MARYMOUNT
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ROME

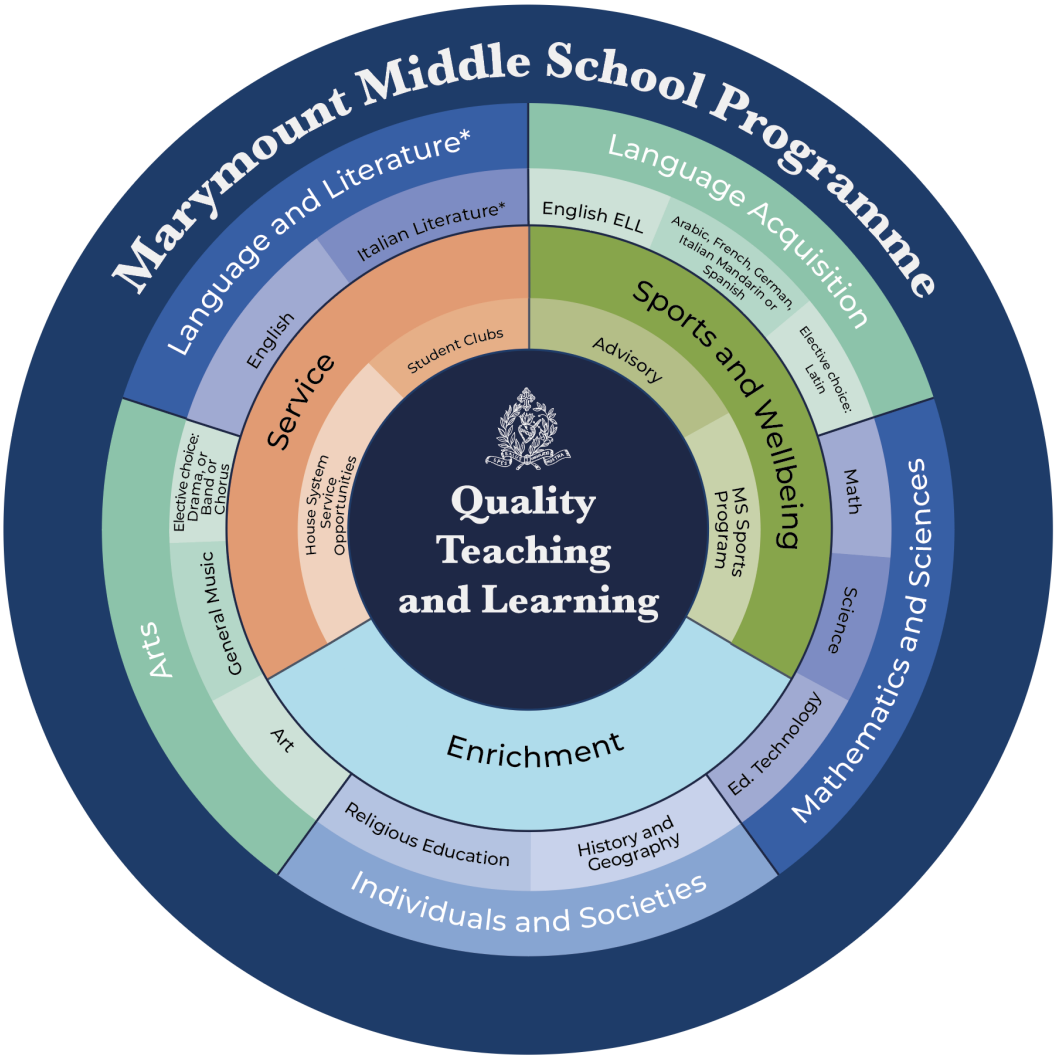


Grade 8 Middle School Program Information

Marymount's Middle School is composed of over 220 students forming 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 lifelong love of learning.

Central to the Middle School's core curriculum is the development of a deep understanding of 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 the 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 after-school DELF or DELE Course.



Marymount also offers classes for students who wish to take the Italian *Media* exams 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 holistic academic development.





These include: Advisory, MS Sports Program, EAP course and trip, Assemblies, Sessions on Approaches to Learning, Global Online Academy Computational Thinking Course, JuniOrchestra and musical performances, MUN, leadership opportunities, and RSHM conferences and festivals, after-school activities, student clubs, and enrichment trips beyond the classroom.

Grade 8 Course Descriptions

Language and Literature

English 8
The Grade 8 English course develops the skills learned in Grade 7 with an added level of precision and sophistication. Emphasis is placed on writing skills with practice in planning and developing composition, as well as a reinforcement of grammatical concepts and their proper application. Literature study includes a focused study of Long Way Down, a verse novel by Chris Reynolds, Night, the holocaust memoir by Elie Wiesel, and a Shakespearean drama unit on Romeo and Juliet. Class discussions and writing exercises help the student to refine critical reading skills and to use the tools necessary for critical analysis of literature. Academic English language and vocabulary work will also be a priority so that students will be prepared for the demands of High School work.

Italian Mother Tongue - Italian Literature 8
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.

Through this course, students will be prepared and have the option to take the *Terza Media* State Examination.

Language Acquisition

Arabic, French, German, Italian, Latin, Mandarin, and Spanish
All students take Italian. In Grade 8, Italian is available as an Intermediate and advanced course, and as a Literature course for students in the *Media* Program (see above). In all other languages on offer, students will be placed in an intermediate course. All Language courses are designed to enhance students' proficiency in the language, developing their receptive and productive skills. Students joining in Grade 8 will be placed in an Intermediate class and offered online language support

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 Intermediate II
In this course, students will continue to develop their proficiency in the Latin language as well as their understanding of ancient Roman history. They will develop a more sophisticated understanding of Latin grammar and its links to modern European languages, and meet a cast of characters from Greek mythology and Roman history through the reading of ancient texts adapted for their level.

Mathematics and Sciences

Mathematics 8
Math 8 is designed to give students a foundation for all future mathematics courses in High School. Students will explore operations on algebraic expressions, apply mathematical properties to solve algebraic equations, investigate linear relationships, manipulate monomials and polynomials, know the essential concepts of analytical geometry, recognize a solid figure, and understand the relative formulas for solving problems. They will also dive into basic concepts of statistics and probability and apply these in real-life situations.

Science 8
This course concludes the integrated science program and focuses on bringing together what was learned in the first two years of the MS program with a broader approach. The Biology topics

include body systems, genetics, and inheritance. In Chemistry, the periodic table and chemical bonding are reviewed prior to a study of the pH scale and the behavior and reactivity of acids and bases. In Physics, the students will learn about electricity and magnetism, Newton's Laws, and the solar system. Laboratory techniques and critical thinking skills are emphasized in preparation for the specialized courses of High School science. The year is concluded with a project in which students apply the scientific method to an investigation of their choice and present their findings to the school community at a science fair in the style of a research symposium.

Educational Technology 8
The class is designed for students to learn basic programming and interactive media design skills. Students will learn to create their own animations, interactive storybooks, and computer games. Students will learn how to think sequentially, solve problems, reason systematically, and work in groups. Projects will be fully developed with hands-on experience in the FabLab. The focus of this course is on sustainability and energy-saving projects.

Individuals and Society

History and Geography 8
This is a combined History and Geography course, covering the period from the Congress of Vienna to the Cold War in History. In Geography, students study the Earth's various regions with particular attention to the relationship between political, physical, social, and economic aspects of selected states in the five continents. Natural environments of the five continents are also examined in depth. By the end of this course, students will be able to identify the importance of significant aspects of human society and its influence on history, master the skills necessary for an effective study of history and develop a keen sense of inquiry, develop critical thinking and understanding of the past, analyze different interpretations of historical events through source analysis and strengthen oral and research skills.

Religious Education 8
The course will teach students about the role of the Catholic Church in history. Special emphasis will be given to the Church's role in salvation history and in their own lives. The course highlights the story of the saints through the ages, as well as the impact of the Church on the arts, music, and architecture. Students will learn how the Church was founded by Christ, commissioned to the Apostles, and continues into the modern day.

Arts

Art 8
Art 8 provides a continuation of experiences designed to help students solve difficult design problems as well as develop a greater understanding of the Elements of Art and Principles of Design as related to drawing skills, applied design methods, ceramics, and glazing techniques. The preparation for these students continues chronologically from Art 7 to include the art of the High Renaissance and Baroque periods, and continuing into Neoclassicism, Realism, Romanticism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Cubism, Futurism, and Surrealism. Students will finish 8th Grade with a complete sketchbook and portfolio of work.

Drama 8 (Elective Course)
This is a practical course in drama, theater, and performance. The focus of the course is geared towards teamwork, communication skills, public speaking, confidence-building, and critical analysis. They will learn how to focus their skills to create their own performances, read and write scripts, design sets and costumes, empathize with others, and critically analyze each other's work. Students will be expected to try different acting and performance techniques,s as well as directing and designing a scene. Students will use set texts to analyze character and writing techniques. Students will have a basic knowledge of the timeline of theater and its changes throughout history. Each student should gain a new respect for theater and the true meaning of group work. The nature of the course creates a risk-free environment for the students to experiment and try new things.

General Music 8 (Required Course)
This yearlong course aims to provide a worthwhile musical experience for students, regardless of individual skills or talent level. Emphasis is placed on developing an affective and cognitive appreciation as a listener of all genres of music. The course provides instruction in music appreciation, theory at an intermediate/advanced level in line with the ABRSM theory syllabus, and an in-depth knowledge of music history from the Romantic period up to Postmodernism. By examining cultural perspectives, music students will be enabled to utilize 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. Students are encouraged to enter the ABRSM theory exam in May.

Band 8 (Elective Course)
The purpose of Intermediate Band 2 is to further develop the students' musical understanding through the performance of a wide variety of musical literature at a more complex level. Students develop advanced performing skills and play original repertoire. Music fundamentals, listening skills, instrumental techniques, and sight reading are emphasized. Students are required to perform in concerts outside of the regular school day during the academic year. The available instruments are: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, percussion (mallets or drum kit), or bass guitar, which can be rented at school at 70 euros per year.
Prerequisites are: Intermediate Band or two years of musical experience in playing a band instrument. Some costs might be incurred for accessories and other materials. Talented Band 8 students might be selected to join the school Honor Band.

Chorus 8 (Elective Course)
Chorus is a course designed for students to develop their vocal skills and to discover the joy of working together in a choral group. During the year, 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.

Sports and Wellbeing

Advisory

The Grade 8 Advisory Program is designed to support students as they transition into greater academic responsibility and personal independence. At this stage, the program focuses on strengthening self-management skills, fostering leadership, and encouraging students to take an increasingly more active role in their learning and personal development.

Each student is paired with an advisor who serves as a mentor and guide throughout the academic year. Advisors support students in setting meaningful goals, reflecting on progress, and developing strategies to overcome challenges. Through regular communication, students are encouraged to build confidence, resilience, and a heightened awareness of their strengths and areas for growth.

Daily advisory sessions provide structured time for students to reflect on their readiness for the school day, review schedules, and manage academic commitments. Advisors guide students in prioritizing tasks, organizing materials, and planning effectively for assignments and assessments. School expectations, including adherence to the Marymount uniform policy, continue to be reinforced as part of developing personal accountability and respect for the school community.

In addition to daily check-ins, students participate in extended weekly Approaches to Learning (ATL) sessions. These sessions focus on advanced learning strategies such as independent study skills, collaborative problem-solving, critical thinking, and self-reflection. Students engage in

meaningful discussions related to academic planning, well-being, digital responsibility, and positive peer relationships in a supportive and respectful environment.

Individual conferences with advisors provide targeted guidance and support. As role models within the Middle School community, Grade 8 students are encouraged to demonstrate leadership, mentor younger students, and actively participate in school life through after-school programs and RSHM festivals.

Through this program, the Grade 8 Advisory experience equips students with the skills, confidence, and maturity needed to successfully transition into High School.

Grade 8 Sports: Soccer and Athletics
Students have the opportunity to train in Sport e Salute's (former CONI) Olympic sports facilities with professional instructors from the Italian Tennis, 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 team sport for the year, which they then practice at Sport e Salute sports facilities (swimming, tennis, and athletics) or at Marymount's on-campus sports facilities with Sport e Salute's accredited coaches (volleyball, soccer,r and basketball).

Sport and Resilience 8
The Grade 8 Sport and Resilience course builds upon the skills and concepts developed in earlier grades, placing greater emphasis on advanced physical performance, personal accountability, and leadership. Students engage in more complex training experiences that challenge both physical and mental limits, while deepening their understanding of resilience through the 4C's—Commitment, Control, Confidence, and Challenge. The course encourages students to take ownership of their development, apply strategic thinking, and demonstrate perseverance in demanding situations. A strong focus on self-reflection and a growth mindset supports students in overcoming adversity, leading others effectively, and striving for sustained personal excellence.

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 that 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.

From Curiosity to Scholarship: Grade 8 Portfolio
Are you interested in joining one of the world's top universities? If so, this is the course for you.
This course is designed to nurture students' curiosity and enable them to reach their full potential as scholars by developing the skills, academic profile, and intellectual acumen needed to thrive at top-tier global universities. Led by the Director of Student Pathways and Innovation, this course empowers students to build a comprehensive learning portfolio that showcases their unique academic journey and developing passions.

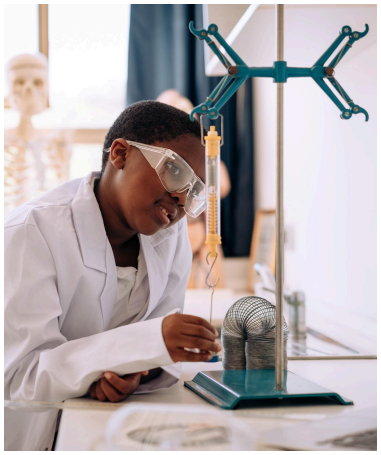
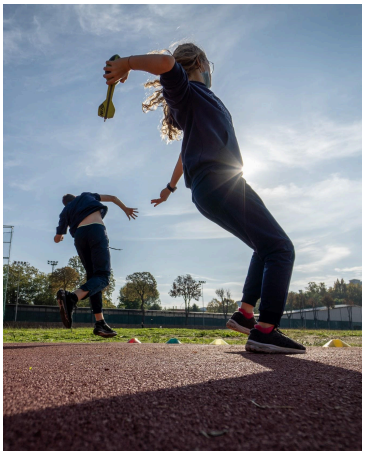
Students in this course are encouraged to flourish beyond the standard curriculum by exploring the literature, concepts, and research in selected fields of study in greater depth. The course fits into a coherent and sequential framework from Grade 8 through Grade 11, ensuring students have the breadth and depth of knowledge and experiences that will prepare them for advanced study. In Grade 8, the class focuses on the initial stages of building scholarly practice, discerning areas of interest and intellectual curiosity, considering different mediums of research and expression, and learning how to present ideas with confidence, cogency, and coherence.

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 develop their skills in an educationally rich environment that will individualize their learning. 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 implemented a plan, the Learning Support Department may 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 8 (ELL schedules may vary)

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:20 - 08:30	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory
08:35 - 09:25	English	Math	Middle School Sports Program		English
09:30 - 10:25	General Music	Art		Math	Elective
10:25 - 10:40	Break				
10:40 - 11:35	Ed. Technology	Elective	English	Art	General Music
11:40 - 12:35	Recess/Lunch				
12:35 - 13:30	Science	Religion	Modern Language	Ed. Technology	Math
13:35 - 14:30	Italian	Science	Italian	Science	Italian
14:35 - 15:30	History & Geography	Modern Language	History & Geography	Modern Language	History & Geography

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 *Italian and Modern Languages are not offered at Beginners Level in Grade 8. *Students joining in Grade 8 will be placed in an Intermediate class and offered online language support*		
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, Band, or Chorus	Art General Music Elective Courses: Drama, Band, or Chorus	Art General Music Elective Courses: Drama, Band, or Chorus
Sports and Wellbeing	Advisory Sport and Resilience MS Sports Program	Advisory Sport and Resilience MS Sports Program	Advisory Sport and Resilience MS Sports Program
Enrichment	From Curiosity to Scholarship: Grade 8 Portfolio After School Activities Athletic Enrichment Plans Enrichment Trips Global Online Academy Computational Thinking Course JuniOrchestra Leadership Opportunities Marymount Talks MSMUN Personalized Enrichment Programs		
Service	House System Service Opportunities Student Clubs		
Support	ELL Support Individualized Learning Plans Study Skills ***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.*		

* Students in the *Media* programme must enroll in Italian Literature to take the *Esame di Idoneità* in Grades 6 and 7, and the *Esame di Stato* in Grade 8. Students in the *Media* programme are recommended to take French, Spanish, or German; if students opt for Arabic or Mandarin, they must attend an after-school DELF or DELE Course.