



Grade 6 Middle School Program Information

Marymount’s Middle School is composed of over 220 students making up a vibrant community with diverse cultural and religious backgrounds which celebrates the spirituality of the School’s RSHM founders.

Students are guided toward the achievement of their full potential by empowering them to think creatively, reason critically, communicate effectively and learn continuously, fostering independence and preparing them for the rigor of their High School programs. The curriculum is based on the philosophy of the IB and Marymount’s Quality Teaching and Learning characteristics which encourage personal commitment to high standards, continuous improvement and a life-long love of learning.

Central to the Middle School’s core curriculum is the development of a deep understanding in the following subject areas: Language and Literature, Language Acquisition, Mathematics and Sciences, Individuals and Societies and the Arts.

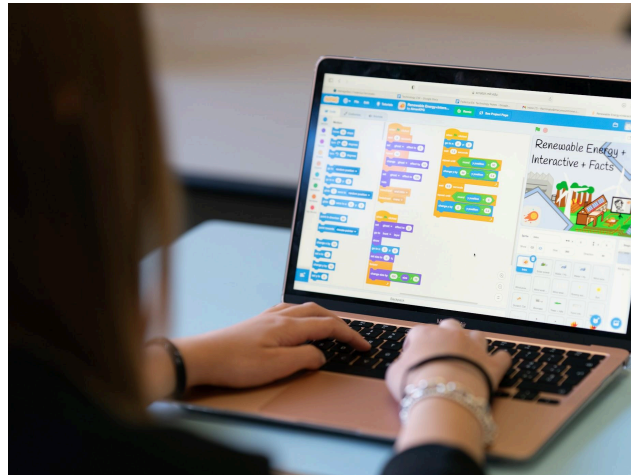


* Students who enroll in Italian Literature have an option of taking the Media State Exam at the end of each school year. Students who wish to take the Media state exam are recommended to take French, German or Spanish; if students opt for Arabic, or Mandarin, they must attend an afterschool DELF or DELE Course.



Marymount also offers classes for students who wish to take the Italian Media examinations through an integrated approach whereby each course meets international standards but also covers all the content required for the Italian Media Program.

In addition, embedded enrichment, service and wellbeing activities equip our students to develop their knowledge and skills across subjects for a holistic academic development.



These include: Advisory, MS Sports Program, Assemblies, ATLS, Juni Orchestra and musical performances, MUN, leadership opportunities and RSHM conferences and festivals, after school activities, student clubs and enrichment trips beyond the classroom.

Course Descriptions

Language and Literature

English 6

The Grade 6 English course provides concrete preparation in academic reading, writing, and literary analysis. Literary studies begin with the study of Fairy Tales by the Grimm Brothers and then proceed to World and Greek mythology and culminating with The Odyssey. This course caters to the individual differences of students by reinforcing key linguistic concepts, and by providing students with extra practice in composition skills, vocabulary, and the mechanics of grammar usage. Required readings, research projects, and oral presentations will permit students to enhance their verbal and written communication. As reading is integral to this course, students will be assigned books during the academic year, and are expected to successfully complete periodic written documentation on the texts. Students are also provided with the opportunity to enhance their oral skills by participating to a greater degree in oral presentations, technology integrated activities, and class discussion.

Italian for native speakers - Italian Literature 6

The Italian Literature course is designed for students who are native speakers of Italian and/or have a fluent command of Italian. The class focuses on developing students' oral and written skills in Italian, as well as a deep knowledge of Italian culture and literature including readings from Italian classics such as Dante's Divine Comedy. Through this course students will be prepared and have the option to take the Prima Media State Examination.

Language Acquisition

Arabic, French, German, Italian, Mandarin, and Spanish

All students take Italian. In Grade 6 Italian is available as a Beginner's course, as an Intermediate and Advanced course, and as a Literature course for students in the Media Program (see above). All other Language courses are offered at Beginners level in Grade 6 and are designed to enhance students' proficiency in the language developing their receptive and productive skills.

English Language Learner (ELL)

The Middle School ELL program is geared to teach and assist students whose first language is not English with the goal of accessing the content in other parts of the curriculum. Our School uses the WIDA assessment as an English proficiency screener to accurately place students and monitor their English language development. Students' placement in ELL is determined by their WIDA assessment, previous school records, and teacher input.

Latin (Elective Course)

This introductory course offers a thorough, fascinating, and enjoyable grounding in Latin that combines the traditional grammatical method with a reading-based approach. In addition to morphology and syntax, the course encourages the joy of linguistic and cultural discovery.

Mathematics and Sciences

Mathematics 6

This course develops ability in calculating and problem solving to prepare students for Pre-Algebra and applications of these skills in day-to-day experiences. Basic Algebra concepts are introduced and integrated into several of the units. A range of topics from Geometry, Statistics and Arithmetic are covered to give students the foundations required for subsequent courses. A variety of methods for solving word problems are used throughout the year, encouraging students to be lateral thinkers.

Science 6

During the first year of the Middle School Science program, students learn to use the scientific method by designing and performing simple experiments and learning to use tools for measurement. The topics to be covered touch three areas of science. In Biology, students will study the kingdoms of living organisms, the use of microscopes, plant reproduction, evolution of plants and photosynthesis, and the science of air, soil and water. The Chemistry topics focus on

matter, changes of state, and the particle model. In Physics, measurement, density and flotation, heat and temperature are introduced.

Educational Technology 6

The course entails elements of digital design, elements of technology, elements of computer science, and digital citizenship. Students will be encouraged to explore, invent, create, and solve real-world problems using a variety of tools and materials. They participate in publishing, graphing, presentation, and word-processing activities needed in their core classes. They will also develop basic programming using Scratch, a program developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Individuals and Society

History and Geography 6

The course combines elements of History and Geography, covering the period after the Fall of the Roman Empire to the end of the Middle Ages. In Geography, students study the five major themes of Physical Geography and their interaction with migratory populations and cultures.

Religious Education 6

The Old Testament is the basis for this course and the basis of our faith as Christians. The students will journey through salvation history, identifying God's loving covenants with mankind. Students will explore the Christian teaching that Jesus fulfills the promises of the Hebrew Scriptures by proclaiming the Kingdom of God and forming the New Covenant. The concepts, ideas and practices of other faiths in our school community will also be explored.

Arts

Art 6 (Required Course)

Art 6 is an introductory course and provides experiences designed to help students develop a greater understanding of the elements of Art, including drawing skills, applied design methods (painting, mixed media, and sculpture) and ceramics. In the History of Art students will explore cave art and the art of the ancient Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Etruscan, Greek and Roman civilizations. Principles of design will be introduced and students will begin to prepare for the Media as well as advanced art courses including IB Art. A portfolio and sketchbook for use until 8th Grade will be required.

Drama 6 (Elective Course)

This is a one year, practical course introducing theater and performance. The focus of this elective course is geared towards teamwork, communication skills, public speaking and confidence building. Students will finish the course with an understanding of what theater and performance mean, how they form part of our society and how they can help in everyday life. They will learn how to focus their skills to create their own performances, read scripts, design sets and empathize with characters. The nature of the course itself creates a risk free environment for the students to experiment and try new things.

General Music 6 (Required Course)

This course provides instruction in music appreciation, theory at a beginner level in line with the ABRSM theory syllabus and an in-depth knowledge of music history from the origins of music to the Middle Ages. By examining cultural perspectives of music, students will be enabled to use critical thinking skills to gain an understanding of music and its value in society. Through these musical experiences, students will make connections between the various elements of music and other fields of knowledge.

Chorus 6 (Elective Course)

Chorus is an elective course designed for students to develop their vocal skills and to discover the joy of working together in a choral group. In the course, students will explore singing in a variety of styles: rock, gospel, jazz, pop, etc. Performance is a key component so students will perform in the classroom, in school concerts during the year, in school masses and on retreats. An ability to sing on pitch with some degree of ease and a fundamental interest and enjoyment of singing are helpful. Students will learn how to read choral music and write musical ideas, using music as a

means of expression and communication. Students will listen to and analyze music from a wide range of traditions. Students will also learn how to describe music, express their opinions and make critical judgments about the music they hear in class and the music they perform.

Band 6 (Elective Course)

The purpose of Beginners Band as an elective course is to develop students' musical understanding through the performance of a wide variety of musical literature at a beginner level. Teachers will guide students in choosing, and learning how to play, one of the following band instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone or percussion (mallets, drum kit, other percussion) or bass guitar. No prior musical knowledge is required. Music theory, listening skills and sight-reading are emphasized along with the use of music technology software. Students will perform in public concerts outside the regular school day and some costs might be incurred for accessories and other materials.

Sports and Wellbeing

Advisory

In order to support the positive transition from Elementary School, particular attention is given to Middle School students through a daily Advisory program. Advisors are responsible for the students' wellbeing guiding them personally, academically and socially through the academic year. They provide students with support within the School framework tracking their academic progress, mentoring them in their Enrichment Program, and helping them to integrate creativity, activity and service projects in their curriculum. The students are encouraged and given the opportunity to meet in small groups with an advisor in the following way:

- Daily check in from 8:20 a.m. for 10 minutes with their assigned faculty advisor.
- Speak to their advisor about the day and how well they feel prepared for their classes.
- Advisors check the students' schedules and verify that the students are organized for the morning classes and the day ahead.
- Advisors remind the students to confirm they have all the materials necessary for the first two classes.
- Students are reminded of the importance of the School's dress code and are urged to always respect Marymount's uniform policy.
- Advisors remind students to look over their schedules to ensure that they have everything they need for their homework assignments.

Secondary School student groups also meet for a longer period of time with their Advisor on a weekly basis in order to focus more in-depth on issues relating to academic planning and progress as well as personal and social development in an open and trusting environment. Students also have the possibility to conference and talk individually with their Advisor.

Middle School Sports Program

Students have the opportunity to train in Sport e Salute's (former CONI) Olympic sports facilities with professional instructors from the Italian Basketball, Tennis, Soccer, Volleyball, Athletics and Swimming Federations. The Middle School Sports program is designed to promote and develop a sport-specific skill set as well as the values of teamwork, commitment, and sportsmanship. Students participate in an individual and a team sport for the year which they then practice at Sport e Salute's sports facilities (swimming, tennis, and athletics) or at Marymount's on-campus sports facilities with Sport e Salute's accredited coaches (volleyball, soccer and basketball).

Grade 6 Sports: Volleyball and Tennis

Sports and Resilience 6

This course empowers students to enhance physical fitness, teamwork, and emotional resilience. Through engaging sports and activities, students build motor skills, develop stress management techniques, and foster leadership. Emphasizing goal-setting, perseverance, and inclusivity, the course nurtures a growth mindset and promotes a lifelong appreciation for physical activity and well-being.

Enrichment Program

Marymount is dedicated to guiding students towards the achievement of their full potential by empowering them to think creatively, reason critically, communicate effectively and learn continuously. Teachers enable students to achieve their full potential. This includes students who need to be challenged, motivated, and inspired to learn beyond the curriculum. The School's core curriculum is inclusive and differentiated. Students who may benefit from enrichment may have a formal written plan which is developed in conjunction with their advisors, classroom teachers, parents, and the student. Learning targets will be set collaboratively and monitored by all parties. Students may benefit from enrichment for academics, athletics, and the arts.

Learning Support

In our School, diversity is a positive resource. We are aligned to the IB learning philosophy by which "Students are the center of international education in the IB with their own strengths and challenges" We strive to meet the needs of all learners and treat each student as an individual. Marymount is a responsibly inclusive School, and we promote and protect the interests of children who learn in different ways or at different rates. Aligning with the IB Learner Profile and our own Marymount Quality Teaching and Learning Statement, we challenge each student and teacher to strive to embody all of the characteristics of a Marymount education.

The Learning Support Department believes that *all* students should have the opportunity to explore and develop their skills in an educationally rich environment that will individualize their learning experiences. There are times when students experience difficulty in the regular classroom setting. When a student has difficulty in school, it may be noticed by their Advisor, the teachers, other school personnel, the parents, or the student. After the Advisor and the relevant administrator have reviewed and implemented a plan, the Learning Support Department may be consulted to determine further interventions, educational evaluations, accommodations, academic support, and/or a modified program.

Learning Support in the Secondary School consists of the following: support in ensuring that students receive accommodations as outlined in their Individual Learning Plans (ILPs), consultation with subject area teacher, Grade 6-12 small group pull out support in all academic areas using a Study Skills class model (curriculum based on Approaches to Learning-ATL), in class support with an assigned One to One Assistant.

Sample Schedule in Grade 6

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:20 - 08:30	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory
08:35 - 09:30	English	Modern Language	Middle School Sports Program	Modern Language	English
09:35 - 10:30	General Music	Art			Sports and Resilience
10:30 - 10:40	Break				
10:40 - 11:35	Ed. Technology	Elective	English	Art	General Music
11:40 - 12:35	Lunch/Recess				
12:35 - 13:30	History & Geography	Religion	Math	Ed. Technology	Modern Language
13:35 - 14:30	Italian	History & Geography	Italian	History & Geography	Italian
14:35 - 15:30	Science	Math	Science	Math	Science

ELL Students' schedule may vary to accommodate student needs.

Grades 6-8 Middle School Program

SUBJECT AREAS	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
Language and Literature	English 6 Italian Literature 6*	English 7 Italian Literature 7*	English 8 Italian Literature 8*
Language Acquisition	Italian for all A choice of Arabic, French, German, Mandarin or Spanish ** Elective choice: Latin Beginner <i>** Grade 6 students will be placed in an Beginner class and offered online language support</i>		
Mathematics and Sciences	Ed. Technology Math 6 Science 6	Ed. Technology Math 7 Science 7	Ed. Technology Math 8 Science 8
Individuals and Societies	History and Geography 6 Religious Education	History and Geography 7 Religious Education	History and Geography 8 Religious Education
Arts	Art General Music Elective Courses: Drama, or Band or Chorus	Art General Music Elective Courses: Drama, or Band or Chorus	Art General Music Elective Courses: Drama, or Band or Chorus
Sports and Wellbeing	Advisory Sports and Resilience MS Sports Program	Advisory Sports and Resilience MS Sports Program	Advisory Sport and Resilience MS Sports Program
Enrichment	After School Activities Athletic Enrichment Plans ATL Assemblies Enrichment Trips JuniOrchestra Leadership Opportunities Marymount Talks MSMUN Personalized Enrichment Programs		
Service	House System Service Opportunities Student Clubs		
Support	ELL Support Individualized Learning Plans Study Skills <i>Identified ELL (English Language Learners) and Learning Support students will have course choices further reviewed/adjusted to meet their individual needs. Parents will be consulted directly.</i>		

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