



Middle School
Student & Parent Handbook
2024-2025 School Year



TAISM

The American
International School
of Muscat

The American International School of Muscat (TAISM)

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The MS Student Parent Handbook is provided to TAISM parents for the purpose of conveying the school's policies, program of studies, general procedures and Rights and Responsibilities of students. If you have any questions regarding the content of this handbook, please contact the MS Principal.

Welcome to the TAISM Middle School

Welcome to the TAISM Middle School!

Adolescence is an amazing time in our students' lives, full of exploration and discovery. The TAISM Middle School program is designed to give every student opportunities to explore ideas about the world, gain exposure to new interests, and discover their personal pathways for learning. Our dedicated and experienced teachers strive to create educational activities that allow students to learn in a safe, caring environment where all children can grow and succeed academically and socially.

In addition to academic learning, we place a high value on helping our students understand themselves as learners by fostering growth in the TAISM Learner Profile attributes. Recognizing that growth in these areas is a continuous journey, we are ready to meet each student where they are and support their development. Our middle school offers many opportunities for students to collaborate, apply critical thinking, inquire, and reflect on their learning through engaging and student-centered activities.

Community development and belonging are cornerstones of our Middle School program. Every student has a place here, and our dedication to this is evident in everything we do. From our small advisory groups that meet daily to all-school spirit days, we strive to ensure all students are included and appreciated for their unique abilities, ideas, and contributions to our school community. Additionally, our After-School Activity (ASA) program is robust, offering a wide range of activities such as sports, arts, technology, and academic clubs. Every student can find something that interests them, encouraging further engagement and growth outside of the classroom.

We look forward to welcoming your family to the TAISM Middle School!

Carey Johnson
Middle School Principal
2024-25

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[Board of Directors' Policies Related to the Handbook](#)

TAISM Learner Profile



INQUIRER

With curiosity and wonder, I ask questions and make connections to extend my innovative thinking and understanding of our world.



CREATIVE & CRITICAL THINKER

I can critically analyze and creatively approach and solve problems in a variety of ways. I envision and develop new ideas, and pursue unique expressions of my thinking.



RISK-TAKER

I explore new ways of thinking, with initiative, forethought, and confidence. I grow from both the successes and failures associated with my learning.



CONTRIBUTING COMMUNITY MEMBER

My actions are respectful, responsible and demonstrate integrity; treating others and our world with compassion and care.



COLLABORATOR

I use effective communication skills to understand and value the perspective of others, while actively participating in a group.



BALANCED

I care for my intellectual, physical, and emotional well-being through a balanced life.



REFLECTIVE

I use reflection and feedback to evaluate my work and performance, while setting goals for my learning.

The Learner Profile guides and inspires learners toward academic success and beyond. These essential attributes exemplify TAISM's Mission in action, as responsible, ethical, and globally conscious life-long learners. We are committed to nurturing their development, so that learners can achieve their highest aspirations and contribute to creating a better world.

TAISM Mission and Core Beliefs

The American International School of Muscat (TAISM) is a private, non-profit college preparatory, co-educational day school. The school is designed to afford expatriate children of all nationalities the best possible educational program within the context of an English language, American-based curriculum.

Mission

The mission of The American International School of Muscat is to pursue academic excellence for students in the international community through an American-based education that develops ethical, responsible, and globally conscious life-long learners.

Core Beliefs

The following core beliefs are the foundation of TAISM's educational program:

- The purpose of education is to enable all students to develop their intellectual, emotional, social, and physical potential to the fullest.
- A broad-based (liberal arts)

education is best suited to providing students with an understanding of humankind's intellectual traditions and accomplishments, strengthening their powers of thought, judgment, and aesthetic appreciation, and preparing them for responsible citizenship.

- All students are capable of achieving academic success. Therefore, within the framework of the school's standards, teachers adapt their educational practices to the needs of students.
- A close relationship among students, parents, faculty, and administrators enhances the educational process.
- TAISM's location in the Sultanate of Oman offers unique and invaluable learning opportunities for all members of the school community.



Introduction to TAISM

Background

In conjunction with the Embassy of the United States of America, the Ministry of Education of the Sultanate of Oman, and the Office of Overseas Schools of the United States Department of State, a group of parents and business leaders came together to establish The American International School of Muscat. It was the intention of this group to establish the framework for a premium educational institution that would serve the needs of many in the expatriate community of Muscat. The United States Embassy received approval from the Ministry of Education for the establishment of TAISM with operations commencing August 1998.

The American International School of Muscat (TAISM) opened in August of 1998, with grades Pre-Kinergarten through 10. Grade 11 was added in the 1999-2000 school year and grade 12 in the 2000-2001 school year. The Early Childhood program (3-4 years) was added in the 2002-2003 school year. The Middle School was established as a separate division of the school in 2007.

Board of Directors

TAISM is governed by a 10-member School Board (7 with voting privileges and three ex-officio participants). The U.S. Ambassador appoints four of the voting members, including the Board Chair, and the TAISM Association elects three from the parent community.

Members serve for a period of two years and the Board elects officers of the Board. The ex-officio members of the Board are the Director, a teacher representative, and the U.S. Ambassador's representative.



Introduction to TAISM

Curriculum

The purpose of the American International School of Muscat is to offer the best English medium, educational program to the international community in Oman, within the context of an American-based curriculum.

The curriculum at TAISM is comprised of a required program of studies based on standards and benchmarks created by professional organizations (U.S. Common Core, Project AERO). The aim of the curriculum and the program of studies is to prepare students for acceptance at selective colleges and universities in the United States and abroad.

The Advanced Placement program (AP, College Board, U.S.A.) is offered in grades 11 and 12. TAISM follows the Project AERO (American Education Reaches Out), a U.S. Department of State program, in its curriculum review process.

TAISM is accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) and the Council of International Schools (CIS), and is a member of the Near East South Asia Council of Overseas Schools (NESA).

TAISM Association

The TAISM Association is made up of parents or legal guardians of currently enrolled students and the administration and teachers. All TAISM Association members are eligible to:

- stand for election,
 - vote in Board elections,
 - serve on Board ad hoc committees,
- Contracted teachers may not run for Board election. They have a representative to the Board. Parents, students, and the school have a mutual responsibility to work as a team for the benefit of the student. The school staff, faculty, administration and board will work to implement the TAISM Mission. To provide students with the best chance to succeed, TAISM depends on the following commitments from students and parents:



MS Academic Program

TIME	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
8:30 - 9:50	A	H	B	E	D	G
9:55 - 10:30	Home Base (35)	Home Base (35)	Home Base (35)	Home Base (35)	Home Base (35)	Home Base (35)
10:35 - 11:55	B	E	D	G	A	H
11:55 - 12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:40 - 2:00	C	F	C	F	C	F
2:00 - 2:10	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
2:10 - 3:30	D	G	A	H	B	E

TAISM's six-day schedule in both the middle and high school means that students follow six different schedules which rotate through the school year.

- Any day of the week will have a number (1-6) indicating the schedule to be followed.
- On each school day, students attend Home Base and four 80-minute classes
- The odd numbered days have the same classes
- The even numbered days have four different classes which always meet on even-numbered days

Sixth Grade –Courses

Language Arts

The language arts program is designed to expand each student's ability to communicate effectively through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students practice speaking and listening through regular classroom discussion and the oral presentation of projects.

They develop their reading skills through a varied program of independent reading, guided reading of short stories and novels, shared reading, and participation in literature circles. The focus of writing will be on personal narratives, informational texts, essays, and realistic fiction. By learning to keep a writer's notebook, students will develop and apply literary techniques to enhance their writing abilities.

Science

Our 6th grade science course follows an integrated approach where students will have opportunities to explore topics related to Physical, Life, and Earth Science. Students will investigate the properties of light and matter, thermal energy transfer, Earth's structure through plate

tectonics, and the functions of cells. We emphasize science and engineering practices where students ask questions, develop models, conduct investigations, collect and analyze data, and construct explanations. Our class promotes collaborative problem-solving and critical thinking, empowering students to address real-world challenges effectively.



Sixth Grade –Courses

Math

In sixth grade math, instructional time focuses upon four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate reasoning to whole number multiplication and division and using the concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

Combining these understandings with the ability to explain their thinking and reason mathematically prepares the students for further mathematics and applications to everyday situations.



Social Studies

In sixth grade Social Studies, students think like social scientists as they are introduced to the inquiry cycle. This begins with developing compelling questions around important world events, ideas, or data and this leads them to decide on areas of research they will need to pursue to answer these questions guided by the teacher and in discussions with their peers.

Students then actively evaluate these sources to determine reliability and accuracy as they research to build knowledge and understanding. Finally, students communicate their findings and where possible take action to inform and educate others.

The major disciplinary focus of this year is history. More specifically, students build knowledge and understanding around the themes of Ancient Civilizations looking at how the past has impacted the future, inventions and innovations across time, and they engage in interdisciplinary work with Science and Language Arts around injury prevention.

Sixth Grade –Courses

Beginning Band

Beginning band teaches musical concepts on wood wind, brass or percussion instruments. Musical concepts include posture, tone, note reading, rhythm reading, technical precision, solo and ensemble performance practice, instrument assembly and maintenance. All instruction is done in a class setting with mixed instruments.



connecting with a piece of music, bringing both the notes and text to life, is a feeling unique to the choral classroom. During their time in choir, students will sing in unison, two-part and three-part harmony, and will be exposed to varying musical genres, dance and movement, and a range of languages.

For many students entering 6th grade, the use of a choral score is brand new. New choir students will be taught how to navigate a choral score, as well as how their individual part fits in with the whole. Sixth graders will also study how the vocal cords work to produce sound, learn new vocal techniques for their changing voices, and learn to use and implement Solfeggio in both warm-ups and concert literature.

Choir

Choir provides all students with the opportunity to appreciate the work and dedication necessary for singing in a chorus. The joy that results from



Sixth Grade –Courses

Physical Education (PE)

The goal of the middle school physical education program is to develop the physical literacy of all students. Physical literacy is the ability to move with competence and confidence in a wide variety of physical activities in multiple environments that benefit the healthy development of the whole person. As a result, students learn to be engaged and intrinsically motivated to be healthy and active.

Our learning progressions are designed around the five standards determined by the Society of Health And Physical Educators (S.H.A.P.E.). These standards are intended to provide students with the necessary knowledge, processes, and skills to become physically active for a lifetime. The middle school program emphasizes a broad exposure to a variety of physical pursuits and challenges so that students will have a wide range of transferable skills. This approach allows them the maximum amount of choices for healthy activities when they are making lifestyle

decisions on their own. It includes not only the physical skills and competencies, but also the social and psychological skills and motivation needed for participation.

The MS program strives to offer sixth grade developmentally responsive challenges which provide a



Sixth Grade –Courses

Students select one world language to study or are placed in English Language Learners (ELL), Learning Support (LS), Math Lab, or Literacy Lab.

World Language

TAISM's World Languages curriculum is based on the standards and benchmarks developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Arabic, French, and Spanish for non-native speakers and Arabic Heritage Language for native speakers are the options offered to sixth through eighth-graders.

World Language courses are characterized by a high degree of participation in student-centered learning activities. Students spend most of their class time interacting with the teacher and with other students in order to develop communicative competence in the language. Courses in the middle school offer a balanced approach to language learning, placing equal emphasis on the three modes of communication: Interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational, in accordance with the ACTFL.

Focusing on the cultures of Arabic, French, and Spanish-speaking countries, a major goal of the program is to foster an understanding of and an appreciation for other cultures, in general, and to cultivate within each student lifelong habits of curiosity, empathy, and intercultural awareness.

A special note about TAISM's Arabic Heritage Language classes:

TAISM offers an opportunity for heritage speakers of Arabic to study in their native language within the regular school day. A heritage speaker is an individual who has a personal interest or involvement in an ancestral language. An Arabic heritage student is a student raised in a home where Arabic is spoken, who speaks or merely understands the heritage language, and who is to some degree bilingual, but not necessarily fluent in Arabic. The results of this intensive study of the Arabic language will be improvement in

Sixth Grade –Courses

students' command of written and oral expression, which will support them in using Arabic in a practical fashion in their day-to-day lives going forward.



English Language Learners

The English Language Learner (ELL) class at TAISM is designed to enable students to be academically successful in their regular content area classes. The course builds proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English in an academic setting.

Course Content:

- Phonics and spelling skills: Students will explore how words work and the relationship between spelling and meaning.
- Academic vocabulary: Students will study the most common academic words used across the content areas in middle and high school. They will acquire a working

knowledge of word families that allows them to understand and use new vocabulary in the content areas.

- Grammar: Our focus is on understanding correct grammar and using it to communicate effectively in speaking and writing. This includes studying parts of speech, verb tenses, and using a variety of sentence structures.
- Comprehension: Students will learn a variety of listening and reading comprehension strategies for various texts. They will be expected to practice these strategies regularly through reading assignments at home.
- Clear communication in speaking: our goal is to build proficiency in academic speech. In class, students will participate in a wide variety of activities such as partner and small group work, reading aloud, giving short presentations, and class discussions.
- Academic writing: Students will learn about organization for different types of writing, including writing paragraphs and essays. A major emphasis will be for students to edit their own work for mistakes. Again, students will be expected to practice these skills regularly through both in-class and at-home assignments.

Sixth Grade -Trimester Courses

The following three courses are one trimester (twelve weeks) in length. Students rotate through the three offerings in the course of the school year.

Art

In middle school art students are continue to expand their conceptual understanding of art and its impact on society and culture. Foundation skills in the visual arts are based on the Elements of Art and Principles of Design, which are introduced and revisited at all grades. Lastly, students will have opportunities to explore and define the creative process while producing works of art that communicate personal perspective and experience.

Grade Six Areas of Focus: Line, Shape, Space, Color, Pattern, Balance and Unity.

- Continual reinforcement of all Elements of Art and Principles of Design.
- Exploration of color theory.
- Extensive exploration of line, shape, space, pattern and unity.
- Learning to bypass visual pre-conceptions through contour drawing exercises.
- Identifying pattern and repetition within natural and human-made objects.

- Exploration of the cultural significance and universality of motifs, symbols and ornamentation.
- Exposure to artists whose works emphasized motif, symbols, patterns and primitive design.



Sixth Grade -Trimester Courses

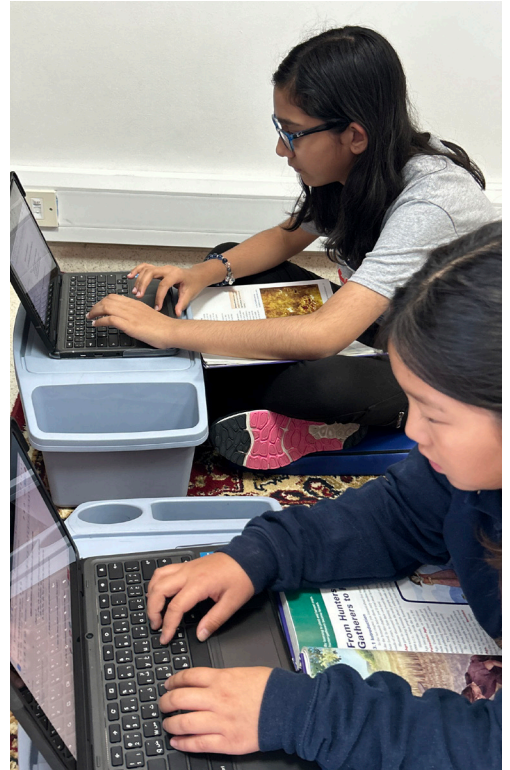
Computer Science

In grade 6, students will engage in the problem solving process and learn basic coding to work to program robots to solve problems. Digital citizenship will also be emphasized as students gain a greater understanding of their “digital footprint” and discuss appropriate ways to interact online.

Health

TAISM’s Grade 6 health class gives students the opportunity to gain knowledge and develop skills to enhance all three aspects of their health-physical, mental/emotional and social. Students learn how to find reliable sources of health information, make health-related decisions, set health goals, communicate in healthy ways, and be advocates in their family and community. Students start each class with a health-enhancing practice: journal writing, mindfulness exercises, or gratitude practice. Areas of study include balancing your health triangle, managing stress, growth and development, personal hygiene, and the family nutrition challenge.

Once per six day rotation, our counselor visits all middle school health classes for what we call, ‘Counselor Connection’. Throughout the trimester, the counselor and health teacher co teach lessons that connect the health and counseling curriculum. Topics delivered during counselor connection include positive mental health, friendship skills, and personal and online safety lessons, as outlined in the TAISM Student Protection Policy.



Seventh Grade – Courses

Language Arts (LA)

Reading is undoubtedly the mainstay of lifelong learning. In seventh grade, LA students are encouraged and taught the strategies to become proficient readers. The goal is to develop the necessary skills to build confidence when reading both fiction and non-fiction. Students are then equipped to critique author's craft, identify themes, conduct research, analyze content, and interpret new meaning. In addition, students' independent reading choices are used as material for discussions revolving around literary elements.

Students will also build on their skills as they work toward the goal of becoming competent writers.

Developing good writing habits and working through the writing process of prewriting, drafting, revision, editing and publishing are recurring learning opportunities in language arts.

The seventh grade language arts curriculum is rounded out by giving the students many opportunities to practice public speaking.

In small groups, large groups, in formal settings and friendly discus-

sions, students learn and practice public speaking etiquette as well as learn the importance of being a careful listener.

Math 7 or Accelerated Math

Math 7

Seventh grade mathematics students focus on developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions; and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and drawing inferences about populations based on samples.



Seventh Grade – Courses

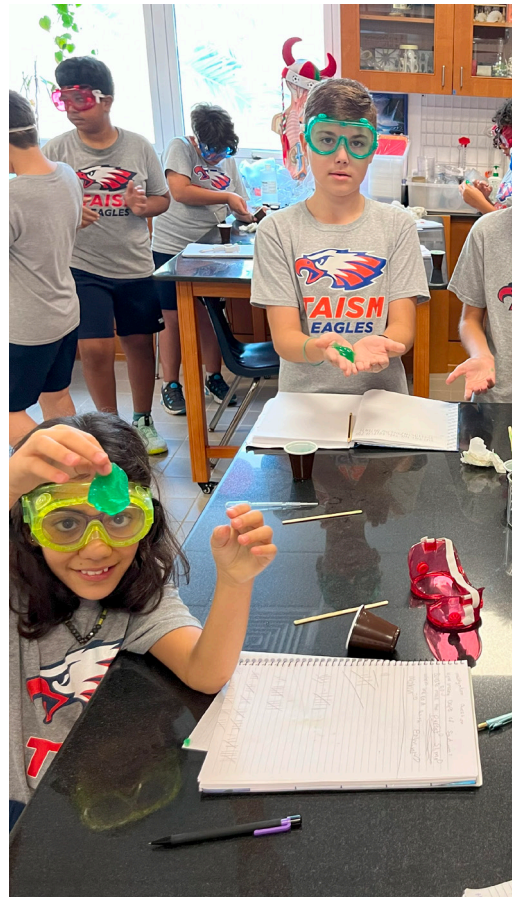
Accelerated Math 7

In Accelerated Math 7, students will focus on drawing inferences about populations based on samples; developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing understanding of rational and irrational numbers and reasoning with expressions and equations, extending to integer exponents and radicals; analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and shapes using distance, angle, similarity and congruence, as well as solving problems involving area, surface area, volume and the Pythagorean theorem; and grasping the concept of a function, analyzing functions both linear and non-linear, and using functions to model quantitative relationships between variables.

Science

Our 7th grade science course explores topics focused on matter and energy in chemical and biological reactions, matter cycling, photosynthesis, ecosystems, and human impacts on the environment. We emphasize science and engineering practices, encouraging students to

ask questions, develop models, conduct investigations, collect and analyze data, and construct explanations. By engaging in these practices, our classes promote collaborative problem-solving and critical thinking skills which allows students to approach real-world challenges with innovative ideas.



Seventh Grade – Courses

Social Studies

In seventh grade Social Studies, students continue to engage in the inquiry cycle honing their skills as social scientists. The main focus of this grade level is around the vast and important discipline of geography and the guiding framework for all inquiries and research is the Five Themes of Geography: Location, Place, Region, Human-Environment Interaction and Movement. Students continue to ask compelling questions around these five themes as they dig deeper and build knowledge and understanding into examples and case studies around the world. Students work independently and collaboratively to communicate their findings and take action by informing others of their research based opinions on global ideas related to those five themes of geography. Students will also engage in an interdisciplinary project with Science and Language Arts on the topic of sustainable food and agriculture.



Seventh Grade – Courses

Physical Education (PE)

The goal of the middle school physical education program is to develop the physical literacy of all students. Physical literacy is the ability to move with competence and confidence in a wide variety of physical activities in multiple environments that benefit the healthy development of the whole person. As a result, students learn to be engaged and intrinsically motivated to be healthy and active.

Our learning progressions are designed around the five standards determined by the Society of Health And Physical Educators (S.H.A.P.E.). These standards are intended to provide students with the necessary

knowledge, processes, and skills to become physically active for a lifetime. The middle school program emphasizes a broad exposure to variety of physical pursuits and challenges so that students will have a wide range of transferable skills. This approach allows them the maximum amount of choices for healthy activities when they are making lifestyle decisions on their own. It includes not only the physical skills and competencies, but also the social and psychological skills and motivation needed for participation.

The MS program strives to offer seventh grade developmentally responsive challenges which provide a physically, socially and emotionally rewarding experience.



Seventh Grade – Courses

Performing Arts: Students select one course from Band or Choir

Band

The instrumental music course teaches musical skills instruments and performs band music. Musical skills include posture, tone, note reading, rhythm reading, technical precision, solo and ensemble performance practice, balance, blend, articulation, tuning, dynamics and phrasing. Most students will have had at least one year of beginning band before they enter the seventh grade band. Students new to an instrument will have the chance to work in small groups with a teacher while they are developing their skills to join the ensemble. All instruction is done in a class setting with mixed instruments.



Choir

Choir provides all students with the opportunity to appreciate the work and dedication necessary for singing in a chorus. The joy that results from connecting with a piece of music, bringing both the notes and text to life, is a feeling unique to the choral classroom. During their time in choir, students will sing in unison, two-part and three part harmony, and will be exposed to varying musical genres, dance and movement, and a range of languages.

In 7th grade, singers begin to develop a deeper understanding of vocal technique and are exposed to more complicated two and three-part harmonies. They combine rehearsals with 8th grade singers. In addition to the formal concerts, students take part in Random Acts of Singing in the spring, during which time they are given the opportunity to share their talents and individual work with the larger community.

Seventh Grade – Courses

Students select one world language to study or are placed in English Language Learners (ELL), Learning Support (LS), Math Lab or Literacy Lab.

World Language

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Courses in the middle school offer a balanced approach to language learning, placing equal emphasis on the three modes of communication: Interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational, in accordance with the ACTFL. Focusing on the cultures of Arabic, French, and Spanish-speak-

ing countries, a major goal of the program is to foster an understanding of and an appreciation for other cultures, in general, and to cultivate within each student lifelong habits of curiosity, empathy, and intercultural awareness.

Arabic Heritage Language in Middle School: TAISM offers an opportunity for heritage speakers of Arabic to study in their native language within the regular school day. A heritage speaker is an individual who has a personal interest or involvement in an ancestral language. An Arabic heritage student is a student raised in a home where Arabic is spoken, who speaks or merely understands the heritage language, and who is to some degree bilingual, but not necessarily fluent in Arabic. The results of this intensive study of the Arabic language will be improvement in students' command of written and oral expression, which will support them in using Arabic in a practical fashion in their day-to-day lives going forward.

Seventh Grade – Courses

English Language Learners

The English Language Learner (ELL) class at TAISM is designed to enable students to be academically successful in their regular content area classes. The course builds proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English in an academic setting.

Course Content:

- Phonics and spelling skills: Students will explore how words work and the relationship between spelling and meaning.
- Academic vocabulary: Students will study the most common academic words used across the content areas in middle and high school. They will acquire a working knowledge of word families that allows them to understand and use new vocabulary in the content areas.
- Grammar: Our focus is on understanding correct grammar and using it to communicate effectively in speaking and writing. This includes studying parts of speech, verb tenses, and using a variety of sentence structures.
- Comprehension: Students will

learn a variety of listening and reading comprehension strategies for various texts. They will be expected to practice these strategies regularly through reading assignments at home.

- Clear communication in speaking: Our goal is to build proficiency in academic speech. In class, students will participate in a wide variety of activities such as partner and small group work, reading aloud, giving short presentations, and class discussions.

- Academic writing: Students will learn about organization for different types of writing, including writing paragraphs and essays. A major emphasis will be for students to edit their own work for mistakes. Again, students will be expected to practice these skills regularly through both in-class and at home assignments.



Seventh Grade – Trimester

The following four courses are one trimester (12 weeks) in length. Students will take Health for one trimester and then choose two of the other three offerings.

Health

TAISM's Grade 7 health class is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills required to make healthy choices in the context of adolescence. Students learn how to find reliable sources of health information, make health-related decisions, set health goals, communicate in healthy ways, and be advocates in their family and community.

Students start each class with a health-enhancing practice: journal writing, mindfulness exercises, or a gratitude practice. Areas of study include: communication skills (assertiveness training, refusal skills, conflict resolution); tobacco education (including e-cigarettes and vaping); and growth and development (focus on male and female reproductive systems). Once per six day rotation, our counselor visits all middle school health classes for what we call, 'Counselor Connection'.

Throughout the trimester, the counselor and health teacher co teach lessons that connect the health and counseling curriculum. Topics delivered during counselor connection include positive mental health, positive communication skills, and personal and online safety lessons, as outlined in the TAISM Student Protection Policy.

Art

Much of what we do in middle school art is intended to strengthen each student's powers of observation and provide hands-on experience with a variety of media. Many of the learning strategies and observational skills used within art are transferable to other curricular areas and aspects of a student's life.

Through the process of making art, students will continue to strengthen their ability to manipulate the Elements of Art and Principles of Design.

Seventh Grade – Trimester

Students will also have opportunities to problem solve and make choices and decisions in regard to the direction of their work. Visual art teaches children to make good judgments about qualitative relationships, that problems can have more than one solution, and that communication is not limited to just words. Grade Seven Focus (Proportion, Value, Texture, Contrast Rhythm, and Emphasis)

- Continual reinforcement of all Elements of Art and Principles of Design.
- Continual reinforcement of color theory.
- Learning to bypass visual preconceptions and to draw with the eye.
- Identify texture and value within artworks and the environment around them.
- Manipulating value and contrast within a variety of context.
- Defining and working with proportion to create emphasis.
- Exploration of the human form and face through various media.
- Exploration of the historical, social and cultural significance of the self-portrait and the concept of personal environment.

Computer Science

Students build upon prior coding knowledge and skills through by learning and using more complex coding structures. Students will have opportunities to develop animations, games and program robots. Digital citizenship concepts that students will engage in include: Cyberbullying, privacy and security, and the use of social media.

Drama

Drama 7 focuses on developing dramatic skills, especially the disciplines of movement, speech and improvisation. In this year-long course, students will focus not only on performance skills, but will also give students the chance to learn about all areas involved in play production, theater history, and technical theater. The overall goal of the drama program is to foster a positive self image in students and to help them use their body, voice and mind as a tool to creatively communicate ideas.

Eighth Grade – Courses

Language Arts

The eighth grade language arts class prepares students for the challenges of writing by teaching them how to create their own independent writing life. We focus on developing skills and strategies used by real writers to succeed in every step of the writing process. In class, students are supported by a workshop model that provides them with structure and independence. The class also places an emphasis on developing a strong, independent reading life through mini-lessons, discussions and supported reading time. Thus, the curriculum supports the value of reading as a lifelong skill and provides students with the tools to discuss works of literature studied together.

Science

Our 8th grade science course explores topics related to forces (both contact and non-contact), energy, astronomy, and genetics. Throughout the course, students engage in science and engineering practices, asking questions, developing models, conducting investigations, collecting

and analyzing data, and constructing explanations. Using these practices, our classes promote collaborative problem-solving and critical thinking skills, which enables students to approach real-world challenges with confidence and a deeper understanding of scientific principles. Students will also have the opportunity to apply their science and engineering ideas in an interdisciplinary unit with Social Studies and Language Arts.



Eighth Grade – Courses

Math 8 or Algebra I

Math 8

In Math 8, students will focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including those involving integer exponents and radicals, and solving linear equations; analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem, and deriving formulas to solve problems involving the volume of compound objects; and grasping the concept of a function, analyzing functions, both linear and non-linear, and using functions to model quantitative relationships that exist between two variables.

Algebra I

The Algebra I course begins with seeing structure in and manipulating expressions, including polynomial expressions. Students then develop a strong foundation in working with linear equations in all forms, with a focus on analyzing the process of solving equations, including model-

ing and reasoning with systems of linear equations. Students explore functions, including notation, domain and range, multiple representations, and modeling. They then apply what they have learned to linear models of data, analyzing scatter plots and using lines of best fit to apply regression techniques. Following linear functions, students model situations involving exponential growth and decay. Through the comparison of linear and exponential functions, students contrast the concepts of additive and multiplicative change. The course closes with an exploration of quadratic functions, with an emphasis on modeling and solving equations through a variety of strategies.



Eighth Grade – Courses

Social Studies

In eighth grade Social Studies, students broaden their research and inquiry skills as they ask compelling and supporting questions in the areas of Civics and Economics. Throughout the entire year, students are reviewing, discussing and analyzing current events happening around the world.. Students continue to build knowledge and understanding as they read and research general and specific knowledge around the big ideas of Global issues, Government, and Economics. As part of this research and inquiry process they continue to assess the sources they read, see, or hear looking for multiple perspectives, misinformation and validity. The final step of the inquiry cycle is when grade eight students communicate what they have

learned and convince an audience of its importance or they take action to suggest viable solutions to improve the human condition. Students will also engage in an interdisciplinary project with Language Arts and Science around the colonization of exoplanets.

Physical Education (PE)

The goal of the middle school physical education program is to develop the physical literacy of all students. Physical literacy is the ability to move with competence and confidence in a wide variety of physical activities in multiple environments that benefit the healthy development of the whole person. As a result, students learn to be engaged and intrinsically motivated to be healthy and active.



Eighth Grade – Courses

Our learning progressions are designed around the five standards determined by the Society of Health And Physical Educators (S.H.A.P.E.). These standards are intended to provide students with the necessary knowledge, processes, and skills to become physically active for a lifetime. The middle school program emphasizes a broad exposure to variety of physical pursuits and challenges so that students will have a wide range of transferable skills. This approach allows them the maximum amount of choices for healthy activities when they are making lifestyle decisions on their own. It includes not only the physical skills and competencies, but also the social and psychological skills and motivation needed for participation. The MS program strives to offer eighth grade developmentally responsive challenges which provide a physically, socially and emotionally rewarding experience.



“We do not learn from experience... we learn from reflecting on experience

-John Dewey

Eighth Grade – Courses

Students select two courses from Band, Choir, and Drama.

Band

The instrumental music course teaches musical concepts on woodwind, brass, percussion or string instruments and performs band music. Musical concepts include posture, tone, note reading, rhythm reading, technical precision, solo and ensemble performance practice, balance, blend, articulation, tuning, dynamics and phrasing. Most students have at least two years of experience on their instrument. Students new to an instrument will have the chance to work in small groups with a teacher while they are developing their skills to join the ensemble. All instruction is done in a class setting with mixed instruments.

Choir

Choir provides students with the opportunity to appreciate the work and dedication necessary for singing in a chorus. The joy that results from connecting with a piece of music, bringing both the notes and text to life, is a feeling unique to the choral classroom. During their time in choir, students will sing in unison, two-

part and three-part harmony, and will be exposed to varying musical genres, dance and movement, and a range of languages. Students begin to develop a deeper understanding of vocal technique and are exposed to more complicated two and three-part vocal harmony. In addition to the formal concerts, students take part in Random Acts of Singing, during which time they are given the opportunity to share their talents and individual work with the larger community.

Drama

Eighth grade drama will focus not only on performance skills, but will also give students the chance to learn about all areas involved in play production, theater history, and technical theater. This yearlong course will give students the chance to develop creative expression, confidence in public speaking and performance, and skills in team building and collaboration. The overall goal of the drama program is to foster a positive self image in students and to help them use their body, voice and mind as a tool to creatively communicate ideas.

Eighth Grade – Courses

Students select one world language to study or are placed in English Language Learners (ELL), Learning Support (LS), Math Lab or Literacy Lab.

World Language

TAISM's World Languages curriculum is based on the standards and benchmarks developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Arabic, French, and Spanish for non-native speakers and Arabic Heritage Language for native speakers are the options offered to sixth through eighth-graders. World Language courses are characterized by a high degree of participation in student centered learning activities.

Students spend most of their class time interacting with the teacher and with other students in order to develop communicative competence in the language. Courses in the middle school offer a balanced approach to language learning, placing equal emphasis on the three modes of communication: Interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational, in accordance with the ACTFL. Focusing on the cultures of Arabic, French, and Spanish-speaking countries, a

major goal of the program is to foster an understanding of and an appreciation for other cultures, in general, and to cultivate within each student lifelong habits of curiosity, empathy, and intercultural awareness.

A special note regarding Arabic Heritage Language in Middle School: TAISM offers an opportunity for heritage speakers of Arabic to study in their native language within the regular school day. A heritage speaker is an individual who has a personal interest or involvement in an ancestral language. An Arabic heritage student is a student raised in a home where Arabic is spoken, who speaks or merely understands the heritage language, and who is to some degree bilingual, but not necessarily fluent in Arabic. The results of this intensive study of the Arabic language will be improvement in students' command of written and oral expression, which will support them in using Arabic in a practical fashion in their day-to-day lives going forward.

Eighth Grade – Courses



English Language Learners

The English Language Learner (ELL) class at TAISM is designed to enable students to be academically successful in their regular content area classes. The course builds proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English in an academic setting.

Course Content:

- Phonics and spelling skills: Students will explore how words work and the relationship between spelling and meaning.
- Academic vocabulary: Students will study the most common academic words used across the content areas in middle and high school. They will acquire a working knowledge of word families that allows

them to understand and use new vocabulary in the content areas.

- Grammar: Our focus is on understanding correct grammar and using it to communicate effectively in speaking and writing. This includes studying parts of speech, verb tenses, and using a variety of sentence structures.
- Comprehension: Students will learn a variety of listening and reading comprehension strategies for various texts. They will be expected to practice these strategies regularly through reading assignments at home.
- Clear communication in speaking: Our goal is to build proficiency in academic speech. In class, students will participate in a wide variety of activities such as partner and small-group work, reading aloud, giving short presentations, and class discussions.
- Academic writing: Students will learn about organization for different types of writing, including writing paragraphs and essays. A major emphasis will be for students to edit their own work for mistakes. Again, students will be expected to practice these skills regularly through both in-class and at home assignments.

Eighth Grade – Trimester Courses

The following four courses are one trimester (12 weeks) in length. Students will take Health for one trimester and then choose two of the other three offerings

Health

TAISM's eighth grade health class is designed to help students make informed and healthy choices as they transition from Middle School to High School. Students will gain a deeper understanding of their personal health and wellness, and they will have more opportunities to practice and refine health-enhancing skills. Eighth grade health students will also design an advocacy project to promote health and wellness in our community. This course prepares students to make decisions based on their personal values, and to skillfully handle health-related situations in eighth grade and beyond.

Students begin each class with a health-enhancing practice: journal writing, mindfulness exercises, or gratitude practice. Areas of study include: drug awareness (alcohol focus); body image & nutrition; communication skills (sticking to per-

sonal values in peer pressure situations); and growth and development (focus on pregnancy and birth).

Once per six day rotation, our counselor visits all middle school health classes for what we call, 'Counselor Connection'. Throughout the trimester, the counselor and health teacher co teach lessons that connect the health and counseling curriculum.

Topics delivered during counselor connection include positive mental health, recognizing and seeking help for common emotional disorders (depression, anxiety, eating disorders); and personal and online safety lessons, as outlined in the TAISM Student Protection Policy.

Art

In middle school art students are continue to expand their conceptual understanding of art and its impact on society and culture. Through the process of making art, students will

Eighth Grade – Trimester Courses

continue to strengthen their ability to manipulate the Elements of Art and Principles of Design.

Grade Eight Focus (Space, Form, Balance, Movement, Perspective, and Composition)

- Continual reinforcement of all Elements of Art and Principles of Design.
- Continual reinforcement of color theory.
- Learning to bypass visual preconceptions and to draw with the eye.
- Identify the use of movement, balance and unity in artworks and the environment around them.
- Manipulating movement, balance and unity to create effective compositions.
- Manipulating color theory to create effective compositions.
- Defining and manipulating form
- Exploration of the historical/cultural/industrial significance of the development of linear perspective.

Computer Science

The eighth grade students will explore the creative possibilities that coding skills can provide. By work-

ing with block coding, students will learn more about the language of code, as well as about the concepts that allow us to create complex but efficient functions. The second part of this course involves the students using their understanding to design projects that they will execute using code. Students will also continue to explore Digital Citizenship topics with the goal of making them informed and responsible users of technology.

Drama

Drama 8 focuses on developing dramatic skills, especially the disciplines of movement, speech and improvisation. In this year-long course, students will focus not only on performance skills, but will also give students the chance to learn about all areas involved in play production, theater history, and technical theater. The overall goal of the drama program is to foster a positive self image in students and to help them use their body, voice and mind as a tool to creatively communicate ideas.

For All Grades (6-8)

Student Support Program

At TAISM we respect and appreciate varied learning styles and we know that every child learns differently. Support services take a variety of forms in the TAISM Middle School, dependent on student needs. There are generalized Learning Support classes for students who benefit from extra assistance with organization, planning, and follow-through. There are also specialized Lab classes in Literacy and Math, that help provide students focused instruction, in goal areas, with the overall intention to help make students successful in their academic classes.

All new students with a history of academic support applying for any grade at TAISM's Middle School will be assessed prior to admission or admitted provisionally pending assessments.

Students with identified mild learning support needs will be considered for enrollment as long as appropriate services are available. TAISM is generally not able to serve students with moderate to severe learning disabilities.

Home Base Program

Home Base is a program that addresses the needs of emerging adolescents within the middle school setting. Its purpose is to provide a structured time to address the academic, social, and personal needs of students in middle school. All students meet with their Home Base Advisors five days per week for twenty minutes.

The Home Base Program has the following overall goals:

- To foster a close relationship between each student and a trusted teacher
- To provide an environment for academic guidance/advisement and personal/social wellness
- To promote a sense of community and connectedness



For All Grades (6-8)

Counseling Services

The TAISM Middle School is fortunate to have a full-time MS counselor. The MS Counselor is trained to work with young adolescents as they navigate their way through the oftentimes complex network of school, friends, and community. The counselor can address mental, physical, and emotional concerns that may be impacting student's learning and/or their well-being.

The MS Counselor is, first and foremost, a student advocate with an open-door policy, looking to support all students in the best way possible. Supporting students can take many forms such as meeting with individual students, small student groups, teachers and families. Counselors can also be a point person to help families identify supportive resources outside of school. The counselor will occasionally present workshops on topics of interest to our community.

Norms for Belonging

In 2024, MS students created our MS Norms for Belonging in a series of Home Base activities. These lessons were grounded in the following International School Counseling standards:

- Reflect on how one's own identity interacts with others to impact personal relationships and life experiences;
- Define what it means to belong
- Use awareness of self to effectively navigate settings with diverse individuals and groups

The student-generated norms were a culmination of four weeks of conversations in Home Base, about celebrating and respecting our diversity in the middle school. The lessons entailed honest and empathetic dialogue between classmates and, as a final step, students talked about strategies to "live by" our norms. Everyone belongs at TAISM!

Teaching kids to count is fine but teaching them what counts is best

-Bob Talber

INCLUSIVE

Be friendly and inclusive - invite others to join in, especially if you see someone who is left out. Everyone can be part of the group!

KINDNESS

Treat people with respect and kindness - use friendly body language, facial expressions, and greetings.

ACCEPTANCE

Respect and accept differences in people. We are all unique and have something to offer - assume the best in others.

RESPECTFUL

Use friendly and respectful language - don't tease, use inappropriate language or make fun of differences in others such as language, religion, skin color, nationality, gender, learning differences, personal interests or customs.

UPSTANDER

Be an upstander when someone is receiving disrespectful, racist, or hurtful comments or actions. Stand up for them and/or tell an adult.

PRIVACY

Keep people's information and business private. Don't spread or allow others to spread information or rumors about others.

LISTEN

Listen to others without judgment or interruption.

FORGIVE

Let go and move on - don't dwell on small disagreements. Be proactive, assertive, and forgiving. Everyone makes mistakes.

Norms for Belonging

TAISM MS 2024

For All Grades (6-8)

MS Discover Oman Program

One of the highlights of the school year at TAISM is the Discover Oman program. During this week students enhance their education by participating actively in exploring our host country. Using outdoor learning experiences, our students and faculty gain an understanding and appreciation of the Sultanate of Oman. The Discover Oman program provides students with unique cultural, personal, interpersonal and environmental experiences not available on the TAISM campus. From these experiences, students will learn, reflect, and grow as individuals.

The purpose of the Discover Oman Program is to:

1. Provide exposure to Oman with the hopes of nurturing a better understanding and appreciation of Omani culture, geography and people.
2. Strengthen acquaintances within the TAISM Middle School community among students and faculty, as well as the development of

responsibilities commensurate with group living.

3. Increase respect for the environment through exposure to unique habitats, unique topographical features and the impact of human population on the land.

4. Provide opportunities for personal reflection, self-awareness and self-reliance.

The Discover Oman program is a school requirement. After the trip, the students will receive an evaluation from their chaperones based on their effort, behavior and participation throughout the trip.



For All Grades (6-8)



For All Grades (6-8)

Middle School Grading System

Grading in the Middle School is based on a student's mastery of a specific set of standards or skills that are assessed in class over a trimester. A final grade is issued at the end of each trimester in each reporting category for every class a student takes. Grades are issued as Excelling, Meeting, Approaching, and Emerging along with special indicators as listed below.

EXC	Excelling: A consistent, independent, and complex mastery of a set of skills or standards.
MET	Meeting: A consistent and independent proficiency of a set of skills or standards.
APR	Approaching: An inconsistent or guided proficiency of a set of skills or standards.
EMG	Emerging: A minimal proficiency of a set of skills or standards that includes key misconceptions.
I	An incomplete is given to students who do not have all graded work completed by the end of the grading period. Normally, a student has a maximum of two weeks to make up all incomplete work
M	Modified Grade (the curriculum requirements were altered to meet the needs of the student).
NG	No Grade issued - usually given if attendance is insufficient.

For All Grades (6-8)

Behaviors that Support Learning

Behaviors that Support Learning are work habits and actions that help students succeed academically. MS teachers and staff help students develop these behaviors with explicit instruction, one-on-one assistance, routines, and reinforcement of behaviors in class. We recognize that students demonstrate these behaviors on a continuum and, as such, we meet each student where they are at a point in time. BTSL development throughout the middle school years prepares students for a strong foundation of learning mindsets and habits as they transition to high school.

PREPARATION	Fulfills commitments, is well prepared for class and completes assigned work in a timely manner.
ORGANIZATION	Organizes time and materials well.
ENGAGEMENT	Actively participates and contributes, works independently, focuses in class.
COLLABORATION	Works well with, is respectful to, and shows kindness and consideration to students and adults

While we do not use a letter grade system in the Middle School, some families may want to know how our grades align with a letter grade system. For your reference, MS Grades would align as follows: with special indicators as listed below.

Excelling	> A
Meeting	> B
Approaching	> C
Emerging	> D/F

Behaviors that Support Learning Grading Scale

IN	Independently
WS	With Support
NY	Not Yet

For All Grades (6-8)

Middle School Assessment and Grading

Assessment

At TAISM, assessment is a continuous process that involves both teachers and students as partners in the learning journey. Students can expect to be assessed in two main ways: formative and summative assessments.

Formative Assessment

Formative assessment is used daily to provide students with feedback on their performance from teachers, peers, and through self-assessment exercises. This feedback helps students understand their progress and areas for improvement. Formative assessments are not included in final report card grades but may be referred to in progress reports to give students and families a snapshot of learning progress.

Summative Assessment

Summative assessments are formal evaluations of a student's understanding of a set of standards or skills. These assessments are announced in advance, allowing

students ample time to prepare. Examples of summative assessments include quizzes, tests, presentations, models, performances, and various projects. Summative assessments are graded using a rubric that students are familiar with and contribute to the final grades on report cards. Middle school teachers at TAISM make every effort to limit the number of summative assessments scheduled on a single day. Except in rare circumstances, students will not be expected to take or turn in more than two summative assessments on any given day.

Academic Concerns

Academic progress is closely monitored at TAISM, and communication between school and home is kept open. Occasionally students show a lack of academic progress or responsibility and intervention is needed. Very often the problem is solved easily with organizational tips or more focused attention. In serious cases, where a student has earned a "Below Grade Level Expectations" grade, students may be

For All Grades (6-8)

placed on an academic contract. Parents will be informed, in writing, prior to the issuance of a failing grade. An academic contract clearly states what is expected of the student and parents, what the school will provide, and the time frame for improvement to be made. In cases where the contract is not met, we will try to determine the reasons. It is possible that the original grade placement was incorrect or that the educational program offered by TAISM is not suited to the student. Standardized Testing Program All students in middle school take the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests, which are administered twice a year. MAP tests are computer-adaptive tests which give a picture of academic growth over time in language arts and math. Results of this external assessment are given to parents following each testing period (fall and spring)

Academic Reporting to Parents

A digital report card grade and teacher comments are issued to each student and family at the end of each trimester (three times a year). Report cards are electronically sent,

with print copies available upon request.

Mid-trimester Progress Reports

The purpose of mid-trimester progress reports is to communicate student progress with the behaviors that support learning and provide an update on academic achievement at the midpoint of the trimester. Parents are emailed instructions to be able to electronically access their child's progress report via our electronic student management system, PowerSchool. Per our school policy, any student who is receiving below a "Below" in any class will also be emailed by the teacher.

Please Note:

At the end of the school year, the school may retain report cards if library books, textbooks, school fees, or equipment have not been returned. When materials are returned or payment is received, reports will then be released

All About the Middle School Learning Commons (MSLC)

The library is located in the Middle School Learning Commons (MSLC). Middle school students come to the library on scheduled visits with their Language Arts classes to check out materials, relax, and read. MS students may also visit the library before school, during breaks, and after school to access the collection and to take advantage of the space as a place to complete schoolwork, either individually or collaboratively.

The library Destiny Discover home page connects users with a wealth of resources, many subscription-based, accessible to students via their TAISM-issued Google accounts. All other resources are accessible without usernames and passwords and can be accessed directly from the Destiny homepage.

All TAISM library materials are accessible to TAISM families. Parents are encouraged to utilize the library, both its physical collection as well as Sora, its robust digital library.



The library is intended to be a quiet place to read, study, research, and work on class assignments. The library staff reserves the right to recommend to the Principal that student privileges be restricted, suspended, or revoked.

It is the responsibility of the students to return materials in a timely manner. The library staff will advise students of any outstanding items. Official records will be withheld until all overdue items are returned and all fees for damaged or lost books are paid. A fee equal to the replacement, shipping, and processing costs will be charged for books, materials, or equipment that are lost or damaged beyond repair.

- Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm (Sunday-Thursday)
- Loan periods: 16 school days / 16-school-day renewal
- Loan limits: 4 physical items, 5 ebooks/audiobooks

Access the library resources from anywhere in the world by navigating to the Destiny Discover catalog from our homepage at taism.com

The library is intended to be a quiet place to read, study, research, and work on class assignments. The library staff reserves the right to recommend to the Principal that student privileges be restricted, suspended, or revoked.

It is the responsibility of the students to return materials in a timely manner. The library staff will advise students of any outstanding items. Official records will be withheld until all overdue items are returned and all fees for damaged or lost books are paid.

A fee equal to the replacement, shipping, and processing costs will be charged for books, materials, or equipment that are lost or damaged beyond repair.

Technology for Learning

When you use technology at TAISM you are agreeing to follow the TAISM Responsible Use Agreement. TAISM “encourages the development of information literacy skills across the curriculum to enable TAISM students and staff to be responsible, resourceful, innovative, discerning and informed users of technology and information”(from the Information Technology Vision Statement).

The entire TAISM community is responsible for the protection and proper use of electronic data and information systems according to the agreement provisions set forth below. All TAISM students, faculty, staff, and guest users authorized to use TAISM information systems are responsible for reading, understanding, and following this agreement.

Expectations of our Learning Community

- I will use TAISM information and communication resources for learning and education.
- I understand that I am responsible for any activity carried out on



my account or with the hardware I use.

- I will use information and communication resources in a respectful, accountable, honest, legal, and responsible manner.
- Any loss or damage caused by malicious intent or careless use of TAISM resources is my sole responsibility. I will report any loss or damage immediately. I understand that if the loss or damage was caused by my negligence, I will be held accountable for all charges or replacement costs.
- I will protect my digital identity and the digital identity of others.
- Never publish information that could be used to identify a particular community member (such as, but not limited to: last name, student numbers, phone numbers, etc).

Technology for Learning

- I will adhere to copyright and respect the rights of others.
- Use resources in a way that does not disrupt the work, study, or intellectual rights of others.
- Only publish items that you have the rights to publish (see Copyright Checklist) and provide references to resources used.
- I will keep my user information secure and never use anyone else's user information.
- Passwords must be kept secret and strong enough so that they are not easily guessed (at least 6 alphanumeric characters and no easily guessable words).
- I will follow established protocols and policies for the use of TAISM technology anytime I represent myself as a TAISM learning community member.
- I understand that the school can hold me responsible for what is posted while I am representing TAISM. For example, if I am a member of a TAISM group on Snapchat, Discord, WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube or any other social networking site in any language, and I post information

that defames the school, or one or more members of the school community, I will be subject to disciplinary action at school, even if the posting was made outside of school.

If you have any question or concerns related to the use of technology, please contact Gokul Krishnan, IT Director, at kgokul@taism.com.

Responsible Use Agreement Accountability

When you sign the agreement, you and TAISM will have an agreement. As part of that agreement, you agree to be honest and responsible in all your dealings with resources and digital tools, just as the TAISM administration will be honest and fair with you. If you have a problem or concern that relates to these guidelines please bring it to the attention of the TAISM administration as soon as possible. School administration will follow up with individuals who are found to have infringed any of these guidelines.

Technology for Learning

TAISM Mail

TAISM provides all MS students with a TAISM Mail account which includes: web-based email, online document storage and collaboration, website creation, calendar, and online chat. Using TAISM Mail, students will have a common platform available to work at home as well as at school, ask questions of teachers and fellow students, collaborate on projects, and share their work projects. This opens up new channels of communication within the TAISM community as well as the rest of the world. It is very important that while students are using TAISM Mail, they are fully aware of their responsibilities as outlined in the TAISM Responsible Use Policy (RUP). The RUP is reviewed and signed at the beginning of the year in MS Home Base.

Middle School Chromebook Use

All middle school students will be issued a Chromebook to use for the school year. At TAISM, we promote a balanced use of educational technology. Students have multiple technon-

ology resources available to them at school and they are used, along with a variety of non technological resources, to support and enhance learning. Assigned TAISM devices may travel to and from school each day. It is a student's responsibility to make sure their device is charged and ready for learning, each morning.

Online Learning at TAISM

The TAISM Middle School uses Google Classroom as a learning management system. Students are enrolled in a Google Classroom site for each of their 8 classes. Teachers may use Google Classroom to push out announcements, information, and assignments, as a means to collect work, and to communicate about class content. Parents are encouraged to sign up for Google Classroom Parent Notification emails, which will inform them of their student's class activity. If online learning needs to occur, the TAISM Middle School uses Zoom as a platform for synchronous, live classes, following our normal school schedule.

Technology for Learning

Frequently Asked Questions About Technology at TAISM

- **HOW DO I KNOW IF MY PURPOSE IS WITHIN THE GUIDELINES?** Ask yourself, “Is what I am doing, or wanting to do, necessary and clearly connected to my schoolwork?” If you can positively answer yes, then there is no problem. If you are doubtful or if the activity is not connected to your schoolwork, then the answer is your activity is not within the TAISM Responsible Use Agreement (RUA) guidelines and you should not do it.
- **WHAT DO I DO IF I UNINTENTIONALLY ACCESS IN-APPROPRIATE MATERIAL?** Call a staff member. He or she will verify that the access was unintentional. They will assist you in backing out of the site.
- **WHAT DO I DO IF I RECEIVE IN- APPROPRIATE E-MAIL?** Contact the Technology Director, Librarian, or principal immediately. He or she will show you how to block the sender, but may also choose to pursue the offender through administrative or other means.
- **MAY I SHARE MY PASSWORD?** No. Never share your password.
- **WHAT IF A SITE ASKS FOR MY NAME OR E-MAIL?** TAISM’s policy is that students do not provide their personal information, including surnames. If site registration is necessary for the educational activity, the teacher will provide a school-based e-mail address to use.

MS Co-Curricular Activities

The co-curricular program is an integral part of TAISM. We believe that student activities provide opportunities for creativity that enhance character, promote personal growth, facilitate a sense of connectedness, and augment classroom learning. Teachers and members of the community offer clubs and programs after the school day. These clubs range from robotics to music opportunities to after-school sports. Activity buses are available at 4:45 p.m. and 5:20 p.m. for students who are participating in after-school activities



Co-Curricular Eligibility

Based on extensive research that shows a positive correlation between participation in activities, athletics, and academic achievement, there is no academic ineligibility at TAISM. Positive participation is viewed as a pathway to improved student performance.

However, a student who is placed on Disciplinary Probation may be restricted from competition or performance in a co-curricular activity by the Principal. Student conduct that occurs during the activity season that does not reflect the school's mission, aims, and core beliefs, whether in or outside of school, may constitute grounds for suspension or dismissal from a team, club or production.

Please Note:

A student may not participate in a co-curricular activity if that student has missed school on the day of the activity.

MS Co-Curricular Activities

TAISM Sports Program Goals and Philosophy

At TAISM we believe that a co-curricular sports program is important to the intellectual, physical, and emotional development of a student. Sports and activities are an extension of a solid educational foundation and are used as a medium to teach our students. Students who participate in TAISM teams acquire self-discipline, build self-confidence, and develop skills to become independent learners and responsible citizens. TAISM sports promote a high level of integrity, commitment, cooperation, responsibility, accountability, and self-discipline. Student athletes are encouraged to strive and maintain high academic standards. Our primary goal is to help young people reach their potential intellectually, emotionally and physically.

TAISM is a member of the Muscat Secondary Sports League (MSSL). Soccer, volleyball, basketball, track and field, and swimming are part of the league. The MSSL has divided up the school year into seasons, which include competitions between member schools and an end-of-season

tournament. In addition, TAISM is a member of SAISA (South Asian Inter-Scholastic Association). Middle School athletes compete alongside high school athletes in swimming and track and field, at the SAISA end-of-season meets.

Middle school students are all eligible to participate in the following after school sporting activities offered:

- Fall Season: Swimming (SAISA), Volleyball
- Winter Season: Soccer (Football), Track and Field (SAISA)
- Spring Season: Basketball



MS Co-Curricular Activities

Middle School Leadership: Student Council, MS Ambassadors, Home Base Representatives

The Student Council is a student-elected board that provides leadership opportunities for TAISM students. It is an active, integral part of student life at TAISM. The Student Council is involved in many activities, from planning social events to community service, and assemblies. MS Ambassadors serve our school community by welcoming and mentoring new students to our school. Finally, Home Base Representatives represent their grade-level classmates' ideas and attend meetings with the MS Principal and Counselor as necessary.



“Character is more important than intellect.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

MS Social Event Guidelines

Social functions are established for the enjoyment of TAISM students. The Student Council organizes many of these events.

- Students absent during the day of a social event are not allowed to attend the event.
- A student can only leave a social event early with parental permission.
- Students should be collected promptly (at the designated time) following the event.
- In the event of an emergency, parents will be contacted at the number provided in PowerSchool.
- Appropriate behavior is mandatory. Students unable to conduct themselves in a satisfactory manner will be reported to the Principal. The Principal will determine any necessary disciplinary measures.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

TAISM MS Students are responsible for their actions and follow the expectations set by the TAISM Board of Directors according to Policy 7.40. In summary, the policy states:

All MS Students have the **right** to:

- Engaging learning activities, relevant to the world we live in, in a climate of trust, respect, and concern for others.
- Be protected from abuse and harassment.
- Safety of both person and property, including a safe and clean school facility.
- Freedom to appropriately express opinion, thought, conscience and religion.
- Protection from arbitrary interference with personal privacy.

MS Students are responsible for their actions and are expected to carry out the following **responsibilities**:

- Conduct themselves with honesty, integrity and exercise self-discipline.
- Act in a manner that safeguards and does not endanger the health and well being of themselves and others.
- Be courteous to and respectful of all members of the TAISM school community.
- Be respectful of the learning environment and the learning of all students.
- Respect the property of fellow students and the property of the school.
- Follow TAISM dress code guidelines.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

Academic Integrity

TAISM holds honesty and academic integrity as high ideals. Students are expected to be honest and trustworthy and display personal integrity at all times. Cheating, plagiarism, or any form of academic dishonesty are not tolerated.

Academic dishonesty is defined as (but not necessarily limited to) the following:

- Giving or receiving information on an exam, test, quiz, or other evaluation exercise, in such a way that would be considered cheating. This could include copying from another, bringing notes to a test, sharing a calculator with another student without the teacher's permission, or other similar unauthorized help.
- Using artificial intelligence or someone else's ideas or statements as one's own, without giving credit to the author, would be considered plagiarism. This could include not giving a proper citation in a research paper by crediting the source of information, copying another

student's work (i.e., homework assignments) and handing it in as one's own, giving one's work to another to copy, using artificial intelligence to generate assignments or any other similar use of another's work.

- Academic dishonesty is a student discipline issue that is dealt with by the MS Principal. Repeated instances of academic dishonesty will involve parents and could impact a student's standing in the school.

Specific School Rules

- Use or possession of tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaping materials, alcohol, or illegal drugs on the campus or at school-sponsored activities is not permitted and will result in an automatic out-of-school suspension.
- Any student who violates the policies as stated above, or attends school or a school-sponsored event under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including the recommendation of expulsion.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

- Weapons of any description including knives or toys that simulate real objects are forbidden.
- Threatening someone with harm or initiating physical abuse is forbidden.
- Stealing will not be tolerated.

Inappropriate Items

Items that could lead to the disruption of a class are not allowed in school. Personal listening devices (phones, etc.) may not be used during the school day unless under the direct instruction of a faculty member for academic purposes. If these items are brought to school, they should be left in a locked locker. Phones may not be used or be on a student's person during the school day (which is defined by the time the student enters the building to the end of school hours). Students who violate this policy will have their mobile phones confiscated and returned at the end of the school day. Students may not use rollerblades, a scooter, or a skateboard on the school grounds, unless under the direct supervision of a teacher in the context of a school activity.

Conduct on School Trips/Activities

Students are held responsible for their conduct while attending or participating in school-sponsored activities beyond the regular school day. During this time, student conduct is subject to all regulations of the school and will be governed accordingly. Students are not allowed to attend sporting events where a TAISM team is playing at other schools unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Students represent TAISM while participating in interscholastic events. Violation of the school rules could result in suspension from school and exclusion from international interscholastic events for a defined period. If disciplinary issues arise that result in placing the student on Disciplinary Probation (an additional suspension or serious disciplinary concern), the student would not be allowed to travel to participate in an international interscholastic event. Subsequent serious violations of discipline at school or interscholastic events during a student's enrollment at TAISM will result in the student

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

being suspended and/or placed on Disciplinary Probation, thus preventing the student from traveling to international interscholastic events as per the above procedure. Students are to maintain school uniform dress when participating in extra-curricular trips unless informed otherwise by the Teacher or Principal.

School Bus Rules

TAISM offers a contracted bus service to selected areas of the Muscat capital area. Interested parents should contact the Security and Safety Manager for fees and information.

The school bus is considered a direct extension of the school; therefore, all school rules are to be followed on the buses. Students who violate these bus rules will be referred to the Principal. Persistent or flagrant violations are grounds for restriction or denial of bus privileges. The drivers and monitors operate under the school's authority. They are instructed to refer potential problems to the Principal.

Any student wishing to ride a different bus (other than the regularly assigned bus) must present a note signed by a parent to the Operations office which coordinates the routing of the buses. This procedure is also true for students getting off at a different stop than their usual location. Please note only registered bus riders can ride a different bus as a guest rider.

In order to ensure student safety, the following actions are prohibited on school buses: playing loud music, throwing objects, being excessively loud, standing while the bus is moving, arms, legs, or any other body part out of the window, not using seat belts, eating or drinking, using vulgar or abusive language.

As a matter of courtesy, it is helpful when parents inform the Operations office or their bus monitor when their child will be taking an alternative form of transport. For liability reasons, guests and visitors are not allowed to ride TAISM buses.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

Discipline Philosophy

- We expect the best behavior from TAISM students and will immediately address behavior that is less than expected.

- We believe that students learn best in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust, in which appropriate behavior is expected of everyone.

- We believe that appropriate behavior expectations should be clearly stated.

- We believe all students have the potential to behave positively, that they choose their behaviors, and that students can be guided and taught to make appropriate choices.

- We believe that discipline procedures should be based upon what is ultimately best for the student directly involved as well as what has the most positive impact upon others. Therefore, discipline procedures should reflect options which permit a range of consequences.

- We believe that students best benefit from the educational process when parents support and reinforce school regulations by demonstrating follow-up with students at home when misbehavior occurs at school.

- We believe that teachers, administrators, and parents can work cooperatively to ensure that the student learns as a consequence of disciplinary situations and infractions.

- We believe that Middle School Students make mistakes and can learn from them.

- We believe that disciplinary incidents or issues are confidential. The resolution and action taken from a disciplinary incident remain confidential between school and the individual student and family.

Disciplinary Procedures

The school has various responses to discipline infractions, depending on the following factors:

- The age of the student,
- The nature of the infraction,
- The disciplinary record of the student involved.

Typically, repeated infractions result in increasingly severe disciplinary consequences. Corporal punishment is not used at TAISM nor does TAISM condone it (TAISM Student Protection Policy).

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

The school administration reserves the right to take appropriate disciplinary action including, but not limited to, reflection, restitution, detention, suspension or a recommendation of expulsion.

Disciplinary Responses

The following disciplinary responses are used at TAISM:

- **Verbal Redirection**
- **Conference** - The Teacher, Counselor, or Principal will confer with the student. The parents may be conferred with in person or by phone.
 - **Written reflection** and/or a community awareness assignment
 - **After School Exclusion** - Students who have after-school exclusion are not permitted to attend any extra-curricular or co-curricular activity that takes place after 3:30 p.m. In all cases, there will be a time frame (days or weeks) for the exclusion.
 - **Probation** - When the magnitude of violation of the rules of student conduct is serious, or when

violations persist despite counseling and/or warning the student and parents concerned, the Principal of the school may, with advice from the Director, place the student on disciplinary probation. In all cases when a student is given disciplinary probation, the student and parents must be informed, in writing, of both the reason for the probation and the terms of that probation. Additional support resources, such as counseling referrals, can also be made available when appropriate. All instances of disciplinary probation must include a reference to the consequences of any further violation of the rules of student conduct, and this must be shared in writing with the student and parents concerned.

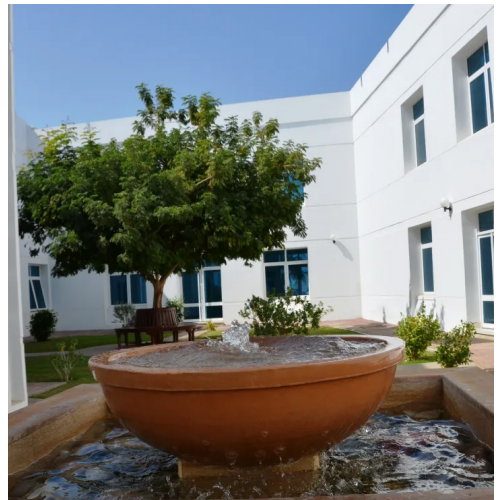
- **In-School Suspension**- Students may receive in-school suspension, which means they are isolated in a supervised area of the office. A student on in-school suspension is expected to work on schoolwork or read quietly. Lunch and breaks are spent in a supervised area. Parents will be notified in writing of any in-school suspensions.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

- **Suspension** - Suspension is a serious disciplinary action and will only be taken when other measures have failed to promote a positive change in the student's behavior, or when it is clearly in the best interests of the school to suspend the student's participation in classes and/or other school activities. This would include situations when the student's presence in school and/or other activities would be significantly disruptive to the conduct of classes, extra-curricular or social activities, or when the health and safety of others is compromised. The Principal may suspend a student from participation in classes and/or other activities for a period not to exceed five school days and may prohibit the student from entering all or part of the school premises during that period. The Principal shall notify the student and the student's parent(s) in writing of the reasons and conditions for all suspensions of five school days or less. The notification must also state the consequences of any further breach of discipline. A copy of this notification shall be given to the Director. The student is responsible for obtaining and com-

pleting the assignments given during the period of suspension. Decisions regarding suspension are made by the Principal. Appeals of suspension may be made to the Director.

- **Expulsion** - Very serious offenses may lead to a student's expulsion. Expulsion means that the student is permanently removed from the school. Any decision to expel must be made after due consideration and consultation between the Director, Principal, parent(s), and student. The school administration makes a recommendation of expulsion to the Board of Directors. The Board has the authority to expel a student.



Students' Rights and Responsibilities

Other Information Pertinent to Discipline

- Academic and Behavior Contract-A formal written contract between the school, parents and the student may be required which specifies expectations and future consequences of behavior.
- Counseling Referral -The school may require professional counseling or a diagnostic evaluation as a requirement for continued enrollment. The results of such testing and/or professional recommendations may also be required in order to provide the student with the best possible education.
- Financial Restitution -When students are responsible for damaging, destroying or losing school property, they will be assessed fines and charges appropriate to the damage or loss. Failure to uphold this responsibility will result in the withholding of grades and transcripts.



Student Health and Safety

Student Protection at TAISM

The procedures that are established to provide a safe environment for students at TAISM are based on the TAISM Board Policy. The TAISM Board Policy includes Policy 7.90 regarding the right of each student to be protected from abuse.

Student Protection TAISM Board Policy 7.90

Each student has the right to be protected from abuse. The school shall maintain an environment for all students that is free from abuse and take appropriate actions to ensure that students are protected.

Student abuse constitutes: All forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the student's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.

The school shall adopt and maintain a comprehensive, proactive approach to student protection that includes:

- Adopting rules and procedures for student protection
- Screening and criminal background checks for all school staff
- Reporting and investigating student abuse Education and training for staff, students and parents
- Conducting self-audits of student protection procedures

The Administration shall be responsible for establishing, communicating and enforcing the above.



Student Health and Safety

Health Office

The Nurse

TAISM provides a Registered Nurse full time at the school campus with the following functions:

- Supervises the processing and maintenance of student health records.
- Maintains first aid kits and supplies.
- Responds to routine illnesses and injuries provides ongoing training in first aid coordinates with local doctors and hospital
- Maintains the Lost and Found cabinet.

The nurse is on duty from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Students who wish to see the nurse can obtain a pass from their teacher. Parents of students with specific medical concerns or needs are encouraged to contact the nurse (2459-5180) to discuss their requirements.



Procedures for Dispensing Medication

- If a student needs to take medicine during school hours, parents must leave the medication with the School Nurse. Medications are stored in a secure location in the Nurse's Office.
 - The container must be clearly labeled with the student's name and the appropriate dosage and dosing schedule.
 - Students who require occasional medicines for headaches, asthma, allergies, etc. should leave a supply with the nurse unless a regular schedule of medication has been prearranged. The nurse will communicate with parents when a medication is administered.
 - No student may carry medicines of any description while at school.
 - If the nurse is not available, the Principal or the Director will dispense scheduled medications.
 - Parents are requested to discuss with the nurse the necessary information regarding the dispensing of prescribed medication. No prescribed medication will be given to students without the written permission of the parent.

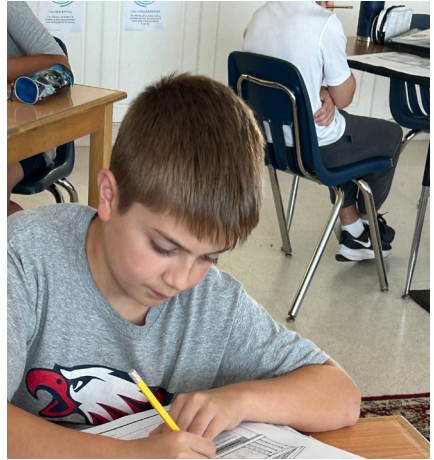
Student Health and Safety

Illness

One of our primary concerns is to ensure a healthy environment. The following guidelines will help diminish illness during the year for both teachers and students. Parents should not send a sick or overly tired child to school. A sick child will not enjoy school, and the flu, cold, or other contagious condition can infect the entire class.

- A child needs to be healthy enough to participate in both indoor and outdoor activities each day. If a child is not well enough to play outside, he/she should not be sent to school.
- A fever of any kind, diarrhea, or upset stomach requires a 24-hour period without symptoms before a child returns to school.
- If a child becomes sick during school, the school will contact his/her parents or emergency contact person to come and take the child home.
- A child with a contagious condition may, at the discretion of the nurse and/or principal, be sent home and restricted from school attendance until such condition has cleared.

Please Note: If your child misses more than three consecutive school days due to illness, the MS Office will require a medical certificate prior to your student returning to classes.



Student Health and Safety

TAISM ID Badge



Please note that all parents are required to wear their TAISM ID badge while on the school campus. Parents who do not have their ID badge will be asked to enter the school campus at Visitor

Reception in order to leave an ID and obtain a visitor badge.

Photos for ID badges will be taken at registration days. Please contact the Operations Office if you don't have your badge. Thank you for helping us ensure we have a safe campus for our school community.



Security - CCTV at TAISM

The American International School of Muscat (TAISM) has an surveillance camera system (CCTV) for the protection, safety, and security of students, employees, and authorized visitors on school grounds and in contracted transportation. Data from the system is accessed solely by the School Administration to monitor and review occurrences related to safety and security.



Student Health and Safety

Questions and Answers Related to CCTV at TAISM:

- *Why are CCTV cameras being added at this time at the school?*

TAISM has had outdoor campus surveillance cameras for many years. They are part of the school's security and safety system that is maintained to protect our school community. The current additions increase the areas of the campus that require monitoring or review.

- *Has there been any specific risk identified?*

No specific threat has been identified as the reason for placing additional cameras on campus or on busses. The additions are part of our ongoing effort regarding student protection. It is quite common to have surveillance cameras in public buildings, on public transport, and more specifically in or around schools.

- *Is CCTV required by the local laws or other authorities?*

Omani authorities require the use of CCTV cameras in buildings accessible to the public that are approved for construction on the campus. Recent directives from the Ministry of Education and the Royal Oman Police advise the use of cameras in busses. Additionally, the TAISM Board of Directors has policies in place that direct the administration to establish security and safety regulations and procedures.

- *How will the CCTV system be used by the school?*

As part of the school's ongoing efforts to maintain a safe and secure environment, video cameras are being used to monitor particular locations including the school perimeter, parking areas, gates and entries, hallways, storage areas, and public gathering spaces. Cameras are not installed in areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g. bathrooms, changing rooms).

Data is maintained for 30 days, but may be maintained longer if needed for an ongoing investigation or audit.

- *Who has access to the recordings and monitoring systems?*

The CCTV system is maintained by TAISM's IT Manager and all systems have been designed for security of the data collected. Access to the information provided by the cameras is accessible only to the school administration for the use of security and safety. Data collected may be viewed when there is a reasonable suspicion of a security or safety issue or violation of school policy or regulation.

- *Do outside authorities have access to the recordings and monitoring systems?*

Data will not be shared with outside authorities unless the school is required to do so under local law.

Any questions regarding the implementation of CCTV can be addressed to Gokul Krishnan (IT Manager) or Peter Lee (Director).

General Information

Administrative Offices

The administrative offices (Director, Business Manager and Accountants, Safety and Security Manager, Facilities Manager, Receptionist and Administrative Coordinator) are located on the ground floor. The Accountants handle payment of school fees.

MS Principal's Office

The MS Principal's Office is located upstairs from the main rotunda in Room 284. Please call 2459-5180, ext. 109, to make an appointment.

Admissions

Admissions are conducted through the Admissions Coordinator in consultation with the Principal. Grade placement in the Middle School is based on both the prior academic background of the student as well as age. The placement process may involve testing and writing samples. The Principal is responsible for determining grade placement.

Attendance

Attendance Policy

One of the major responsibilities of each TAISM student is to attend class. Academic success and regular attendance are closely related. Absences, avoidable and unavoidable, excused and unexcused, are detrimental to the educational process. Avoidable absences (i.e., early

departure for vacation, late arrival from vacation, etc.) are discouraged. When a student is absent without prior notification, a note signed by the parent giving the reason for the absence (i.e., illness, family emergency) and the date(s) of the absence is required the day the student returns to school. The note should be given to the MS Principal's Secretary. If a student is absent due to illness for three or more days, a medical note is required. If a stu-

General Information

dent is absent for medical reasons, a parent should inform the Principal's Secretary so make-up work can be arranged. In cases where an absence is unavoidable, parents should notify the MS Office as soon as they know of a planned absence. Students will then obtain a Pre-Arranged Absence Form to take to teachers that indicates what classwork is to be completed either before or after the absence. The form should be turned into the MS Secretary and then the Principal will sign the form.

Students are responsible for all material that is missed due to absence. Unexcused absences and/or repeated tardiness may result in other consequences as determined appropriate by the Principal. Unexcused absences include but are not limited to, skipping class and coming to school late.

When a student is excessively absent, the MS Principal will notify the student, parents, and/or guardian. We believe in a strong partnership with the family to rectify attendance problems. Students who are absent more than five days of a trimester are considered at risk for decreased

academic performance. This includes both excused and unexcused absences. School-sponsored activities are not included in the total absences. It is school procedure to call home and verify the absences that are greater than two days. Parents can assist with this verification by calling the MS Secretary directly.

Make-up Work

It is the student's responsibility to meet with individual teachers and check Google Classroom to obtain make-up work. Students will receive credit for make-up work.

Punctuality / Tardiness

Students should make every attempt to get to class on time. If a student is late arriving at school, it is the student's responsibility to get a



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signed late pass from the MS Office Secretary.

When tardiness to classes becomes excessive, teachers will refer students to the Principal for further action.

Checking In and Out of School

TAISM is a closed campus. After arrival at school for classes or a school event, students are not permitted to leave campus without parental permission. If a student becomes ill, the School Nurse will notify the parents. Written parental permission is necessary when a child is taken out of school during school hours for dental/doctor appointments, etc. The child must be signed out at the MS Office before leaving. Students will only be released to a parent or another adult designated by the parent. Students who arrive late must sign in at the Office and provide a parental note. The MS Secretary will issue a late pass which is then given to the class teacher. Parents are requested to send a written note or email to the school the morning of any anticipated early dismissal (doctor's appointment, etc.). In an emergency or response to an unanticipated situation, parents may

call the Principal's Office with verbal authorization.

Physical Education Participation

Occasionally, your child may not be well enough to participate in PE. In this case, a parental note of explanation is required. If a health problem prevents a student from regular participation in PE, a doctor's letter is required. Students who cannot participate in PE are still required to attend classes.

If a student becomes ill during the day, he/she will be sent to the School Nurse for a written note to excuse him/her from PE. If this illness during the day becomes chronic, the situation will be discussed with parents.

PE Guidelines during Ramadan

Students are expected to participate in PE activities as much as they can. However, the health and safety of students is of paramount importance. If a student



General Information

is unable to participate in PE activities during Ramadan, a parental note should be sent to the PE teacher. The teacher will arrange an alternative activity.

Guardianship and Supervision

Given the nature of international work and traveling requirements, there may be the rare occasion when both parents are not able to be at home with your children. According to TAISM policy, *“parents are responsible for finding a guardian of the student acceptable to both the parents and the school. The guardian will have all the responsibilities and rights of a parent, when a student under guardianship is enrolled.”* (7.2021) In this situation, parents are responsible for filing with the school a form which designates a legal guardian for students, during their absence.

This is especially important when living abroad as family relatives are generally not in the country. Under no circumstances is it acceptable to leave your children without providing adult supervision.

Dropping Off/ Picking Up Students

The student drop-off lane at TAISM, both for buses and parents, is on the

east side of campus, across from the church. At all times, we keep safety as the number one priority, and entrance and exit areas will be clearly marked. Traffic is usually one-way, and during regular school hours, an entrance and exit gate will be manned by security. Students who have been dropped off should continue to use caution and remain on pedestrian walkways and traffic areas. Parents can assist by using the same safe routes when entering or exiting the school. It takes a conscious effort by all drivers to ensure our students are safe.



General Information

Dress Code

TAISM has a dress code that is comfortable, respectful of Oman's culture, and appropriate for our school climate:

- Students are responsible for being neat, clean and dressed appropriately.
- Wearing valuable jewelry and jewelry in quantity is discouraged. TAISM accepts no responsibility for any jewelry brought to school.
- Provocative or unusual hair styles or coloring are not considered appropriate for school.
- Shoes should be comfortable and worn at all times.
- Hats are not to be worn inside the school building.
- All decisions regarding appropriate dress remain the respective Principal's prerogative.

The school uniform is available for purchase on Registration days, and at Visitors' Reception on school days. The following dress guidelines are used for regular school attendance and school-related functions:

For Girls:

Shirts

For Middle School students, the TAISM Polo shirt must be worn even if a school-approved sweatshirt is worn over it.

Skirts/Pants/Shorts

Girls may wear skirts, pants, or shorts to school. Pants should not be frayed, should fit properly, and be in good repair.

Skirts and shorts should be knee-length. Long pants, capris, jeans, or leggings/jeggings are permitted.

Jackets/Sweatshirts

Only TAISM sweatshirts (approved uniform sweatshirts or sport/activity sweatshirts) may be worn at school. A TAISM polo shirt must be worn under the TAISM sweatshirt.

For Boys:

Shirts

For Middle School students, the TAISM Polo shirt must be worn even if a school-approved sweatshirt is worn over it.

Pants/Shorts

Pants or shorts can be worn by boys



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(including jeans). Pants should not be frayed, should fit properly, and be in good repair. Shorts should be knee-length.

Jackets/Sweatshirts

Only TAISM sweatshirts (approved uniform sweatshirts or a sport/activity sweatshirt) may be worn at school. A TAISM polo shirt must be worn under the TAISM sweatshirt.

Physical Education Clothing for Boys and Girls:

Students must wear the school PE uniforms for PE classes. PE uniforms, which include gym shirts and shorts may be purchased on Registration Days or from the Visitors' Reception during the school year. Students should have at least two uniform sets for PE. No jewelry should be worn during PE classes. Students should bring reusable water bottles and hats when their PE classes are held outdoors. For 8th graders, gym shirts and gym shorts are not to be worn at school except during physical Education classes. 6th and 7th graders may wear their PE uniform to school and wear it all day if they would like to

Swimming

Swimming is an integral part of the PE program. Girls must wear one-piece swimsuits, and boys must wear swimming trunks (liner and drawstring) or racing suits. Students are required to bring a towel. Swimming shirts are recommended.



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Field Trips

Occasionally, classes and grade levels will take educational field trips off campus. Parents will be informed of the time of departure and arrival, the mode of transportation, and the field trip site. Appropriate adult supervision will be maintained at all times. Parent/Guardian permission must be obtained, in writing, for a student to participate in a trip. To participate in a field trip, the student must have a signed permission slip.

Homework

At TAISM, we know that homework can be a valuable tool for student learning, however, we strive to maintain "Balance," especially as it relates to their outside-of-school time. Homework can serve to extend learning and result in positive gains for academic achievement. The amount of homework appropriate for students varies from student to student and from grade to grade. The following information provides the general philosophy and procedures regarding homework assignments.

Purpose:

- to reinforce and/or strengthen skills and concepts introduced in class,
- to encourage independent learning and responsibility,
- to provide guided reading,
- to complete research activities or provide opportunity for students to explore areas of interest,
- to provide additional time to work on long-term projects,
- to promote additional challenges and creative thinking.

To encourage the development of the Behavior that Supports Learning, "Preparation," students will be asked to record any outside of school assignments in their MS Planner. A typical amount of homework in MS may be a range of 1-1.5 hours in a given evening, some of which will likely be reading time. Due to our block schedule, homework assignments are typically due after two days, or the next time the class meets. This allows an extra day if the student needs any additional assistance from the teacher. We encourage students to engage in any homework the "night it's assigned," for this reason.

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Lockers



How to open the combination lock:

- 1. Turn the dial to the RIGHT (clockwise) two full turns. Stop at the first number of the combination*
- 2. Turn the dial LEFT (counter-clockwise) one full turn (past the 2nd number)*
- 3. Continue turning LEFT (counter-clockwise) until the 2nd number is reached*
- 4. Turn the dial RIGHT (clockwise) again until the 3rd number is reached*
- 5. Pull the shank and the lock will open.*

The Middle School Secretary will assign locks and lockers. All middle school students are responsible for the assigned locker and lock. Please keep the combination to the lock private and lock all valuables inside the locker.

Having a locker is a privilege that requires responsibility. Lockers must be kept clean, neat, and closed. Please do not mark on them or attach anything to the outside except occasional spirit posters. Replacement cost for lost locks is RO 3.

Lunch

Students may bring their own lunch from home or purchase lunch at school. Individual items may be purchased in the MS Learning Commons (MSLC), or a student may purchase a "Combo Meal". The individual items for sale typically include cold sandwiches, wraps, fruit, yogurt with granola, muffins, and cakes. Combo Meals include a main dish with a side, a drink, and a dessert. Vegetarian options are available.

The MSLC is open for lunch from 11:55 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

General Information

Lost & Found

Articles of clothing and other items found on campus will be placed in the Lost and Found cabinet. Students are responsible for checking the Lost and Found cabinet to claim lost items. Periodically, unclaimed items are donated to local community service organizations. Clothing that is clearly labeled has a much better chance of finding its original owner.



School Materials

Educational materials at TAISM are current and usually originate in the U.S. Some materials will be issued to you early in the year and you will be responsible for caring for them for

the year (Chromebook, Print Materials). Materials, such as these, are returned at the end of the school year. Families are responsible for paying for any damaged or lost school property.

Parent Newsletters

Keeping families informed of school events and news is important to fostering a partnership between home and school. School-wide information and stories are posted on our school website and our TAISM parent site (parents.taism.com). In addition, a middle school weekly e-mail newsletter is also sent home every Thursday afternoon by the MS Secretary. This will help keep you up-to-date on happenings specific to the Middle School as well as some important all-school events. Please ensure you contact the MS secretary if you do not receive the newsletters or if you change your email address.



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Parental Concerns

Whenever you have a concern or problem, please let us know so we can discuss it and create a workable solution.

First Step: if the issue is class-related, you should always contact the teacher first. The majority of concerns can be immediately addressed and resolved through direct contact with the teacher.

Second Step: If you still have a concern or if the concern isn't class-related, then you should talk to the Principal.

Third Step: The final step for resolution of a concern is to talk to the Director.

Parent Contact with the School Board

The School Board is responsible for the school's governance and policies, and not the day-to-day operation of the school. The Board must also act only as a collective body. Therefore, the School Board will only entertain parental concerns in

the following circumstances:

- After the concern has been brought to the attention of the principal and Director.
- When the concern has been presented to the School Director in writing and signed, at least one week prior to the regular board meeting.



“School is the marketplace of the possibility, not efficiency.

—Susan Ohanian

General Information

Parent Back to School Event

All TAISM “Back to School Events” are scheduled in September. Parents are given the opportunity to meet their child’s teachers and find out more about their child’s academic program, classroom routines, and teacher expectations. Please note this is not an evening for personal conferences.

Parent - Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher contact is vital to the success of our students. Formal parent-teacher conferences are arranged for MS parents twice each school year. Parents may also request additional conferences at any time during the year. It is best to schedule an appointment by contacting the teacher directly.

Conference formats, available to parents, teachers, and students, include:

- Telephone or Zoom conference to clarify communications and quickly discuss student’s current status

- Routine reporting conference to discuss student’s progress
- Problem-solving conference to address a specific problem or serious concern.



School Hours

8:00-8:20 a.m. Students arrive

8:28 a.m. Warning bell

8:30 a.m. Classes begin

3:30 p.m. Dismissal

3:40-4:30/5:10 p.m. After School Activities

After-school activities are a critical part of the life of middle school students. Students who are not involved in a supervised ASA may “sign in” at the MSLC if they wish to use the space to work on homework or use the library resources. Students must sign up to stay in the MSLC by noon with the MS Secretary.

It is critical that all MS students are accounted for after school hours. MS students may only stay after school if they have signed up with the MS Secretary by noon of the day they want to stay or are in a supervised after-school activity.

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Student Daily Planner

Each student is given a Daily Planner to help organize assignments. The Planner serves as a communication link between teachers and parents, particularly with regard to homework. It is also a student handbook with helpful information. Students are required to bring their planner to school every day. The replacement cost for lost planners is RO 3.

Student Property

Clothing, school bags, food containers, and other personal property should be labeled with the owner's name. Students are advised against bringing expensive items to school: e.g., large amounts of money, mobile phones, personal listening devices, and jewelry. The school does not take responsibility for valuables lost, stolen, or left unattended. All personal belongings should be kept in their locker with the lock secured.

Telephones

MS students are allowed to use school telephones in the MS Office with permission from a staff mem-

ber. Students may not use their GSMs during the school day and should keep them in their lockers. Parents who wish to contact their children can do so through the receptionist or school secretary. .

Visitors and Guests

A visitor is defined as a person who drops in to tour or conduct business at the school. A guest is defined as someone who attends classes and stays for all or part of the academic day.

Visitors are welcome on campus. We ask, however, that all visitors prearrange their visit and report to the Visitor Center. The Admissions Coordinator, Principals, or Director will be happy to provide a tour. Parents are welcome on campus, however, if there is a need to meet with a staff member, please make an appointment ahead of time.



General Information

Withdrawals and Transfers

Due to the nature of international schools, students may need to withdraw from school at any time of the year. Sometimes families have little control over when they have to leave, but they should make every effort to complete a trimester if possible.

When students withdraw to transfer to another school, TAISM will provide transcripts and other information upon the written request of the parents. A minimum of seven days notice is required. Student transcripts and records will not be released if the student has not returned school property or owes money for lost library books, textbooks, school fees, etc.

Please note that the sooner the school knows about an impending departure, the more support we can offer in the transition to a new school.



MS Staff 2024-25

Art: Mrs. Kristy Schuttenbach	Computer Science: Mr. Jason Tiefel
Band: Mr. Drew Minaker Ms. Melissa Davis	Choir: Mrs. Mira Minkova-Boyadzhieva
Counseling: Mrs. Andrea Callaway	Drama: Ms. Sarah Wenn
Health: Mrs. Laura MacDonald	Learning Support: Mrs. Liz Pasquini
Language Arts: Mrs. Alyssa Minaker Mrs. Kelly Rauk Mr. Daniel Forbes	Social Studies: Mr. Ryan Callaway Mr. Rick Coriell Mrs. Kelly Rauk
Mathematics: Mr. Chad Johnson Ms. Erin Ann Schueler	Science Mrs. Colleen Coriell Mrs. Darcy Hindash
Physical Education: Mr. Jason Martin Mr. Luther Rauk Ms. Grace Luna (Aquatics)	World Languages: Mrs. Hilda Ashkar(Arabic) Ms. Taline Sabbagh (Arabic) Mr. Zak Makri (Arabic) Mrs. Carla Khalil (French) Mrs. Melissa Foltz (Spanish)
Library: Mr. Ryan Callaway - MS Librarian Mrs. Sukhi Kaur - MS Library Asst.	MS Discover Oman Coordinator: Mr. Jason Martin
MS Office: Mrs. Carey Johnson - MS Principal Mrs. Arancha Franco - MS Secretary	



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