



Concordia

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SHANGHAI

上海协和国际外籍人员子女学校



Middle School

Course Description

2024-2025

GRADE 6 LANGUAGE ARTS

CHARACTERISTICS OF LANGUAGE ARTS

During the school year, we will go on a journey as a community of readers and writers who will hone your reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking skills. Throughout the curriculum, you will be introduced to contemporary, diverse, and thought-provoking texts that mirror and windows our experiences in the real world. We will explore a variety of literature, short stories, current articles, and non-fiction. You will read a whole-class core text as well as participate in book clubs and engage in critical discourse.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Characters Under Pressure: Exploring Depth and Conflict

In this engaging literature unit, students will dive into the complexities of character development and the intricacies of conflict in realistic fiction. Through a whole class novel and dynamic literature circles, students will collaboratively explore themes of pressure and resilience as they analyze how characters navigate challenging situations.

Crafting Short Memoirs

In this creative writing unit, students will embark on a journey of self-expression and storytelling as they craft their own short memoirs. Focusing on the art of descriptive storytelling, participants will explore the techniques and elements that make memoir writing a powerful medium for sharing personal experiences.

Critical Problems and Design Solutions

In this thought-provoking English unit, students research and discuss various social, environmental, and technological challenges facing our world today. This unit aims to enhance students' analytical and creative skills as they investigate complex problems and articulate their solutions effectively.

Grappling with Issues

In this thought-provoking English unit, students will research and discuss various social, environmental, and technological challenges facing our world today while engaging with narratives of resilience. By investigating complex problems, students will enhance their analytical and creative skills, articulating effective solutions that reflect their understanding of these issues.

The Art of Argument

In this unit, students will explore the art of crafting compelling arguments through research-based analysis of how and why authors construct their positions on topics that significantly impact our world. This unit will empower students to develop critical thinking skills and enhance their ability to articulate their viewpoints effectively.

GRADE 7 LANGUAGE ARTS

CHARACTERISTICS OF LANGUAGE ARTS

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COURSE OVERVIEW

Voices Unbound Novel Study

Students will understand that intellectual freedom is a fundamental human right that fosters creativity, innovation, and societal progression. They'll recognize the significant role of community in safeguarding this freedom and resisting attempts at censorship, which can limit the spread of ideas and knowledge. Through an exploration of diverse literary texts, students will gain insights into the consequences of censorship and the collective power of communities in advocating for freedom of thought and expression.

Mastering the Craft: How-To Procedural Writing:

Students will understand that effective informational writing involves clear communication of complex ideas and the ability to present information in a structured and engaging manner. They will understand that 'how-to' or procedural texts serve a specific purpose, directing the reader to complete tasks or understand processes. By engaging with these texts, students will appreciate the importance of clear, concise language, and understand the role of sequence and detail in creating effective instructional content.

The Poet's Craft

Students will develop the skills to craft, revise, and analyze their own poetic works, employing precise language and poetic form to create vivid imagery and evoke specific emotions. By examining and manipulating elements such as word choice, structure, rhythm, and sound, learners will enhance their capabilities as poetic "artists," producing original compositions that resonate with readers on an intellectual and emotional level. Additionally, students will engage in writing poetry analyses, applying critical thinking to dissect and understand how various poetic elements function and contribute to the overall meaning and emotional power of both their own and others' poems. Through iterative writing processes and analytical practice, students will refine their creative and critical skills, ensuring their poems effectively communicate their intended message and impact, and fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of poetry as a dynamic form of artistic expression.

Narratives of Power Book Clubs

Students will understand that literature is not merely a reflection of the world, but is influenced by varying power structures, diverse perspectives, and instances of justice and injustice. They will appreciate that these factors shape the narratives and characters within the stories we read, influencing themes and underlying messages. By critically analyzing these aspects, students will develop a deeper comprehension of the text, fostering empathy and a broader understanding of diverse experiences. This understanding will enable students to recognize and challenge bias, injustice, and stereotypes, encouraging them to become more thoughtful readers and active, empathetic members of society.

Crafting Critical Reviews: Students will learn to analyze and write effective reviews, focusing on articulating perspectives clearly and respecting different viewpoints. They will engage thoughtfully with a variety of recent cultural artifacts, enhancing their understanding and appreciation of diverse media. Students will refine their ability to present ideas logically and persuasively, fostering critical thinking and effective communication skills.

Nurturing Bright Futures

GRADE 8 LANGUAGE ARTS

CHARACTERISTICS OF LANGUAGE ARTS

During the school year, we will go on a journey as a community of readers and writers who will hone your reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking skills. Throughout the curriculum, you will be introduced to contemporary, diverse, and thought-provoking texts that mirror and windows our experiences in the real world. We will explore a variety of literature, short stories, current articles, and non-fiction. You will read a whole-class core text as well as participate in book clubs and engage in critical discourse.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Analyzing Perspective and building arguments in Non-Fiction texts

In this foundational unit, students will focus on analyzing perspectives and constructing well-reasoned arguments within non-fiction texts. Through a variety of readings and discussions, students will develop critical thinking skills and learn how to recognize the influence of perspective on the construction of arguments.

Viewpoints and Voices: Understanding History Through Multiple Perspectives and Non-Fiction Techniques

In this dynamic unit, students will explore the complexities of history by examining multiple perspectives through various non-fiction techniques, including comparative literature, narrative non-fiction, and graphic novels. This unit aims to enhance students' understanding of how diverse voices contribute to our interpretation of historical events and the significance of perspective in storytelling.

Impact Through Inquiry

In this engaging unit, students will delve into the world of investigative journalism, exploring its power to uncover truths and drive social change. Through hands-on inquiry and analysis, students will learn how investigative journalism can serve as a catalyst for social engagement and awareness of critical issues in our communities and beyond.

Mirrors of Tomorrow: Exploring Dystopia as Social Commentary

In this thought-provoking unit, students will explore the genre of dystopian literature as a powerful form of social commentary. Through the examination of various dystopian texts, students will analyze how authors reflect societal fears, challenges, and critiques of contemporary issues, providing a mirror to our possible futures.

Personal Project: Power of Pen and Paper

In this inspiring unit, students will harness the transformative power of pen and paper to craft their own unique writing pieces. Through introspection, creativity, and the exploration of various writing styles, students will discover the profound impact that personal narratives and reflections can have on themselves and their readers.

GRADE 6 MATH

CHARACTERISTICS OF MATH

- Students explore meaningful real-world problem solving to drive learning Teachers challenge students to think deeply about the problems they are solving, reaching beyond the solutions and algorithms Students use and connect multiple representations to communicate mathematical ideas Students share their mathematical ideas through discussion with one another, refining and critiquing each other's ideas Teachers engage and support students in productive struggle as they grapple with mathematical ideas
- Teachers offer a balance of conceptual understanding and procedural fluency.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The 6th Grade Math course is designed to build a strong mathematical foundation for students, preparing them for more advanced concepts in future grades. Emphasizing both conceptual understanding and procedural fluency, the course ensures students grasp the "why" behind mathematical operations while also becoming proficient in carrying them out. We will use several resources for content development and instruction including DESMOS and other tools.

Unit 1: Area and Surface Area

Students extend their knowledge of areas of rectangles to reason about areas of parallelograms and triangles, and to calculate surface areas.

Unit 2: Introducing Ratios and Rates

Students' first formal introduction to ratios, a concept they will revisit several times throughout the year and in later grades. Students then apply this learning to convert units and calculate unit rates.

Unit 3: Fractions and Decimals

Students reason about two different strategies for dividing fractions and apply their strategies to calculate lengths, areas, and volumes. Later in the unit, students will build on prior knowledge to formalize strategies for adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals.

Unit 4: Expressions and Equations

Student expand their strategies for solving equations.

Unit 5: Proportional Relationships

Students are introduced to proportional relationships and apply this understanding to the circumference and area of circles.

Unit 6: Percentages

Students are invited to use proportional relationships to solve problems involving fractional quantities and percent change.

Unit 7: Positive and Negative Numbers

Students are introduced to negative numbers on the number line and the coordinate plane. Later in the unit, students will add, subtract, multiply, and divide positive and negative numbers.

Unit 8: Data Sets and Distributions

The year ends with students making sense of data, including measures of center, spread, probability, and sampling.

GRADE 7 MATH

CHARACTERISTICS OF MATH

- Students explore meaningful real-world problem solving to drive learning Teachers challenge students to think deeply about the problems they are solving, reaching beyond the solutions and algorithms Students use and connect multiple representations to communicate mathematical ideas Students share their mathematical ideas through discussion with one another, refining and critiquing each other's ideas Teachers engage and support students in productive struggle as they grapple with mathematical ideas
- Teachers offer a balance of conceptual understanding and procedural fluency.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Math 7 course builds on the foundational concepts learned in Math 6, focusing on developing key ideas in algebra and geometry. This course emphasizes a deeper understanding of mathematical relationships and prepares students for advanced topics in future grades. Each unit is designed to build on the previous one, ensuring a cohesive learning experience throughout the year.

Unit 1: Scale Drawings, Dilations, and Similarity

Building on their knowledge of rigid transformations, students learn about scale drawings and dilations. They explore the concept of similarity and how it differs from congruence, applying these ideas to solve problems involving proportional relationships and geometric figures.

Unit 2: Equations and Inequalities

Students delve into equations and inequalities, learning to solve multi-step equations and inequalities with variables on both sides. They develop strategies for solving these problems and apply their skills to real-world scenarios, building a solid foundation in algebraic reasoning.

Unit 3: Linear Relationships and Systems of Linear Equations

This unit focuses on linear expressions and equations, including writing and solving linear equations with variables on both sides of the equal sign. Students also explore systems of linear equations, learning to solve them using various methods such as graphing, substitution, and elimination.

Unit 4: Functions

Students are introduced to the concept of functions, learning what makes a relationship a function and how to represent functions using tables, graphs, and equations. This unit emphasizes understanding the properties and behavior of functions in various contexts.

Unit 5: Association in Data

Returning to linear relationships, students explore bivariate data and learn to analyze the association between two variables. They use scatter plots, lines of best fit, and correlation coefficients to interpret and describe data relationships.

Unit 6: Volume and Surface Area

Students explore solid geometry, solving mathematical problems involving the volume and surface area of cylinders, cones, spheres, and prisms. This unit emphasizes the application of geometric formulas to real-world contexts.

Unit 7: Exponents and Scientific Notation

Building on their prior knowledge of exponents, students explore the properties of exponents and learn to use scientific notation to represent very large and very small quantities. This unit emphasizes the practical applications of exponents in various fields.

Unit 8: Pythagorean Theorem and Irrational Numbers

The course concludes with an exploration of the Pythagorean theorem, including its proofs and applications. Students learn about square roots, cube roots, and irrational numbers, developing a deeper understanding of these concepts and their significance in mathematics.

GRADE 8 MATH

CHARACTERISTICS OF MATH

- Students explore meaningful real-world problem solving to drive learning Teachers challenge students to think deeply about the problems they are solving, reaching beyond the solutions and algorithms Students use and connect multiple representations to communicate mathematical ideas Students share their mathematical ideas through discussion with one another, refining and critiquing each other's ideas Teachers engage and support students in productive struggle as they grapple with mathematical ideas
- Teachers offer a balance of conceptual understanding and procedural fluency.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The 8th Grade Math course, an Algebra course, deepens students' understanding of algebraic relationships, functions, and statistics. This course emphasizes the use of multiple representations—tables, graphs, visuals, and equations—to describe mathematical relationships, laying a solid foundation for advanced mathematical studies.

Unit 1: Representing Relationships

Students begin by using tables, graphs, visuals, and equations to describe mathematical relationships. This unit sets the stage for understanding how different representations can model the same relationship, fostering a deep conceptual understanding of algebraic concepts.

Unit 2: Linear Equations and Inequalities

Focuses on solving one- and two-variable equations and inequalities. Students revisit various forms of linear equations, learning to solve and graph them, and connect this knowledge to equations of lines of best fit, which will be further explored in later units.

Unit 3: Describing Data

Students analyze one-variable and two-variable data using the Desmos Graphing Calculator. They learn to visualize and interpret data, using equations of lines of best fit to make predictions and draw conclusions from real-world data sets.

Unit 4: Describing Functions

Introduces key features of functions, including domain and range. Students learn to identify and describe these features, which they will apply in later units to various types of functions.

Unit 5: Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities

Revisits the work on linear equations and inequalities, focusing on solving systems of linear equations and inequalities. Students learn various methods for solving systems, including graphing, substitution, and elimination.

Unit 6: Exponential Functions

Builds on the foundational work with exponential functions introduced in Unit 1. Students explore the properties and key features of exponential functions, incorporating the language and concepts of functions from Unit 4.

Unit 7: Quadratic Functions and Equations

The first of two units on quadratics, this unit focuses on the forms and key features of quadratic functions. Students learn to recognize and graph quadratic functions, understanding their applications and behavior.

Unit 8: Geometry

Students finish the year with an exploration on geometry on definitions of geometric symbols and axioms, theorems of parallel lines, basic triangles, area, and volumes to make deeper connections between Algebra and Geometry.

NGSS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES

SCIENTISTS...

- Ask questions (for science) and define problems (for engineering) Develop and use models Plan and carry out investigations Analyze and interpret data Use mathematics and computational thinking Construct explanations (for science) and design solutions (for engineering) Engage in argument from evidence Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information

When students participate in these (NGSS Science and Engineering Practices) it helps them form an understanding of the crosscutting concepts and disciplinary ideas of science and engineering; moreover, it makes students' knowledge more meaningful and embeds it more deeply into their worldview. The actual doing of science or engineering can also pique students' curiosity, capture their interest, and motivate their continued study; the insights thus gained help them recognize that the work of scientists and engineers is a creative endeavor—one that has deeply affected the world they live in. Students may then recognize that science and engineering can contribute to meeting many of the major challenges that confront society today, such as generating sufficient energy, preventing and treating disease, maintaining supplies of fresh water and food, and addressing climate change.

Any education that focuses predominantly on the detailed products of scientific labor—the facts of science—without developing an understanding of how those facts were established or ignores the many important applications of science in the world misrepresents science and marginalizes the importance of engineering. (APPENDIX F – Science and Engineering Practices in the NGSS)

In the grade 6 science units, students will first explore how the human body heals after injury, examining system interactions and reflecting on personal injury experiences. Next, they will model light and mirrors to understand visible light and image perception. Additionally, students will experiment with plastic cups to learn about heat transfer. The unit will then cover weather and climate, progressing from small-scale storms to precipitation patterns. Finally, it will conclude with plate tectonics, focusing on mountain movement and tsunami impact and mitigation.



Nurturing **Bright Futures**

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In Science 7 students will investigate ecosystems, Earth processes and systems, the composition of matter, and basic chemical reactions. The curriculum prepares critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork through engineering challenges, providing a strong foundation for real world scientific exploration.



NGSS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES

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Science 8 is a yearlong lab-based course that prepares students for entry into high school courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Units include integrated topics dealing with Contact Forces, Sound Waves, Forces at a Distance, Earth in Space and Natural Selection & Common Ancestry. Emphasis is placed on the application of concepts in problem solving, practical activities, data analysis and communication skills.



MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

CHARACTERISTICS

- Units are formed around inquiry, with driving questions which teach critical thinking and deepen understanding around concepts
- Students are actively engaged in various learning experiences which connect to relevant, real-world contexts
- Students have opportunities to apply, transfer, and demonstrate their skills and understanding into meaningful action
- Students use checklists and rubrics to self-assess and set goals
- Students spend extended time working independently and in groups on a variety of skills and strategies
- Speaking and listening skills are integrated throughout the units

SOCIAL STUDIES OVERVIEW

The challenges we face in the world are multi-faceted and so demand that we use the power of history and the social science disciplines individually and in combination to address them. The questions that students will examine this year throughout Middle School do not lend themselves to simplistic conclusions. The conclusions they reach will be better informed when based on thoughtful and multidisciplinary approaches.

In Middle School, Social Studies is taught through inquiry. As a discipline, social studies is many things, but at its heart is the drive to understand how the social world operates. In short, why do people do the things they do? That seemingly simple question and many others open a world of opportunity for students and their teachers to explore different ways people have lived their lives both past and present. The Inquiry Design Model (IDM) approach frames inquiries around a compelling question. Compelling questions address key issues and topics found in and across the academic disciplines and reflect the ideas and experiences that students bring to class. Compelling questions require students to take a rigorous look at the content of social studies; they also represent conditions that are relevant to students' lives. No social issue, however, can be addressed through a single disciplinary lens because no social problem is only economic or political, historical or geographic. Therefore, students will use multiple lenses to examine and analyze history as they seek to understand and learn from the past to become active participants who contribute to a better future.



GRADE 6 SOCIAL STUDIES

Unit 1: Life From the Land

Unit Overview: This unit will explore how to think like a geographer and how ancient empires met their needs because of the land. Students will examine the impact of geography on settlement patterns in ancient civilizations, and how these people overcame difficulties in order to establish lasting empires. Students will also examine the reasons for success and failure of ancient civilizations, and gain an understanding of why some left such lasting legacies for the contemporary world.

Enduring Understanding:

Ancient civilizations used geography to meet their basic human needs

Driving Question: How did geography influence ancient civilizations?

Unit 2: Religion and Spirituality Shaped Ancient Civilizations

Unit Overview: This unit will explore a variety of early religions from around the world. Students will examine these religions to determine how they both reflected and influenced ancient societies. These influences include social structure, form of government and cultural values. Students will also explore the importance of religion to early societies and form a judgment on their impact on the contemporary world.

Enduring Understanding:

Belief systems shape a society's culture, and values.

Driving Question:

To what extent do ancient civilizations share the same values?

Unit 3: Organizing for a Better Community

Unit Overview: Students will explore social structures and systems that existed in the past, explore their impact on citizens, and learn from the past to design their own system of government for a more just world.

Enduring Understanding:

Governments are formed based on the needs of societies and influence the 'common good' in different ways

Driving Questions:

Which themes underlying good government were common to past civilizations?

Are these themes compatible with contemporary society?



GRADE 7 SOCIAL STUDIES

Unit 1: Global Interactions: Living in an Interconnected World

Overview: In this unit we will be learning about globalisation and the impacts that it has on us both in a macro and micro sense. We will explore the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities, the relationship between local and global processes, and the opportunities and tensions provided by world-interconnectedness.

Enduring Understanding:

Globalisation has occurred due to a variety of processes that have changed the world, bringing both opportunities and challenges.

Driving Question: How is everything connected?

Unit 2: Acknowledging the Gap: Understanding Society's Basic Needs

Overview: This unit continues to build on the foundation that was laid during Unit 1 and is divided into 3 parts. To begin, students begin to look outwards at the broader world around them as they seek to learn about challenges many individuals face to meet their basic needs. Moving into part 2, students deep dive into the UN Sustainability Goals as they learn to analyze the different challenges that these goals are seeking to address and the impacts that can arise for individuals and their communities when these needs are lacking. To wrap up this unit, students participate in an engineering challenge as they learn about solutions that are being presented to help others access their basic needs.

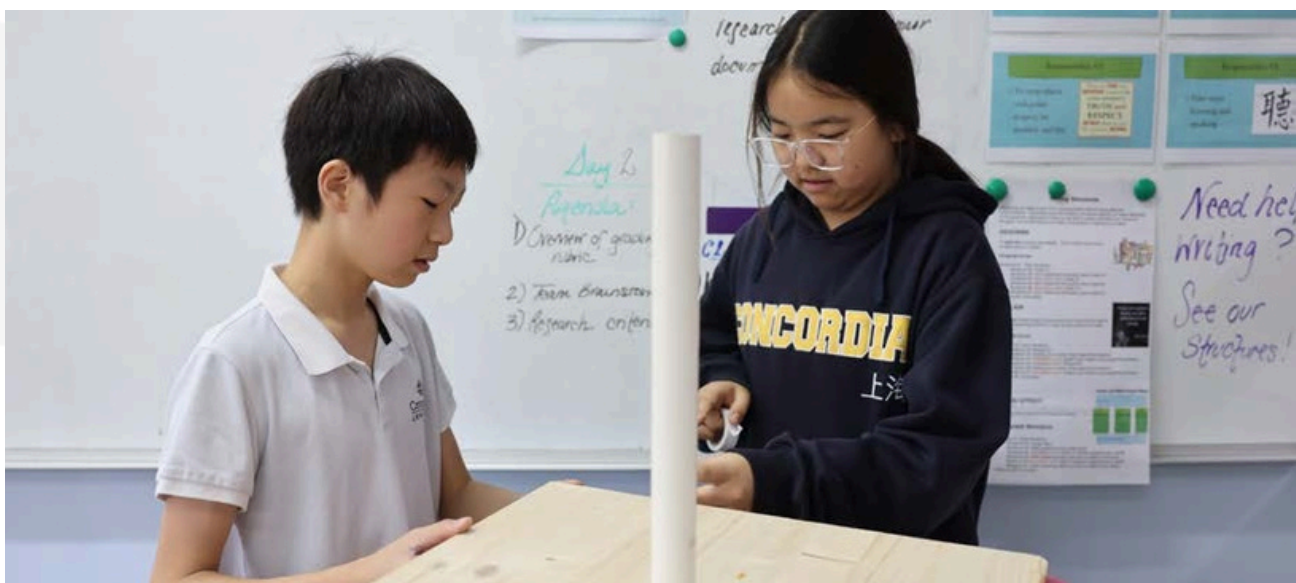
Enduring Understanding: We have a responsibility to understand and respect others' efforts to meet their basic needs which are impacted by environment, economical, social, cultural, and civic concerns. Driving Question: How do we raise awareness about access to basic human needs?

Unit 3: Human Innovation: Creating Positive Change In Society

Overview: Innovation often comes from a place of seeing a need and seeking ways to meet that need. Building on the learning from the previous unit, we begin to unpack how different inventions and innovations have impacted society. We explore changemakers around the world who have made impacts at both a micro and macro level and consider what contributions we might make in the world around us.

Enduring Understanding: Technological innovations have consequences, both intended and unintended, for a society.

Driving Question: Why should we build a sustainable future that strengthens our economy and society and doesn't only benefit some at the expense of others?



GRADE 8 SOCIAL STUDIES

Unit 1: Economics: Feast & Famine:

Overview: The periods known as the Roaring 20s and the Great Depression were times of great prosperity and poverty in the United States. This unit helps students understand that there are identifiable causes and effects in history and how these patterns of change can teach us about order and disorder. Additionally, through the Great Depression simulation, students will recognize the difference between hardship and inconvenience, apply the discipline required to maintain one's integrity, and empathize more deeply with those who are in true hardship.

Enduring Understanding:

The study of political, social, and economic patterns reveal continuity and change over time.

Driving Question:

How do the social, political, and economic systems affect a country both domestically and globally?

Unit 2: World Wars: Unity and Division:

Overview: Using WW I and WW II as historical lens, students will read and analyze across a range of texts with themes of conflict, barriers, and refuge. Throughout this unit, students will study the causes of conflict and what impact those conflicts can have, both in the immediate and long term sense. By seeking to understand different perspectives and lens that nations used to view these conflicts, students will be introduced to a variety of conflict resolution techniques that individual societies and countries often use.

Enduring Understanding:

History is dynamic, with different perspectives and intentions leading to consequences that are shaped by the means of carrying them out in a tangle of purpose and process.

Driving Question:

How does conflict transform a nation?

Unit 3: Trust and Disunity

Overview: Students will engage in an exploration of distrust and unity and how misinformation and misrepresentation impacts conflict, segregation, and belonging within nations and between peoples. Students will engage in a debate where they will justify how distrust contributed to disunity. Students will extend their learning and will develop a way to take action to overcome distrust and build greater unity within their local and global communities.

Enduring Understanding:

Misinformation and bias can contribute to disunity. We must take a multidisciplinary approach to understand all sides of conflict.

Driving Question:

How can ideologies and discrepancies in beliefs and values determine interactions?

REFLECTIVE SPIRITUAL BEINGS (RSB)

This is a semester long course where students learn about different virtues and how they influence our lives and the people around us.

Grade 6

In this enriching course, students will embark on a transformative journey to explore the essential virtues of forgiveness, thankfulness, honesty, and kindness. Through reflective discussions, engaging activities, and meaningful projects, students will gain a deeper understanding of how these virtues shape our interactions with others and contribute to a positive community.

Grade 7

In this transformative course, students will explore the vital virtues of compassion, peace, understanding, and patience. Through interactive learning experiences, reflective practices, and collaborative projects, students will develop a deeper appreciation for these virtues and their essential role in fostering harmonious relationships and a supportive community.

Grade 8

In this enriching course, students will embark on a journey to cultivate the essential virtues of gratitude, wisdom, humility, and gentleness. Through engaging discussions, reflective exercises, and hands-on activities, students will explore how these virtues can enhance their personal development and interpersonal relationships.



MIDDLE SCHOOL MANDARIN PROGRAM

Concordia offers a rigorous and varied Mandarin curriculum from Preschool to Grade 12. Multiple levels of Mandarin courses are offered in the middle school to meet students' needs and language development.

Concordia values students' Mandarin learning. We prepare students to be effective communicators and active global citizens.

Students learn Mandarin, learn about Mandarin, and learn through Mandarin.

The Mandarin program at Concordia offers two pathways for students:

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Chinese Language & Literature (CLL)

The Chinese Language & Literature (CLL) pathway is designed for students with substantial exposure to Mandarin and/or for those who use Mandarin as a primary language at home. The main focus of this pathway is to enhance learners' literacy development, and appreciate its functionality and aesthetics. This pathway equips students to use Mandarin as a vehicle for expressing thought, creativity, and analysis, and for engaging in both social and academic interaction. Students are expected to engage with an increasing range and sophistication of literary and informational texts and works of literature that extend across genres, cultures and historical periods. The Common Core State Standards and the Chinese National Curriculum are used as reference points for the design of CLL units of study.

Chinese Language & Culture (CLC)

The Chinese Language & Culture (CLC) pathway is designed for students with varying degrees of exposure to Mandarin. This pathway helps students acquire linguistic skills and cultural awareness by interweaving language and culture, and by guiding them through a progression of activities that include using authentic language through structured practice to produce creative, personalized expression and to analyze, evaluate, conclude, and predict through exploration of a variety of contexts. As the year progresses, students strive for greater proficiency in the three modes of communication: interpretive listening and reading; interpersonal speaking and writing; and presentational speaking and writing. The ACTFL World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages and International Curriculum for Chinese Language Education are used as reference points for the design of CLC units of study.

Contact Information

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MIDDLE SCHOOL MANDARIN CLL COURSE OVERVIEW

Grade 6 Mandarin Course Overview

Grade 6 Chinese Language & Literature (Gr. 6 CLL) -Adv. This course is designed to develop their literacy skills by focusing on reading and writing using a workshop-based approach. The units of study include narrative reading, narrative writing, informational reading, and informational writing. Students explore character traits during narrative units and analyze how settings influence the language used to evoke atmosphere. They also compare informational reading and writing by summarizing to create concise text versions, expanding vocabulary, and extending main ideas.

Grade 6 Chinese Language & Literature (Gr. 6 CLL) -Int. This course enhances literacy skills through a workshop-based approach, focusing on narrative and informational reading and writing. Units of study include narrative reading, narrative writing, informational reading, and informational writing. Within the reading units, students explore character traits and themes in the narrative texts while also learning to summarize the main ideas in informational texts. In the writing units, students craft feature articles drawing from personal expertise and supplement their work with transitional words and phrases. They explore various writing styles and their impacts, emphasizing deliberate word choices to communicate information effectively. Local texts 部编版《语文》 are selected as anchor learning material.

Grade 7 Mandarin Course Overview

Grade 7/8 Chinese Language & Literature (Gr. 7/8 CLL) -Adv.

This course is a two-year program which designed to explore Mandarin through the lens of literature and social studies that develop compassion, connection, understanding, and action for the interdependent well-being of ourselves, our communities, and our planet. Units of study include advancing reading and writing skills through analyzing historical figures, consolidating informational reading and writing skill by contrasting texts and mixed media, and engaging in argumentative reading and writing focused on Chinese literature and historical events.

Grade 7 Chinese Language & Literature (Gr. 7 CLL) -Int.

This two-year program is designed to enhance literacy skills, focusing on reading and writing using a workshop-based approach. By delving deeply into the themes and reflections found in narratives, students explore the nuances of reading and writing narrative texts, understanding how these elements interplay with specific language styles to shape the text's atmosphere. In non-fiction reading and writing, students begin with their own experiences, selecting personalized topics and theses, and then analyze and incorporate persuasive viewpoints and compelling evidence to sway readers. Units of study include narrative reading and writing, and non-fictional reading and writing.

Grade 8 Mandarin Course Overview

Grade 7/8 Chinese Language & Literature (Gr. 7/8 CLL) -Adv.

This course is a two-year program which designed to explore Mandarin through the lens of literature and social studies that develop compassion, connection, understanding, and action for the interdependent well-being of ourselves, our communities, and our planet. Units of study include advancing reading and writing skills through analyzing historical figures, consolidating informational reading and writing skill by contrasting texts and mixed media, and engaging in argumentative reading and writing focused on Chinese literature and historical events.

G8 Chinese Language & Literature (Gr. 8 CLL) -Int.

This two-year program is designed to enhance literacy skills, focusing on reading and writing using a workshop-based approach. By delving deeply into the themes and reflections found in narratives, students explore the nuances of reading and writing narrative texts, understanding how these elements interplay with specific language styles to shape the text's atmosphere. In non-fiction reading and writing, students begin with their own experiences, selecting personalized topics and theses, and then analyze and incorporate persuasive viewpoints and compelling evidence to sway readers. Units of study include narrative reading and writing, and non-fictional reading and writing.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MANDARIN CLC COURSE OVERVIEW

Grade 6-8 Chinese Language and Culture Novice High (Gr. 6-8 CLC -NH)

This course emphasizes communication skills, particularly listening and speaking, and fosters cultural awareness. Students will use simple sentences to express themselves and exchange information on familiar topics. The units of study will cover topics such as "All About Me", "My Family," "My Hobbies," and "My Daily Routine." The primary learning material for this course will be Easy Steps to Chinese Book 1.

Grade 6-8 Chinese Language and Culture-Intermediate Low (G6-8 CLC -IL)

This course explores familiar and everyday topics to extend communication skills and cultural awareness. Students will participate in conversations on familiar topics by creating simple sentences and asking appropriate follow-up questions. They will learn to identify topics and related information from simple sentences in short texts and the main idea in short conversations. Furthermore, students will demonstrate culturally appropriate interactions with the community. The units of study will cover topics such as "My Pet & I," "My Extended Family," "Weather & Seasons," and "My School." The primary learning materials for this course will be Easy Steps to Chinese Books 1 & 2.

Grade 6-8 Chinese Language and Culture Intermediate-Mid Year 1 (G6-8 CLC- IM Y1)

This course explores familiar topics and some researched topics to expand communication skills and cultural awareness. Students will interact with others to exchange information, preferences, and feelings and meet their needs on various topics related to their lives, events, and other social experiences using a series of connected sentences. They will learn to identify the main idea and key information in short, straightforward texts and conversations. Grammatical concepts include more sophisticated vocabulary. Demonstrate culturally appropriate interactions with the community. The units of study will cover "My Community," "My Family Life," "Educational Journeys", and "Healthy Lifestyle." The primary learning materials for this course will be Easy Steps to Chinese Books 2 & 3.

Grade 6-8 Chinese Language and Culture Intermediate-Mid Year 2 (Gr. 6-8 CLC -IM-Y2)

This course explores familiar topics and some researched topics to expand communication skills and cultural awareness. Students will interact with others to exchange information, preferences, and feelings and meet their needs on various topics related to their lives, events, and other social experiences using a series of connected sentences. They will learn to identify the main idea and key information in short, straightforward texts and conversations. Grammatical concepts include more sophisticated vocabulary. Demonstrate culturally appropriate interactions with the community. Units of study include leisure and festivals, Environment& Technology, Family & Relationships and School life and Mandarin studies. The primary learning materials for this course will be Easy Steps to Chinese Books 3 & 4.

Grade 6-8 Chinese Language and Culture Intermediate-High Year 1 (G6-8 CLC -IH Y1)

This course explores a variety of familiar and some concrete topics to continue to expand communication skills and cultural awareness. Students will use connected sentences and paragraphs to communicate on various familiar, academic, and social topics across various time frames. Engage in conversations with native speakers in a culturally respectful manner. Units of study include Science & Technology, Festivals & Celebrations, Global Citizens, and Family & Friendships. The primary learning materials for this course will be Easy Steps to Chinese Books 4 & 5.

Grade 6-8 Chinese Language and Culture Intermediate-High Year 2 (Gr.6-8 CLC -IH-Y2)

This course explores a variety of familiar and some concrete topics to continue to expand communication skills and cultural awareness. Students will use connected sentences and paragraphs to communicate on various familiar, academic, and social topics across various time frames. They will comprehend the main ideas and actions from paragraph-length texts. They can adjust language and message to acknowledge audiences with different cultural backgrounds. Units of study include Elegance of Tradition, Life in the Fast Lane, Wellness & Tradition, and Environment & Globalization. The primary learning material for this course will be Easy Steps to Chinese Book 5.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPANISH

Aprendamos

Students will be introduced to common and everyday topics and use memorized words and phrases to develop their ability in speaking, listening, writing, and reading skills. By the end of the course, students will be able to participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts. This course is open to beginning Spanish language learners.

Caminante

This course builds on knowledge from previous experience in Spanish class. Throughout the year, students will continue to learn various topics and grammatical structures. They will also begin to deepen their knowledge of familiar topics and their ability in speaking, listening, writing, and reading skills. Students will have the opportunity to participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to numerous conversational prompts using complete sentences. At this level, students generate language incorporating vocabulary on numerous topics and more complex grammar patterns. This course is open to students with some experience in the language.

Adelante

This course is designed for students to continue the development of the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. It covers more complex grammar topics and provides further study of essential vocabulary that can be useful in the Spanish language to further develop the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in Spanish. This course is open to students with a broader Spanish language experience.

Contact Information

Silvina Rubiano: silvina.rubiano@concordiashanghai.org



MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS

Middle School Band

Foundation Winds

Students in this band learn and build on the foundational skills needed to play an instrument and perform with an ensemble. It is open to all middle school students.

Phoenix Band

This intermediate course builds on the foundational skills learned in the first year. The music performed is more complex and challenging. It is open to all middle school students.

Symphonic Winds

This is our elite middle school band class. The music is demanding and expectations for student preparedness and in-class engagement are high, resulting in concert performances that display a high level of artistic musicianship. This class is open to all middle school students. Students in Symphonic Winds should complete the band method book 2 before September of the year in which they start.

Class Percussion

Students in this class learn and develop the fundamentals needed for the percussion section. It is open to all middle school students by teacher approval only. Typically, students in this class have demonstrated success, independence, and work ethic on another instrument first.

Middle School Strings

Intermezzo

Students are able to read the fundamentals of music notation and can play at least 3 scales on their string instrument.

Sinfonia

Students will further deepen their understanding of music through exploring shifting and vibrato.

Cadenza

This orchestra is by audition only, for advanced string players who would like to further explore the intricacies of making music and playing in an orchestra.

Middle School Choir

In choir, we work on the skills of note reading, rhythm reading, ear training, harmony, and composition, all while improving our vocal tone, breath control, ensemble singing, use of dynamics and diction. Our chosen instrument is our voice and our medium is the song. We will sing songs that are from different countries and cultures, songs that tell stories, songs that are serious, and songs that are silly. The goal will always be to have fun with each other while we explore the world of singing together.

Grade 6 choir will be mostly a treble choir usually singing in 2 parts.

Grade 7 choir will be becoming a mixed voicing choir singing in 2 to 3 parts.

Grade 8 choir will be a mixed choir singing in 3 to 4 parts.



Nurturing Bright Futures

MIDDLE SCHOOL VISUAL ARTS

Middle School Visual Art aims to introduce students to diverse artistic mediums and techniques. Throughout the course, students will explore artists' works from various historical periods and regions, drawing inspiration from these artists to create their own pieces. Some of the projects students will engage in include:

GRADE 6

One-point perspective drawing, artist connection: Van Gogh

Mixed Media Mosaics, artist connection: Gary Drostle

"Trashion", artist connection: Marina DeBris

Illuminated Manuscript - Cultural connection: Medieval scribes

Mythical Coil Pots - Cultural connection: Greek mythology

Pixel Animation Masterpieces - Artist connection: Paul Robertson and other artists of student's choice

GRADE 7

Two-point perspective drawing, art connection: architectural structures

Piñata of Social Issue, artist connection: Diana Benavides

Abstract painting, art connection: various abstract painters

Tall Tale Tikis - Cultural connection: Tiki culture and modern mythology

8-Bit Cross stitch - Cultural connection: 80's video game art

WPAP Portraits - Artist connection: Wedha Abdul Rasyid

GRADE 8

Oil Pastel – Capturing the moment, artist connection: Aaron Schuerr

Collaborative Painting, artist connection: Stew

Stuffed figure, art connection: various plushie artists

Positive Propaganda- Cultural connection: Propaganda posters

Identity Masks - Cultural connection: African tribal masks

Neon Overload - Cultural connection: Crowded Asian streets and sign art

*Projects and artist connections are subject to change.



MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA

Our Middle School Drama program features a curriculum that balances the introduction and exploration of theater across 4-6 unique units each year. Through a three-year rotational system, students experience a variety of theater aspects without content repetition, completing 12-18 unique units by the end of middle school. Each unit is scaffolded to support learning progression and differentiated to ensure student engagement and success. This approach not only prepares students for advanced studies in drama but also reinforces essential soft skills like teamwork, collaboration, and communication. The drama curriculum emphasizes a solid foundation in theater, aiming to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge for future academic and artistic pursuits in the dramatic arts and grow a deep appreciation for the performing arts.

Program Flexibility and Goals

The Middle School Drama program allows students to enter at any point in the three-year rotation, with no prior experience required. Each year offers unique, independent units, and students who take all three years of drama will never repeat any units. The program also has flexibility in unit offerings, allowing instructors to mix units between years, repeat units, or add new ones depending on class needs. The curriculum is scaffolded to support students based on their age, ability, and maturity.

The program aims to inspire an interest in theater, introduce students to the world of drama, and develop essential soft skills like collaboration, communication, and creativity. It provides a well-rounded theatrical experience and prepares students for more advanced opportunities in high school drama.



MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) provides students with opportunities to delve deeper into concepts through exploration and practical application. By utilizing digital design tools, 3D printers, Robotics, basics of coding and engineering design processes, students engage with complex topics in engineering, robotics, prototyping, coding, and various other STEM-related subjects. These hands-on experiences and real-world applications foster a strong foundation in STEM education and inspire students to become innovative problem-solvers and critical thinkers.

STEM 6 and STEM 7

This course is designed for students to explore the fascinating world of 3D design and fabrication through hands-on projects. Throughout the course, students will engage in an iterative design process that emphasizes teamwork, creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking. The course is structured into eight comprehensive units that guide students from initial design to final presentation.

STEM 8

This course emphasizes coding literacy and develops key problem-solving and programming abilities essential in today's digital age. Students are immersed in an interactive learning environment with visually stimulating, graphical challenges that foster creativity and encourage a multitude of solutions. Through this course, students gain not just technical skills but also the adaptability to navigate and innovate in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.



MIDDLE SCHOOL APPLIED LEARNING

Middle School is an exciting period for students. Their understanding and curiosity about the world, combined with a desire to figure out their place and role in it, leads to a unique opportunity to help them discover who they are.

Concordia's Middle School Applied Learning Program is grounded in the belief that the best way of learning is from experience. The interdisciplinary courses that we offer in our Applied Learning Program seek to extend the learning that takes place in our core programs, and allows students to apply the knowledge and skills that they are learning in a variety of different settings.

Each year students take 4 courses that encourage them to continually build their creativity, critical thinking, and independence. By providing space for students to try out things they might not have considered, we hope to unlock a hidden interest or passion. By mixing grade levels students are encouraged to develop relationships across the Middle School which deepens our community.



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT SUPPORT

Middle School is an exciting period for students. Their understanding and curiosity about the world, combined with a desire to figure out their place and role in it, leads to a unique opportunity to help them discover who they are.

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How Does Concordia Support All Learners?

Concordia provides comprehensive student support programs that address the academic, personal, social, spiritual, and developmental needs of our students.

LS: Learning Support

- Every other day Learning Support classes*
- Regular in-class support by a LS specialist

ELL: English Language Development

- Every other day ELL classes*
- Regular in-class support by a ELL specialist

Other Supports

- Care & Concern Meetings
- On-campus Educational Psychologist Support

**Students in LS or ELD opt out of a World Language, Visual, or Performing Arts class.*

Counseling Support



Mr. Adam Karsten

Middle School Counselor

adam.karsten@concordiashanghai.org



Ms. Kalei Brumsickle

Middle School Counselor

kalei.brumsickle@concordiashanghai.org

SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES

Social Emotional Learning Lessons Small Groups Individual Support for students Transitions Referrals for Resources
Parent Support Groups Parent Coffee Topics

Middle School Contact List

Principal

Assistant Principal

Senior Secretary

Secretary

Curriculum Coordinator

Instructional Coach

Learning Support Specialist

Counselor Counselor

ELL Specialist

Language Arts

Math

Science

Social Studies

World Language

Fine Arts

PE