mathematical competency. Students will continue to explore the connections between number, algebra, geometry and data. The focus in Algebra 2 is to maintain and promote the development of routine skills and strengthen the mathematical foundation. There is an emphasis in this course on Lines and Basic Functions. As part of the geometry content, students will study basic trigonometry in this course. They will also learn about basic mathematical set notation.

As with all courses at LAS, it will accommodate all learning experiences and abilities. Furthermore, students will engage in learning experiences that foster problem solving skills. Each year, students in this course will complete at least one investigation that draws on their lesson content and challenges them to investigate and communicate their findings mathematically.

As grade 11 approaches, we turn our attention to providing the information that students need to make the right choices. Though this course will prepare students for IB Applications and

Interpretations SL, it is also for students who do not wish to enroll in AP Calculus or an IB math course in grade eleven or twelve.

Algebra 2 Extended (1 credit)

This course is for students who have completed the Algebra 1 Extended course or who have demonstrated the equivalent mathematical competency. Students will continue to explore the connections between number, algebra, geometry and data. The focus in Algebra 2 Extended is to maintain and promote efficient algebra skills. Success in this course requires the ability to work efficiently through complex mathematical situations. Though some of the content overlaps with that of Algebra 2, the extent to which the topics are studied is much deeper. For example, this course studies functions much more deeply, such as quadratics, exponential, rational and logarithmic. This course also also does a further exploration of trigonometry.

As with all courses at LAS, it will accommodate all learning experiences and abilities. Furthermore, students will engage in learning experiences that foster problem solving skills. Each year, students in this course will complete at least one investigation that draws on their lesson content and challenges them to investigate and communicate their findings mathematically.

As grade 11 approaches, we turn our attention to providing the information that students need to make the right choices. This course will prepare students for either (some of) the IB course offerings or the AP track. Upon successful completion, students will be prepared for either IB Analysis and Approaches SL or IB Applications and Interpretations SL. Students who have *excelled* in this course *and* who have the appropriate teacher recommendation have potential to be enrolled in the IB Applications and Interpretations HL. For students who prefer *not* to enroll in our IB course offerings *and* who have a teacher recommendation, they can take the Pre-IB/AP course in grade 11 with the expectation of taking AP Calculus in grade 12.

Pre-IB/AP Math (1 credit)

This course is for students who are able to comfortably handle the content of Algebra 2 Extended and who demonstrate efficient algebra skills even in complex tasks. We are conscious that fostering curiosity and developing students' investigation and problem solving skills is vital and as such this course offers puzzling and challenging questions in pure mathematics. This course is for students in Grade 10 who want to take either AP Calculus or IB Mathematics. Upon successful completion of the course *and* with teacher recommendation, students from this course can enroll in IB Analysis and Approaches HL.

As with all courses at LAS, it will accommodate all learning experiences and abilities. Furthermore, students will engage in learning experiences that foster problem solving skills. Each year, students in this course will complete at least one investigation that draws on their lesson content and challenges them to investigate and communicate their findings mathematically.

This course is also offered at the Belle Epoque Campus. Students who complete Algebra 2 Extended in Grade 10 and receive the recommendation from their teacher can take this course in Grade 11. This would be required if they wish to enroll in AP Calculus in grade 12.

Science Courses- Prep Years

Biology (1 credit)

This course is a preparatory course for AP Biology that focuses on scientific skills through fundamental concepts. Students will acquire a wide breadth of biological knowledge whilst having an appreciation for how biology is content to other sciences. Students will use conceptual models and theories to make sense of the observed diversity of natural phenomena. Students will be introduced to the notion that science progresses through a cycle of hypothesis, practical experimentation, observation, theory development and review. They will gain first hand experience that quantitative analysis is a central element both of many theories and of scientific methods of inquiry. Students will study physiology, cell biology, microbiology, ecology, evolution, genetics, inheritance and biological molecules.

Chemistry (1 credit)

This course is a preparatory course for AP Chemistry (although it is transferable to the IB curriculum as well) that focuses on scientific skills through fundamental concepts. It introduces students to the rigors and rewards of an in-depth study of the chemical sciences. Students will acquire the knowledge of atomic structure, chemical reactions, experimental technique, stoichiometry, organic chemistry and energy changes. Through studying chemistry at LAS students will develop transferable skills as a critical thinker and problem solver, who has a solid grasp of scientific concepts and their real world application.

Physics (1 credit)

This course is a preparatory course for IB or AP Physics that focuses on scientific skills through fundamental concepts. It provides the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity, and all students should be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. They should be helped to appreciate how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key ideas relating to the sciences which are both inter-linked, and are of universal application. Students will acquire the knowledge of energy, electricity, kinematics, atomic structure, radiation, waves, space and magnetism.

Integrated Lab Science 1 (1 credit)

Science is taught as an integrated course that focuses on scientific skills through fundamental concepts. During Integrated Lab Science, students will acquire knowledge of the core components of biology, chemistry and physics. Across the disciplines, students will learn about cells, biochemistry, chemical reactions, energy changes, motion and waves. Students will learn and use the scientific method to create and use hypotheses and theories to engage in the scientific process. The integrated nature of the program allows students to explore different branches of science. Through studying Integrated Science students will become critical thinkers and problem solvers, who have a solid grasp of scientific concepts and their real world application.

ELA Integrated Lab Science 1 (1 credit)

ELA science is taught as an integrated course that focuses on language acquisition through the teaching of scientific skills and concepts. Through this course, students will acquire knowledge of

the core components of biology, chemistry and physics. Across the disciplines, students will learn about cells, biochemistry, chemical reactions, energy changes, motion and waves. The ELA Integrated Lab Science emphasizes scientific vocabulary acquisition and scientific writing. The course mirrors the content of the mainstream program in order to allow students the opportunity to progress and transition into mainstream and IB courses. Through studying Integrated Science at LAS students will become critical thinkers and problem solvers, who have a solid grasp of scientific concepts and their real world application.

Integrated Lab Science 2 (1 credit)

Science is taught as an integrated course that focuses on scientific skills through fundamental concepts. Students will continue to explore the core components of biology, chemistry and physics. Across the disciplines, students will learn about reproductive and inheritance ecosystems and systems, stoichiometry, organic chemistry, electricity and electrical circuits and magnetism and electromagnetism. The integrated nature of the program allows students to explore different branches of science and identify areas for further study at the DP or US diploma level. Students will learn and practice the scientific method to create and use hypotheses and theories to engage in the scientific process. To prepare students for the IB, integrated science has a 'Nature of Science' approach to the content. It is designed to give students an understanding of how scientists approach scientific discovery and communicate their findings with the public. Through studying Integrated Science at LAS students will become critical thinkers and problem solvers, who have a solid grasp of scientific concepts and their real world application.

ELA Integrated Lab Science 2 (1 credit)

ELA science is taught as an integrated course that focuses on language acquisition through the teaching of scientific skills and concepts. Through this course, students will acquire knowledge of the core components of biology, chemistry and physics. Across the disciplines, students will learn about cells, biochemistry, chemical reactions, energy changes, motion and waves. The ELA Integrated Lab Science course mirrors the content of the mainstream program in order to allow students the opportunity to progress and transition into mainstream and IB courses. Through studying Integrated Science at LAS students will become critical thinkers and problem solvers, who have a solid grasp of scientific concepts and their real world application. Students will learn about specific topics which may include inheritance, ecosystems, stoichiometry, organic chemistry, electricity and magnetism.

The ELA Integrated Science course mirrors the content of the mainstream program to allow students the opportunity to progress and transition into mainstream and IB courses. Through studying Integrated Science at LAS students will become critical thinkers and problem solvers, who have a solid grasp of scientific concepts and their real world application. Students will learn and use the scientific method to create and use hypotheses and theories to the scientific process and be able to evaluate problems based upon the scientific process. The integrated nature of the program allows students to explore different branches of science and identify areas for further study at the DP or US diploma level.

ELA Foundations Integrated Lab Science 1 & 2 (1 credit)

Science is taught as an integrated course that focuses on scientific skills through fundamental concepts. The course is aimed at progressively developing students and students' academic English by building upon fundamental concepts whilst simultaneously giving them an overview of the core components of biology, chemistry and physics. Specific topics include cells, simple chemical reactions, and Newton's Laws of Motion. Students develop their language and intercultural skills through the exploration of various science topics with the aim of communicating effectively with accuracy and fluency. The course builds students' understanding and use of academic language across the different areas of science including biology, chemistry and physics.

Modern Language Courses Prep Years:
French, Spanish

Beginner French (1 credit)

This course aims to develop basic communicative proficiency in French language and provide an introduction to the study of French-speaking cultures. It assumes that the students have minimal or no prior knowledge of the language and culture. Major topics include developing communicative skills in the following situations: greetings, daily activities, ordering in restaurants, daily classroom conversation, discussing family relationships, professions and nationalities, shopping, domestic life, and health. Grammar topics include regular and irregular present tense verbs, negation, definite, indefinite and partitive articles, possessive adjectives, agreement of adjectives, interrogatives, forming questions using inversion, demonstrative articles, comparatives, and imperative verbs forms.

Intermediate French (1 credit)

The aims of this course are to develop oral and written communication skills in French through the study of a variety of authentic resources, with emphasis placed on developing oral communication skills and cultural understanding of French-speaking cultures. Major topics include health, media, travel, education, professions, legends and fairy tales. Principal grammar topics include: review of present tense verbs, the passé composé, futur and imparfait tenses, the subjunctive mood, conditional and si clauses, relative pronouns 'qui','que' and "dont".

At the end of the course students will be able to express ideas, opinions and emotions both orally and in writing, and shall be able to read, understand and interpret written language for a variety of purposes.

Advanced French/Fluent French (1 credit)

A continuation of the B1 Intermediate French course, this course aims to continue in the development of oral and written communication skills in French through the study of a variety of authentic texts and films. Emphasis continues to be placed on oral communication and cultural understanding, while written skills are also developed through reaction papers to the texts and films we study.

A course primarily aimed at native and near-native speakers, students in this course will further hone their language skills through the study of a variety of texts and films.

Students work includes short research papers, oral presentations, and learning how to write an "explication de texte" for both literature and film. Grammar topics will be discussed as needed to help students communicate clearly.

Beginner Spanish (1 credit)

This course provides students with knowledge of basic communication skills in Spanish and an introduction to the Spanish-speaking world. It assumes that the students have minimal or no prior knowledge of the language and culture. By the end of the year students should be able to do the following in Spanish: express likes and dislikes, talk about school and activities, describe their family and friends, order food in a restaurant, and shop for clothing. A key focus of this course is developing confidence in the learners by listening to and speaking in Spanish. Grammar topics include present tense regular and irregular verbs, agreement of adjectives, basic future tense and an introduction to some verbs in the past tense.

Intermediate Spanish (1 credit)

This course emphasizes effective communication in Spanish in a variety of everyday situations through tasks that incorporate listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Students explore a variety of topics related to Hispanic and Latino culture.

Vocabulary is arranged according to themes including the following: school and extracurricular activities, preparing for an event, getting around in the city, memories of childhood. Grammar topics include a revision of regular and irregular verbs in the present tense, the imperfect tense, the preterite tense, an introduction to the future and conditional tenses, adjectives and pronouns.

Social Studies Courses- Prep Years

Social Studies 9 (1 credit)

This course will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of ancient history, covering the period from the 8th century BCE (BC) to 16th century CE (AD). Through the study of geography, history, politics and early economics, students will understand the components of social studies, the importance of creating a well-supported argument based on evidence, and linking a cause to its consequence.

The content of the course will begin by looking at Ancient Greece and Rome. Students will examine how the fall of the Roman Empire plunged Europe into a period some have labeled "The Dark Ages." The course then moves onto the Renaissance and Reformation in Europe and finishes by looking at the Age of Exploration when European started to explore and colonize Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

ELA Social Studies (1 credit)

While covering a number of the same concepts and skills as Social Studies 9, this course emphasizes the acquisition of content specific vocabulary, academic writing in English and creating a coherent and well supported argument in speech and writing. This course will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of ancient history, covering the period from the 8th century BCE (BC) to 16th century CE (AD). Through the study of geography, history, politics and early

economics, students will understand the components of social studies, the importance of creating a well-supported argument based on evidence, and linking a cause to its consequence.

The content of the course will begin by looking at Ancient Greece and Rome. Students will examine how the fall of the Roman Empire plunged Europe into a period some have labeled "The Dark Ages." The course then moves onto the Renaissance and Reformation in Europe and finishes by looking at the Age of Exploration when European started to explore and colonize Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

Pre-AP Geography and World History (1 credit)[1]

This course will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of ancient history, covering the period from the 15th century CE (AD) to 20th century CE.
The main ideas of the course are:

- History is an interrelated story of the world.
  The course explores the invisible structures and forces that shape and reflect the regions, communities, governments, economies, and cultures of humanity. These big ideas help students develop an organized and meaningful understanding of time and space.
- History and geography are inherently dynamic.
  As historians and geographers uncover new evidence, current assumptions are challenged, and previous arguments and narratives gain complexity, nuance, and context. This course teaches students how to examine sources and data, establish inferences, and ultimately build and critique arguments.
- Historians and geographers are investigators.
  Learning in Pre-AP World History and Geography is designed to be a disciplinary apprenticeship where students participate in the process of discovery. Students will play the role of historian and geographer by practicing the detective skills and using the tools of each field of study.

While the areas of focus will be:

- Evaluating evidence: Students acquire knowledge by evaluating evidence from a wide range of primary and secondary sources.
- Explaining historical and geographic relationships: Students explain relationships among events and people by marshalling evidence for causation, comparison, and continuity and change over time.
- Incorporating evidence: Students demonstrate command of quantitative, qualitative, and spatial data by effectively incorporating them into written and oral arguments.

ELA World History 2 (1 credit)

While covering a number of the same concepts and skills as Pre-AP Geography and World History, this course emphasizes the acquisition of content specific vocabulary, academic writing in English and creating a coherent and well supported argument in speech and writing. This course is a year-long survey course covering the 16th century through the early 20th century. It is designed to give a thorough overview of history during this time while also preparing students for the Diploma Years. It focuses on several key historic time periods and the interaction between European and other cultures. Students learn how to locate, interpret, and analyze primary sources. The key time periods we look at include the Renaissance, Enlightenment, American and French Revolutions, Imperialism, the Industrial Revolution and the World Wars. Throughout the course students will

[1] Information taken and condensed from https://pre-ap.collegeboard.org/courses/world-history-and-geography

develop analytical thinking skills necessary for historical study and will apply these skills in research, reading, and essay writing. They will have the opportunity to conduct their own historical research and learn about the process of studying history through multiple perspectives.

History's Mysteries (1 elective credit)

In this year's history elective, we will dive into some of the world's most interesting and perplexing mysteries. Students will also learn historical skills that are essential to their success in the IB, including analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating evidence and sources, learning to defend ideas with facts, argue, justify, and defend reasoning, among others.

Introduction to Psychology (1 elective credit)

This course focuses on the study of human behavior. As an introduction to the field of psychology, this course includes consideration of psychological principles, terminology, major theories, careers, methods of experimentation, and practical applications. Special topics include development, criminal psychology, social influence, memory, psychological problems, etc.

Visual Arts, Theater & Music Courses- Prep Years

Studio Visual Arts (1 elective credit)

This is a foundation course in Visual Arts with an emphasis on learning the Elements of Art. Students will be engaged in a variety of techniques including painting, drawing, printmaking, and mixed media/ceramics. The lessons will be enriched with art history, aesthetics, and art criticism. Students will learn about the work of artists and designers from many cultures around the world and how to evaluate and integrate their ideas and techniques in the production of their own art works. Students' willingness to take risks in their artwork, their participation in class discussions and art critiques, and their overall responsible behavior within the art room is an asset.

Advanced Studio Visual Arts (Pre-IB) (1 elective credit)

This is an advanced course in Visual Arts with an emphasis on expanding the use of the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. Students will be engaged in a variety of techniques including painting, drawing, printmaking, and mixed media/ceramics. The lessons will be enriched with art history, aesthetics, and art criticism. Students will learn about the work of artists and designers from many cultures around the world and how to evaluate and integrate their ideas and techniques in the production of their own art works. Students' willingness to take risks in their artwork will prepare them for the IB Visual Arts course in Grade 11 & 12. Students will be required to prepare a digital art portfolio and publicly showcase their artworks.

Theater Arts (1 elective credit)

Students will learn the basic approach to working comfortably on the stage, through vocal warm-ups, monologues, scene work and improvisation. Basic techniques of movement, voice projection, character development, and performance will be taught. Students will learn to

implement the acronym GOTE, which stands for "Goal, Obstacle, Tactics and Expectation", which reminds actors of four basic elements to consider while preparing a character for the theater.
Being on stage may garner applause, but it's what happens behind the scenes that truly creates magic in theater. Students will be introduced to the many forms of stagecraft (lighting, sound, costuming, etc) and learn how they all connect to create one magnificent production.

Music (1 elective credit)

Students will develop their musicianship through listening, composition, and performance. Throughout the course, students will work independently and collaboratively through a variety of mediums to demonstrate comprehension, creative thought, and skill. Projects will require you to think out of the box, critically reflect and analyze your work, and make informed decisions. Throughout the year, students will learn music theory, how to play a musical instrument, and compose music using technology such as GarageBand and Logic Pro X.

Recreational Sports & Health Courses- Prep Years

Sports and Health (1 elective credit)

The course provides students with the opportunity to explore a range of fun, alternative and traditional sports and activities. Within this exploration, students will experience appreciation for how the body moves and the impact this has on game play. There will be an equal balance of teacher and student involvement within the learning process, with opportunities to explore theory elements that consider long term health benefits. This class will emphasise certain skills such as communication, teamwork, problem solving and leadership and will require students to regularly practice these skills to help improve their overall personal development.

Physical Literacy and Exercise Science (1 elective credit)

Students will explore core sports and delve deep into the theory that underpins them. This will typically see students persist towards a higher practical development of skills in an exciting range of sports supported by classroom theoretical sessions to deepen their understanding. Students will be encouraged to make strong connections between theory and practice to build a foundation to use when making lifelong decisions about creating a healthy and active future. Example topics of study may include, trampolining, racket sports and volleyball supported by theoretical components in anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, sports psychology and more!

LAS *edge* Courses - Prep Years

LAS *edge*

The primary goal of the LAS *edge* electives is to develop student agency by giving students the time and space to learn to work independently on their own identified interests. Student work is assessed through day to day informal feedback, journaling, peer feedback, student demonstrations of work, teacher conferences, and a portfolio. The classes are Pass only.

LAS *edge* - Conservatory: Visual Art & Design (1 elective credit)

Students develop a digital art portfolio based on their own artistic leanings, whether it be drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, film, digital graphics and/or design. This course is particularly attractive for students who are considering a focus on IB Visual Art in Grade 11 & 12.

LAS *edge* - Da Vinci Lab (1 elective credit)

Students who like to build things, take things apart, use their hands, and use technology will enjoy having time to pursue their own interests in an environment dedicated to STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Both individual and collaborative projects are included in the portfolio.

LAS *edge* - Conservatory: Musical Theater (1 elective credit)

Students interested in theater and music, whether experienced or not, are invited to deepen their stage performance by rehearsing and/or set building with the musical director. In addition to singing and acting, intermediate or advanced students interested in continuing their studies of a musical instrument are invited to adopt this time to practice their instrument(s).

LAS *edge* - Young Founders Incubator (1 elective credit)

Students interested in entrepreneurship, both for business and social causes, create in this class their own organizations, whether the goal is earning money, starting a campaign, or raising awareness. Students may earn money, hire employees, and advertise on campus and beyond.

LAS *edge* - Coding (1 elective credit)

In this course, beginner and advanced computer programmers will learn to develop their skills through a series of project-based computer programming tasks. We will explore a variety of coding languages and students will have the chance to expand on their own interests. If you are interested in how to make the most out of technology and gain a deeper understanding of computer science, this is the course for you.

LAS *edge* - Music (1 elective credit)

Rock, Pop, EDM, Hip-Hop, Rap: Learn what makes music groove. Create your own tunes using GarageBand and Logic Pro X. Learn to play an instrument of your choice. Throughout the course, students will work independently and collaboratively through a variety of mediums to demonstrate comprehension, creative expression, and skill. Projects will require students to think outside the box, critically reflect and analyze their work, and make informed decisions.

Intermediate or advanced students interested in continuing their studies of a musical instrument are invited to use this time to practice their instrument(s).

LAS *edge* - Design & Digital Media Arts (1 elective credit)

Students interested in exploring a cross section of digital design tools will be exposed to photography and film as well as print and online media using industry standard software. Students will develop an understanding of the design process, continuous improvement, and what they as designers have to offer. Research is combined with the design cycle.

LAS *edge* - Sports (1 elective credit)

Students interested in sports and movement will have the chance to explore both novel and traditional domains with a focus on developing leadership, self regulation, problem solving and collaboration. Students will shape their own discovery of a diverse range of sports and the theoretical components that underpin them. If you enjoy having autonomy over your physical activity, then this is the course for you!

LAS *edge* - Engineering (1 elective credit)

Students who want to learn how things work and learn more about technology will enjoy having time to pursue their own interests in an environment dedicated to STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math with an emphasis on the engineering aspect. Students will have the freedom to explore topics that interest them within the realm of engineering and they will have access to unique resources to help them learn more about this topic.

Academic Honesty at LAS

We take academic honesty seriously and make our expectations clear to students through the school's social and academic regulations.

We believe that good study and social habits developed at LAS will serve as a foundation on which our graduates can build confident, courteous and successful lives. In the event that a student violates LAS values in their academic work, the following sanctions will be applied:

- First offense: A meeting with the Associate Dean of Preparatory Years. A letter is sent to the family and student. The student must also redo or repeat the assignment and may not receive full grades for their work.
- Second offense: A meeting with the Associate Dean of Preparatory Years. Additionally, a letter is sent home to the student's parents or guardians. The student must also redo or repeat the assignment and may not receive full grades for their work.
- Third offense: A meeting with the Associate Dean of Preparatory Years, a letter home to the student's parents or guardians and a one-week off-campus suspension. The student must also redo or repeat the assignment and may not receive full grades for their work. The Head of School can weigh further sanctions, including possible dismissal from LAS.

What does it take to be successful at LAS?

Learning to Challenge Yourself

Support is readily available to students at LAS, from the Associate Academic Deans and their staff to the dormitories and faculty families. Students should challenge themselves to push their limits and try new things. In their academics, students will be challenged and meeting that challenge is essential to success.

Finding Interests

Activities and sports at LAS offer a wide variety of opportunities. Making the most of these is essential to student's development as global citizens and in ensuring they have a balanced lifestyle in Leysin.

Making Friends

LAS is a community and lasting friendships between students from many parts of the world are a major part of why alumni return to visit years after they graduate.

Global Awareness

The international nature of the staff and students expose students to cultures and languages from 50 different countries. Cultural and service trips expose students to world issues and the role they play in a global society.

Focus on Earning Strong Qualifications

At LAS, you will be supported in your studies. Your aim should be to make the most of your opportunity. All we ask is that students reach for the stars and make the most of their ability and balance their lives to ensure they are healthy, happy and doing well in their classes. Strong qualifications will be of great benefit in applications to further education.

Preparing for Success After-LAS

Your university advising department will guide you in the process of applications and testing. It is essential for you to be thoughtful and aware of what makes you an excellent candidate for further education. If you prepare in advance through Grades 10 and 11, the process of applications becomes much easier.