



# A Guide to Learning in the Preparatory Years Grades 7 - 10

2022-2023

*Developing innovative, compassionate and  
responsible citizens of the world.*



# Programs of Study:

## 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 *in grades 11 and 12*. Some LAS students may also choose to pursue individual IB courses in order to earn IB Certificates. The IB diploma requires two years to complete.

## Advanced Placement (AP) at LAS

For AP, the exams are given as the culmination of a year-long course. All AP exams (with a few exceptions) combine multiple-choice questions with a free-response section in either essay or problem-solving format. For students skilled at standardized testing, the AP might be a better program in terms of assessment. Students can select certain AP courses with the LAS High School Diploma *in grades 10, 11 and 12*. 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.

## 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/HLMath	IB SL/HL Math	4
			PreIB/AP	AP Calculus	
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 -2 8

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
			PreIB/AP	AP Calculus	
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



## Preparatory Years: Course Descriptions

### English Language Courses - Prep Years

#### Middle School ELA Skills

ELA Skills is an English course 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 formal and informal 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. Students will also learn how to use school and community resources through language-rich and context-based communicative activities. ELA Skills is complemented by RWW.

#### Middle School ELA Reading Writing Workshop (RWW)

The goal of ELA RWW is to improve students' reading ability in English and foster a love of reading and writing creatively. This course focuses on the reading process and the skills needed to become an effective reader including summarizing, inferring, predicting, and analyzing through independent and group reading. The course encourages students, with guidance from the teacher, to choose high-interest books from our vast library collection and to read extensively. This aids student acquisition of English, including vocabulary and grammar structures, but most importantly helps students develop a passion for reading and writing as well as future academic success.

#### Middle School English Language & Literature

The Middle School English course aims to explore thematic-based topics and concepts through a variety of print and media sources including literary and non-literary texts. Students will develop their reading skills beyond simple comprehension, learning to carefully analyze texts across various media sources which may include visual, written, and multimedia such as film and video. The students will explore a range of vocabulary as they read across different genres and styles. Students will write and speak for diverse audiences and purposes, developing their organizational skills, word choice, voice, and fluency while continuing to encourage the use of proper English language conventions.



### 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 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, mood 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 oral 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

### Pre Algebra (1 credit)

This course will give students the chance to explore the connections between numbers, algebra, and geometry. The course accommodates every student's experiences and abilities. We are especially conscious that fostering curiosity and developing students' investigation and problem solving skills is vital at such a young age and thus we place less emphasis on testing and exam preparation and more on making connections in a mathematical context. Every year students complete at least one investigation that draws on their lesson content and challenges them to investigate and communicate their findings mathematically. Additionally, students will explore mathematics through science and technology.

### 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 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.

### AP Statistics (1 credit)

This course is offered to students who have successfully completed Algebra 2 Extended. Grade 10 students can take this course in conjunction with either Pre-IB/AP or Algebra 2 Extended as an elective. The AP Statistics course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. There are four themes evident in the content, skills, and assessment in the AP Statistics course: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, probability and simulation, and statistical inference. Students use technology, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they build conceptual understanding. The AP Statistics course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory, non-calculus-based college course in statistics. (AP Central College Board website for AP Statistics.)

## Science Courses - Prep Years

### Middle School Integrated Science

Middle School Science is aimed at developing scientific skills, values, and attitudes. Content is delivered and assessed focusing on skills, with the aim of creating inquisitive and innovative scientists. The integrated nature of the course allows students to explore different topics of science including branches in biology, chemistry, and physics. The curriculum rotates over a two year cycle, in the first year the students study Plants and photosynthesis, Organ systems, Elements and the Periodic table, Acids and Alkalis, Magnetism, Energy and Radiation. In the second year cycle students study Ecosystems, Cells, Reactants and products, Acid reactions, Forces and Space. The goal of studying Integrated Science in Middle School is to provide students with a foundation of skills that allow them to be critical thinkers and problem-solvers, who have a solid grasp of scientific concepts that can be applied to future scientific pursuits as well as real-world situations.

### Pre-AP 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.

### Pre-AP 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.

### Chemistry (1 credit)

This course is a preparatory course for IB or AP Chemistry 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 reactions, energy changes, electrolysis, stoichiometry and organic chemistry.

### 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.

## 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.

### Advanced Beginner French (1 credit)

Is a class suitable for students who have completed at least 1 year of French or who have mastered the knowledge of the Beginner French course.

This course aims to develop communicative proficiency in French language, and enrich the students' understanding of French-speaking cultures. Major topics include developing communicative skills in the following situations: discussing art and museums, comparing people and things, traveling by airplane or by train, eating in a restaurant, describing daily routines, congratulating someone, discussing sports and leisure activities, going to the bank, and staying in a hotel. Principal grammar topics include: review of present tense verbs, the passé composé and imparfait tenses, comparatives, superlatives, irregular verbs, reflexive verbs, direct and indirect object pronouns, and relative pronouns 'qui' and 'que'

To this end, fluency is encouraged through various methodologies in class. Instruction is given primarily in the target language and in a variety of contexts to meet the needs of students. You will work individually as well as in small and larger groups. Classes provide individualized and differentiated instruction to meet the needs of varied learning styles.

### 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

### Middle School Social Studies

Middle School Social Studies takes on a thematic approach to history as well as aspects of other social sciences including geography, economics, and politics. The course uses an inquiry-based approach with a focus on skills over content. Students will be challenged to use higher-levels of thinking to analyze and evaluate different ideas, events, and sources. The course aims to grow students who are confident in their research skills and ability to present information in a variety of ways.

### Social Studies (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 Europeans started to explore and colonize Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

### ELA Social Studies (1 credit)

While covering a number of the same concepts and content as Social Studies, this course emphasizes the acquisition of content specific English through scaffolded instruction. With a focus on academic written and spoken English students will learn to use content specific vocabulary to create coherent and well supported historical arguments. This course will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of 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 Europeans started to explore and colonize Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

### Pre-AP History (1 credit)<sup>1</sup>

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 History 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Information taken and condensed from <https://pre-ap.collegeboard.org/courses/world-history-and-geography>



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 marshaling 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 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 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.

### 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, Design, Theater & Music Courses - Prep Years

### Studio Visual Art (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.





### 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.

### Design (1 elective credit)

This studio-based course is an introduction to Design. Students will define, research and create innovative solutions to design problems using DesignThinking and considering the needs of a client and/or stakeholders. They will learn and apply associated skills in 2D and 3D design media and software, drawing and modelling. Areas studied may cover Product Design, Advanced form-finding, 3D printing, Architecture and Graphic Design. Work will be presented using a variety of graphic forms and students will use self-reflection and peer critique to improve their outcomes.

## 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. Edge 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: Music and Theater (1 elective credit)*

Students interested in theater and music, whether experienced or not, are invited to deepen their stage performance and/or skills in playing an instrument. Students could be rehearsing and/or set building with the theater director or continuing their studies of a musical instrument. Throughout the course, students will work independently and collaboratively through a variety of mediums to demonstrate comprehension, creative expression, and skill in the performing arts.

### *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!

## Other Courses - Prep Years

### *MobileMakers/Coding (1 elective credit)*

This course introduces students to app development for mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. Students experience an authentic workplace environment applying the skills of teamwork, problem-solving, collaboration and communication. Throughout this hands-on course, students build working apps for Apple mobile devices using the language and tools of professionals - Swift and Xcode. Each unit concludes with students applying the concepts learned to create an app of their own. The apps build and grow in complexity throughout the course, culminating in an app showcase, where students demonstrate an app they built of their own design. Students leave the course with a portfolio of 8 apps and a collection of skills highly valued in the workplace today.

### *Innovation 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.



## Academic Honesty at LAS

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

This is of utmost importance in an international community of different cultures in which intellectual property values are not always the same.

Plagiarism is defined as taking someone else's work or ideas as if they were your own. It may take the following forms:

- Using another person's ideas, language, theory, or other original material without acknowledging the source, creating the impression that these ideas are one's own
- Paraphrasing material located in websites, magazines, newspapers, books, journals, charts, or graphs without citing the source
- Citing sources one did not use
- Copying or using work done by another individual

We understand that there is a difference between intentional dishonesty and accidental plagiarism. Each case of academic dishonesty or plagiarism is handled separately with consequences determined based on the severity of the case. The focus is on growth and learning with a shared responsibility among teachers and students.

Through following academic honesty expectations, students are better prepared to become innovative, compassionate, and responsible citizens of the world. 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 Middle School and Preparatory Years. When a student has submitted work that shows evidence of academic dishonesty, the initial assignment will earn an INC (incomplete). The student must redo the assignment.



- *Second offense:* A meeting with the Associate Dean of Middle School and Preparatory Years. Communication with the student's parents or guardians. The student will also need to redo or repeat the assignment and the initial dishonesty may be reflected in the assignment score. The Dean of Academics may assign further discipline actions.
- *Third offense:* A meeting with the appropriate campus Associate Dean or the Dean of Academics, communication with the student's parents or guardians and a disciplinary action as appropriate including the possibility of an off-campus suspension. The student will also need to redo or repeat the assignment and the initial dishonesty may be reflected in the assignment score. The Head of School can assign further consequences, 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.