



MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC PROGRAM 2024-25



TASIS England Mission Statement



The School's purpose is to realize its core values. We believe that: every learner has the gift of innate curiosity that we can nurture into life-long learning; all our learners can develop the ability and confidence to flourish and become who they truly are; and building a vibrant, joyful, and healthy community of principled, open-minded, and compassionate individuals is why TASIS exists.

COMMITMENTS

We realize our values through our passion as educators and the following commitments:

We promote **multiple pathways** for each learner throughout our school environment, our programs, and our community.

Our commitment to nurturing **intellectual curiosity** prepares each learner for the opportunities and challenges of the future.

We encourage continuous personal **growth** through active **engagement** and desire to seek and learn from experiences. Through a balance of support and challenge, students flourish as creative, reflective, and resilient owners of their learning.

We foster **connections and collaboration** in our community of learners by cultivating supportive relationships and celebrating the unique contributions of each member.

OUTCOMES

The outcomes of a TASIS England education were articulated over many decades through the vision of the School's charismatic founder, Mary Crist Fleming.

Life-long Learning cultivates curiosity, exploration, and discovery, emboldening individuals to embrace a culture of learning and celebrate the journey of continuous development toward personal fulfillment.

International-mindedness promotes the exploration, communication, and celebration of diversity. Being curious and open-minded to the richness of perspective within our global community creates a desire to flourish through action and service.

Service Leadership fosters empathetic, compassionate, and principled individuals who take responsibility for sustaining healthy relationships with themselves, their families, their communities, and their environment.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC PROGRAM 2024-25

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GENERAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The School Day: The Academic Day runs from 8:15 a.m. until 3:20 p.m. except Wednesdays, which run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. Middle School students have optional Sports and Activities until 5:05 p.m. Middle School students may remain after school to study or read quietly in the library which is open until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Attendance: Regular daily attendance is required. Students may not miss a class, study hall, or sports obligation unless he or she has been excused by the School Nurse or the appropriate member of the School's administration. If your child is absent, please email msoffice@taissengland.org or phone 01932 582336 to let the Middle School know the reason. Even if your child is ill on consecutive days, the School must be informed each morning by 8:30 a.m. If you know in advance that your child will be absent, please contact the Middle School Office so that we can plan accordingly. Please note that we are not able to grant excused absences for electively missing school. If your child needs to leave school during the day, he or she must sign out in the Middle School Office and then meet you in the car park.

Daily Schedule: Fifth Grade students operate in a *self-contained* homeroom, changing classrooms for some subjects. Students in Grades 6, 7, and 8 follow a different schedule each day of the week, typically with four class periods each day, plus the Tutorial/Advisory period and Lunch/Recess. Students in Grades 5 and 6 receive new schedules at the beginning of each semester. Any changes to schedules must be made by the Head of the Middle School. Students and parents can view the schedule on the LMS, including future classes students take later in the year.

Course of Study: The TASIS Middle School academic program is underpinned by the philosophy that students should experience a solid grounding in the academic subjects of mathematics, English language arts, history, science, foreign languages and technology, while also experiencing a wide breadth of other disciplines, including music, art, drama, health, and physical education. Middle School students take courses in each of these subject areas at every grade level. Students with exceptional experience or ability in mathematics or foreign language are placed in the course(s) which best match their level of achievement, regardless of grade level. Details of the Academic Program of Studies begin on page 6.

Participation in the after-school **sports and activities program** is optional, but once a student has enrolled in a sport or activity for the fall, winter, or spring term, his or her attendance is expected, and absences should be reported in advance to saattendance@tasisengland.org.

The School Year and Reports to Parents: The school year is divided into three semesters with three marking periods or approximately 11 weeks each, August to mid-January and January to June, denoted on the School calendar. Grade reports are issued at the end of each marking period, including achievement grades and effort marks in all subjects. (See details below.) Written teacher comments are provided at the end of the Second Semester and conferences take place between parents, students, and teachers after the First and Third Trimester to discuss the growth and learning of the student. There are no classes on conference days and these dates are posted on the school calendar. At the end of the school year, students write their own reflections of their learning journey over the course of the year.

Academic Progress: Students are expected to keep up with daily class assignments. There are numerous opportunities for extra help from teachers, but final responsibility for completion of academic work on schedule rests with the student. Students excused from classes due to illness, field trips, sports tournaments, etc., are responsible for all coursework and assessments missed due to the absence and must make the work up in a reasonable time upon return to class. Students are always encouraged to seek guidance on studying and time management from their teachers or their advisor. Please see the Homework section on page 24 for expectations.

Student assessments and grades are posted regularly on the LMS (Learning Management System) on the class page for each course in which students are enrolled. Students and parents have access to the LMS through the student and parent portals in order to monitor graded work and check progress. Day-to-day assignments and resources are managed through Google Classroom. While parents do not have direct access to their child's Google Classroom, we encourage parents to review Google Classroom together with their child occasionally to monitor progress, or more regularly if necessary.

Grading: TASIS England employs a traditional A through F grading system in the core academic subjects, with the grade of A denoting Superior work, B Commendable, C Satisfactory, D Passing, and F Failure. P.E. and Music, required special courses and electives use a Progressing (PG), Achieving (AH), and Exceeding (ED) scale.

Effort Marks: Effort marks are given in each subject for each quarter to indicate the teacher's assessment of the attitude, co-operation, and determination of the student, regardless of achievement. Effort marks are numerical, on a scale of one (outstanding) to five (unsatisfactory).

Middle School Effort Indicators:

- Is attentive and engaged in classroom activities
- Brings appropriate materials and is on time to class
- Demonstrates a positive, proactive approach to coursework
- Exhibits an interest in the subject and may complete extra work independently
- Attempts to resolve difficulties by him/herself and seeks additional help from the teacher if needed
- Takes the initiative to make up missed work when absent
- Is a positive influence in the class, and helpful to peers and teacher
- Completes work/assignments thoroughly and on time
- Is willing to revise, reflect, persevere
- Follows instructions
- Complies with the MS Code of Conduct

Student exhibits the above behaviors with the following frequency

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Consistently | (85-100% of the time) | (Outstanding) |
| 2. Usually | (70-85% of the time) | (Good) |
| 3. Often | (50-70% of the time) | (Satisfactory) |
| 4. Infrequently | (30-50% of the time) | (Poor) |
| 5. Rarely | (less than 30% of the time) | (Unsatisfactory) |

Honors: Honors lists (Grades 6–8 only) are compiled at the end of each trimester. Honors are determined using a calculation of the student's trimester grade point average (GPA) in the core academic subjects. To compute GPAs the following numerical equivalents are assigned: A+=4.33, A=4.00, A-=3.67, B+=3.33, B=3.00, etc. No courses are weighted. High Honors are awarded for outstanding academic achievement (A- average—3.67—and no effort mark below 3). Honors are awarded for highly commendable academic achievement (B+ average—3.33—and no effort mark below 3). Effort Honors are awarded for superior effort (1 and 2 effort marks only) in ALL classes.

MS Grading Quick Reference

Course Type	Grades	Effort Marks
Core Academic Subjects	A - F scale	✓
PE & Music	4-Point Scale ED, AH, PG, F	✓
Specials (Grade 5)		✓

Core Academic Subject Letter Grade Percentage Equivalents

Letter	Percentage	Letter	Percentage	Letter	Percentage	Letter	Percentage
A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
						F	< 60

PE, Art, Music, Drama, Innovation & Design, 4-Point Grade Conversion Scale

Achievement	Letters	Percentage	Descriptor (see class rubrics for details)
Exceeding	ED	90+	Exceeding grade level expectations; achieves lesson objectives all of the time and extends self to higher level
Achieving	AH	75 - 89%	Meeting grade level expectations; achieves lesson objectives most of the time
Progressing	PG	60-74%	Making forward progress; achieves lesson objectives some of the time
Failing	F	< 60%	Making little/no progress; rarely achieves lesson objectives

ACADEMIC PROGRAM OF STUDIES

General Curriculum Information

TASIS England embarked on a major curriculum redesign in 2018. The revised Middle School curriculum in Grades 5-8 is a standards-based curriculum, informed primarily by the AERO Plus Standards. The AERO Plus standards comprise the Common Core State Standards for English and Mathematics, the Next Generation Science Standards, and additional standards for other subject areas. Background information and further detail about the AERO standards can be found at: <http://www.projectaero.org/>. For the most current information about units of study in individual courses, please consult the class page on the LMS, through the Parent Portal. The Quick Reference table below offers an abbreviated overview of the course offerings by grade. Expanded information can be found below the tables.

TASIS ENGLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL 2024-2025

ACADEMIC COURSE OFFERINGS QUICK REFERENCE

<u>GRADE 5</u>		
<p>Core</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Language Arts Math Science History 	<p>Specialized</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art Drama Music & Choir Physical Education Innovation and Design Library Spanish French IT Skills Health/PSHE 	<p>Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAL or Learning Support
<u>GRADE 6</u>		
<p>Core</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English History Science Math Foreign Language (French, Spanish, or English Language Arts) 	<p>Specialized</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art Drama Music (Band or String Ensemble, or General Music & Choir) Physical Education PSHE Innovation and Design 	<p>Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAL or Learning Support

Denotes guided choice required

<u>GRADE 7</u>		
<p>Core</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • History • Science • Math • Foreign Language (French or Spanish) 	<p>Specialized</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Education • Art • Drama • Music (Band or String Ensemble & Choir) • Health/PSHEE • Innovation & Design 	<p>Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAL or Learning Support

<u>GRADE 8</u>		
<p>Core</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • History • Science • Math • Foreign Language (French or Spanish) 	<p>Specialized</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Education • Art • Drama • Music (Band or String Ensemble & Choir) • Health/PSHEE • Innovation and Design 	<p>Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAL or Learning Support
<p>*Subject to demand and availability Denotes choice required</p>		

Fifth Grade

The Fifth Grade curriculum focuses on teaching specific developmental skills within core subjects: English language arts, mathematics, science, and history. Subjects are often taught in an integrated manner, for example, reading historical fiction or non-fiction that encompasses goals from both the reading and history curricula. As part of the transition from primary school to middle school, the curriculum is delivered in a combination of a self-contained classroom with the child's homeroom teacher and specialist instruction outside the homeroom. With the exception of mathematics, students are NOT grouped by ability level and remain with their homeroom classmates throughout the day.

The **Language Arts** curriculum includes instruction in Reading, Writing, Literary analysis, Spelling, Grammar, and Vocabulary, as well as oral communication and presentation skills. Children read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, including a range of ethnic, social, and cultural situations, characters, and authors. Reading and writing (particularly nonfiction reading and analytical writing) skills are strengthened and reinforced in all of the subject areas. Children are also encouraged to read independently for their own enjoyment.

The Fifth Grade places great emphasis on the writing process, in which the tasks of writing are broken into its smaller components. The systematic process comprises pre-writing (planning and organizing) and writing (drafting, editing, revising, proofreading, etc.). Writing mini-lessons include sentence structure, paragraph and essay development, and research, while editing work focuses attention on grammar, spelling, and punctuation skills.

In the Fifth Grade, students continue to build on their **mathematics** foundation, including place value, whole number operations, decimals and fractions, percent, estimation, measurement, geometry, and graphing. Problem-solving is emphasized. Students are placement tested and grouped, with some students receiving a faster-paced program, and others given time to practice and consolidate their skills in a spiraling fashion, where concepts are reintroduced. Mathematics instruction is supported with resources from Eureka Math.

Science is a blend of hands-on investigations, literacy-rich activities, and interactive digital tools to empower students to think, read, write, and argue like real scientists and engineers. The units of instruction, Patterns of Earth and Sky, Modeling Matter, The Earth System, and Ecosystem Restoration, are organized around anchoring phenomena integrating content from Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science, and Engineering. Resources include *Amplify Science* from Lawrence Hall which supports the Next Generation Science Standards.

History and Geography are project-oriented, often using active learning to enhance the curriculum. Historical content includes Pre-History and Early Humans, England in the Golden Age, Early Russia), and the American Civil War. Learning about current issues is a key element of the course. All course content provides students with the opportunity to learn how to articulately express thoughts verbally and in writing. Resources include TCI's *History Alive! The Ancient World* text and Core Knowledge™ History and Geography.

Instruction in **French and Spanish** is introduced to assist Fifth Grade students with making their choice of one of these languages to study in Sixth or Seventh Grade. Lessons are taught by specialist teachers with an emphasis on verbal work. The objectives of this program are to develop an awareness of the language and its sounds, in addition to learning about the culture in French and Spanish speaking countries around the world.

Library skills classes teach students to locate, organize, and use information, and meet one period per week. Children are instructed in the use of the computerized catalog and check-out system, Internet sources, and research skills. Browsing is included during the class lesson time, but children can take out books and return them at any time. The open-door policy of the Library encourages students and teachers to make the most of the facility.

In **Art** classes, students learn and apply art concepts such as abstraction, balance, line, form, pattern, shape, color, space, and texture through activities using clay, paint, wood, cloth, and metal.

Students are exposed to a wide range of musical styles through active participation in **Music** classes. They continue to build skills in the areas of reading music, playing instruments, listening and creating music both traditionally and on a digital platform. A component of the course is choral singing in a variety of genres, with a focus on singing in parts, and working cooperatively as an ensemble. Instrumental lessons are available (at additional cost) and scheduled during non-instructional time or after school.

The aim of **Physical Education (PE)** is for students to develop their application and understanding of movement skills, sportsmanship, collaboration/teamwork, and sports leadership. Students will cover six main units throughout the year, integrating health topics through the concepts of Run Jump Throw, Net games, Invasion Games, Personal Fitness, Striking and Fielding, and Movement Concepts (Parkour/Dance). Students will be emboldened to undertake a variety of learning/teaching roles within lessons, in areas such as peer coaching, refereeing, and lesson review

and reflection. Students are encouraged to take risks, learn from mistakes, and ultimately develop a lifelong passion for physical activity and a healthy lifestyle. Fifth Grade students have two physical education classes per week.

The Fifth Grade Health/PSHE (**Personal, Social, Health, and Economic**) course introduces students to the three key themes in health education: health and wellbeing, relationships, and living in the wider world. Units of study include: Organizational skills; Online safety); Respect (yourself and others); Friendship: cliques, belonging, and bullying; Growing up: puberty, hygiene and reproduction; Taking Care of the Environment.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Core Subjects, Grades 6–8

ENGLISH

ENGLISH, GRADE 6

In addition to developing an appreciation for different genres of literature, this course covers the following basic English skills of grammar, vocabulary development, writing, and oral expression.

The goals are to recognize, comprehend, and apply principles of language usage, and to raise the level of reading comprehension and literary analysis. Literature is studied and analyzed through class studies of core novels which offer variety and encourage cooperative learning.

Previously taught writing skills are reviewed and reinforced. New skills are introduced with regard to grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary development, sentence structure, paragraph and essay development, and research. Creative and expository writing are taught, and students practice the writing process as they learn more about creative writing and expository writing.

LANGUAGE ARTS, GRADE 6

This course provides the opportunity for students to continue developing their reading and writing skills in English before starting to study a foreign language. Course content includes reading comprehension, writing skills, grammar, spelling, and mechanics. In addition to direct instruction in Language Arts, some class time is also used to support students in the completion of assignments from other subjects.

Language Arts is taken in addition to English and takes the place of a foreign language. Selection of this course is made in consultation with parents and teachers and must be approved by the Head of Middle School.

ENGLISH, GRADE 7

Seventh Grade English deepens the student's awareness of, appreciation for, and understanding of literature and strengthens the basic skills of grammar, spelling, vocabulary, oral expression, listening, and writing. Where possible, skills are developed through the literature, and a variety of techniques are used to foster individual comprehension, curiosity, critical thinking, imagination, sensitivity, cooperation, responsibility, and confidence.

Course content includes: reading (the study of novels, poetry, and plays); writing (creative writing, essay writing, book reports); grammar (including basic parts of speech and usage taken from student-generated work and errors whenever possible); vocabulary (from literature, day-to-day work, and *Membean.com*); speaking experience (through presentations, reading, drama, and discussion); listening skills (through our day-to-day interaction and peer conversation); and finally, study skills (through the formal evaluation process).

ENGLISH, GRADE 8

The Eighth Grade English course is designed to further students' appreciation of different genres of literature (novels, plays, poetry) and a variety of writing domains, in addition to mastery of, and practice in the basic skills of grammar, spelling, and acquiring vocabulary. Particular time and attention is paid to the craft of writing and composition (essay, analytical, creative, research, oratory), preparing students for Upper School and formal writing requirements.

Course content, activities, and literature are chosen to engage and appropriately challenge the reader. Emphasis is placed on the drafting of writing, spelling, grammar, research, critical thinking, effective oral interaction, and general study habits. In addition to *Membean*, vocabulary words are taught on a weekly basis through literature, etymological background, word relationships, and practical application in the context of students' own writing.

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HISTORY

HISTORY, GRADE 6

Students engage in active learning to study the history of China, Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome, including Roman Britain. Students are challenged to learn through a large variety of developmentally appropriate activities. Skill development includes an understanding of chronological thinking, using primary and secondary source material, synthesizing information through quality note taking, library research, writing, and debate skills. Critical thinking is developed through class activities and during lively class discussions, and current issues are embedded throughout the course. Resources include TCI's *History Alive! The Ancient World* text and accompanying online resources.

HISTORY, GRADE 7

The aim of this course is to inspire students and develop historical thinking skills through the study of Medieval Europe, Islam, Renaissance and Reformation, the study of Latin America and Indigenous Peoples of the Americas. The approaches to learning are varied and designed to engage the curiosity of the learner. Students take part in a number of projects that enable them to apply critical thinking skills, historical reasoning, and develop research and writing skills. Current issues are embedded throughout the year. Resources include TCI's *History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond* text and accompanying online resources.

HISTORY, GRADE 8

This course covers the history of the United States from the pre-revolutionary period to the end of the 20th Century. Students are challenged to develop higher level thinking skills and historical reasoning. Skill focus includes the ability to create a strong historical argument and defend a thesis, consider cause and effect and identify continuity and change over time. Using both chronological and thematic approaches, the Eighth Grade History course challenges students to use history as evidence and engage in critical thinking related to the question of what history is, close reading, sourcing, corroboration and contextualization. Current events and geography are embedded throughout the year. Resources include TCI's *History Alive! The United States through Industrialism and Modern Times* and *History Alive! The United States through Modern Times* texts and accompanying online resources.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The study of a foreign language is a very powerful tool which allows individuals to communicate with other cultures and communities as well as fostering empathy and respect for other countries, their beliefs and values. The TASIS Middle School foreign languages program fosters cross-cultural understanding and this is facilitated through class activities and educational foreign trips that take place each year. In class, primarily using the direct method approach (sole use of the target language), the emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Cross-cultural understanding also takes center stage in order to help our students to better understand diversity and become more principled and open-minded while being part of a global community. Real-life situations are emphasized throughout the courses. The Middle School foreign language program is designed to meet the varied and diverse needs of our student body while nurturing intellectual and cultural curiosity.

The Middle School foreign language program offers instruction in French or Spanish, each in three ability levels. Each student is placed according to ability level and prior experience in the study of a foreign language. Students continuing at TASIS follow the natural progression of courses upon the successful completion of each course.

FRENCH OR SPANISH

The main goal of the French and Spanish Middle School foreign language courses is to enable students to acquire a solid background in the target language through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. As members of a global community, we aim to also foster cross-cultural understanding. French or Spanish

is used almost exclusively in the instruction and communication inside the classroom. The four language skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening are emphasized and developed simultaneously. In class, teachers use different pedagogical methods in order to facilitate and nurture the intellectual ability of every child. With continuous guidance and support, students will be able to develop the necessary skills that will enable them to flourish in their future studies.

The program is composed of three levels of language acquisition: Activating, Exploring, Consolidating. As resources, we use textbooks for the different levels in addition to a variety of other interactive and authentic materials as well as regular posts in our online internal platform LMS. Throughout the year, students learn vocabulary and grammar associated with different units of study. School, family, environment, pastimes, traveling, social/political issues, and advertising are some of the many examples explored in the classes. In order to promote and nurture intellectual curiosity, all students are encouraged to participate and take an active role in all class activities.

LANGUAGE ARTS, GRADE 6

This course provides the opportunity for students to continue developing their reading and writing skills in English before starting to study a foreign language. Course content includes reading comprehension, writing skills, grammar, spelling, and mechanics. In addition to direct instruction in Language Arts, some class time is also used to support students in the completion of assignments from other subjects.

Language Arts is taken in addition to English and takes the place of a foreign language. Selection of this course is made in consultation with parents and teachers and must be approved by the Head of Middle School.

MATHEMATICS

Students are placed in an appropriate level math course based on the results of math placement testing, standardized math test scores, recommendations of students' previous math teachers, and/or records presented to us from previous schools.

Mathematics contains many skills which are strengthened and built up during each successive year. These basic skills include addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. Measurement and geometry are also reviewed annually, and become more sophisticated with the inclusion of more advanced computation and related activities. Students are introduced to functions and algebraic expressions from the Sixth Grade. "Mental math" problems are presented often to increase students' powers of abstract numerical thought and calculation. Word problems are used to develop computational skills, critical thinking in practical situations, and students' self-confidence.

As the switch to the SI (International System) or Metric System is not yet universal, the customary units of inches, cups, pounds, etc. are also taught. American money is presented too, as a working knowledge of the units of currency is commonly assumed in terms of standardized testing.

The Common Core State Standards (U.S.A.) are incorporated in the materials, the philosophy, and the methodology of the middle school math courses.

The Math Department makes use of all technologies available to us. Calculator usage is integrated into lessons where appropriate. The use of specialized software provides a valuable resource for instruction.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS 1

In Math 6, students are instructed in a broad range of topics in order to establish a solid foundation upon which future mathematical knowledge will build. Instruction is delivered using a variety of methods. Some content is presented with the goal of introducing the students to a particular concept or skill, while other material is to be mastered. Skills to be mastered include: adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing whole numbers, fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals; identifying least common multiples and greatest common factors; estimating products and quotients; evaluating expressions containing variables and exponents; calculating perimeter, area, and volume; measuring length, mass, and volume in both U.S. customary units and metric units; creating and interpreting graphs, classifying angles and polygons; and writing and solving equations. Learning is assessed through daily homework, class activities, quizzes, and tests. Math 6 aligns with Common Core State Standards for Grade Six.

TEXT: *Mathematics, Grade 6*, by Bennett, Burger, Chard, et al (McDougal, 2012)

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS 2

Math 7 is an intermediate middle school math course building logically and progressively from the Sixth Grade course material. Students are instructed in a broad range of topics in order to establish a solid foundation upon which future mathematical knowledge will build. Instruction is delivered using a variety of methods guided by current research and best practice in early adolescent education. Mathematical concepts from the Sixth Grade course are reinforced. The incorporation of more abstract concepts differentiates this course from the Sixth Grade class and all concepts are studied in greater depth. Having practiced multiple problem-solving strategies, students are expected to become proficient in choosing the most expeditious method. Learning is assessed through daily homework, class activities, quizzes, and tests. Math 7 aligns with Common Core State Standards for Grade Seven.

TEXT: *Mathematics, Grade 7*, by Bennett, Burger, Chard, et al (McDougal, 2012)

PRE-ALGEBRA/MATHEMATICS 8

This is a broad-based course that comprehensively covers various aspects of mathematics and emphasizes day-to-day applications. The primary focus is on developing and refining computational skills while reviewing arithmetic, as well as on extending algebraic and geometric concepts and applications. Developing logical and analytical thought is stressed throughout the course, as are applications to real-life mathematics problems. The course reviews basic arithmetic skills to fully equip students with the skills and knowledge they will need for the formal study of algebra and geometry. Topics include solving simple equations and multi-step equations, graphs and statistical data, computation, integers and fractions, ratios, proportion and percent, geometry (including formulas for perimeters, areas, and volumes), inequalities, word problem solving, probability, basic trigonometry, and graphing in two variables on a coordinate plane. Pre-Algebra aligns with Common Core State Standards for Grade Eight.

TEXT: *Mathematics, Grade 8*, by Bennett, Burger, Chard, et al (McDougal, 2012)

HONORS ALGEBRA 1

Honors Algebra 1 is an Upper School course that is offered to students who have demonstrated good knowledge of the material covered in the Math 7 and Pre-algebra courses, as well as by previous strong mathematics performance. The course covers all topics that would be found in a high school Algebra 1 course and aligns with the Common Core State Standards for high school algebra. The course is designed to prepare students for the upper school courses in Geometry and Algebra 2. After a brief period of intensive review, students begin the core work of the course: linear equations and inequalities, exponents, polynomials, quadratic functions and equations, exponential functions, data analysis and probability.

TEXT: *Algebra1*, by Burger, Chard, et al. (Holt McDougal, 2012)

Please note: High School credit will be granted for Honors Algebra 1 taken in the Middle School at TASIS and students taking this course will be granted advancement to take higher levels of mathematics in the TASIS Upper School. TASIS Middle School employs the same standards and text as the TASIS Upper School for this course.

HONORS GEOMETRY

Geometry is an Upper School course. It is offered to those students who have continued to excel in mathematics and have done well the previous year in Algebra I. The course provides a thorough foundation in plane Euclidean geometry with emphasis on the formal nature of definition, the structure of knowledge, and inductive and deductive reasoning. Topics of study include parallel lines and planes, congruent triangles, quadrilaterals, inequalities, similar polygons, transformations, circles, right triangles and trigonometry, planar and space measurements, and coordinate geometry.

TEXT: *Geometry* by Burger, Chard, et al (Holt McDougal, 2015)

Please note: High School credit will be granted for Geometry taken in the Middle School at TASIS and students taking this course will be granted advancement to take higher levels of mathematics in the TASIS Upper School. TASIS Middle School employs the same standards and text as the TASIS Upper School for this course.

SCIENCE

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) underpin the Middle School Science curriculum. The NGSS are described as “three-dimensional,” comprising the interrelated domains of Crosscutting Concepts, Science and Engineering Practices, and Disciplinary Core Ideas, all of which are combined in each science standard. See below for an overview of the three dimensions, taken from the Next Generations Science Standards website, <https://www.nextgenscience.org/>, where further information is available.

The TASIS England Middle School Science program in Grades 6, 7, and 8 follows an integrated science model and draws many of its resources from *Amplify Science* (Lawrence Hall). Each yearlong course emphasizes collaboration and includes multiple instructional units, integrating earth and space science, life science, physical science and/or engineering within each curriculum unit. The course is a blend of hands-on investigations, literacy-rich activities, and interactive digital tools to empower students to think, read, write, and argue like real scientists and engineers. These are exciting, thought-provoking units designed to engage students in science learning through complex and relevant questions and problems. Each science course also supports the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts through the application of standards for nonfiction reading, writing, and presentation skills.

SCIENCE, GRADE 6

Units of study in Grade 6 include: Microbiome; Metabolism; Traits and Reproduction; Thermal Energy; Ocean, Atmosphere, and Climate; Weather Patterns; and Earth’s Changing Climate, as well as two related engineering units.

SCIENCE, GRADE 7

Units of study in Grade 7 include Geology on Mars; Plate Motion; Rock Formations; Phase Change; Chemical Reactions; Populations and Resources; Matter and Energy in Ecosystems, as well as two related engineering units.

SCIENCE, GRADE 8

Units of study in Grade 8 include Harnessing Human Energy; Force and Motion; Magnetic Fields; Light Waves; Earth, Moon, and Sun; Natural Selection; and Evolutionary History, as well as two related engineering units.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Required Specialized Subjects, Grades 6–8

All students must take physical education for the entire year, plus at least one course each from the Art, Music, and Drama areas. Sixth Graders must complete a Skills course. Seventh and Eighth Graders must take a semester Health class and must complete at least one STEM course in either Seventh or Eighth Grade.

HEALTH /SKILLS/PSHE (Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education)

SKILLS/PSHE, Grades 6

The Skills/PSHE 6 curriculum is designed to meet the needs of Sixth Grade students at a time when more complex research, organizational, and technical skills are required for academic success. Classes, which meet once a week throughout the year, are structured to provide support and to teach the skills associated with time management, library research, computer skills, and test taking. Reinforcement and assessment of skills are based on material from core classes, particularly English, History, and Science classes. In the Second Semester, a Health unit is also included in this course in which students are introduced to various health-related topics including Personal Hygiene, Body Image, Setting Boundaries, Appropriate Social Media Use, and Conflicts Among Friends. All Sixth Grade students are assigned to this year-long course.

Health/PSHE, Grades 7 & 8

The Seventh and Eighth Grade Health/PSHE curriculum introduce students to the major themes in health education and how they affect physical, mental, emotional, and social health. Throughout the curriculum, it is stressed that all the areas of health are related and equally important.

Resources: PSHE Association (<https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/>); *The Teenage Body Book* by Kathleen McCoy, PhD (Berkley)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PE, GRADES 6 - 8

The aim of PE is to provide all students with an opportunity to learn within a balanced program in which they are encouraged to further develop their application and understanding of movement skills, sportsmanship, collaboration/teamwork, and sports leadership. Students will cover six main units throughout the year. Within each unit we will look at integrating health topics through the concepts of Run Jump Throw, Net Games, Invasion Games, Personal Fitness, Striking and Fielding, and Movement Concepts (Parkour/Dance). Students will be given the opportunity throughout the various units to discover and learn about the key concepts that aim to build upon previous knowledge and skills. Each of these skills are transferable into other PE units and also classroom-based subjects. They also help each student to strengthen not only their own individual experiences, but to encourage students to identify the positive connections that arise from shared and/or group experiences. Students will be emboldened to undertake a variety of learning/teaching roles within lessons, providing opportunities to gain further knowledge and/or to develop skills in areas such as peer coaching, refereeing, and lesson review and reflection. These additional learning experiences allow students to play their part within a positive learning environment. This will provide each student with the opportunity to develop in areas such as confidence, resilience, empathy, communication skills, and their decision making. Students are given the best possible chance to flourish within PE when they are encouraged to take risks, learn from mistakes, and ultimately develop a lifelong passion for physical activity and a healthy lifestyle.

ART

ART, GRADE 6

The Sixth Grade art course has been developed to give students a knowledge of the elements of Art and Design. Students are encouraged to be creative, imaginative, and expressive through a series of investigative challenges and projects. Using both two and three-dimensional materials, students are asked to develop new practical, and analytical skills as they progress through a rigorous year-long program of study. Students explore the role of the artist and the designer both throughout history, and in a variety of social and cultural contexts. Through regular critiques and class discussions, visual arts vocabulary is developed and encouraged with the aim of enriching each student's personal identity.

ART, GRADE 7

The Art and Design course for the Seventh Grade students has been designed to give each student a visual arts tool kit so they can be creative, expressive, and engaged as artists and designers. During the semester, all the students will produce studies experimenting with the use of both two and three-dimensional materials as a means of communicating their ideas and designs for a series of challenges and projects. The students develop a final portfolio of work, consisting of drawings, paintings, sculptures, and collages. Students are encouraged to develop an appreciation of their own work and the work of others, and expected to participate in all aspects of the creative process. With each assignment students will also be asked to explore new art ideas through the research of relevant historical, social, personal, and cultural references.

ART, GRADE 8

The Eighth Grade Visual Arts course has been structured for the students to investigate the application of the elements and principles of Art and Design. During the semester, the students create a series of projects and assignments that have been designed to motivate, challenge, and inspire the students to be creative, expressive, open, and engaged. Through practice the students develop a knowledge of working with materials in both two and three dimensions creating a final portfolio of drawings, paintings, collages, photographs, and sculptures. Students are encouraged to develop an appreciation of their own work and the work of others, and participate in group critiques. With each assignment students will also be asked to explore new art ideas through the research of relevant historical, social, personal, and cultural references.

MUSIC

All Middle School students take music each year. They may choose among Band, String Ensemble, or General Music & Choir.

BAND 6, 7/8

Middle School Bands meet throughout the year. Band is open to all middle school students who have instrumental experience and at least a basic ability to read music, at the discretion of the instructor. Beginners who wish to join the band will be encouraged to take private instrumental lessons until they have achieved a standard of playing suitable for the ensemble.

STRING ENSEMBLE 6, 7/8

The string ensembles meet throughout the year, and are open to all violin, viola, cello, and double bass players in Grades 6, 7 and 8 who have instrumental experience and at least a basic ability to read music, at the discretion of the instructor. Beginners who wish to join the ensemble are encouraged to take private instrumental lessons until they have achieved a standard of playing suitable for the ensemble.

GENERAL MUSIC & CHOIR 6, 7/8

The general music classes focus on exposure to and appreciation for various musical forms and genres, including the opportunity to make music both physically and digitally. A component of the course is choral singing in a variety of genres, including learning to read music, sing in parts, and work cooperatively as an ensemble.

INDIVIDUAL MUSIC LESSONS

These are offered to all grades as an extracurricular activity (at additional expense). Individual instruction is offered on piano, strings, guitar, flute, brass, saxophone, oboe, clarinet, percussion, and voice on a weekly basis. Please refer to the separate and more detailed form available from the Music Office for information on teachers and fees.

DRAMA

DRAMA 6

Sixth Grade Drama is a course of discovery where students explore theatre as a storytelling art form. Students explore many types of storytelling and many kinds of stories, from a variety of world cultures. Students will learn to see theatre as a universal language, and will develop their confidence in using their voice and body to portray a character and connect with an audience. Students will also be encouraged to think creatively and reflectively about their own theatre work and develop self-management skills during self-directed projects.

DRAMA 7, 8

The Drama courses in Seventh and Eighth Grades allow students to develop their skills, knowledge, understanding, and creativity in Drama. Students delve deeper into the process of creating a performance, both from a script and from a stimulus, gaining confidence in a variety of established theatre conventions and techniques. The skills developed in these courses significantly improve confidence in self-expression, public speaking, creative thinking, and risk taking. Students will get the opportunity to develop performances relevant to their own life experiences and try them out in low-stakes performance environments.

INNOVATION & DESIGN

New to TASIS for the 2023-24 academic year is the Innovation & Design programme for Grades 5 - 8. The goal of the programme is to develop an understanding of the 'Design Thinking Cycle' and how it can be used to solve user-centric problems. Taught through the lens of design engineering, students will learn how to conduct formal research, develop design ideas, manufacture prototype models and conduct product validation testing.

Through focusing on 'learning how to learn', students will develop a 21st century toolkit that enables them to become;

- Empowered Learners & Knowledge Constructors
- Innovative Designers & Computational Thinkers
- Creative Communicators & Global Collaborators

The specific aims of the course are to encourage students to;

- Develop an appreciation of the design cycle and its impact on design innovations for life, global society and environments.

- Appreciate past, present and emerging design within cultural, political, social, historical and environmental contexts
- Develop design empathy, respect for others' viewpoints and appreciate alternative solutions to problems.
- Use and apply technology effectively as a means to access, process and communicate information, model and create solutions, and to solve technical problems.
- Develop specific technical skills across Computer Aided Design (CAD), electronics, mechanical engineering, laser cutting, 3D printing and fabrication.
- Develop an awareness of the breadth of design engineering and the specific career opportunities that exist.
- Act with integrity and honesty, and take responsibility for their own actions developing effective working practices.

All Middle School students are required to Innovation and Design in each year of the program.

HOMEWORK in Middle School

In Middle School, we firmly believe that the majority of productive learning should take place during the school day, under the guidance of our experienced educators. We understand the importance of a well-rounded education, and we encourage our students to engage in a full and varied life outside of the school day. With this in mind, any school work undertaken outside of the classroom - what we refer to as "homework" - must have a clear purpose and value.

Homework is grouped into two types of activities:

- **Preparation:** activities that prepare students for upcoming classes, such as reading or watching course-related material.
- **Promoting Permanence:** activities that develop automaticity, fluency, speed, and long-term retention, such as practicing vocabulary, rehearsing speeches, or studying for assessments.

Additionally, there is an expectation that students should spend 30 minutes each day on their Daily Study Routine. Students can have some choice over how they spend this time, but it may include the following tasks:

- Reviewing their LMS
- Google Classroom
- Email - clean-up/any response needed?
- Check the Daily Bulletin to see what
- Reading for pleasure
- Current Events
- Service

Production activities that involve exploring, understanding, and applying new concepts, and are best done in the classroom. Examples include writing essays, problem-solving, and conducting lab work. These tasks are likely used to inform students' achievement grades.

Homework Time Guidelines

We want to provide guidance on homework completion times for Middle School students. Please note that this is guidance only, and if your child constantly has difficulty completing their work within these suggested times, please contact their teacher or advisor for assistance.

Grade Level	
Fifth Grade	Maximum of 30 minutes of homework plus 30 minutes Daily Study Routine
Sixth Grade	Maximum of 40 minutes of homework plus 30 minutes Daily Study Routine
Seventh Grade	Maximum of 50 minutes of homework plus 30 minutes Daily Study Routine
Eighth Grade	Maximum of 60 minutes of homework plus 30 minutes Daily Study Routine

Responsibilities:

The guidelines below indicate the differing responsibilities with respect to homework assignments.

Students are responsible for:

- Checking the LMS and Google Classroom routinely for homework assignments
- Bringing home the proper materials to complete necessary course work;
- Focusing on the task at hand, setting aside other distractions;
- Completing any work missed due to absence from class, planning ahead when possible, within the time frame agreed with the teacher;
- Seeking assistance from the teacher and/or advisor during Tutorial if having difficulty understanding concepts or managing workload;
- Contacting their teacher during the school day when necessary, rather than expecting email support in the evening;
- Understanding that studying and reviewing independently is a responsibility for which they must take ownership, even when not explicitly assigned by their teacher(s).

Parents should:

- Be familiar with the philosophy and guidance for home work expectations outside the school day;
- Provide a time and place for children to work at home with limited interruptions, particularly monitoring the use of the Internet, mobile phones, and gaming applications. We do NOT recommend students have access to devices in their bedrooms.
- Provide access to a computer, printer, and office supplies as necessary;
- Encourage children to contact the teacher with questions or concerns. While this strategy promotes student ownership, parents should feel free to reach out directly to the classroom teacher, especially if their child exceeds the allotted time frame or feels their child is finding their work particularly stressful or unmanageable.

Teachers, Advisors, and Administrators are responsible for:

- Assigning work only for preparation and promoting permanence;
- Ensuring that expectations are set out in Google Classroom and understood by all students before they leave the classroom;
- Actively monitoring and limiting the time students spend on work outside the classroom
- Supporting students with techniques to develop their organizational and study skills;
- Providing extension activities in Google Classroom to provide opportunities for students to remediate, reinforce, and/or extend their learning outside the classroom.

Student Agenda

All students will be supplied with a TASIS Middle School Agenda at the start of the year. Advisors will be providing guidance on how to utilize it to be more organized.

Students are not expected to have assigned homework every day, but they will benefit from developing the habit of routinely reviewing and reinforcing new learning. Students taking advanced courses can expect to spend more time on homework. This would apply especially to students taking Algebra I or Geometry, or Upper School foreign language courses.

Homework will not be assigned over holiday periods, with the exception of reading literature.

Middle School students are also routinely provided with extension opportunities in all their courses. The extension activities serve multiple purposes by providing students with alternate resources to remediate, reinforce, or extend their learning, pursue specific areas of interest, and exercise choice in their learning pathways. Extension activities can be found in the Google Classroom for each course.

ASSESSMENT

The full philosophy and practice of assessment is articulated and governed by the schoolwide Assessment Policy, which can be found on the School's website. Assessment at TASIS England supports the development of High-Quality Learning and Intercultural Learning for our students.

Intercultural Learning is the process through which we acquire knowledge and understanding through an awareness of your own culture, engagement with other cultures and perspectives, and explorations into local and global issues to enable us to interact and communicate in appropriate and effective ways in intercultural situations.

High-Quality Learning is the acquisition of skills and knowledge that results in the individual transformation and growth of each learner, and it is achieved when:

- Learning takes place in a safe, nurturing environment that encourages creativity, curiosity, and independence.
- Learning is transferable; skills and conceptual understanding can be applied within multiple contexts.
- Learning involves inquiry, critical thinking, feedback, and reflection.
- Learners have ownership of the process and are able to articulate what they are learning and why they are learning it.

TASIS England is dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge through curiosity and encourages each student to take responsibility for the learning process. We believe that the use of continuous assessment is a key part of that process and can inform teaching and learning to keep us aligned with our Mission. This is achieved through the collection, analysis, evaluation, and reporting of the assessment data related to student learning. Through a consistent school wide philosophy and understanding of the purpose of assessment, we can ensure that students are emboldened to pursue international mindedness, service leadership, and lifelong learning.

Assessment Beliefs and Values at TASIS England

Assessment is an integral part of planning, teaching, and high-quality learning at TASIS England. Teachers are encouraged to employ a wide variety of assessments, based on clear and realistic learning expectations and standards-based outcomes. Success criteria should be clear and shared with students to promote a reflective learning culture. Assessment should provide regular and meaningful feedback to enable students to take responsibility for their own learning. All assessments serve a formative purpose, even at the culmination of a unit, semester, or course. Assessment should use appropriate and diverse strategies for students to demonstrate their learning and should guide them towards their next steps.

Assessment at TASIS England is focused on improving and developing, rather than simply documenting, student learning and performance. It identifies what students know, understand, and can do at different stages in the learning process.

The elements that define curriculum at TASIS England are:

- The written curriculum or “*What do we want our students to learn?*”
The learning outcomes, concepts, skills, attitudes and actions we have identified in the school's written curriculum.
- The taught curriculum or “*How will we teach so that our students will learn best?*”
The teaching and learning strategies, programs, and resources that best support the types of learning identified in the written curriculum.
- The learned/assessed curriculum or “*How will we know that our students have learned?*” (*when and what*)

Assessment Purpose

The main purposes of assessment are to:

- **Promote** student learning – assessment provides an opportunity for students to reflect and act upon the feedback they are given.
- **Provide** feedback related to planning and teaching in order to inform the next stages of learning:
 - Assessing, teaching, and learning are directly linked and function purposefully together.
 - Meaningful assessment engages students and encourages them to take responsibility for their own learning.
- **Evaluate** the effectiveness of our curriculum and program – assists in curriculum review cycles and program action plans

Assessment at TASIS England enables:

- **Students** to understand more about themselves as a learner and to become reflective and active members in the learning process.
- **Teachers** to understand more about their students' strengths and challenges and plan appropriate, differentiated learning opportunities to meet those needs.
- **Parents** to understand more about their child as a learner and strategies that enhance their development.
- **Our school** to understand our community of learners and to evaluate and develop curriculum appropriate to the needs of our diverse group of learners.

Effective assessment:

- Improves and encourages student learning by providing effective **feedback** on the learning process and outcomes;
- Guides **planning, teaching and learning**;
- Ensures that student **understanding, knowledge and skills** are assessed **prior to, during, and after** new learning occurs;
- Is a continuous process that provides **recorded evidence** of student **progress and learning** over time;
- Is directly related to **learning outcomes/curriculum standards**;
- Utilizes a **wide range of strategies/tools**;
- Has clear **scoring criteria** that are known and understood by students in advance;
- Involves frequent opportunities for students to be assessed in **relevant and meaningful ways**;
- Engages the learner in the **reflection** of their learning;
- Is **reported** clearly and regularly to students and parents.

In alignment with our definitions of High-Quality Learning and Intercultural Learning, we also believe that assessment should be:

- Accurate, fair, and reliable;
- Clearly articulated and accessible for both teachers and students;
- Modified to suit different learning needs and styles;
- Consistent across grades, departments, and classes;
- Supportive of intercultural beliefs and perspectives;
- Significant, engaging, and relevant;
- Supportive of developing higher-order thinking skills;

- Positive and encouraging of growth;

Middle School Assessment Practices

Just as Middle School marks a period of developmental transition in students, so do the assessment practices used in the middle years. While all assessment seeks to advance the learning process, in Middle School students gain greater exposure to more formal assessment practices in preparation for more high-stakes assessments they will face in the Upper School years. In addition to the various assessment modalities described above and administered throughout the year, **cumulative assessments** (one class period in length) are administered in Sixth and Seventh Grade (optionally, depending on the subject), and Eighth Grade. At the end of the third semester, Eighth Grade students have Cumulative exams in core academic courses in preparation for examination practices in Upper School. Cumulative assessments contribute 10% toward the Trimester grade in a course.

In order to promote planning and communication with students and parents, all assessments which contribute directly to students' achievement grades are posted in advance on the **Learning Management System (LMS)**. Students who have more than two assessments in a given day are encouraged to speak to their advisor or classroom teacher to rearrange one of the assessments to achieve a manageable workload.

The Middle School also employs a number of **external assessment instruments** that do not contribute directly to students' achievement grades, but are instead used to provide standardized metrics of student progress and/or opportunities for enrichment and challenge. For example, MS students take part in standardized [MAP Growth](#) testing through the NWEA organization (this replaces ERB CTP testing formerly administered in the Middle School) and the [UKMT Mathematics Challenges](#).

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The School expects students to behave with integrity, openness, and honesty in all areas of school life. These high standards of behavior underpin our values as a community that can work and play together with trust, maximize the value of each individual's learning journey, and enable students to represent the School, their family, and themselves with pride.

To that end, students are expected to complete their school work with their own best efforts and use of authorized resource materials, without unattributed aid from others. As part of the learning process, students are educated about the fair and legal use of source materials and work from other authors, and assistance that may be received from others outside the classroom. Students will be asked to include the following Honor Pledge on their assessments: "I confirm that this is my own, independent work."

Academic dishonesty—cheating or plagiarism—is a serious matter, but one that can arise due to misunderstandings about what constitutes acceptable help, feeling pressure to reach a certain level of attainment, or failing to plan and allow enough time to complete assignments. The table below is included to help students understand the difference between honest and dishonest learning behaviors.

Honest Learning Behaviors	Dishonest Learning Behaviors
Allowing adequate time to complete assignments, asking for an extension if necessary Asking for help from teacher, another adult, or peer-helper if assignment or content is unclear	Copying another student's classwork or homework, or copying solutions found online
Helping a peer understand the material or discussing ideas with them or directing them to the teacher for clarification	Allowing another student to copy classwork or homework, doing work for another student or otherwise giving unauthorized assistance in the preparation of work for credit
Allowing adequate time to prepare for assessments, asking for an extension if necessary	Copying from a classmate, using a "cheat sheet" or accessing online information during an assessment

Keeping your eyes on your own work and completing the assessment to the best of your ability	Getting unauthorized information in advance about the assessment
Completing your own work, allowing adequate time to do the work to your best standard and seeking assistance from the teacher, another adult, or peer-helper if necessary	Submitting others' work for credit as one's own or using unauthorized materials in the preparation of work for credit, obtained either in or out of class
Use source materials to research facts and others' ideas and include them in your work, giving credit to the author of the source material, using accepted standards for citation such as MLA, APA, or Chicago	Plagiarizing by copying directly from a source or "cutting and pasting" from digital resources without acknowledgement, using quotation marks, and/or citation by footnote, bibliography, or reference
Restate or paraphrase in your own words an author's original idea, incorporating them in your work to support your own idea, thesis, or claim, giving proper credit to the source's author(s)	Paraphrasing, rearrangement of phrases, and restatement of an author's original idea without attribution to the author(s)

All matters concerning academic dishonesty will be referred to the Middle School Pastoral and Academic Coordinators and the Head of Middle School and subject to the processes of our Behavior Policy, including sanctions for the relevant work submitted, parent notification, and the potential for further disciplinary action, including detention, in-school discipline day, fixed-term exclusion, and/or behavior monitoring or probation.

In living our School's mission to "nurture intellectual curiosity and embolden each learner to flourish as a principled, open-minded and compassionate member of a global community," each student's commitment to academic honesty serves as an anchoring guide post on the journey to becoming a lifelong learner and a principled, committed member of this and the greater community.

FACULTY ADVISORS

Every student in Grades 6–8 has a faculty advisor. The advisor is there to work with his/her advisees in all areas of school life—to monitor academic and pastoral progress, to counsel, to listen, and to help students set goals. The advisor stays informed of the student's progress in all areas, and the advisor's written reports become part of the student record. During the tutorial periods, assemblies take place, students can seek help, and/or work on schoolwork. In the Fifth Grade, the student's classroom teacher is his or her assigned "advisor".

SUPPORT SERVICES

ENGLISH-AS-AN-ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

In the Middle School, EAL instruction is customized to meet the individual needs of each student, with instruction provided both in small group "pull out" lessons as well as within the mainstream classroom. In addition to supporting regular curriculum instruction, additional instruction may be given in grammar and pronunciation as well as in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Please see the EAL Handbook for a full description of EAL testing, levels, support, and programming.

LEARNING SUPPORT

TASIS The American School in England has limited facilities for students with mild, specific learning difficulties, but will do all that is reasonable to comply with its moral and legal responsibilities, and work within the guidance provided in the SEND Code of Practice 2014.

We aim to accommodate the needs of students who have mild, specific learning difficulties for which, with reasonable adjustments, the school can cater adequately. These students are capable of functioning in the academic mainstream, but require small group or individual attention, or specific learning accommodations.

The goal of the TESIS Learning Support Team is to provide the academic support students require in order to reach their potential. TESIS recognizes the importance of including students, parents, guardians, classroom teachers, learning support staff, and administrators in a collaborative process to deliver special services to students with mild, specific learning difficulties.

TESIS provides a range of support services from Lower School through Upper School. Areas of support offered include informal observations, academic support, classroom guidance, and individual counselling. The Learning Support Team also provides information about community-based providers.

TESIS does not offer a full continuum of special education programs. Admission is contingent upon a match between the student's and family's needs and the level of service available. For that reason, the admission of any student with mild, specific learning difficulties is determined on a case-by-case basis using multiple sources of information such as school records, evaluations, and interviews with students, parents, teachers, and program capacity.

It is important that parents of students who have received special services or who believe they may need support contact the Admissions office as soon as possible. Specific information relating to a child in need of learning support will be considered by the administrators and learning support staff who make determinations about admissions.

It is our hope that each and every one of our students will find success in their academic endeavors at TESIS; this program will assist in accomplishing that goal.

Mild, Specific Learning Difficulties Testing

TESIS has limited support and staffing for students with mild, specific learning difficulties. If particular academic problems encountered by a student during the course of the year suggest that he or she may have such difficulties, parents may wish to arrange for the student to be tested by an Educational Psychologist (in the UK called a Chartered Psychologist) as needed. Parents who have concerns or questions about their child's academic needs or progress are encouraged to contact the School. Initially, parents should contact the classroom teacher directly. Following this, administrators are also available to meet with parents about academic concerns.

Student Learning Support

Our Learning Support Program provides structured learning support for students with mild, specific learning difficulties, and it is intended to assist those students identified as needing extra assistance with their schoolwork. The Learning Support team works with students, either individually or in a small group, one or two times a week, typically in-class, or during tutorial, or after school. All students considered for the Learning Support Program must have educational diagnostic assessments that are current within 3 years.

Upon entering the program, the Learning Support team will prepare a Learning Profile for students who have an up-to-date educational diagnostic assessment, which will highlight their strengths, needs, classroom and assessment accommodations for instruction. The student's progress will be monitored on a regular basis, with parents kept informed throughout the school year. The Learning Support Program uses a variety of approaches to support the instruction of reading, writing, and mathematics, and to help students learn appropriate study and organizational skills. The Learning Support team works closely with the students, classroom teachers, administrators, and the parents, as well as with our Middle School counselor when necessary, to provide a coordinated, individualized program which includes the creation of a Learning Profile. If a student is new to the Middle School and does not have a current educational diagnostic assessment, but has previously received accommodations, they will be placed on the Monitoring Roster in the Learning Support Program for a period of one semester. At the end of this period, students will either exit the program or have begun the assessment process.

ACADEMIC MONITORING

Students may be placed on Academic Monitoring at the discretion of the Head of Middle School in consultation with Middle School faculty and the Student Support Team if a student is making inadequate progress in one or more courses. During monitoring the student and his/her parents receive weekly feedback from the classroom teachers(s). The student may also receive additional support from the Learning Support Program, and his/her advisor in order to get back on track. A parent conference may be required to discuss additional interventions, including outside tutoring or other support services. Academic Monitoring is intended for short term interventions, generally for four weeks, and is intended as a constructive, rather than punitive measure. Students who are on Academic Monitoring may have their Re-invitation to the school deferred, pending the outcome of the monitoring period.

ACADEMIC CONCERNS

Student and parental academic concerns (poor achievement, questions about assessments, grading, or effort marks, workload, assessment conflicts, etc.) should be directed to the classroom teacher. Students should attempt to advocate for themselves and contact the teacher directly, through email or in person. Students can also ask for help from their advisor or the school counsellor if they are feeling overwhelmed or feel they need some help in interceding with a classroom teacher. Chronic or unresolved concerns can be escalated to the Head of Middle School, either by the student, advisor, or parent, but generally concerns should first be directed to the classroom teacher.

FORMAL COMPLAINTS

Concerns unresolved in the steps noted above can be escalated to the Head of School using the process outlined in the Complaints Policy, which can be found in the Policies section of the TASIS website.

TASIS



ENGLAND

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