



# Middle School Course Handbook

for

Course Planning and  
Online Registration

**2023 - 2024**

# Middle School Course Handbook



Program Planning and  
Online Registration

2023-2024

# Middle School Course Handbook

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## **Introduction**

# Middle School Course Handbook

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The purpose of this handbook is two-fold. First, it informs students and parents about the course offerings for middle school students at the International Community School. Second, it is also used in the registration process to help students plan their course and elective selections during their middle school years.

## Registration Process

Our Middle School counselor will work with students to guide them through elective selection, course planning, and will help them begin long-term planning for high school and beyond.

The master schedule for middle school is built on both required (core) courses for students each year as well as student elective requests made via Renweb during the pre-registration process in early February each year. Course requests are not guarantees that students will be assigned to their selections, as staffing, course availability, pre-requisite courses, and in some cases grade level priority can impact student elective selections.

## Schedule Change (Add/Drop Policy)

Course selection should be made with careful consideration before the start of each academic semester. Students and parents should be familiar with requirements and prerequisites necessary for some courses prior to the start of registration.

In the event a change in schedule is necessary, the following guidelines will be followed:

- Students are allowed one schedule change per semester for semester based classes only.
- Swapping class selections from one block to another is not permitted; schedule changes must involve adding or dropping a course.

No classes may be added or dropped after the first week of the semester, unless granted by administration due to unusual circumstances:

- A prerequisite course is missing
- A student has already taken the course
- Error when inputting scheduled courses
- Teacher/Administration initiated and approved, based on criteria.

## Online Course Registration Information and Procedures

In February of each school year, grades 5-7 students are given access to register online for the next year's ICS courses. The registration process is done via our school information management system, RenWeb, and does not guarantee the student will get all the courses they request.

Administrators use the results of course pre-registration to determine the number of class sections, teacher assignments and recruitment, room allocation, and textbook purchases needed for the next school year.

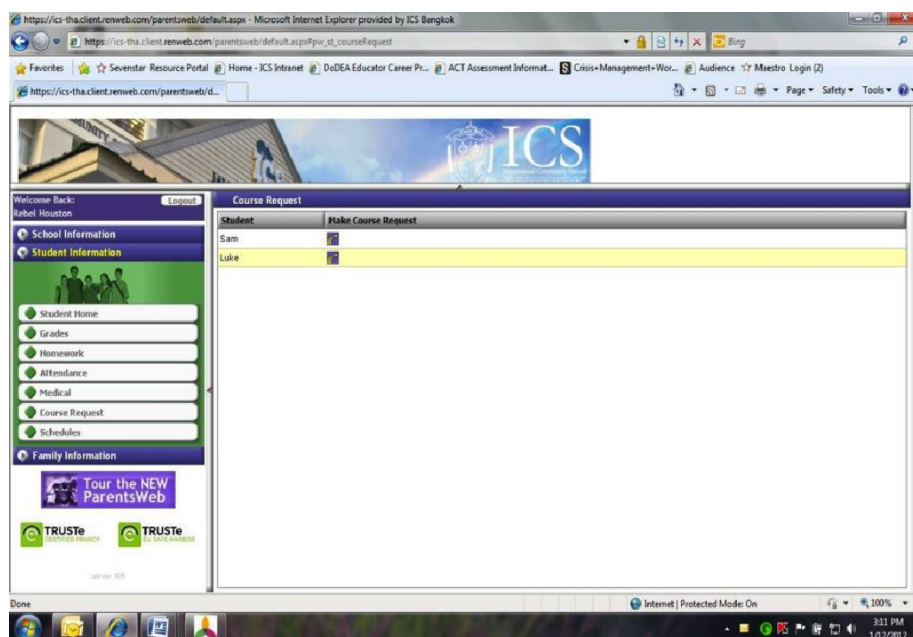
**Instructions for Online Course Registration**

Students should complete the appropriate grade-level Pre-Registration Form before attempting to register for courses online. Contact the student's School Counselor if there are questions or concerns.

Students can register for courses online for the 2017-2018 school year:

1. Go to [www.renweb.com](http://www.renweb.com) and login as a student
2. Once logged in, click on the Student Information tab located to the left of the screen
3. Various tabs should appear (like Student Home, Grades, Homework, Report Card and Course Request)
4. Click on Course Request to display a page with student name and a small "purple shooting star" icon
5. Click on the icon to open the online pre-registration form
6. Follow instructions when registration form opens

Students are encouraged to take the online registration time seriously and register early as the scheduling program prioritizes course requests based on date requested.



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## Course Selection Worksheet

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

In the space provided, place an “X” for the courses you are currently interested in taking. For courses already taken, write the grade number that you took the course in the space next to the course name.

### English/Language Arts

- \_\_\_\_\_ Language Arts 6 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Language Arts 7 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Language Arts 8 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Creative Writing 1
- \_\_\_\_\_ Creative Writing 2
- \_\_\_\_\_ ESL 6
- \_\_\_\_\_ ESL 7
- \_\_\_\_\_ ESL 8

### Mathematics

- \_\_\_\_\_ Math 6 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Math 7 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-Algebra
- \_\_\_\_\_ Algebra

### Science

- \_\_\_\_\_ Science 6 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Science 7 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Science 8
- \_\_\_\_\_ Introduction to Chem/Phys. (ICP)

### Social Studies

- \_\_\_\_\_ Social Studies 6 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Social Studies 7 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Social Studies 8 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Global Issues

### PE/Bible

- \_\_\_\_\_ PE/Bible 6 (w/ Foundations) \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ PE/Bible 7 (w/ Choices) \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ PE/Bible 8 (w/ Values) \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Independent PE

### Computers

- \_\_\_\_\_ Computers 1 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Computers 2 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Robotics

### Foreign Language

- \_\_\_\_\_ Thai for Internationals
- \_\_\_\_\_ Thai for Thai
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish 1 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- \_\_\_\_\_ French 1 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mandarin 1 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Fine/Performing Arts

- \_\_\_\_\_ Art 1 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Art 2 \*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Art and Design
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ceramics
- \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Art (by invitation)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Choir
- \_\_\_\_\_ Beginning Drama
- \_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate Drama
- \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Drama
- \_\_\_\_\_ Beginning Band
- \_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate Band
- \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Band
- \_\_\_\_\_ Beginning Strings
- \_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate Strings
- \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Strings

### Other

- \_\_\_\_\_ Intensive Studies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Academic Support

\* Indicates a course required for ALL ICS Middle School students

# Middle School Course Handbook

## MS Course of Study Planner

Please use the following guide to determine what courses you would like to take during your time as a middle school student. Selections should be made after consulting with your parents and counselor. NOTE: The courses listed in each category are shown where they are available for students. Courses required for all students are in **bold print**.

| Grade 6                                     | Grade 7   | Grade 8  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>ENGLISH</b>                              |   |  |
| <b><u>Language Arts 6</u></b>               | <b><u>Language Arts 7</u></b><br>Creative Writing | <b><u>Language Arts 8</u></b><br>Creative Writing                                |
| <b>MATHEMATICS</b>                          |   |  |
| <b><u>Math 6</u></b>                        | <b><u>Math 7</u></b><br>Pre-Algebra ∞             | Pre-Algebra ∞<br>Algebra 1 ∞   |
| <b>SCIENCE</b>                              |   |  |
| <b><u>Science 6</u></b>                     | <b><u>Science 7</u></b>                           | Science 8 ∞<br>Intro. to Chem/Physics ∞  |
| <b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>                       |   |  |
| <b><u>Social Studies 6</u></b>              | <b><u>Social Studies 7</u></b>                    | <b><u>Social Studies 8</u></b><br>Global Issues                                  |
| <b>LANGUAGES</b>                            |   |  |
| National Thai 6 ‡<br>International Thai 6 ‡ | National Thai 7 ‡<br>International Thai 7 ‡       | National Thai 8 ‡<br>International Thai 8 ‡<br>Spanish 1 / Mandarin 1 / French 1 |
| <b>PE/BIBLE</b>                             |   |  |
| <b><u>PE 6/Foundations</u></b>              | <b><u>PE 7/Choices</u></b><br>Independent PE      | <b><u>PE 8/Values</u></b><br>Independent PE                                      |
| <b>COMPUTERS</b>                            |   |  |
| <b><u>Computers 1</u></b>                   | <b><u>Computers 2</u></b>                         | <b><u>Computers 2</u></b><br>Robotics  |
| <b>FINE/PERFORMING ARTS</b>                 |   |  |
| <b><u>Art 1</u></b>                         | <b><u>Art 2</u></b><br>Ceramics<br>Art and Design | <b><u>Art 2</u></b><br>Ceramics<br>Art and Design<br>Advanced Art                |
| Choir*                                      | Choir*  | Choir*   |
| Beginning Drama*                            | Intermediate Drama*                               | Advanced Drama*  |
| Beginning Band *                            | Intermediate Band *                               | Advanced Band *  |
| Beginning Strings *                         | Intermediate Strings *                            | Advanced Strings *   |

\* Students will be placed by level, determined by audition

‡ Required courses. Thai citizens will be placed in the National Thai class; International students will be placed in the International Thai class. International students may be placed in the National Thai with teacher evaluation and recommendation.

∞ Student placement determined by instructor recommendation, grade and may require a placement test.

## Grade 6 Registration FAQs

### When does pre-registration open and close?

ICS will open the course request section on RenWeb from February 1-5, 2020 so that students can pre-register. Students will pre-register at school but parents can make changes from home.

### What core classes are required for all grade 6 students?

It is required that 6<sup>th</sup> graders take Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Math, Thai, Bible, and P.E.

### What do most grade 6 students take as elective classes?

Most 6<sup>th</sup> graders will take Computer, Art, Band, Strings, Choir, or Drama in addition to their required core classes.

It is required that students take both computer and art for one year (2 semesters of each) during middle school.

### Reminder...

Don't forget to register for ESL if you are in the ESL program. In addition, do not forget to register for Intensive Studies if you have been recommended for this program. ESL and/or Intensive Studies/Academic Support will generally replace your performing arts elective. The counsellor will help you with this selection.

### What if I pass the ESL test towards the end of the year?

If you pass the ESL test, talk with your counselor to determine an alternate choice in place of ESL for the next school year. Every attempt will be made to accommodate that new choice.



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## Grade 6 Pre-Registration Worksheet

### COURSES BY SUBJECT FOR COURSE SELECTION

**English**

- Language Arts 6 *Required*
- ESL 6

**Mathematics**

- Math 6 *Required*

**Science**

- Science 6 *Required*

**Social Studies**

- Social Studies 6 *Required*

**Thai – Choose one** *Required*

- International Thai 6
- National Thai 6

**PE-Health/Bible**

- PE 6/Bible 6 *Required*

**Fine Arts**

- Art 1\* *Required*

**Performing Arts**

- Choir
- Beginner Drama
- Beginner Band
- Intermediate Band \* audition req'd*
- Advanced Band \* audition req'd*
- Beginner Strings
- Intermediate Strings \* audition req'd*
- Advanced Strings \* audition req'd*

**Computer Science**

- Computer Science 1\* *Required*

**Support Classes**

- Intensive Studies
- Academic Support

\* Indicates a 1 semester course. All other courses listed are full-year courses.

### Electives Choices

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill in the table with your elective choices for next school year. Please note: All the non-art/computer electives in grade 6 are a year long.

| Semester 1                          | Semester 2             |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Elective #1: Art 1/Comp1 (required) | Comp1/Art 1 (required) |
| Elective #2:                        |                        |

\*\*\*Please indicate your alternate elective choice if you are in ESL (in case you test out): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Grade 7 Registration FAQ's

### When does pre-registration open and close?

ICS will open the course request section on RenWeb from February 1-5, 2020 so that students can pre-register. Students will pre-register at school but parents can make changes from home.

### What core classes are required for all grade 7 students?

It is required that 7<sup>th</sup> graders take Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Math, Thai, Bible, and P.E.

### What do most grade 7 students take as elective classes?

Most 7<sup>th</sup> graders will take Computer, Art, Band, Strings, Choir, Drama, Creative Writing, or Independent P.E. classes in addition to their required core classes.

It is required that students take both computer and art for one year (2 semesters of each) during middle school.

### Reminder...

Don't forget to register for ESL if you are in the ESL program. In addition, do not forget to register for Intensive Studies if you have been recommended for this program. ESL and/or Intensive Studies/Academic Support will generally replace your performing arts elective. The counsellor will help you with this selection.

### What if I pass the ESL test towards the end of the year?

If you pass the ESL test, talk with your counselor to determine an alternate choice in place of ESL for the next school year. Every attempt will be made to accommodate that new choice.

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## Grade 7 Pre-Registration Worksheet

### COURSES BY SUBJECT FOR COURSE SELECTION

**English**

- Language Arts 7 *Required*
- ESL 7
- Creative Writing 1\*
- Creative Writing 2\*

**Mathematics**

- Math 7 *Required*
- Pre-Algebra ‡

**Science**

- Science 7 *Required*

**Social Studies**

- Social Studies 7 *Required*
- Global Issues\*

**Thai – Choose one *Required***

- International Thai 7
- National Thai 7

**PE-Health/Bible**

- PE 7/Bible 7 *Required*
- Independent PE \*

**Fine/Performing Arts**

- Art 2\* *Required*
- Ceramics\*
- Art and Design \*
- Choir \* (Can be taken both semesters)
- Beginner Drama\*(Can be taken both semesters)
- Intermediate Drama\*(Can be taken both semesters)
- Advanced Drama
- Beginner Band
- Intermediate Band \* *audition req'd*
- Advanced Band \* *audition req'd*
- Beginner Strings
- Intermediate Strings \* *audition req'd*
- Advanced Strings \* *audition req'd*

**Computer Science**

- Computer Science 2\* *Required during MS*

**Support Classes**

- Intensive Studies
- Academic Support

\* Indicates a 1 semester course. All other courses listed are full-year courses.

‡ Please refer to the Math Progression section of this handbook for a complete explanation of the Math Pathways in Middle School

### Electives Choices

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill in the table with your elective choices for next school year. Please note the length of each elective course. If it does not fit into the table, you are selecting too many electives.

| Semester 1                                      | Semester 2                                      |
|---|---|
| Art 2/Comp2 (required but can be taken in Gr 8) | Comp2/Art 2 (required but can be taken in Gr 8) |
| Elective:                                       | Elective:                                       |

## Grade 8 Registration FAQ's

### When does pre-registration open and close?

ICS will open the course request section on RenWeb from February 1-5, 2020 so that students can pre-register. Students will pre-register at school but parents can make changes from home.

### What core classes are required for all grade 8 students?

It is required that 8<sup>th</sup> graders take Language Arts, Social Studies, Science (Science 8 or Intro to Chemistry & Physics), Math (Pre-Algebra or Algebra), Thai, Bible, and P.E.

### How are students placed in Math and Science in grade 8?

7<sup>th</sup> grade teachers consider a number of factors in recommending student placements for math and science. Among the factors are grades in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class, organization, work ethic, behavior, and the ability to think both abstractly and spatially. Recommendations and final placement are up to the teacher. Please refer to the Math Progression section of this handbook for a complete explanation of the Math Pathways in Middle School

### What do most Grade 8 students take as elective classes?

8<sup>th</sup> graders may take Computer, Art, Band, Strings, Choir, Drama, Ceramics, Art and Design, Robotics, French, Mandarin, Spanish or Independent P.E. classes in addition to their required core classes. Advanced Art is available based on teacher recommendation.

It is required that students take both computer and art for one year (2 semesters of each) during middle school.

8<sup>th</sup> graders have the option of taking Advanced Language classes (the HS equivalent of a Language 1 class). You will not get high school credit for these classes; however, passing them will allow you to start at the Language 2 class level in HS and be eligible for Level 3 classes in Grade 10 which have honors status. These are HS level classes and as such students undertaking these students must have strong academic skills.

### Reminder...

Don't forget to register for ESL if you are in the ESL program. In addition, do not forget to register for Intensive Studies if you have been recommended for this program. ESL and/or Intensive Studies/Academic Support will generally replace an elective. The counsellor will help you with this selection.

### What if I pass the ESL test towards the end of the year?

If you pass the ESL test, talk with your counselor to determine an alternate choice in place of ESL for the next school year. Every attempt will be made to accommodate that new choice.

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## Grade 8 Pre-Registration Worksheet

### COURSES BY SUBJECT FOR COURSE SELECTION

**English**

- Language Arts 8 *Required*
- ESL 8
- Creative Writing 1\*
- Creative Writing 2\*

- Academic Support

**Foreign Language**

- Spanish 1 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- French 1 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Mandarin 1 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Mathematics *Required***

- Pre-Algebra ‡
- Algebra 1 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ‡

**Fine/Performing Arts**

- Art 2\* *Required*
- Adv. Art \*
- Art and Design \*
- Ceramics\*
- Choir \* (Can be taken both semesters)
- Intermediate Drama\* (Can be taken both semesters)
- Advanced Drama
- Beginner Band
- Intermediate Band \* *audition req'd*
- Advanced Band \* *audition req'd*
- Beginner Strings
- Intermediate Strings \* *audition req'd*
- Advanced Strings \* *audition req'd*

**Science *Required***

- Science 8
- Intro. Chem./Physics (ICP)

**Social Studies**

- Social Studies 8 *Required*
- Global Issues\*

**Thai - Choose one *Required***

- International Thai 8
- National Thai 8

**PE-Health/Bible**

- PE 8/Bible 8 *Required*
- Independent PE\*

**Computer Science**

- Computer Science 2\* *Required during MS*
- Robotics

**Support Classes**

- Intensive Studies

\* Indicates a 1 semester course. All other courses listed are full-year courses.

‡ Please refer to the Math Progression section of this handbook for a complete explanation of the Math Pathways in Middle School

### Electives Choices

Please fill in the table with your elective choices for next school year. Please note the length of each elective course. If it does not fit into the table, you are selecting too many electives.

| Semester 1 | Semester 2 |
|------------|------------|
|            |            |
|            |            |

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## Course Descriptions

### Computers

#### **CT 740 – Computer 1**

**Number of Semesters:** 1    **Prerequisite(s):** None

Students will be presented with an overview of how to get started with Mac OS X, Safari, and Google Apps for Education. They will learn how to work with documents and worksheets. A comprehensive digital citizenship unit of study will also be undertaken.

#### **CT 741 – Computer 2**

**Number of Semesters:** 1    **Prerequisite(s):** Computer 1

From Computer 1 students will move on to working with formulas, functions, and charts. They will have advanced lessons in creating, polishing, and running a presentation. The course will wrap up with a lesson on integrating all Google App products. Digital citizenship will be reviewed and concepts consolidated.

#### **CT743 - Robotics**

**Number of Semesters:** 1    **Prerequisites:** Computer 2

This is a beginning course in robotics. We will use Lego Mindstorm kits, Lego software and various Lego Robotics materials. The objective of this course is to introduce the student to basic programming as well as problem solving strategies. Students will work in hands-on teams to develop, build, and program LEGO Mindstorm robots. They will document their progress. Topics may include motor control, gear ratios, torque, friction, sensors, timing, program loops, logic gates, decision-making, timing sequences, propulsion systems, and binary number systems. We hope that this class will provide motivation for students to continue in computer science in High School.

### English- Language Arts

#### **EN 150 – Language Arts 6**

**Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s):** None

In this course, students work to expand their ability to read, write, listen and communicate in English. They analyze the structure of words so as to adopt and apply new vocabulary more easily. Through literature study, students develop their skills in reading and comprehension, and learn to make connections between key ideas and their own lives. Students write on a variety of topics and across a range of genres, refining such skills as grammar, credibility, transitions, using supporting details, and literary devices to best communicate to a particular audience. They also have many opportunities both to share their work and listen to that of others, thus developing their confidence and skills in communication. A section of this course using the same benchmarks may be offered from year to year which focuses upon writing skills specifically and students will be enrolled in this “core” section on the basis of teacher recommendation, annual writing assessment scores, and the advice of the student support team.

#### **EN 152 – Language Arts 7**

**Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s):** LA 6

In English Language Arts 7, students build upon the previous grade, and scaffold their skills and knowledge for 8th grade and beyond. As a class we study several genres: The elements of literature as fiction and nonfiction; mythology, legends, and epics; conventions and the poetry of language; informative-analytic functional documents; and elements of argument and persuasion. Students write 4 formal essays and dozens of informal essays; they read 3 novels; analyze and apply elements of grammar and mechanics to the English language; and practice speaking and listening skills, often with technology integration. A section of this course using the same benchmarks may be offered from year to year which focuses upon writing skills specifically and students will be enrolled in this “core” section on the basis of teacher recommendation, annual writing assessment scores, and the advice of the student support team.

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## **EN 154 – Language Arts 8                      Number of Semesters: 2      Prerequisite(s): LA 7**

Throughout the course, students will explore the beauty of language and its application through three major areas: Reading/Writing, Grammar, and Communication. Students will focus on themes of identity, morality, and prejudice through different forms of literature such as folktales, novels, and poetry, while simultaneously building their understanding of the English language through an intensive grammar study.

Students will also explore different areas where they will need to communicate in the real world, using persuasion techniques in advertising, writing their own resume and cover letter, writing and giving speeches, and debating respectfully on social issues. The goal and hope of the course is to become effective communicators in both written and spoken English, while also discovering the beauty of who God made us to be. A section of this course using the same benchmarks may be offered from year to year which focuses upon writing skills specifically and students will be enrolled in this “core” section on the basis of teacher recommendation, annual writing assessment scores, and the advice of the student support team.

## **EN 155–ESL 6, EN 156-ESL 7, EN 157-ESL 8      Number of Semesters: 2 Prerequisite(s): None**

The ESL program addresses the English language needs for students for whom English is not their first language. Modeling, role playing, vocabulary games and activities, direct grammar instruction, and shared and independent reading and writing experiences are some of the learning strategies used. ESL students are in the mainstream academic classes most of the day, together with native speakers and proficient second language users. When the student performs sufficiently on the English proficiency test near the end of the school year, the student may exit the ESL program.

## **EN 165/166 – Creative Writing                      Number of Semesters: 1 or 2      Prerequisite(s): LA 6**

**Creative Writing 1:** In this class, students will explore the world of writing and the art of storytelling. Students will have an opportunity to creatively write in a wide spectrum of genres such as personal memoir, realistic fiction, fantasy, and poetry. Students will also learn how to visually represent their stories through different media such as online cartooning. The focus will be on growing as a writer, and learning how to tell stories in a rich and meaningful way.

**Creative Writing 2:** In this class, students will explore the world of writing and the art of storytelling. Students will learn the tools for writing stories, and will create stories within multiple different genres, such as historical fiction, science fiction, personal memoir, and script writing for both short plays and radio dramas. The focus will be on growing as a writer, and learning how to tell stories in a rich and meaningful way.

\*Each of the creative writing classes are independent of each other, so students may take one or both of the courses in any order. One will be offered each year alternating with the following year.

## **EN167 – Intensive Studies                      Number of Semesters: 1 or 2      Prerequisite(s): None**

Intensive Studies assists students in remediating and supporting their current academic case load. All academic content is pre-taught, re-taught or simply practiced, with the exception of foreign language. In addition, remedial programs provide an opportunity for students to learn and practice skills they may have missed in the past. Organization, study skills and other characteristics of successful learners are practiced and monitored by the IS instructor. Enrolment is through a referral process and must be approved by teachers, counselor and principal. Students enrolled in learning support in Elementary will be automatically enrolled in either EN167 or EN169 for their first semester of Middle School.

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**EN169 - Academic Support**      **Number of Semesters: 1 or 2**      **Prerequisites: None**

Students requiring academic monitoring may be referred by their teachers or may be mandated due to repeated Academic Probation concerns. This is not a remedial course and the teacher provides support focussed upon S.O.A.R skills (Study skills, Organization habits, Academic accountability, and Responsibility).

## **Fine/Performing Arts**

**FA 549 – Art 1**      **Number of Semesters: 1**      **Prerequisite(s): None**

Students will investigate two and three dimensional design and develop skills in painting, drawing, printmaking, mixed-media and ceramics. Students will gain a general understanding of the elements and principles of art, will learn and be able to use art specific vocabulary, and will explore the expressive qualities of art making.

**FA 550 – Art 2**      **Number of Semesters: 1**      **Prerequisite(s): MS Art 1**

Building on skills learned in MS Art 1, students will continue to investigate two and three dimensional design and develop skills in watercolor painting, portraiture, printmaking, and ceramics. Students will gain a stronger understanding of the elements and principles of art, will learn and be able to use art specific vocabulary, and will explore the expressive qualities of art making.

**FA 571 – Choir**      **Number of Semesters: 1 or 2**      **Prerequisite(s): None**

In this class, students will learn to use their own vocal instrument to create a correct and pleasing singing sound. In addition to learning proper vocal production and technique, students will explore movement and music, learn to read music, develop sight-singing abilities, and performance skills. Choir class offers opportunities for students to develop team building and leadership skills by being a member of the group "One Sound." This is a performance-based class. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

**FA 573 – Beginning Band**      **Number of Semesters: 2**      **Prerequisite(s): None**

Students learn how to play wind, brass or percussion instruments alongside their peers, in a classroom setting. No previous instrumental experience is necessary. Students will learn the basics of how to read, write, and perform music on an instrument.

**FA 574 – Intermediate Band**      **Number of Semesters: 2**      **Prerequisite(s): Beg. Band or**

Successful placement audition with the director of bands

**FA 575 – Advanced Band**      **Number of Semesters: 2**      **Prerequisite(s): Inter. Band or**

Successful placement audition with the director of bands

**FA 578 – Beginning Strings**      **Number of Semesters: 2**      **Prerequisite(s): None**

Students will learn how to play a string instrument alongside their peers in a classroom setting. No previous music experience is necessary. Skills covered will include reading music, holding the bow, holding the instrument, D and G major, slurs, dynamics, hooked bowings, pizzicato, simple time signatures, subdivisions up to 8th notes, matching bow direction, and sight-reading. Various music history and theory topics will be incorporated. Two to three concerts provide performance opportunities.



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**FA 579 – Intermediate Strings**      **Number of Semesters:** 2      **Prerequisite(s):** Beg. Strings or audition

Students will refine and add to their instrumental and ensemble skills through learning alongside their peers in a classroom setting. Skills covered will include playing in key signatures with up to 3 sharps, spiccato, extensions, compound time signatures, dynamics, subdivisions up to 16th notes, matching bow placement, and sight-reading. Various music history and theory topics will be incorporated. Three concerts and a large-group festival provide performance opportunities.

**FA 580 – Advanced Strings**      **Number of Semesters:** 2      **Prerequisite(s):** Inter. Strings or audition

Students will refine and add to their instrumental and ensemble skills through learning alongside their peers in a classroom setting. Skills covered will include shifting, vibrato, key signatures up to 3 accidentals, syncopated rhythms, cut time, dynamics, matching bow amount, and sight-reading. Various music history and theory topics will be incorporated. Three concerts and a large-group festival provide performance opportunities.

**FA 791 – Advanced Art 8**      **Number of Semesters:** 1      **Prerequisite(s):** MS Art 2+

For students with a passion for the visual arts, this course will investigate two and three dimensional design and develop skills in printmaking, sculpture, drawing, and painting. Students will gain a general understanding of the elements and principles of art, will learn and be able to use art specific vocabulary, and will explore the relationship between form and content. Students must have a 94% average in MS Art 2 and permission of the teacher in order to join this class. Successful completion of Advanced Art 8 fulfills the prerequisite requirements for High School Art 1 thus allowing students to take upper level HS Art classes.

**FA 792 – Ceramics**      **Number of Semesters:** 1      **Prerequisite(s):** MS Art 2

Students will have the opportunity to explore the medium of ceramics by creating both functional and decorative ware. Each student will learn art specific vocabulary and experience the three basic hand building methods, surface decoration techniques, glazing techniques and firing. Successful completion of both Ceramics + Art and Design fulfills the prerequisite requirements for High School Art 1 thus allowing students to take upper level HS Art classes.

**FA 793 - Art and Design**      **Number of Semesters:** 1      **Prerequisite(s):** MS Art 2

This course is an introduction to a variety of both traditional and non-traditional art media. Emphasis will be on exploring new materials & art concepts, honing technical skills, and developing personal artistic habits as students work through the design thinking process to create finished products. The underlying areas focused upon and explored throughout the making and creating process in the Art and Design course are: Introduction to the design process, textiles, sculpture, graphic design and traditional folk arts. Successful completion of both Ceramics + Art and Design fulfills the prerequisite requirements for High School Art 1 thus allowing students to take upper level HS Art classes.

**MC 956 – Beginning Drama**      **Number of Semesters:** 1 or 2      **Prerequisite(s):** None

Students will come into this introductory theatre arts class learning how to really get comfortable on stage. Hopefully students will gain more than just a familiarity with the stage but a heightened sense of self-confidence. We will gain a general understanding through improvisation, movement, characterization, clown mystery, lip sync, and all the little nuances into getting used to being in front of people. The class may be taken for a full year.

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**MC 953 – Intermediate Drama**      **Number of Semesters:** 1 or 2      **Prerequisite(s):** None  
Students in Intermediate Drama may choose one or two semesters of work. The first semester will not only explore the many facets of drama, but also practice public speaking skills. The second semester students will again practice their acting skills, and put on public play performances.

**MC 955 – Advanced Drama**      **Number of Semesters:** 2      **Prerequisite(s):** Int Drama or Audition  
Students will enjoy Advanced Drama for the entire year. This course will focus on aspects of drama and stage production. Students will be required to participate and perform in various types of dramatic presentations: monologue, Shakespearean monologue, reader’s theatre, stage combat, improvisation, and stage performance. The students in this class may be utilized in the acting and production of the annual major middle school spring play or musical.

### Foreign Language

**FL 648 – Thai 6 for Int’ls.**      **Number of Semesters:** 2      **Prerequisite(s):** None  
**Thai for beginners:**  
Students will begin to learn basic Thai language conversation skills and use the language as a tool for communicating appropriately in daily life. They will also learn about Thai history, tradition and culture.  
**Thai for advanced students:**  
Students will begin to learn advanced Thai language and will begin by studying Thai alphabet, Thai vowels and practice reading simple words and sentences. They will begin to write Thai language. They will also learn about Thai history, tradition and culture.

**FL 652 – Thai 7 for Int’ls.**      **Number of Semesters:** 2      **Prerequisite(s):** Int. Thai 6  
**Thai for beginners:**  
Students will begin to learn basic Thai language conversation skills and use the language as a tool for communicating appropriately in daily life. They will also learn about Thai’s geography, history, tradition and culture.  
**Thai for advanced students:**  
Students will begin to learn advanced Thai language and will begin by studying Thai alphabet, Thai vowels and practice reading simple words and sentences. They will begin to write Thai language. They will also learn about Thai geography, history, tradition and culture.

**FL 647 – Thai 8 for Int’ls.**      **Number of Semesters:** 2      **Prerequisite(s):** Int. Thai 7  
**Thai for beginners:**  
Students will begin to learn basic Thai language conversation skills and use the language as a tool for communicating appropriately in daily life. They will also learn about Thai society & wisdom, history, tradition and culture.  
**Thai for advanced students:**  
Students will begin to learn advanced Thai language and will begin by studying Thai alphabet, Thai vowels and practice reading simple words and sentences. They will begin to write Thai language. They will also learn about Thai society & wisdom, history, tradition and culture.

**FL 651 – Thai 6**      **Number of Semesters:** 2      **Prerequisite(s):** None  
Thai Culture and language class will encourage students to learn and be proud of Thai language and culture and to be able to communicate in Thai language with the appropriate Thai. The course will emphasize

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vocabulary, grammar structures, literature, Traffic law and history of the Sukhothai period. Students will learn skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing and be encouraged to maintain Thai culture.

**FL 649 – Thai 7**                                **Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s):** Thai 6  
Thai Culture and language class will encourage students to learn and be proud of Thai language and culture and to be able to communicate in Thai language with the appropriate Thai. The course will emphasize vocabulary, grammar structures, literature, Thai basic law and history of the Ayutthaya period. Students will develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing and be encouraged to maintain Thai culture.

**FL 653 – Thai 8**                                **Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s):** Thai 7  
Thai Culture and language class will encourage students to learn and be proud of Thai language and culture and to be able to communicate in Thai language with the appropriate Thai. The course will emphasize vocabulary, grammar structures, literature, Thai basic law and history of the Rattanakosin period. Students will be expected to demonstrate skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing and be encouraged to maintain Thai culture.

**FL 670 – Spanish 1 (8th Grade)**    **Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s):** Strong Academic Standing in Grade 7 is required for the rigour of the 8th Grade Language Classes. Students not on the honor roll in core subjects in Grade 7 will require special permission to undertake this class.

The 8th grade elective for Spanish 1 mirrors the High School Spanish 1 course, and expectations for student effort and achievement are exactly the same as those for high school students taking the course, as successful completion of Spanish 1 at either the middle school or high school level is a prerequisite for Spanish 2. Spanish 1 is perhaps the most important of all the Spanish classes because it helps students to establish a solid foundation from which they can build their knowledge. Students will develop a foundation of frequently used as well as thematically-contextual vocabulary. They will also learn basic grammar concepts and develop basic communication skills to be built upon in subsequent levels of Spanish. A range of assignments and activities will be implemented, and the learning resources that students will be required to use are varied and include but are not limited to online activities, print books, language-learning software, textbooks, songs, and videos.

**FL 671 – French 1 (8th Grade)**    **Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s): Prerequisite(s):** Strong Academic Standing in Grade 7 is required for the rigour of the 8th Grade Language Classes. Students not on the honor roll in core subjects in Grade 7 will require special permission to undertake this class.

The 8th grade elective for French 1 mirrors the High School French 1 course, and expectations for student effort and achievement are exactly the same as those for high school students taking the course, as successful completion of French 1 at either middle school or high school level is a prerequisite for French 2.

**FL 672 – Mandarin 1 (8th Grade)**   **Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s): Prerequisite(s):** Strong Academic Standing in Grade 7 is required for the rigour of the 8th Grade Language Classes. Students not on the honor roll in core subjects in Grade 7 will require special permission to undertake this class.

The 8th grade elective for Mandarin 1 mirrors the High School Mandarin 1 course, and expectations for student effort and achievement are exactly the same as those for high school students taking the course, as successful completion of Mandarin 1 at either middle school or high school level is a prerequisite for Mandarin 2.

This course's primary focus is on speaking Mandarin Chinese and on learning Pinyin, a system using letters

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from English to represent Mandarin words. Pinyin is essential: it is the most fundamental knowledge that all serious Mandarin learners must have. Speaking in Mandarin, for example, must be preceded by a knowledge of the sound system of Mandarin, which Pinyin represents. Typing in Mandarin requires the use of Pinyin, and students will learn to type in Mandarin in this course as well. Beginners in Chinese must learn Pinyin first. Advanced Chinese learners must have a mastery of Pinyin. It is a tool for the sake of communication: it forms the foundation for the aforementioned skills not to mention a number of other skills, so students will be expected to learn the system well and apply it in their speaking, typing, and use of dictionaries throughout the course.

### **Mathematics**

#### **MA 250 – Math 6**

**Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s):** None

This course provides a foundation for the mathematical skills and concepts needed throughout the remainder of Middle School. It covers key areas such as patterns and rules; whole numbers; fractions, decimals and percentages; variables, data analysis and graphing; geometry; and probability. Intertwined with each of these areas is a development of problem solving methods, whereby students are encouraged to work on their own and in groups to make new discoveries. From year to year, a Math 6 Support Class (Math 6 CORE) may be offered depending on student need. This class will mirror the Math 6 curriculum but move at a slower pace with a smaller group of students; however, students in Math 6 CORE will not be eligible for the accelerated Pre-Algebra option in Grade 7.

#### **MA 251 – Math 7**

**Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s):** Math 6

This course continues to firm up the mathematical foundation formed in previous classes. Students will develop a better understanding of numbers and their uses, algebraic reasoning, solving equations and inequalities, graphing, along with more work on fractions and decimals. This class will form the basis for their 8th grade placement into Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1. From year to year, a Math 7 Support Class (Math 7 CORE) may be offered depending on student need. This class will mirror the Math 7 curriculum but move at a slower pace with a smaller group of students; however, students in Math 7 CORE will not be eligible for the Algebra option in Grade 8.

#### **MA 254 – Pre-Algebra**

**Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s):** See Below

Students in this course will discover the importance of integers and equations. They will develop their understanding of rational numbers by studying fractions, ratios, proportions, and percents. Students will also learn the key concepts of functions and graphs as they study equalities and inequalities. With respect to geometry, students will investigate two dimensional and three-dimensional figures. Lastly, students will explore the uses of probability and statistics with respect to real-world applications. See information below for entrance requirements.

#### **MA 255 – MS Algebra 8**

**Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s):** See Below

This course takes students from Middle School mathematics into solving problems with rational and irrational numbers, inequalities, functions, polynomials, quadratics and systems of equations. It is assumed that the student can handle fractions, decimals, integers and simple algebraic equations before starting Algebra 1. See information below for entrance requirements. Students who have completed PreAlgebra or have over 90% in Math 7 may select to take this course. Students taking Algebra 8 will be reviewed after each quarter in the first semester to ensure their academic progress remains as expected. Students under 72% in the course will be moved to PreAlgebra 8 to avoid gaps in learning and ensure appropriate placement.

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## Physical Education

### **PE 850 – PE/Health 6**                      **Number of Semesters: 2**    **Prerequisite(s): None**

This class uses a sports education model to help students develop life-long skills in physical fitness, including a basic understanding of major muscles and anatomy associated with common physical activities and how to best take care of and prevent injuries to specific muscles and connective tissue. This course offers concepts to use today and tomorrow as guidelines for self-directed responsible living. Emphasis is placed on relating health concepts for the individual's well-being in personal, community, vocational, and leadership roles.

### **PE 851 – PE/Health 7**                      **Number of Semesters: 2**    **Prerequisite(s): None**

This class uses a sports education model to help students develop life-long skills in physical fitness, including a basic understanding of major muscles and anatomy associated with common physical activities and how to best take care of and prevent injuries to specific muscles and connective tissue. This course offers concepts to use today and tomorrow as guidelines for self-directed responsible living. Emphasis is placed on relating health concepts for the individual's well-being in personal, community, vocational, and leadership roles.

### **PE 852 – PE/Health 8**                      **Number of Semesters: 2**    **Prerequisite(s): None**

This class uses a sports education model to help students develop life-long skills in physical fitness, including a basic understanding of major muscles and anatomy associated with common physical activities and how to best take care of and prevent injuries to specific muscles and connective tissue. This course offers concepts to use today and tomorrow as guidelines for self-directed responsible living. Emphasis is placed on relating health concepts for the individual's well-being in personal, community, vocational, and leadership roles.

### **PE 853 – Independent PE**                      **Number of Semesters: 1 or 2**    **Prerequisite(s): 6th grade PE**

In this course, students will be encouraged to explore individual interests in sports and fitness through developing strategies to achieve measured improvement in independent fitness plans. Students will begin the course by participating in and exploring a variety of structured workouts and tracking improvements in their fitness and health, culminating in a final leadership project. Students will develop life-long skills in goal setting, strategizing and analyzing data to evaluate performance as well as identifying other areas of their lives where they can apply their new skills of setting goals and successful planning. Emphasis is placed on further application for the individual's well-being in personal, community, vocational, and leadership roles.

## Science

### **SC 350 – Science 6**                      **Number of Semesters: 2**    **Prerequisite(s): None**

In this class, students will focus on investigating and learning about the world around them. The first semester is focused on the organization of the environment and the organization of animal groups. Students learn to take the information from those topics and apply it to current events going on in the world today. In the second semester, students will examine cells and learn about their processes as well as learn about heredity and genes. At the end of the semester, students will use information they have learned over the year to compare and contrast the views of evolution and creationism.



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### **SC 351 – Science 7**

**Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s):** Science 6

A focus on Earth Science will see students investigating theories on the structures of the inside of the Earth and also our atmosphere. These theories account for observable behaviors of our planet including earthquakes, volcanoes and our weather. The principles of density, heat and gravity are key to understanding the cause and effect processes that undergird the theories and explain the observable behaviors of our planet and its impact on our lives. God, as the creative author of all these principles, is revealed (amongst other things) in power, wisdom, intellect, and also care and love for his people throughout the course.

### **SC 352 – Science 8**

**Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s):** Science 7

During the first semester, students will learn the main concepts of chemistry and physics. There is a focus on the structure of matter as well as energy and its transformation. The second semester is filled with investigating and learning about the fascinating topic of the human body and its systems. Students will examine and study the main parts and functions of each body system.

### **SC 353 – Intro. Chem/Physics 8**

**Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s):** See below

One semester is spent each on Physics and Chemistry. Physics focuses on the introduction of foundational principles of motion, forces and energy that inform a lot of future physics that students will study. Chemistry focuses on the introduction of foundational principles of atomic theory, bonding, chemical reactions, and chemical solutions that inform a lot of future chemistry that students will study. God, as the creative author of all the underlying principles, is revealed (amongst other things) in power, wisdom, intellect, and also care and love for his people throughout both Physics and Chemistry. Students must have over 90% in Science 7 (Q1-4) as well as be recommended for Algebra 8 to automatically qualify for this course. See the Parent-Student Handbook for further details regarding eligibility. Students taking ICP will be reviewed after each quarter in the first semester to ensure their academic progress remains as expected. Students under 72% in the course may be moved to general Science 8 to avoid gaps in learning and ensure appropriate placement.

## **Social Studies**

### **SS 450 – Social Studies 6**

**Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s):** None

Students will examine the ancient world from Prehistory up to the Roman Empire. While examining the rise of Western and non-Western ancient world, students will note the significant importance of geography in human history. Additionally, students will discuss, analyze, and evaluate the social, economic, and political institutions of the ancient world while connecting their legacy to the present-day world. Last, students will also develop critical process skills for assessing issues, problem solving, decision-making, and taking civic action.

### **SS 451 – Social Studies 7**

**Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s):** SS 6

This course gives students a more tangible look at how we examine our present-day world. Beginning with the rise and fall of the Roman Empire and ending with the Enlightenment, students analyze the impact of empires in the Middle East, Central and South America, Africa, and Asia. Students will also look at the impact of cultural and social shifts, as well as technological advances and religious movements.

### **SS 452 – Social Studies 8**

**Number of Semesters:** 2    **Prerequisite(s):** SS 7

Eighth grade United States History and Geography to 1866 links the fifth grade study of selected themes and periods in United States history and geography to the eleventh grade study of issues in modern America as part of a three year sequential study of American history and geography. It builds upon the sixth and

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seventh grade world history courses, especially in the areas of foundational critical thinking skills as they relate to social studies and history. Students will deal with essential questions about the American experience from a Biblical perspective, including democracy, civic responsibility and the democratic process. Of central importance is the development of skills needed for collecting and analyzing information important to the study of history and geography. Throughout the course, the Christian heritage of the United States will be stressed. Students will understand the reality of man's depravity in light of the problems that have been faced by the United States in its history.

### **SS 456 - Global Issues**

**Number of Semesters: 1**

**Prerequisite: SS6**

This semester-long course covers Global Issues, as outlined in the UN sustainable development goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) and will provide students with a greater understanding of current events, problem solving skills, leadership experience, project management, and speech/debate practice. Students will research issues, evaluate current campaigns and projects built around meeting the SDGs, discuss and debate the factors in our own community that relate to said issue, work alongside peers to either meet this issue or to learn from community leaders who are currently working on the issue. Students will walk away from this course with the tools to create positive change in our community and the world at large.

### **Religious Studies**

#### **SS 453 – Foundations**

**Number of Semesters: 2\* Prerequisite(s): None**

In 6th Grade Foundations, students learn both how to navigate the Bible and how to apply specific verses to life. They develop skills in sharing and supporting their own beliefs, while listening to those of others in a respectful way. Foundations encourages all students to think deeply about ideas relevant to their daily lives, and explains how these fit within a Biblical worldview.

\*Course meets once per cycle for a full year

#### **SS 454 – Choices**

**Number of Semesters: 2\* Prerequisite(s): Foundations**

This course teaches students about the characteristics and attributes of God and how they relate and apply to people. As the name 'choices' suggests, this class will challenge the student to use what they learn in class to help them make good choices in their lives. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to, the following: Wisdom, obedience, responsibility, trust, hope, redemption, love and humility.

\*Course meets once per cycle for a full year

#### **SS 455 – Values**

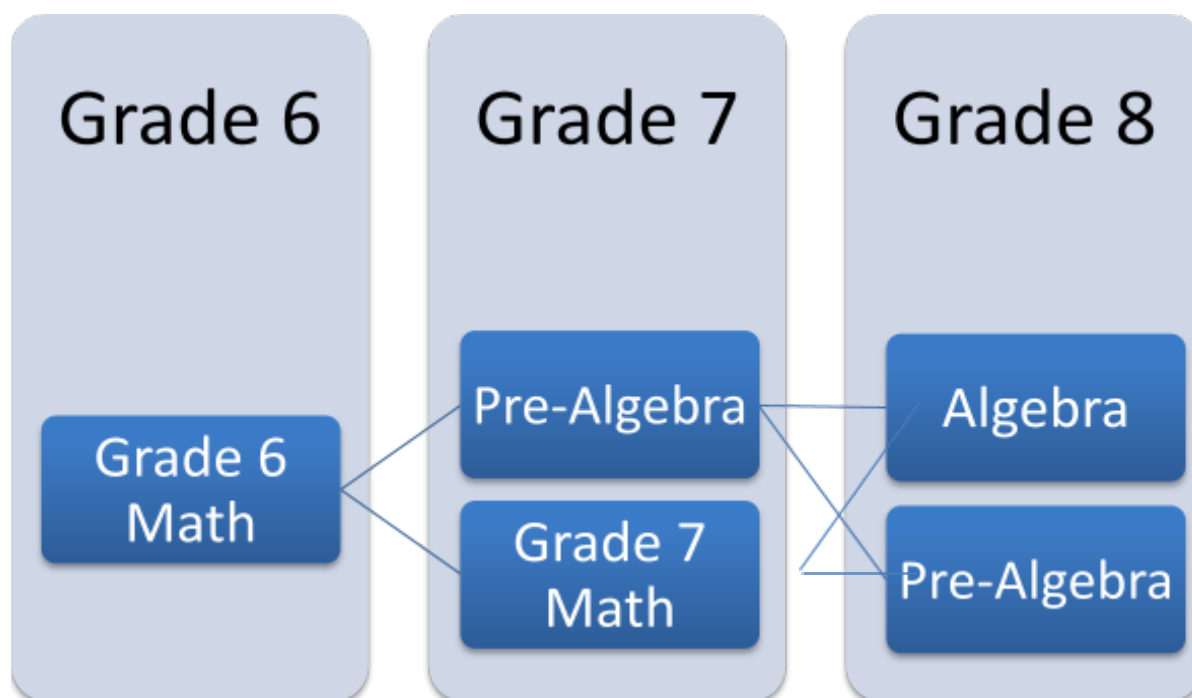
**Number of Semesters: 2\* Prerequisite(s): Choices**

This course teaches students about the story of God and humanity. As we study stories through the Bible, the student will learn about the worth of who God is and how our identity as chosen and the beloved affect our decision making and life's values. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to the following:

Worship, Lordship, Faith, Godly love, Sacrifice, True Joy.

\*Course meets once per cycle for a full year

### Grade 6 and 7 Math Progression Pathways



**Grade 6 Math:** Students with over 94% in Grade 6 Math are offered the opportunity to begin Pre-Algebra during Grade 7, allowing them increased exposure to the abstract foundations of Algebra for future studies. Students who pass Pre-Algebra in Grade 7 will be eligible to progress to Algebra 1 in Grade 8. Students who are struggling in Pre-Algebra after the first semester may be moved into the Grade 7 Math stream, required to take remedial classes online in order to progress to Algebra in Grade 8 or, if they fail Pre-Algebra, will have to retake the class. For automatic entry to Algebra, accelerated students must maintain a B average across the year or higher. Please note: students in the Math 6 support or Math 7 support classes are not eligible for the accelerated pathways.

**Grade 7 Math:** All students progress to Pre-Algebra in Grade 8 unless they meet the following criteria for Algebra entrance: students with over 90% in their class grade in Grade 7 Math are eligible to take Algebra



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in Grade 8. Students with under 90% may choose to take an entrance exam offered at the end of the third quarter as an alternative means of demonstrating their ability for the accelerated option of Algebra in Grade 8. Please note: students in the Math 6 support or Math 7 support classes are not eligible for the accelerated pathways.

### **Rationale:**

In offering multiple entry points after Grade 6 and Grade 7 into the Grade 8 Algebra class as well as offering progression after Grade 8 into the High School Algebra class, we want all students to access the content at the right time in their development to maximize success.

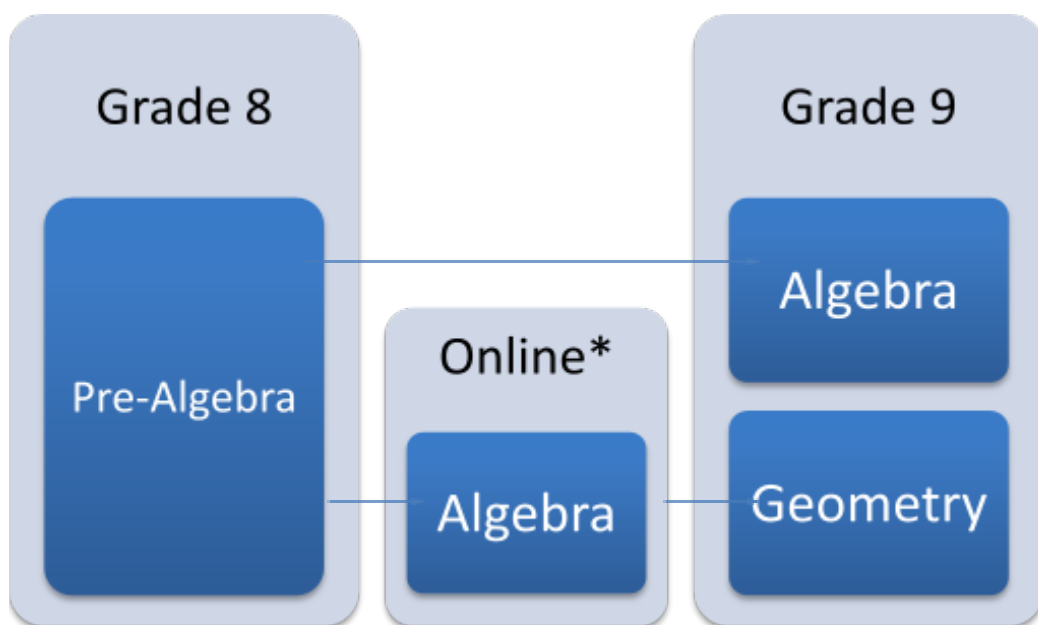
In Middle School, students develop learning skills at different rates. There are two key areas essential to success in higher level math classes which may or may not develop fully during the Middle School years:

1. Executive Functioning abilities: organization, planning, study habits, and independent learning skills all develop naturally at different times for each student. As these skills become more robust, students can access higher level learning more successfully.
2. Abstract Thinking abilities: students in early adolescence begin to develop abstract thinking skills as distinct from the concrete thinking skills necessary in elementary and Grade 6/7 math classes. The development of abstract thinking is essential for success in Algebra and, therefore, this class should only be undertaken at a time when students have demonstrated that they are developing in this area.

At each point after Grade 6, 7 and 8, students are offered a way to enter the higher level math program. Students should wait until they, their parents and their teachers feel they are ready for Algebra in order to provide the very best foundation for High School studies. Undertaking this coursework too soon may mean students may miss essential understandings which will impact them later in High School and disadvantage them overall.

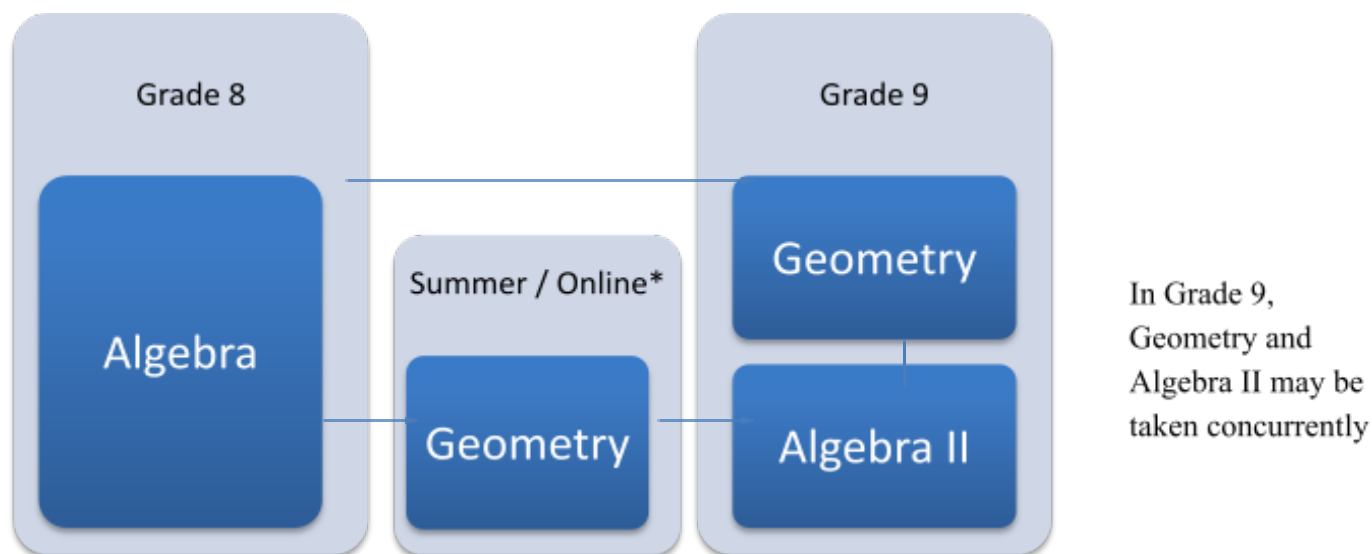
The following diagrams demonstrate how students may progress into High School math classes depending on the course they undertake in Grade 8 and Online options.

**Grade 8 Math Progression Pathways**



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### Online Math Options\*

ICS will recognize online learning if the following conditions are met prior to enrolment in the online course:

1. Students are recommended for online learning by their math teacher depending upon how well they are performing in the first semester of learning in class. Most students must demonstrate an A grade in their class to be recommended as it is an ambitious project to take two math classes (one online and one ICS based) simultaneously.
2. Online courses must be pre-approved by the counselor, math teacher and principal.
3. Students should begin courses in the second semester in order to offer the best possible chance of success given a minimum of 12 weeks of learning.

In order to be granted standing to take Grade 9 courses, the student must maintain a grade of 70% or higher for their online course and also pass the ICS Algebra final exam. Failure to do so will result in the student retaking the class for credit during their 9<sup>th</sup> grade school year.