

The American School of Kuwait Middle School

Parents, Students, Teachers, and Friends,

Welcome to the 2009/2010 Middle School Course Booklet. This booklet is an introduction to the courses offered in the middle school. We believe you'll find it a valuable asset.

ASK Middle School is devoted to bringing our students a program designed to meet the particular needs and interests of young adolescents. We do this by offering a program centered on the American curriculum, based on standards and benchmarks from the state of Illinois and enhanced with offerings of a more international focus.

The core courses of Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Math are covered each year along with Physical Education/Health. Arabic and Religion are required courses for native Arabic speaking, and Muslim students and Arabic as a Foreign Language is required for all others. In addition to these courses, a wide range of electives is offered to meet the inquiry/exploratory needs of our middle school students. Elective fields include classes in Information Technology, Vocal Arts, Visual Arts, Performance Arts, Foreign Languages and Social Studies.

ASK Middle School courses are explored through a modified block schedule with extended class periods to provide our young people the time to more fully investigate the ideas and information shared in each classroom session. The eight-class schedule is divided into two days, four classes taken one day and the other four classes taken the following day. In addition to the core and elective classes above, the program includes a daily HOMEROOM period designed to provide each student a "home base" to report for attendance and receive the day's news through the morning announcements.

ASK Middle School is committed to meeting the special needs and interests of our maturing students. The courses offered inside this booklet are an important element of that commitment.

Thank you.

David Brown
Middle School Principal

Christina Forgeron
Middle School Assistant Principal

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Middle School Counselor

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ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS

Most of ASK's school trips fall under the auspices of EMAC (Eastern Mediterranean Activities Conference), a conference in which the American School of Kuwait was a founding member in 1980. Currently there are 17 member schools from eleven countries: Kuwait, Jordan, Greece, Cyprus, U.A.E, Egypt, Syria, Qatar, Lebanon, Bahrain and Oman. At least twice each year, the ASK community benefits from the opportunity to host an EMAC event, when member schools visit Kuwait, and the American School of Kuwait.

In addition to EMAC, ASK is also a member of the KSAA (Kuwait Schools Activities Association). Currently there are six member schools in this Association, which provides valuable opportunities for co-curricular activities on a local level.

Sample Activities

Under 14 Boys and Girls Sports:

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Volleyball

Other sports open to Middle School students:

- Track and Field
- Cross Country
- Badminton
- Swimming

Activities and Clubs:

- Student Council
- NJHS
- Drama
- Ceramics
- Band

Other sports and activities may be added depending on student and teacher interest.

American School of Kuwait Middle School

Academic Program Outline

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Required Program	Required Program	Required Program
Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts
Science	Science	Science
Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies
Math	Math	Pre-Algebra or Algebra I
Physical Education/Health	Physical Education/Health	Physical Ed/Health
Arabic or AFL	Arabic or AFL	Arabic or AFL
Religion OR Choir/Band	Religion or Elective	Religion or Elective
Introductory Wheel	Elective	Elective

Elective Program: All students must take one semester of Fine Arts and Computers sometime during grades 7 & 8. We encourage students to take a foreign language class as well.

Instrumental Music
Foreign Languages
Performing Arts
Visual Arts
Information Technology

Notes of Interest:

1. Every Grade 6 student is required to take two Language Arts classes, one which focuses on mastering language skills, and one which develops literature skills.
2. In Grade 8, students have the opportunity to apply for advanced studies in Algebra 1 and Honor's Language Arts. In order to be considered for either of those courses, students must maintain a minimum GPA, receive a letter of recommendation from the subject teacher and write an admissions test.

GRADE 6 – REQUIRED COURSES

Language Arts 6

Full Year

Course Description: Grade six language arts is designed to provide a solid foundation in reading, writing, speaking, and listening so that students are successful in middle school. Within these aspects there is a strong emphasis in the understanding of English grammar as well as correct usage and punctuation so that students can explore alternative and more advanced ways of expressing their own ideas. Utilizing the writing process and the 6 + 1 assessment process, students will develop skills of narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive writing integrated with the study of novels, mythology, short stories, poetry, and nonfiction. Resources: *Elements of Literature*, Introductory, Holt Rinehart Winston, 2005; *Elements of Literature*, Introductory, Holt Rinehart Winston, 2004; *Write Source*, Sebrenek/ Kemper/ Meyer, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005, and selected novels.

Social Studies 6

Full Year

Course Description: A study of ancient lands and civilizations, from prehistory through the Roman Empire, the student is introduced to the people, geography, culture, and continuing legacies of early lands and civilizations through differentiated instruction. Some of the themes studied are early Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt and sub-Saharan Africa, the early Indus Valley, Ancient China, Ancient Greece, the Roman Empire, and Kuwait and The Arab World. Resources: Glencoe, TCI, and Book 3 *Kuwait and the Arab World*.

Science 6

Full Year

Course Description: Grade 6 science is the first of a three-year science program that places an emphasis on experiments, scientific reasoning, and questioning the physical world around us. The course also supports a balance between cooperative learning and independent study. Topics include: **Introduction to Physics** – motion, forces, work and machines, and energy and power. **Earth Science** - plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, minerals, rocks, ocean currents, and weather patterns. Resources: "Motion, Forces, and Energy", *Science Explorer*, Prentice Hall "Inside Earth", *Science Explorer*, Prentice Hall

Math 6

Full Year

Course Description: Grade 6 math centers on manipulating whole numbers, decimals, fractions, ratios, and percents and applying them to real-life problems. The topics of surface area, measurement using the metric system, probability, and patterning will also be covered. Simple algebra is integrated in all areas of study and students are expected to think critically and solve problems with the skills they acquire, as well as demonstrate understanding by using mathematic vocabulary appropriate to the grade level. Resources: *Course 1 Math*, McDougal Littell Middle School

Physical Education / Health 6

Full Year

Course Description: Physical Education and Health are combined at the American School of Kuwait to provide the students with a wide variety of well balanced Healthy Living experiences.

Through a rotation of sport facilities students will be exposed to an array of fitness challenges, skill-development, knowledge, understanding, and an overall appreciation for the daily practice of a healthy lifestyle. Students will participate in many different sports and team building activities such as: soccer, swimming, badminton, basketball, running, volleyball, martial arts, Frisbee, dance, and lacrosse.

During the Health Unit students will realize that their behavior and decisions can impact them both positively and negatively. They will analyze these effects and make their own choices based on their analysis of topics such as, Personal Health, Personal Hygiene, Personal Development, Social Skills and Fitness Related Components.

Arabic 6

Full Year

Course Description: All sixth graders who are native Arabic speakers will be taught reading, writing, grammar, poems, and composition according to the Ministry of Education program. Resources: Provided by the Ministry of Education, Kuwait.

Arabic as a Foreign Language – AFL I, II, III or IV

Full Year

Course Description: All foreign students from grade 6 through grade 8 who are not native Arabic speakers will be taught reading, writing, and conversation according to the Ministry of Education guidelines. Resources: Provided by the Ministry of Education, Kuwait.

Religion 6 (Required for all Muslim Students)

Full Year

Course Description: Grade 6 Muslim Religion emphasizes the fluent reading of the Souras of the Quran and the sayings of the prophet, (PBUH). The students develop skills in interpreting the verses of the Quran and more understanding for the greatness of God's creation, their duties toward brain and body, morals and values, and worshipping that brings people together. Resources: Provided by the Ministry of Education, Kuwait.

Special Religion Grade 6

Full Year

Course Description: Grade 6 Special Muslim Religion follows the same curriculum as Religion 6, but is modified for the non-Arabic speaking student.

GRADE 6 - MUSIC ELECTIVE

(for grade 6 students not required to take religion)

Choir I

Full year

Course Description: Choral classes will involve group instruction of proper breathing techniques and tone development. Students will also learn the basics of rhythmic reading and theory. Participation in public performances and a few after school rehearsals that occur outside of class time is mandatory.

Grade 6 Band

Full Year

Course Description: The grade 6 instrumental music course involves group instrumental instruction for novice level students. Instruction will be offered on the following instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. In addition to performing, students will be exposed to the basics of music theory and history. Participation in public performances that occur outside of class time is mandatory.

GRADE 7 – REQUIRED COURSES

Language Arts 7

Full Year

Course Description: Students will continue with the development of reading, writing, speaking and listening. They will write expository, narrative, persuasive and research essays using 6 + 1 Writing Traits. For the research papers, they will become familiar with “turnitin.com”. The course will deal with a variety of reading materials including novels, short stories and poetry. Resources: *Elements of Literature*, First Course, Holt Rinehart Winston, 2005, and selected novels

Social Studies 7

Full Year

Course Description: This course is a continuation of the social studies program begun in grade 6. It continues the study of civilizations around the world, beginning with Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire (around 500 AD) and then moves on to an examination of Middle Eastern, Asian, African and European civilizations from this time period until the modern era. Critical thinking skills, essay-writing skills, note-taking skills, and communication skills are introduced and developed to provide the student with a better foundation upon which to examine, analyze, and appreciate different people and cultures. Resources: *Human Heritage*, *TCI*, *Kuwait and the Arab World: Book Four*

Science 7

Full

Year

Course Description: Grade 7 science places its focus on two major topics, astronomy and chemistry. A semester is dedicated to each overall topic in order to foster an in-depth learning of the subject areas. Emphasis is placed on experiments, scientific analysis, and a balance between cooperative learning and individual study. Resources: "Astronomy", *Holt Science & Technology*, Holt, Rinehart and Winston

"The Nature of Matter", Glencoe Science, Glencoe McGraw Hill
"Chemistry", Glencoe Science, Glencoe McGraw Hill

Math 7

Full

Year

Course Description: This course begins with a review of basic skills and builds on topics which were covered in grade 6. The class then moves into integers, solving basic one and two step equations, fractions and decimals. Concepts of pre-algebra are introduced during the second semester. The final quarter is an introduction to percents, ratios and ultimately, geometry. Problem solving and critical thinking skills are a major part of the program. Resources: *Course 3 Math*, McDougal Littell Middle School

Physical Education/Health 7

Full Year

Course Description: Physical Education and Health are combined at the American School of Kuwait to provide the students with a wide variety of well balanced Healthy Living experiences.

Through a rotation of sport facilities students will be exposed to an array of fitness challenges, skill-development, knowledge, understanding, and an overall appreciation for the daily practice of a healthy lifestyle. Students will participate in many different sports and team building activities such as: soccer, swimming, badminton, basketball, running, volleyball, martial arts, Frisbee, dance, and lacrosse.

During the Health Unit students will realize that their behavior and decisions can impact them both positively and negatively. They will analyze these effects and make their own choices based on their analysis of topics such as, Nutrition, Body Functions & Physiology, and Lifestyle Diseases.

Arabic 7

Full Year

Course Description: All seventh graders who are native Arabic speakers will be taught reading, writing, grammar, poems, and composition according to the Ministry of Education program.

Resources: Provided by the Ministry of Education, Kuwait.

Arabic as a Foreign Language – AFL I, II, III or IV

Full Year

Course Description: All foreign students from grade 6 through grade 8 who are not native Arabic speakers will be taught reading, writing, and conversation according to the Ministry of Education guidelines.

Resources: Provided by the Ministry of Education, Kuwait.

Religion 7 (Required for all Muslim Students)

Full Year

Course Description: Grade 7 Muslim Religion emphasizes more understanding of the Holy Quran and the Hadith through studying of some verses of the Quran and sayings of the prophet (PBUH). The course also emphasizes more understanding of duties, Islamic characters, and behaviors.

Resources: Provided by the Ministry of Education, Kuwait.

Special Religion Grade 7

Full Year

Course Description: Grade 7 Special Muslim Religion follows the same curriculum as Religion 7, but is modified for the non-Arabic speaking student.

**Note: Elective courses for grade 7 are the same as those for grade 8.
The course descriptions for the grade 7 and grade 8 electives
follow the grade 8 required course section in this booklet.**

GRADE 8 – REQUIRED COURSES

Language Arts 8

Full Year

Course Description: Grade 8 language arts helps prepare students for high school English courses. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills are taught using an interdisciplinary approach and cooperative learning strategies which complement a more traditional teaching and learning style. The basics of grammar, in particular sentence structure, are reviewed so the students can apply them to the writing process. Student writing will focus on the development of a proper, formal writing style and a logical presentation of ideas. In addition, students will be reading and analyzing a variety of literary genres. The 6 + 1 Writing Traits are taught and used school-wide.

Resources: *Elements of Literature, Second Course*, Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, Inc.

Heath Grammar and Composition with a Process Approach to Writing, Second Course, D.C. Heath & Co.

Write Source 2000, Sebranek, Meyer, & Kemper, and other selected trade books and novels.

Honor's Language Arts 8

Full Year

Prerequisite: B+ or above in English 7, demonstrated success on a writing prompt and a teacher's recommendation.

Course Description: This class helps prepare students for high school English courses, and offers enrichment activities that will eventually prepare students to take challenging AP English classes in high school. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills are taught using an interdisciplinary approach and cooperative learning strategies which complement a more traditional teaching and learning style. Student writing will focus on the development of a proper, formal writing style and a logical presentation of ideas. Honor's level classes will read from a variety of literary genres and focus on an-depth analysis of literature. The 6 + 1 Writing Traits are taught and used school-wide.

Social Studies 8

Full Year

Course Description: This grade 8 American history course takes the knowledge acquired in previous American history courses and develops it into a clear understanding of early American history. Through interactive presentations, cooperative learning, and experiential exercises, this class covers topics in American history including early colonization, the Declaration of Independence, the American Revolution, the Constitution, Westward Expansion, the Industrial Revolution, the American Civil War and Reconstruction. The geography and cultures of various regions is explored throughout. The second part of this course follows in high school. Resources: *History: Beginnings through Reconstruction*. McDougal Littell

Science 8

Full Year

Course Description: Grade 8 science is a year-long course covering the fundamentals of life science, focusing on three major topics: cellular biology, diversity of all living things, and ecology. The cellular biology unit covers structure and function of the cell (the basic unit of life), including cellular division, basic genetics, and the structure of DNA. A second unit focuses on the diversity of all living things, beginning with bacteria, through the plant

kingdom, and finally ending in a study of higher-level animals. The third and final unit in our study of life science is the field of ecology. This unit emphasizes the concept that all living things are interconnected and depend on one another for survival. Emphasis is placed on scientific analysis, experimental design, project-based learning, and a balance between cooperative learning and individual study. Resources: *Life's Structure and Function*, Glencoe Science. *From Bacteria to Plants*, Glencoe Science. *Animal Diversity*, Glencoe Science. *Ecology*, Glencoe Science.

Pre-Algebra 8

Full Year

Course Description: This pre-algebra course covers material that helps the students' transition into an Algebra I high school course. The students begin the year working with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division equations and solving these equations by using inverse operations and a two-step format. Number properties, integers, exponents and sums, differences, products and quotients of fractions are then presented with the emphasis being on the use of variables. As the course comes to a close, more variable work involving the manipulation of variables in tandem with rational numbers, ratio, proportion and percent, graphing, geometry and probability and statistics are presented. Resources: *Pre-Algebra*, McDougal Little (2005).

Algebra 8

Full Year

Course Description: Algebra 8 is identical to 9th Grade Algebra 1. The course is designed such that students are encouraged to think critically, to ask questions and to understand the importance of math as it applies to real-world situations. Algebra is a branch of mathematics in which variables are substituted for unknown values to solve a particular problem. Within this context, the course will develop number theory concepts as well as the study of linear equations and inequalities. Equation manipulation (finding "x") and graphing skills are basic components of Algebra 8. The understanding of functions is also developed. This includes the study of quadratic, exponential and polynomial functions as well as factoring polynomial equations. The course integrates probability, statistics and geometry into the algebra. Teacher placement recommendations and a satisfactory score on the algebra aptitude test required. Resources: *Algebra I*, McDougal Littell (2004).

Physical Education/Health 8

Full Year

Course Description: Physical Education and Health are combined at the American School of Kuwait to provide the students with a wide variety of well balanced Healthy Living experiences.

Through a rotation of sport facilities students will be exposed to an array of fitness challenges, skill-development, knowledge, understanding, and an overall appreciation for the daily practice of a healthy lifestyle. Students will participate in many different sports and team building activities such as: soccer, swimming, badminton, basketball, running, volleyball, martial arts, Frisbee, dance, and lacrosse.

During the Health Unit students will realize that their behavior and decisions can impact them both positively and negatively. They will analyze these effects and make their own choices

based on their analysis of topics such as, Body Image, Substance Abuse, Self-esteem, Social and Consumer Health, Safety and the Environment

Arabic 8

Full Year

Course Description: All grade 8 students who are native Arabic speakers will be taught reading, writing, grammar, and composition according to the Ministry of Education program. Resources: Provided by the Ministry of Education, Kuwait.

Arabic as a Foreign Language – AFL I, II, III, IV or V

Full Year

Course Description: All foreign students from grade 6 to 8 who are not native Arabic speakers will be taught reading, writing, and conversation according to the Ministry of Education guidelines. Resources: Provided by the Ministry of Education, Kuwait.

Religion 8 (Required for all Muslim Students)

Full Year

Course Description: Grade 8 religion emphasizes strong communication between students and their religion. Through the recitation and the understanding of verses of the Quran, the study of al-Hadith, the continued study of the life of the prophet (PBUH), and the lives of great Muslim men and women, students will reflect on the greatness of their religion. Areas covered include good morals and values, duties toward others, and the different Ebadat that strengthen the relations between Muslims. Resources: Provided by the Ministry of Education, Kuwait.

Special Religion Grade 8

Full Year

Course Description: Grade 8 Special Muslim Religion follows the same curriculum as Religion 8, but is modified for the non-Arabic speaking student.

GRADE 7 and 8 – ELECTIVE COURSES

Notes: *Elective course offerings are dependent upon adequate enrollment. Students are expected to take a semester course from both Information Technology and the Arts.*

Foreign Languages

Middle School French I

Semester

Course Description: French I is a one-semester course designed to introduce students to the language and culture of the French speaking world. It starts by developing four important language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The emphasis of the course is to give students a working vocabulary on everyday themes in a communicative context to explore the basic structure of French grammar and model correct pronunciation. The focus is on communication, written exercises, pair-group work, projects, role-playing, songs, videos, oral presentations and games. The study of the French speaking world is aimed at increasing the students' intercultural awareness. Students become acquainted with the French culture through the content of the class project work, short reading in English, cultural activities and videos.

Middle School French II

Semester

Prerequisite: A grade of C or above in Middle School French I and/or Instructor recommendation.

Course Description: French II is a one-semester course designed to continue developing important language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The emphasis of the course is on communication and comprehension, which allows students to express themselves in simple conversation in a variety of situations in their daily lives. The course continues to build the vocabulary base, introducing words within context, as well as the grammar base, and introducing more complex grammatical structures. A variety of formats are used, including listening and comprehension, written and oral exercises, short compositions, pair-group work, art projects, role playing, songs, videos, oral presentations and games. Students continue to learn about the French speaking world through projects, readings, videos and cultural activities.

Middle School French III

Semester

Prerequisite: A grade of C+ or above in Middle School French II and/or Instructor recommendation.

Course Description: French III is a one-semester course that emphasizes oral conversation and comprehension. The focus is on developing basic communication skills and the ability to use French creatively for self-expression with a special emphasis on daily-life themes. The oral skills and vocabulary building are greatly expanded. The essentials of grammar continue to be introduced by using structured and guided practice as well as open-ended activities.

The course continues to develop reading skills through reading short passages in French and writing skills by writing simple but original text. The format of the class remains varied in order to stimulate and encourage active student participation. Students continue to explore the culture of the French speaking world through projects, presentations, cultural activities and videos.

It is anticipated that some students may be eligible, upon completion of Middle School French III with a grade of B+ or better, to proceed to the second year of high school French. However, the permission to do so will be based on exit testing and teacher recommendation.

Middle School Spanish I

Semester

Course Description: Spanish I is designed to begin the development of the important language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The emphasis of the course is on the acquisition of basic vocabulary within context, simple grammar structure and the initial development of oral proficiency. Students become acquainted with the Hispanic world through the content of the class projects, oral presentations, short readings, video presentations and discussions in English.

A variety of formats are used from structured and guided practice to open-ended activities, including pair-group work, role playing, written exercises, songs, games, art projects and cultural activities. The class has a highly interactive format and students are encouraged to participate actively in their learning.

Middle School Spanish II

Semester

Prerequisite: A grade of C or above in Middle School Spanish I and/or Instructor recommendation.

Course Description: Spanish II is a one-semester course that is designed to continue developing important language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The emphasis of the course is on communication and comprehension, which allows students to express themselves in simple conversation in a variety of situations in their daily lives.

Students continue to expand their vocabulary acquisition within the context as well as the grammatical structure. A variety of formats are used including pair-group work, role-playing, written exercises, short compositions, oral presentations, games, songs and other activities. Students will continue to learn about the Hispanic world through cultural activities, projects, presentations, readings and videos.

Middle School Spanish III

Semester

Prerequisite: A grade of C+ or above in Middle School Spanish II and/or Instructor recommendation.

Course Description: Spanish III is a one-semester course that emphasizes oral comprehension and conversation. The course has adopted a practical approach to make communication more relevant to the students' lives and interests. The essentials of grammar continue to be introduced through structured and guided practice. The students' oral skills and vocabulary building are greatly expanded. The focus of the course is also on developing reading skills through reading short passages in Spanish. The students begin to write simple but original text in Spanish in order to develop proficiency in writing skills. The format of the class remains varied in order to stimulate and encourage active student participation. The study of Hispanic culture is integrated with basic course content in order to stimulate cultural awareness. Students continue to explore the Spanish-speaking world through projects, presentations, discussions, cultural activities and videos.

It is anticipated that some students may be eligible, upon completion of Middle School Spanish III with a grade of B+ or better, to proceed to the second year of high school Spanish. However, the permission to do so will be based on exit testing and teacher recommendation.

Graphic Arts

Foundations of Art

Semester

*****Recommended for Grade 7 students**

Course Description: This course is designed to offer students the opportunity to sample a variety of artistic media and techniques, such as pencil, charcoal, watercolor, acrylic paint and clay. Emphasis will be placed on the development of skills, perception and an awareness of the role played by the visual arts in global societies. Students will learn the elements and principles of design. It is the intention of the department that the students gain enough experience to enable them to select one of the specialized art electives. The course is structured within the four artistic disciplines of art history, art aesthetics, art criticism and art production.

Ceramics and Pottery I

Semester

Prerequisite: One semester of Foundations of Art and Permission of Instructor

Course Description: This course will allow the student an opportunity to explore the creative possibilities available with ceramic clay. Emphasis will be placed on hand building techniques and the creative use of the medium.

Ceramics and Pottery II

Semester

Prerequisite: One semester of Ceramics I and teacher approval.

Course Description: This course will build on skills acquired in Ceramics I.

Students will develop their hand building skills along with using the wheel. Emphasis will be on creativity and skill.

Drawing and Painting

Semester

Prerequisite: One semester of Foundations of Art and Permission of Instructor

Course Description: This course will allow the student to experiment with a variety of drawing and painting media and techniques such as pencil, charcoal, water color, and acrylic. The program is structured within the four artistic disciplines: art history, art production, art criticism and art aesthetics. Emphasis will be placed on the development of perception through drawing and painting from observation, as well as on eye-hand coordination skills.

Sculpture

Semester

Prerequisite: One semester of Foundations of Art and Permission of Instructor. **Course Description:** This course will allow the student to experiment with a variety of three dimensional media, such as plaster, wire, wood, metal, glass and paper mache. Emphasis will be placed on art production and creative use of the media. Students should be prepared for several group projects and to reflect on their work.

Information Technology

Newspaper

Full Year

Prerequisites: Teacher and Administration Approval

Course Description: Students will gain an understanding of the basics of TV-journalism through storyboarding, filming, and video editing. They will gain practical use of industry level video editing software. Students will learn the basics of photography, filming, and sound mixing. Students will create a monthly video pod cast that will be featured at the middle school student assembly and which will be broadcast on the ASK website. Students must be motivated, responsible and confident with technology.

Yearbook

Full Year

Prerequisite: Teacher and Administration Approval

Course Description: Students will learn basic photography skills as well as graphic design skills using both PhotoShop and InDesign. Focus on the layout and design of the Middle School yearbook will be the on-going project this class will tackle. Students will be required to work outside of class as photographers at various Middle School events. This is an advanced course for self-motivated and confident students (recommended GPA is 3.0 or higher) and access to a digital camera is recommended.

Photoshop

Semester

Course Description: This course will introduce students to the industry standard graphics manipulation program Adobe Photoshop. Emphasis will be placed usability, navigation, familiarity, and practical use of Photoshop in everyday life. Students will learn about contrast, color & level adjustments, basic photo corrections, use of selection tools and layer basics. Students will complete a series of self-paced lessons along with instructor-led assignments culminating in a quarter ending final project.

Illustrator

Semester

Course Description: This course will introduce students to the industry standard graphics manipulation program Adobe Illustrator. Emphasis will be placed usability, navigation, familiarity, and practical use of Illustrator in everyday life. Students will learn about object transformation and order/placement, appearance and style and type manipulation. Students will complete a series of self-paced lessons along with instructor-led assignments culminating in a quarter ending final project.

ASK Radio

Semester

Course Description: Students will learn the skills involved in the creating the ASK MS Podcast. Skills for this radio program include: interview techniques, vocal inflection, digitizing and mixing of audio, appreciation of appropriate musical beds, and creating quality radio segments. Assignments will include recording, producing and distributing the radio Podcast on the internet for the student body, major research projects and creating episodes of the ASK MS Podcast.

Computer Literacy

Course Description: In this course, students will become familiar with the terminology, parts and functions of basic personal computer. Students will discover how to use computers and technology in order to enhance their academic performance while at the same time become more familiar with the various functions of different word processing and presentation programs such as Microsoft PowerPoint and Microsoft Publisher. They will learn how to give that research paper an "academic edge." With the skills students develop in this course, they are bound to be more successful and better prepared for the subjects they will encounter as they move through their academic and daily lives.

Stop - Motion Animation

Semester

Course Description: Students will be introduced to the software and techniques involved in creating: silent cartoons, 3-D subject silent animations, human subject animations, reality manipulation (anti-gravity, green-screen, etc.), and Claymation® film. Students will create a portfolio of stop-motion animation videos that can form a basis for further film study. Students will understand how technology is used to efficiently communicate a message. Students will analyze each other's work in order to determine which films will be screened at a Middle School Film Festival assembly for their peers.

Performing Arts

Choir II

Full Year

Course Description: Choral classes will involve group instruction of proper breathing techniques and tone development. The basics of theory will also be covered. Rhythmic reading and rhythmic dictation will be stressed. The focus of this course is to build confidence in sight-reading and performance. Participation in public performances and a few after school rehearsals that occur outside of class time is mandatory. Permission from the instructor is necessary if the student has never been in choir.

Grade 7&8 Novice Band

Full Year

Course Description: The grade 7/8 Novice Band course is intended for students who have very little or no experience on a band instrument. Instruction will be offered on the following instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. In addition to performing, students will be exposed to the basics of music theory and history. Participation in public performances that occur outside of class time is mandatory.

Grade 7&8 Intermediate Band

Full Year

Course Description: The grade 7 and 8 Intermediate Band course involves group instrumental instruction for intermediate level students who have been playing their instrument for a minimum of one year. Instruction will be offered on the following instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. In addition to performing, students will be exposed to the basics of music theory and history. Participation in public performances that occur outside of class time is mandatory.

Drama 1

Semester

Course Description: This is a semester course that explores the fundamentals of improv and play production. Students will delve into speech-making, script-reading, script-writing, and play production. In this course, students will also learn the basics of acting through short-form improv games. The performance component of this course will include the mounting of short plays written and directed by the class as well as short form improv games. We will also look at directing and stage management techniques required to mount a short play. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Drama 2

Semester

Prerequisite: Drama 1

Course Description: This semester course builds on what students have learned in Drama from the previous year. Will we journey into long-form improv games that focus more on character and plot development. Opportunities for script work (writing and/or mounting both original scripts and published scripts) will be available as well. The final production will be an ensemble of work created throughout the semester in the areas of improv and original/scripted plays.

Social Studies Electives

People, Places, and Events of the World

Semester

Course Description: Students will explore the relationship between our physical world and current events with a focus on the wide spectrum of cultures in the world's social fabric. Students will conduct research on current global issues and then share the research in classroom discussions.

Other Curricular Programs

Study Support

Quarter class for Gr 6, Semester class for Gr 7/8

Course Description: Study Support class is scheduled for a small number of students on a core teacher referral basis. Students must meet a select criteria to be eligible including, but not limited to, good classroom behavior, and the ability to use the support class time well. Support class provides one period every other day of homework assistance and study skills.

ESL or Language Support

Semester

Course Description: ASK provides an English as a Second Language (ESL) Program for non-native speakers who are new to ASK and Kuwait and whose English language skills fall below grade level. The ESL program prepares students with the English language skills and competencies needed for content studies in the regular classroom setting. The class focuses on developing skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, in addition to expanding students' vocabulary and knowledge of English grammar. The number of classes needed is based on the student's level of English. Placement of students is determined by the ESL teacher, guidance counselor, and consultation with the Principal. Students exit the ESL program and are scheduled into regular core classes based on the following 3 criteria: proficiency examinations, classroom performance and ESL teacher recommendation