

**The American International School of Jeddah
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**

2010 – 2011

Table of Contents

Welcome from the Principal	1
Academic Program Outline	2
Required Courses – Grade 6	3
Required Wheel Courses – Grade 6	4
Electives Courses – Grade 6	5
Required Courses – Grade 7	6
Required Courses – Grade 8	8
Elective Courses – Grade 7 & 8.....	10



P. O. Box 127328
Jeddah 21352
Saudi Arabia
+966 2 662 0051 (Fax)
+966 2 691 2402

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Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to the AISJ Middle School. The 2010-2011 academic year promises to be an extraordinary one filled with challenges both academic and athletic. From academic competitions to exciting tournaments in various sports to instilling a set of core values to promote responsible community and global leaders, AISJ institutes a holistic approach to education.

Our qualified and dedicated teachers are but one aspect of the education students receive at AISJ. Our teachers come from far and wide with an expertise and character which is not easily matched. The curriculum at AISJ is challenging and interesting so as to inspire students to investigate the subject matter in more depth. In addition, AISJ teachers encourage their students to be life long learners. Teachers model the skills of being life long learners by simply modeling that behavior. Furthermore, teachers regularly seek training to enhance their understanding of state of the art educational research and important issues facing education of today thereby affording teachers the opportunity and the knowhow to safeguard the future of AISJ students as the leaders of tomorrow.

Another aspect of even greater import than teachers here at AISJ is YOU, STUDENTS. For our teachers cannot instill a superior education to promote outstanding global citizens without the aid/dedication of our students. Surely the students must strive for excellence. The more students strive, the more the teachers will challenge them in order to maximize their optimum potential. With their potential realized, students will discover an affinity to a particular topic. With the proper encouragement, this affinity will transform into a passion. Passionate students fashion life long habits of the mind from which point anything is possible!

Yet, there is still one aspect which if not present and not actively contributing to our learning environment, is a considerable obstacle to student success. This aspect is the glue that binds the lessons students learn from their teachers at home. Thus, integral to education is the degree in which parents encourage and challenge their children. Parental involvement is necessary to the equation of personal, academic, and athletic success of AISJ students. Parental support and participation in school related functions/activities as well as their child's daily life is directly related to student success. Therefore, it is immensely important that AISJ teachers and students receive your support as parents. We, TEACHERS, STUDENTS, and PARENTS are all just one team playing a game called life in which the winner is the one who is wiser, healthier, and happier.

I am indeed honored and privileged to be a part of this exciting time and look forward to working with each an every one of you so that you may reach your goals in Middle School, High School, University, and BEYOND!

Derek Jerrier
Middle/High School Assistant Principal (Ext. 282)

Academic Program Outline

Grade 6

Required Program

Language Arts
Science
Social Studies
Math
Physical Education
MOE Arabic or AFL

Introductory Wheel:

Intro. to French
Computer Literacy
Intro. to Spanish
Writing Workshop

Elective Program:

Choice: Chorus / Band /
Islamic Studies / My Personal Project /
Literary Magazine/Art

Grade 7

Required Program

Language Arts
Science
Social Studies
Math or Pre-Algebra
Physical Education
MOE Arabic or AFL

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

Grade 8

Required Program

Language Arts
Science
Social Studies
Pre-Algebra or Algebra
Physical Education
MOE Arabic or AFL

Required Courses – Grade 6

Language Arts 6:

Full Year

Course Description: Students will receive an integrated language arts program including reading, writing, listening, speaking and grammar. In reading, students will be exposed to various genres through short stories, shorter works of fiction, and novels. Writing is integrated with literature as well as with social studies and science, incorporating varied forms of writing according to purpose. Speaking skills are developed through practical experiences such as classroom discussions, small group interactions and presentations. Students will also apply grammar lessons to all aspects of the language arts program.

Resources: Wind by the Sea, Silver Burdett Ginn; English, Houghton Mifflin and selected novels

Social Studies 6:

Full Year

Course Description: A study of ancient lands and civilizations from prehistory through the Middle Ages. Through differentiated instruction the student is introduced to the people, geography, culture, and continuing legacies of early lands and civilizations. Some of the themes studied are Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Indus River Valley, Ancient China, Ancient Greece, the Roman Empire, and the Middle Ages.

Resources: The World, Harcourt Brace

Science 6:

Full Year

Course Description: This course includes the study of life processes, structure and activities of cells, and flowering plants. Students trace the changes and interaction of living things. The behavior of light, sound, and electricity, as well as elements, compounds, and chemical and nuclear changes are investigated. The earth science unit presents an overview of the ocean, weather, solar system, and movements of the Earth's plates. This course concludes with an extensive introduction to Newton's Law of Motion and how machines work.

Resources: Science, Harcourt, 2000

Math 6:

Full Year

Course Description: This course emphasizes the concepts and operations of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, integers, percents, ratios and proportions, factors and measurement. Topics that are either introduced or extended include: place value, ordering, problem solving, algebraic expressions and one variable equations, relationships between and conversion of numbers expressed as fractions, decimals and percentages, perimeter, areas, volume, measurement of angles, collection and graphing of data and estimation. Technology will be incorporated throughout the curriculum.

Resources: Mathematics: Applications and Concepts, Course 1; msmath1.net; Glencoe, 2006

Physical Education 6:

Full Year

Course Description: This course is designed to expose students to a variety of team and individual sports. Fitness and sportsmanship are emphasized as well as friendly competition. Active participation and proper dress are required.

Native Arabic 6:

Full Year

Course Description: Arabic 6 is a continuation of the Arabic language class taken in grade 5. Students will learn phonetics, grammar and spelling as well as develop reading, listening and writing skills in the Arabic language through a variety of learning strategies. Furthermore, students will be introduced to several Arabic speaking cultures from around the world. The Ministry of Education minimal curriculum requirements for Arabic/Islamic Civilization and History/Geography of KSA will be included in class.

Resources: Uhibb Al Arabiyyah, Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, Riyadh

Arabic as a Foreign Language – AFL 6 - Beginning / Intermediate / Advance Full Year

Course Description: Non-native Arabic speakers will be taught reading, writing, and conversational Arabic language using the Ministry of Education's recommended curriculum materials. The Ministry of Education minimal curriculum requirements for Arabic and Islamic civilization will be included in class.

Resources: *Uhibb Al Arabiyyah*, Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, Riyadh

Note: Placement in AFL A, B, or C will be based on student level of understanding of Arabic language and teacher recommendation.

Required Wheel Courses – Grade 6

Computer 6: One Quarter

Course Description: This is an introductory class to computers. The students will briefly explore Microsoft Office programs such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. The focus will be on keyboarding each day.

Introduction to World Languages 6: One Quarter

Course Description: This course is designed to give students an overview of the French and Spanish languages and cultures in a fun, interactive environment. The languages taught focus on basic vocabulary and simple phrases such as greetings, introductions, family members, numbers, colors, weather expressions, calendar, food, classroom settings, and more. In doing so, students begin to develop the study skills needed to learn a second language, but in a comfortable environment. The format of the class is a blend between guided practice and open activities. Some strategies used include games, songs, role-playing, art projects, and cultural immersion. The class is highly interactive, with students participating in their own learning.

Introduction to Visual Arts 6: One Quarter

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to the visual arts. The course is structured to include the four artistic disciplines of art history, art esthetics, art production, and art criticism. Students will have opportunities to experiment with a variety of artistic media and techniques.

Writing Workshop: One Quarter

Course Description: This one quarter class is designed to strengthen and reinforce the individual student's writing skills. Students will learn and apply writing improvement strategies that will support regular language arts instruction with work on mechanics, content, organization, and the overall writing process.

Electives Courses - Grade 6

Chorus 6:

Semester

Course Description: This class is designed for the beginning choral student. Students will be provided the opportunity to sing, perform and develop musicianship skills. Students will be expected to participate in public performances that occur outside of class time.

MS Band 6:

Full Year

Course Description: This grade 6 instrumental music course involves group instrumental instruction for novice level students who want to learn how to play an 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. Joining class is a full year commitment. There will be an instrument rental fee charged for instruments provided by the school.

Islamic Studies A:

Semester

Course Description: Islamic studies is taught in English and gives progressively more detail on the following subjects: Tawheed, Qur'an, Hadeeth, Fiqh, Seerah/History. Additional activities are included to supplement theory and practice.

Literary Magazine:

Semester

Course Description: This grade 6 elective class will explore a variety of literary works. Students will write in many different modes such as poetry, short stories, essays, etc. At the end of this semester course, students will produce a comprehensive literary magazine that will include written pieces and accompanying complementary artwork, all produced by grade 6 students.

My Personal Project (Kids Involved in the Community):

Semester

Course Description: The goal of this class is to become aware of social issues and become a socially active member of the community (to KIC it). The outcome of this project is the development of an outreach program to assist the global or local community (and KIC them). Students will watch videos and documentaries, and complete assigned readings to learn about human rights and environmental issues. They will then select a topic of personal interest (as a group), and be trained with the following leadership skills: proposal writing, setting meeting agendas, running an effective meeting, goal setting, and selecting and utilizing appropriate sources for research. Possible topics may include poverty, war, children's rights, and environmental issues. The end result will be an initiative that is actively pursued for the final three months of the semester.

Required Courses – Grade 7

Language Arts 7:

Full Year

Course Description: Grade 7 English/Language Arts students pursue the continued development of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The students will develop narrative, persuasive, and expository writing emphasizing all stages of the writing process. Students will articulate and use grammatical and mechanical conventions of writing. This course will put an emphasis on reading and appreciation of literature by exposing the students to a variety of reading materials including novels, non-fiction, short stories, myths, and poetry. Through reading and writing, the students will continue to expand their foundation of grammar rules, vocabulary acquisition, and spelling.

Resources: Elements of Literature; Harcourt Brace; English; Houghton Mifflin; in addition, various novels and outside reading materials.

Social Studies 7:

Full Year

Course Description: This course introduces students to major ideas, concepts, events, history and people throughout the continents of Europe and Asia. The class will thoroughly examine the diverse political, economic, geographic and social forces of the two continents. The course is designed to develop general social studies skills in relation to the geographic area through the study of maps, geography, primary documents, historical and current events.

Resources: World Studies, Medieval Times to Today, Prentice Hall; World Studies, Europe and Russia, Prentice Hall; and World Studies, Asia and the Pacific; Prentice Hall

Science 7:

Full Year

Course Description: Seventh grade science focuses on three major areas of science: life science (molecules and life at a cellular level), physical science (forces and energy), and earth science (earth materials and resources). Students experience activities with an emphasis on problem solving, investigation, and technology. In this process, data is collected and knowledge is applied to analyze and explain the results.

Resources: Science Interactions, Course 2, Glencoe, McGraw-Hill

Math 7:

Full Year

Course Description: This math class reviews the concepts and operations of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, integers, percents, ratios and proportion, factors and measurements. Topics that are either introduced or extended include, algebraic expressions and one variable equations, integers, square roots, rates, graphing, area, volume, symmetry, and congruency.

Resources: Math, Course 2, Prentice Hall

Physical Education 7:

Full Year

Course Description: The emphasis of the physical education program is on physical fitness, including basic skills and tactical development in a variety of team and individual activities. Sportsmanship and friendly competition are stressed in physical education.

Native Arabic 7:

Full Year

Course Description: Arabic 7 is a continuation of the introduction to the Arabic language taken in grade 6. Students will learn phonetics, grammar and spelling as well as develop reading, listening and writing skills in the Arabic language through a variety of learning strategies. Furthermore, students will be introduced to several Arabic speaking cultures from around the world. The Ministry of Education minimal curriculum requirements for Arabic/Islamic Civilization and History/Geography of KSA will be included in class.

Resources: Uhibb Al Arabiyyah, Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, Riyadh

Arabic as a Foreign Language – AFL 7 - Beginning / Intermediate / Advance: Full Year

Course Description: Non-native Arabic speakers will be taught reading, writing, and conversational Arabic language using the Ministry of Education's recommended curriculum materials. The Ministry of Education minimal curriculum requirements for Arabic/Islamic Civilization and History/Geography of KSA will be included in class.

Resources: *Uhibb Al Arabiyyah*, Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, Riyadh

Note: *Placement in AFL A, B, or C will be based on student level of understanding of Arabic language and teacher recommendation.*

Required Courses – Grade 8

Language Arts 8:

Full Year

Course Description: The Grade 8 English/Language Arts course 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, sentence structure in particular, are reviewed so that 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. Students will also be introduced to the process of writing research papers with an emphasis on locating information, correctly citing sources, and organizing information into proper format. The literature focus is continued with the study of short stories, novels, non-fiction, and poetry. Oral readings and speech presentations are introduced to help students develop self-confidence and appropriate speech patterns.

Resources: *Elements of Literature*; Harcourt Brace; *English*, Houghton Mifflin; In addition, various novels and outside reading materials.

Social Studies 8:

Full Year

Course Description: This course introduces students to major ideas, concepts, events, history and people throughout the continents of North America, South America and Africa. The class will thoroughly examine the diverse political, economic, geographic and social forces of the three continents. The course is designed to develop general social studies skills in relation to the geographic area through the study of maps, geography, primary documents, historical and current events.

Resources: *World Studies Medieval Times to Today*, Prentice Hall; and *World Studies, Africa*; Prentice Hall

Science 8:

Full Year

Course Description: This course continues the middle school science program and prepares students for the high school program. This course covers topics in life science, physical science, and Earth science such as electricity and magnetism, atoms and molecules, changes in life and the Earth over time, planets, stars and galaxies, and our fluid environment. Students are encouraged to become life long learners through inquiry, investigation, problem solving, and the use of technology.

Resources: *Science Interactions, Course 3*, Glencoe, McGraw-Hill

Math 8:

Full Year

Course Description: Pre-Algebra is a transition from general to abstract arithmetic. Concepts of numbers are expanded by developing an understanding of real numbers as applied to algebraic ideas. This course progresses from numerical expressions to elementary equations, functions, inequalities and graphing. Other topics include probability, ratio, and proportion, percentages, and basic plane geometry. Emphasis is on applying properties, identities, rules and language while learning basic algebraic concepts and problem solving skills.

Resources: *Math, Course 3*, Prentice Hall

Algebra 8:

Full Year

Pre-requisite: *Students selected for this opportunity must pass the Algebra placement test taken at the end of grade 7 with a score of 85% or better; have a grade 7 math average of B (83%) for the year and teacher recommendation due to demonstrated excellent work habits.*

Course Description: This accelerated grade 8 Math class is a first year Algebra course. This course lays the foundation for higher-level mathematics classes. Students will review algebraic expressions, equations, and operations with negative numbers, distribution, as well as axioms and other properties. The students begin to work with quadratic equations and equations containing two variables. This leads into graphing on the Cartesian coordinate system and solving systems of equations. The course comes to a close with the

introduction of rational algebraic expressions and algebraic fractions with the possibility of touching on functions and advanced topics in algebra. *NOTE: NO High School credit will be earned for this class.

Physical Education 8:

Full Year

Course Description: The emphasis of the physical education program is on physical fitness, skill acquisition, and tactical development in a variety of team and individual activities. Sportsmanship and friendly competition are stressed in physical education. Active participation and proper dress are required.

Native Arabic 8:

Full Year

Course Description: This course provides an opportunity for students to explore and develop their language abilities in Arabic. Students will learn phonetics, grammar and spelling as well as develop reading, listening and writing skills in the Arabic language through a variety of learning strategies. Students will continue to learn basic grammar and vocabulary as well as develop a greater awareness of Arabic cultures. The objectives are to converse, read, and write utilizing the basics that are taught. Students are evaluated on both oral and written proficiency. The Ministry of Education minimal curriculum requirements for Arabic/ Islamic Civilization and History/Geography of KSA will be included in class.

Resources: *Uhibb Al Arabiyyah*, Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, Riyadh

Arabic as a Foreign Language – AFL 8 - Beginning / Intermediate / Advance:

Full Year

Course Description: Non-native Arabic speakers will be taught reading, writing, and conversational Arabic language using the Ministry of Educations recommended curriculum materials. The Ministry of Education minimal curriculum requirements for Arabic/Islamic Civilization and History/Geography of KSA will be included in class.

Resources: *Uhibb Al Arabiyyah*, Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, Riyadh

Note: *Placement in AFL A, B, or C will be based on student level of understanding of Arabic language and teacher recommendation.*

Elective Courses – Grade 7 & 8

Basic Art 7/8

Semester

Course Description: This course is an introductory visual arts class that will allow students to experiment with a variety of drawing and painting. Art is also the place where students can explore creative activities and possibilities. We will also use clay plaster ceramics. Emphasis will be placed on development of skills and on hand building techniques. The class is structured within the three artistic disciplines of art production, art criticism, and art aesthetics.

Chorus 7 & 8:

Semester

Course Description: The course is a continuation of grade 6 Chorus. This class is a participatory class with group instruction. The basics of music theory will also be covered. Students will continue to develop their musicianship through singing in class and at public performances.

Computer Science:

Semester

Course Description: This student-paced, project-based course is designed to provide the necessary skills and training for an entry-level position in the field of Computer Science. Course grades will be based primarily on the success in completing projects in the classroom and the development of their portfolio.

This class can not be repeated.

Drawing & Painting - Advance Art:

Semester

Pre-requisite: *One semester of Basic Art 7/8 or permission of the instructor if space is available*

Course Description: This course will allow the students to experiment with a variety of drawing and painting media and techniques. Emphasis will be placed on the development of perception through drawing from observation, as well as on eye-hand coordination skills. Additional art mediums will be explored.

Environmental Science:

Semester

Course Description: Using the scientific process, students will use hands-on activities to explore and investigate the issues surrounding environmental science. This course will combine topics from life science, physical science and Earth science. Students will learn about, environmental problems, water and related issues, atmosphere and climate problems, land and related issues, endangered species and efforts to prevent extinctions, different types of energy, population growth, and different ecosystems.

Mystical Mythology:

Semester

Course Description: In this semester class, students will explore the rich history of Greek, Roman, Celtic, Nordic (Vikings), and other mythological beginnings. We will examine the major myths and analyze the gods, mythological beliefs, and how their societies and beliefs shaped our world. Come join us as we venture into the English realm of King Arthur and Excalibur, the Viking's Valkyries, Greek gods of Mt. Olympus, to the Romans who worshipped gods for everything from victory in battle to door hinges.

MS Band 7/8:

Full Year

Course Description: This course involves group instrumental instruction for experienced students who have been playing their instrument for a minimum of one year. Instruction will be offered on the following instruments: flutes, clarinets, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba, and percussions. In addition to performing, students will be exposed to the basics of music theory and history. Class and public performances that occur outside of class time are mandatory.

Islamic Studies B (Continuation of Islamic Studies A):

Grade Seven First Semester

Course Description: Islamic Studies Level B is continuation from Grade 6 Islamic Studies. During this semester the students in Islamic Studies-level 2, will study all of the categories of Islamic Studies (Tawheed, Hadeeth, Fiqh, Seerah, Quran, & Tafseer), but at a progressive level. Some of the topics taught will be: Wudhoo; Ghusul; Toilet Manners; Tayammum; Salah; Male / Female Physical Development & Puberty Issues; Tafseer Surat al Ma'oon; Hajj; Umrah; Zakat; Fasting; The sources of Islamic law; Women In Islam; True repentance; 3 Conditions for our deeds to accepted by Allah. As far as Quranic assignments are concerned, students will memorize & recite the Surahs by heart (according to their individual levels).

Islamic Studies C (Continuation of Islamic Studies B)

Grade Seven Second Semester

During this semester the students in Islamic Studies-level 2, will continue to study all of the categories of Islamic Studies (Tawheed, Hadeeth, Fiqh, Seerah, Quran, & Tafseer), but at a progressive level. Some of the topics taught will be: The categories of Tawheed; The sources of the Islamic law; A few of the prominent companions; A collection of Ahadeeth for level 2; effects of making duaa; Tafseer of Surat al Ma'oon; Backgrounds, causes and lessons from the battles of Badr and Uhud; A few facts and virtues of the glorious Quran. As far as Quranic assignments are concerned, students will memorize & recite the Surahs by heart (according to their individual levels).

Islamic Studies D (Continuation of Islamic Studies C):

Grade Eight First Semester

Islamic Studies Level C is continuation from Grade 7(Level B) Islamic Studies. During this semester the students in Islamic Studies-level 3, will continue to study all of the categories of Islamic Studies (Tawheed, Hadeeth, Fiqh, Seerah, Quran, & Tafseer), but at a progressive level. Some of the topics taught will be: TAWHEED; Fasting; I'tikaaf; Qiyaam Al – layl; Zakat; Fatima Az Zahra (R); Women In Islam; True repentance. As far as Quranic assignments are concerned, students will memorize & recite the Surahs by heart (according to their individual levels).

Islamic Studies E (Continuation of Islamic Studies D):

Grade Eight Second Semester

During this semester the students in Islamic Studies-level 3, will continue to study all of the categories of Islamic Studies (Tawheed, Hadeeth, Fiqh, Seerah, Quran, & Tafseer), but at a progressive level. Some of the topics taught will be: A collection of ahadeeth for level 3; Biographies of some of the Companions; difference between a Prophet & a Messenger; Facts about Hood (A) & Saleh (A); True repentance & its conditions; Morals, Family & Domestic life; Dresses & adornments allowed & forbidden to Muslim males & females; A few chapters on the life of the Prophet(S)'s life in Madinatul- Munawwarah. As far as Quranic assignments are concerned, students will memorize & recite the Surahs by heart (according to their individual levels).

Middle School French A:

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 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 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 student's intercultural awareness. Students become acquainted with the French culture through the content of the class project work, short readings in English, cultural activities and videos.

Middle School French B:

Semester

Pre-requisite: A grade of C (73%) or above in Middle School French A and/or permission of the Instructor

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 conversations 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 C:

Semester

Pre-requisite: A grade of C (73%) or above in Middle School French B and/or permission of the Instructor

Course Description: French III is a one-semester course, which 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. Oral skills and vocabulary building are greatly emphasized. The essentials of grammar continue to be introduced by using structured and guided practice as well as open-ended activities. This 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.

***In order for a student to be eligible to advance to French 2 in grade 9 of High School, a student must have taken and passed all three Middle School French classes (A, B, & C) with an average grade of B or better, and obtain the French teacher's recommendation.*

Middle School Spanish A:

Semester

Course Description: Spanish A is designed to begin the development of important language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The emphasis of the course is on the acquisition of basic vocabulary within context, simple grammar structures, and the initial development of oral proficiency. Students become acquainted with the Spanish-speaking world through the content of 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 B:

Semester

Pre-requisite: *A grade of C (73%) or above in Middle School Spanish A class and/or Instructor recommendation.*

Course Description: Spanish B is a one-semester course, which 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 conversations in a variety of situations in their daily lives. Students continue to expand their vocabulary acquisition within 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 Spanish-speaking world through cultural activities, projects, presentations, readings and videos.

Middle School Spanish C:

Semester

Pre-requisite: *A grade of C (73%) or above in Middle School Spanish B class and/or Instructor recommendation.*

Course Description: Spanish C is a one-semester course which 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 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.

***In order for a student to be eligible to advance to Spanish 2 in grade 9 of High School, a student must have taken and passed all three Middle School Spanish classes (I, II, & III) with an average grade of B or better, and obtain the French teacher's recommendation.*

Newspaper:

Semester

Pre-requisite: *Permission of Administration as well as basic computer literacy skills.*

Course Description: Students will learn the basics of reporting, editing, photography, layout and other essential elements necessary in the production of a school newspaper. The middle school newspaper will be written and produced by the class. This is an advanced level course for the motivated, responsible, and confident student who is willing to get involved with all aspects of student life.

Odyssey of the Mind:

Semester

Course Description: Students will work in teams to creatively solve problems. Some problems will involve designing and inventing while others will require students to apply knowledge from many different subjects. A student invention is one of the major projects. Projects will be presented or performed. Odyssey of the Mind makes learning fun and is a program found in the US and all around the world.

Speech & Drama:

Semester

Course Description: This course will concentrate on the principles of informal and formal public speaking. Emphasis will be on informative, demonstrative, and persuasive speaking. It will also concentrate on dramatic performances. Students will engage in various activities to gain experience in all phases of a dramatic production. Class and public performances are required. **This class can not be repeated.**

Yearbook:

Full Year

Pre-requisite: *Permission of the Administration as well as a high level of computer literacy.*

Course Description: This is an intensive, yearlong commitment. This advanced course will involve students in a variety of activities with some occurring after school. It is strongly recommended that students who are considering taking this class be in good academic standing. Students will learn about journalism, photography, design layout, and desktop publishing. Students will be the key people recording the history of middle school section of the AISJ Yearbook.