



MIDDLE SCHOOL OPTIONS PROGRAMME

Course Descriptions

Drama – At the beginning of the course all students are confronted with character development. They define and create appropriate characteristics for a role through a set of improvisations, mimes and scripted activities. Next the children study the relationships between actors and audience. Students are also introduced to Criticism & Reviews, meaning that they will respond orally and in writing, to personal, and others' works in drama, gathering others' responses, and comparing the results. They should begin appreciating the fundamental factors which shape and influence the success of a production, and the interdependence of these elements as a real group effort. The bottom line of the course is to envision the theatre experience as an interdependent and complex team effort. Drama students participate in the Middle School Performing Arts show and during the Arts Festival organised by Meritas.

Instrumental Wind - Students have the opportunity to learn a wind instrument or to develop their existing skills as all levels are accepted in the music instrumental class. The instruments concerned are: clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and flute. It is important to note that students must provide their own instrument. Instrumental students perform in the Middle School Music Concerts and Performing Arts Show and during the Arts Festival organised by Meritas.

Instrumental Guitars and Lower Strings – Students have the opportunity to learn guitar or develop their existing skills. All levels, even beginners, are accepted in the class. The guitars include classical, acoustic and electric. Lower strings include bass guitar, cello and double bass, but players on these Guitars and Lower Strings instruments should have some existing skill. Students must provide their own instrument. Instrumental students perform in the Middle School Music Concerts and Performing Arts Show and during the Arts Festival organised by Meritas.

Science Grade 7 - 'How Science discoveries and inventions have shaped our modern world'. This option will touch on topics not covered during obligatory science lessons. These broad topics are Astronomy (study of the stars, moon and planets), Geology (study of the Earth, its rocks, fossils and oceans) and Genetics (study of how characteristics of living things are passed on to the next generation). The approach will focus on the huge discoveries made in these areas by key scientists - e.g. Galileo, Darwin, Mendel and others.

Science Grade 8 – 'How Science discoveries and inventions have shaped our modern world.' This option will touch on topics not covered during obligatory science lessons. These broad topics are Scientific Drawings and Inventions, Modern Inventors, and Scientific Discovery: luck or hard work? The approach will focus on the huge contributions made in these areas by key scientists – e.g. Archimedes, Leonardo, Edison, and Marie Curie.

Français Soutien – Advanced level for bilingual students. The class is designed to build on and support the work carried out in standard French and bilingual classes, focussing on the topics being studied for this year, including grammar topics, vocabulary and spelling. It also looks at developing written and speaking skills, helping students build confidence and progress to the level of French required in the bilingual classes.

Français Langue Etrangère (for non bilingual students) – The class is designed to build on and support the work carried out in standard French classes focussing on the topics being studied for this year, including grammar topics such as past, present and future tenses as well as spelling. It also looks at developing written and speaking skills, helping raise the level of students and build confidence.

Arts and Crafts (grade 7) – This course is a hands-on class which gives the students the opportunity to develop their creativity by hand producing and decorating a variety of objects, thereby developing new skills and techniques. Students are introduced to the art of different cultures from around the world for inspiration, and to increase their awareness of the numerous uses of Art in every day life.

Computers - Students learn how to make visual creations, both in 2 and 3 dimensions. For that matter, they use widely available software such as Google Sketchup or Photoshop. Examples of their creations include houses or modern furniture in 3d or modified pictures of famous people in 2d.

Dance - Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of dance styles. The aims of the course are to enable students to become aware of different dance moves, to become confident in the use of their bodies and to articulate these moves in relation to space and relation to others. The students become aware of various speeds and rhythms of music and movement and learn to apply movements to music. They learn to improvise and to explore personal creativity in order to experience the fun, enjoyment and intensity of dancing and performing. Dance students participate in the Middle School Performing Arts show and during the Arts Festival organised by Meritas.

Global Issues - This new, 'hands – on' style class, is designed to encourage students to take a closer look at the world in which they live by focusing on the most interesting and exciting contemporary world issues. The course intends to make potentially complex ideas, accessible and relevant to the everyday lives of students, with the aim of allowing students to explore their own perception and place, within the modern, ever changing world. Global Issues is ideal for open-minded students, who are interested in becoming well rounded, global citizens.

Journalism (grade 7) - Good level of English required (not for ESL students). In Journalism 7 we focus on the study of journalism theory and practice. This theory includes the 5W's of a news story, different types of articles (i.e. opinion, feature, column, sports), bias in news, and fact vs. opinion. We practice writing different types of articles with the goal of contributing to the Middle School Magazine which is published two times per year.

Journalism (grade 8) - Good level of English required (not for ESL students). In Journalism 8, the aim of the course is to examine and write a variety of journalistic styles. Initiative, style, effort, ICT skills and teamwork are the focus for the years work. As the students practice their writing skills they contribute, manage, edit and market the Middle School Magazine (JAM). This provides students with a first taste of what it is like to be in a journalism team. Throughout the year the students document the events and on goings of the Middle School for the Yearbook. This involves a great deal of photography and design using Photoshop and Picnic. The students take control of the editing decisions and are all made responsible for various sections of the Yearbook.

Music Vocal - Students sing songs from a wide range of styles and genres, learning vocal technique and warm-ups along the way. Concerts, and performance evenings with dance and drama, traditionally make up part of the course and all students taking this option are required to participate in these. Music Vocal students participate in both the concert and the Middle School Performing Arts show and during the Arts Festival organised by Meritas.