



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Learning Framework

Mission



Mission Statement

ACS empowers students to solve problems with creativity and integrity, to lead well-balanced lives, and to serve Lebanon and the world community with understanding and compassion.



Identity Statement

ACS is an accredited, not-for-profit, independent and secular American College Preparatory School serving a multi-cultural international student body. ACS provides internationally-enriched, standard-based curricula, preparing students for the International Baccalaureate, the Lebanese Baccalaureate, and the American College Preparatory Diplomas.



Beliefs - We Believe:

- Students learn at different rates and in different ways.
- Students achieve success by being active participants in their learning.
- Students develop character through engagement with others from different backgrounds and through interaction within the community.



Objectives - We Achieve Our Mission By:

- Setting high expectations for ourselves and our students.
- Empowering students to be critical thinkers and independent learners.
- Working collaboratively with all members of our community.
- Understanding and utilizing innovative teaching and learning.
- Creating a safe environment for students to take risks and learn from their mistakes.

- Facilitating students' intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth.
- Engaging students in relevant and reflective learning.
- Encouraging students to explore different forms of personal expression.
- Providing opportunities for students to make choices, to lead, and to demonstrate responsibility.
- Supporting students to be caring, empathetic, respectful, and tolerant.
- Developing student awareness and communication skills through the study of languages.
- Involving students in local and international community service projects.
- Preparing students to seek admission to the most selective colleges and universities.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

ACS Beirut is a diverse community of students and adults who share different cultural values and perspectives. Community-wide diversity offers learning opportunities for our students as well as opportunities to build relationships across cultures, nationalities, socioeconomic classes, and other aspects of identity.

ACS is committed to creating an equitable and inclusive environment and fostering a community of diverse perspectives to prepare our students for a global society. Faculty members work to ensure a safe and open-minded environment where understanding is central to all, where students' differences are respected and appreciated as an integral part of the educational experience, and where every ACS student feels included, cared for, and valued.

Core Values



Implementing **Core Values** in middle school is essential to help students develop into responsible, respectful, compassionate, and honest individuals. Responsibility is taught by encouraging students to take ownership of their actions and assignments, and by showing them the importance of following through on commitments.

Respect is learned by emphasizing the importance of cleaning up after ourselves in classrooms and the cafeteria, and speaking with a polite tone, even if one is feeling very emotional. We take our expectation of respecting others regardless of ethnic, religious and cultural differences seriously.

Compassion is fostered by encouraging students to volunteer and participate in community service activities, and by teaching them to be aware of the needs of others. Compassion is further emphasized by teaching students to appreciate the diversity

of their peers and to treat others with kindness and empathy.

Finally, **Integrity** can be instilled by teaching students the importance of honesty and ethical behavior, and by modeling these values in the classroom and outside school. This includes academic honesty. By implementing these core values in middle school, our teachers help students develop into well-rounded individuals who are prepared to navigate the challenges of life with confidence and integrity.

In Advisory, students review the expectations for daily behavior in our **Way of the Knight** expectations. Whether it be in the classroom, the athletic field, the hallways, or the cafeteria, students are guided towards appropriate behavior by adhering to and reflecting on our core values. Students also pledge to adhere to all of our core values in their choices and interactions with each other.

Learning Environment

The Middle School is aligned with **Common Core State Standards, AERO**, and **NGSS**, and follows a **Standards-Based Grading Scale**. We are committed to assisting students to succeed in a robust program of study during their middle school years and to be well-prepared for the transition to high school. Academic rigor is one component of a multi-dimensional education program that also emphasizes physical, artistic, musical, and linguistic development. To strengthen the sense of community in the middle school, we have a **House System** in which students create connections with a group of students across all grade levels.

The programs offered in grades six through eight are in alignment with our mission to foster advocacy, creativity, open-mindedness, and compassion. Our academic and co-curricular experiences provide students with opportunities to develop themselves as internationally-minded learners and individuals. This foundation positions students to successfully transition to schools in their home country as well as to other international schools.

Our community embraces international diversity as we consist of students from about **65 different nationalities**. In this rich setting, students learn skills for collaborating and developing relationships. Through our

Advisory Program, students explore their identity, build relationships, and focus on wellbeing. Our integrated **English as an Additional Language (EAL)** program provides support and instruction to learn English while learning subject area content.

We strive to provide an academically challenging environment in order to foster intellectual curiosity and a sense of responsibility in our students. We aim for voice, choice, and personalized learning for our students. We offer an American curriculum with an international perspective. Our **small class sizes** offer deeper connections with students. **Technology** is seamlessly incorporated into all subject areas. Our **Week Without Walls** experience builds our students' independence, responsibility and builds cultural competence. We have international trips as well as ones inside our host country. We view our Week Without Walls as a capstone experience that can be truly life-changing.

To fully educate the whole child, we are committed to cultivating balanced, globally-minded citizens. Our programming supports this belief by empowering students with the opportunity to choose from a variety of **elective classes** during the school day and to participate in **co-curricular activities**.

Advisory Program

Middle School is a time of transition physically and socially from children into teenagers. As with any transition, there are sure to be some challenges to navigate. With the right support, middle school can become a time of self-discovery and personal growth that lays the foundation for success.

Our **MS Advisory Program** is designed to create a strong support system that students need to develop academically, socially, and emotionally. It is proactive and creates a safety net that students can turn to before something becomes a crisis. ACS follows the **ISCA Student Standards** which are internationally recognized content standards for students that guide school counseling programs by outlining the specific knowledge, attitudes, and skills that students should be able to demonstrate as a result of an effective school counseling program. Students learn best in environments that are validating, respectful, supportive, inclusive, and safe. Implementing the ISCA Student Standards through the lens of equity and belonging is essential to improving outcomes for all

students and creating a safe school culture free of bias and oppression.

Our Advisory Program helps students develop important skills that will help them succeed throughout the rest of their lives: planning and goal setting, adaptability, decision-making, self-advocacy, cultural competency, identity development, advocacy, and the ability to ask for help when needed.

By ensuring that each student has an adult that they are comfortable talking to, a strong advisory program can help students demonstrate the dispositions, knowledge, and skills to develop and maintain positive relationships with self and others.

Our Advisory Program naturally helps to create a positive and connected school culture. Students feel that they are a part of a community of parents, teachers, administrators, and friends that wants them to succeed. When students feel validated, understood, and accepted, they naturally develop stewardship for themselves and others.



Academic Program / Subject Areas

Our comprehensive curriculum is designed to ignite curiosity, foster creativity, and cultivate a passion for learning in our students. Through a diverse range of courses and engaging activities, we strive to empower students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to succeed academically and thrive in the modern world.

Math

Aligning with the Common Core State Standards, the Middle School math curriculum encompasses grade-level benchmarks for knowledge and skills, emphasizing problem-solving, reasoning, constructing mathematical arguments, mathematical modeling, attending to precision, and using mathematical tools appropriately. We prioritize both conceptual understanding and procedural skills, recognizing their vital roles in overall mathematical achievement. At ACS, we foster an environment where students thrive in mathematics by embracing challenges, believing in their ability to succeed, persevering through difficulties, taking calculated risks, and effectively articulating their thought processes.

Grade 6

- Ratios and Proportional Relationships
- The Number System
- Expressions and Equations
- Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

Grade 7

- The Number System
- Expressions and Equations
- Ratios and Proportional Relationships
- Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

Grade 8

- The Number System
- Expressions and Equations
- Functions
- Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

Grade 8 LB - Lebanese Program

- Polynomials
- Exponents and Square Roots
- Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities
- Geometry
- Linear Functions

English

The ACS Beirut Middle School English Program is designed to provide students with a solid foundation in reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. This course follows the AERO (American Education Reaches Out) Standards, which ensure that students develop critical thinking, effective communication, and analytical skills necessary for academic success and real-world application. The English Language Arts course will build a solid foundation for further academic success where students become critical thinkers and effective communicators in the modern world.

Grade 6

- Historical Fiction - MS Level Metacognitive Strategies
- Realistic Fiction - Story Writing

- Guided Poetry
- Non-Fiction - Newspaper Articles

Grade 7

- Fiction - Persuasive Essay Writing
- Debate
- Guided Poetry
- Non-Fiction - Windmill Project
- Cause and Effect Essay

Grade 8

- Non-Fiction - Memoir Writing
- Play/Drama - Shakespeare
- Moviemaking
- Spoken-Word Poetry
- Fiction - PEEL Paragraph

Social Studies

ACS Beirut aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of historical events, geographical concepts, civic responsibilities, and cultural diversity. Following the AERO (American Education Reaches Out) Standards, this course encourages critical thinking, global awareness, and an appreciation for the interconnectedness of societies through reading, writing, project-based learning, and class discussions.

Grade 6

- Modern Societies
- Political Systems & Types of Government
- Major World Religions
- Cultural Traditions

Grade 7

- Culture & Identity
- Trade Routes (Silk Road)
- Geography (Map Skills)
- Ancient and Medieval Civilizations (Greece, Rome, China, Africa)

Grade 8

- Age of Exploration
- African Continent (Modern)
- Major Revolution and Movements in the East & West
- Industrial Revolution

Science

The Middle School science curriculum is designed to actively engage students in a variety of inquiry-based learning activities and approaches that help them acquire basic concepts and skills and help in developing their scientific investigative skills, engineering practices, design thinking, and programming. In addition, students go through a variety of approaches that help them think and work like scientists and engineers where they work on finding answers to raised questions and/or developing and constructing solutions to real-world problems. The science curriculum is a three-dimensional one that is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards Framework (NGSS) where content knowledge, crosscutting concepts, and science and engineering practices are intertwined together to take learning to a higher level of thinking.

Grade 6

- Chemical Reactions and Matter Transformations

- Chemical Reactions and Energy
- Cells and Systems
- Matter Cycling and Photosynthesis
- Ecosystem Dynamics
- Coding and Electric Circuitry

Grade 7

- Light and Matter
- Thermal Energy
- Metabolic Reactions and Energy
- Natural Resources and Human Impact
- Coding and Electronics

Grade 8

- Contact Forces
- Coding and Electronics
- Forces at a Distance
- Genetics
- Natural Selection & Common Ancestry

Visual and Performing Arts

VISUAL ARTS

The goal of the Visual Arts course is to introduce students to a variety of artistic mediums and techniques. Students will explore the fundamentals of drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and mixed media while developing their creativity and self-expression.

Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to think critically and problem-solve as they engage with different art forms. They will also learn about art history and different cultural perspectives, gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation of the role art plays in society.

Grade 6

Six-Week Course

- Elements of Art
- Color Wheel

Grade 7

One Semester-Long Course

- Contour Drawing
- Mixed Media
- Printmaking

Grade 8

One Semester-Long Course

- Pop Art
- African Masks
- OP Illusion
- Impressionism

MUSIC AND CHOIR

The Music and Choir course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of music theory, vocal techniques, and ensemble performance. Through a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical application, students will develop their musical skills, and understanding of music as an art form, and foster their love for singing and performing in a choir setting. They will explore different styles and genres of music, both historical and contemporary and they will also learn to analyze and evaluate music. Students will have opportunities to perform in the winter and spring concerts and in the community.

Grade 6

Six-Week Course

- Fundamental Concepts in Music
- Knowledge of Musical Instruments
- Introduction to Choir: Genres of Music

Grade 7

One Semester-Long Course

- Fundamental Concepts in Music: Music Sight Reading and Solfege
- Sing and Perform
- Music Composition
- Music Appreciation

Grade 8

One Semester-Long Course

- Fundamental Concepts in Music: Music Sight Reading and Solfege
- Choir Ensembles
- Music Technology
- Music Production

BAND

In Band, students develop their skills on their chosen brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. They will learn techniques such as posture, tone production, articulation, sight-reading, and ensemble skills. We will also explore learning to read music as well as music fundamentals, as it is important that students learn to express themselves in a multitude of musical ways. Students will have opportunities to perform in the winter and spring concerts and in the community.

Grade 6

- Introduction to chosen Band instrument
- Introduction to Jazz and Swing Music & Classical Music
- Learn to read music including both note reading and rhythms / note values
- Introduction to ensemble playing and music performance

Grade 7

- Advance note reading and rhythm reading skills
- Learn more notes on their instrument and advance their range
- Play music with expression, dynamics, and different tempos
- Ensemble playing and music performances
- Performances with peers and parents

Grade 8

- Continue to work on developing chosen individual instruments
- Expand knowledge of musical terms
- Share performances with parents and peers
- Continue to learn to play as an ensemble and with more expressive qualities
- Play music of different styles and genres

DRAMA

In Middle School Drama course, students will explore the world of theater through a variety of engaging activities and projects. From improvisation and character development to stagecraft and performance, this course provides a comprehensive introduction to the art of acting.

Throughout the semester, students will work collaboratively to create and perform skits, scenes, and plays. They will learn how to develop characters and use stage directions to bring their performance to life. In addition, students will have the opportunity to explore various aspects of technical theater, including lighting, sound, and set design. This course is designed to help students develop their confidence, imagination, and artistic abilities while having fun and building meaningful connections with their peers.

Grade 6

Six-Week Course

- Elements of Drama
- Mime

Grade 7

One Semester-Long Course

- Clowning
- Improvisation
- Acting in Front of the Camera

Grade 8

One Semester-Long Course

- Stagecraft
- Puppetry
- Contentless Scenes

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

One Semester-Long Course

Grade 8

This is an introductory course to introduce students to the exciting world of photography. Through hands-on projects and interactive lessons, students will learn the basics of digital photography, including the fundamentals of composition, lighting, exposure, color, and editing, and how to use some of the manual functions of a DSLR camera. As they progress through the course, students will become more comfortable with their cameras and begin to experiment with different shooting modes and techniques, and learn how to edit photos using software programs, such as Adobe Photoshop and PIXLR.

- Fundamentals of photography: composition, lighting, genres, elements, and principles of design
- Base Camp
- Genres in Photography
- Focusing on Creativity

DIGITAL MEDIA

One Semester-Long Course

Grade 8

This course is designed to introduce middle school students to the world of digital media and the arts. Students will explore various digital media tools, techniques, and platforms to create and communicate their artistic vision. The course will provide a hands-on approach to learning, with students working on a range of projects that involve image manipulation, graphic design, audio and video production, and animation.

Throughout the course, students will develop their creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. They will learn how to express their ideas visually and effectively communicate their message to others. The course will also emphasize the ethical use of digital media, including issues related to copyright, fair use, and online safety.

- Introduction to Digital Media
- Graphic Design
- Audio and Video Production
- Digital Media and Society

Health and Physical Education

The Physical Education course aims to offer a wide range of individual and team sports, and challenging activities focusing on health, fitness, self-expression, and social interaction. Following the SHAPE America curriculum, we encompass activities that provide students with opportunities to develop teamwork, communication, and cooperation skills. Students will engage in activities that emphasize developing and strengthening students' leadership skills, such as peer teaching and group projects. Students will engage in different health topics that are developmentally appropriate for adolescent concerns and needs.

Grade 6

- Soccer
- Basketball
- Fitness
- Badminton
- Team Handball
- Cooperative Games

Grade 7

- Soccer
- Basketball
- Fitness
- Badminton
- Softball
- Team Handball
- Cooperative Games

Grade 8

- Flag Football
- Frisbee
- Team Handball
- Floor Hockey
- Volleyball
- Badminton
- Fitness

Arabic

The Arabic MSA Grade 6, 7, and 8 courses progressively enhance students' proficiency in Arabic language skills encompassing reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This comprehensive program exposes students to diverse reading and writing genres, fostering comprehension, description, and discussion of social issues. Students in Grade 6 develop the ability to retell stories and events through written dialogues, utilizing new vocabulary, and engaging in discussions using standard Arabic. Grade 7 focuses on interpreting literary works while refining oral and written communication skills in formal Arabic, including vocabulary, grammar, and mechanics. Grade 8 reinforces previous skills, emphasizing advanced reading comprehension and writing. Students compose various texts, improve listening comprehension, oral skills, and comprehension of non-fiction, and develop persuasive writing techniques.

Arabic MSA 6

- Scenes from the Community
- Health and Environment
- Non-Fiction Stories

Arabic MSA 7

- Stories and Fairytales
- Biographies and Diaries
- Faces and Places

Arabic MSA 8

- Stories and Morals
- Endangered Species
- Human Inventions

Arabic AFL 1

The AFL 1 course in grades 6, 7, and 8 introduces Arabic language skills and focuses on expanding students' vocabulary. Following AERO Standards, students engage in conversations and respond to acquired information. Each lesson begins with essential questions and progresses to vocabulary encompassing nouns, verbs, prepositions, and bridging words. Emphasis is placed on developing the ability to read and write simple sentences on specific themes. Alongside oral presentations, students are exposed to Lebanese culture through songs, videos, traditions, and historical places. By the course's end, students employ research methods to gather information about the Arab World.

Grade 6

- Meet and Greet
- Celebrations and Holidays (1)
- Family and Professions
- Daily Routine

Grade 7

- What is a Community?
- Food and Beverages
- Travels Shape the Young Generation
- Weekend with Family

Grade 8

- Returning to School
- Celebrations and Holidays (2)
- Famous People and Sites across Lebanon

Arabic AFL 2

The AFL 2 course introduces students to the fundamental structure of the Arabic language, aligned with AERO Standards. Through guided exercises in real-life situations, students will develop oral and written communication skills, conversing and responding effectively. The course incorporates cultural themes to deepen students' understanding of Arab culture through language usage. Each lesson begins with essential questions and

progresses to the application of learned material, incorporating new vocabulary within context. The course encompasses reading, writing, and exploring cultural and social practices. Emphasis is placed on developing all language skills, including reading, listening, writing, speaking, and culminating in oral presentations.

- Society Nowadays
- Endangered Species
- Our Environment

French

French Novice (6 / 7 / 8)

The main goal of this course is to enable students to establish a strong foundation in the target language (French) and develop basic proficiency. Each unit of study will address all aspects of the language, including speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Students will acquire the ability to communicate using basic language structures. The course encourages students to effectively use the French Language for meaningful communication and provides insights into the cultural aspects of French-speaking regions. Furthermore, it fosters curiosity, lifelong interest, and enjoyment in language learning.

- Life in Middle School
- Housing
- Shopping and Budget Management
- Interests and Daily Life
- Fashion
- Sports

French Intermediate (6 / 7 / 8)

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the French language and culture. Through this course, learners will develop the skills to introduce themselves, discuss their neighborhood, and describe their daily activities. They will be able to ask and answer questions, engaging in basic conversations in French about family, habits, and present-time activities. By utilizing simple sentences, students will confidently navigate various life situations, sharing information about work habits, schools, personal interests, and areas of expertise. Furthermore, the course aims to deepen

students' understanding of humanitarian aid, professions, and technology, providing insights into different aspects of life.

- The City
- Daily Routine
- School Life
- My Home
- Food and Beverages
- Professions

French Advanced (6 / 7 / 8)

This course aims to familiarize students with the French language and culture, enabling them to use the language effectively in various contexts. Through the course, students will develop increased fluency, accuracy, and confidence in their language skills. They will also gain exposure to the cultural aspects of French. Advanced-level students will possess a rich vocabulary and will have the ability to express themselves fluently and coherently in extended paragraphs. Their speech will exhibit complexity and nuance, employing a range of grammatical structures and expressions to convey ideas. Additionally, the course equips students with tools and strategies to elaborate on ideas and write paragraphs using present, past, and future tenses.


- Life in the City
- E-Commerce
- Housing
- Holidays and Traveling



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