



**YANGON
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL**

2020-2021

Yangon International School

Middle School Course Descriptions

Grades 6-8

Yangon International School is a Pre-K-12 college preparatory school. The school seeks to foster the development of the whole child who is a participating global citizen and lifelong learner: one who is academically well prepared, socially responsible, culturally sensitive, and personally fulfilled.

Welcome from the Secondary Principal

Dear YIS Secondary School Students and Parents:

Yangon International School offers a wide variety of courses based on American curriculum models, with our educational and instructional materials sourced from the United States and internationally.

The middle school course of study options reflects an age-appropriate course of study to prepare students for entry into high school. Each year we evaluate our middle school course offerings to ensure we meet student needs and to ensure our students are prepared for continued studies.

Yangon International School has a well-qualified faculty with staff from the United States, Canada, and other western countries, in addition to host-country nationals teaching in the Myanmar Studies program. Our school's low student to teacher ratio ensures great relationship building between students and faculty, promoting a school atmosphere which will maximize learning.

I invite all potential parents and students to come and visit to see for yourself what our team has to offer. Come and join us to become part of a school with a vision to ensure your future success.

Thank you for taking the time to review our YIS course catalog, and please feel free to discuss this information with our staff, at your convenience.

Sincerely,

David Falconer
Secondary School Principal
Yangon International School

Expected Schoolwide Learning Results

When students leave Yangon International School, we expect them to be prepared for their next educational experience by being

Academically well prepared

Students should:

- ◆ Reach their potential in all curricular areas.
- ◆ Be effective problem solvers and critically analyze information.
- ◆ Be effective communicators.
- ◆ Demonstrate inquisitiveness and curiosity.
- ◆ Be responsible, independent learners and thinkers.

Socially responsible

Students should:

- ◆ Demonstrate honesty and integrity.
- ◆ Demonstrate social and environmental responsibility.
- ◆ Work cooperatively and collaboratively with each other as a team.
- ◆ Develop habits of punctuality, accountability, and responsibility.

Culturally sensitive

Students should:

- ◆ Understand and respect cultural and individual differences.
- ◆ Develop a global perspective.

Personally fulfilled

Students should:

- ◆ Be self-confident, open-minded, and adaptable.
- ◆ Develop healthy habits and lifestyle.
- ◆ Work toward their development of talents and interests.
- ◆ Value effort as a means to accomplish goals.
- ◆ Gain a better understanding of self.
- ◆ Display attributes of a lifelong learner.

Typical Course Sequence

| | |
|---------|--|
| Grade 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Language Arts ● Mathematics ● Science ● Social Studies ● Myanmar Studies ● Physical Education ● Performing Arts - Music ● Performing Arts - Visual Art ● Information Technology ● Advisory ● ELL (determined by assessment) |
| Grade 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Language Arts ● Mathematics ● Science ● Social Studies ● Myanmar Studies ● Physical Education ● Performing Arts - Music ● Performing Arts - Visual Art ● Information Technology ● Advisory ● ELL (determined by assessment) |
| Grade 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Language Arts ● Mathematics (Algebra 8 or Middle School Algebra) ● Science ● Social Studies ● Myanmar Studies ● Physical Education ● Performing Arts - Music ● Performing Arts - Visual Art ● Information Technology ● Advisory ● ELL (determined by assessment) |

Standards for Learning

Teachers at YIS use standards to guide planning as they design instructional units which include goals, instructional activities, assessments, and reteaching when necessary. Different subject-areas have their own recognized standards. YIS uses the following standards to plan for student learning:

| Subject Area | Standards Used |
|------------------------|--|
| Language Arts | Common Core Standards for English Language Arts (CCSS) |
| Mathematics | Common Core Standards for Mathematics (CCSS) |
| Science | Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) |
| Social Studies | American Education Reaches Out (AERO) |
| Physical Education | Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) |
| Performing Arts | National Core Arts Standards (NCAS) |
| Information Technology | International Society for Technology in Education Standards (ISTE) |

Secondary Standardized/Externally Moderated Assessments for Middle School Students

The following assessments are offered at YIS.

- **MAP (NWEA):** Fall and Winter for grades 6 through 10.

Grade 6

Language Arts 6

In Language Arts 6, students develop a critical foundation in reading and writing narrative, informational, and argument texts. Through analysis and production of texts in these three modes, students become more adept readers, thinkers, and writers. Across the year, they come to understand the distinctions between narrative, informational and argument texts by studying fiction and nonfiction in a variety of formats and developing a more thorough understanding of audience and purpose when both reading and writing. The use of a reader or writer's notebook for each unit encourages students to be independent, engaged, and empowered learners who value close reading, idea generation, drafting, and revision. The early units facilitate the use of the notebook for close reading and generative writing of narrative in addition to developing the classroom writing community. Students become more competent producers of argument in both written and spoken form. The informational reading and informational essay units steep students in how to critically read nonfiction, as well as analyze and use text structures, central ideas, and supporting details to craft an informational text.

Mathematics 6

In Mathematics 6, students master concepts introduced in elementary grades such as decimals, fractions, data interpretation, geometric and measurement tools, and equations. New concepts are introduced to aid and deepen overall mathematical understanding. Students regularly apply Guided Problem-Solving strategies on their daily and weekly assignments such as drawing pictures, identifying patterns, acting a situation out, making tables and equations, and working backward. Along with problem-solving, students practice communicating and connecting mathematical concepts to other mathematical concepts or other curricular areas.

Social Studies 6

Grade 6 Social Studies guides students towards a greater sense of their identity within the larger world. The course explores the following essential questions: What is an identity? How do we develop an identity? In what ways are history, economics, civics, and geography interconnected and used to understand our world and our own identity?

Science 6

In Science 6, students use science and engineering practices to explore Earth and space science. By using hands-on experience in projects and labs, students develop a deep understanding of science as they explore it first-hand. Students apply scientific reasoning and the scientific method in their experiments about topics including weather and climate, minerals and rocks, and oceanography.

Physical Education 6

In PE 6, students participate in a comprehensive program of skill development, team sports, individual sports, aquatics, and physical fitness activities. The students receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with different sports. They learn about physical conditioning exercises and lifelong physical activities. The program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, and friendly competition.

Information Technology 6

In IT 6, students establish a foundation for understanding technology and the role it plays in modern living. Students systematically develop core competencies and technological literacy in a variety of technology skills such as online research, acceptable use, copyright, plagiarism, word processing, spreadsheets, multimedia and presentation tools, and use of technology for communication and collaboration. Students complete projects which promote both independent and collaborative work, culminating in the 6th grade digital portfolio.

Performing Arts 6 - Visual Art

In 6th Grade Visual Art students are exposed to a wide range of media types, art movements and artistic concepts with a particular focus on the elements of art, the principles of design and the creative process. Students learn to think and act like an artist to generate ideas with intention, plan and refine artwork and thoughtfully present to an audience. Through self-reflection and art, analysis students develop critical thinking skills and make connections between art, core classwork and the world around them.

Performing Arts 6 - Music

In 6th Grade Music, students are encouraged to create, perform, respond, and connect to music by creating new musical ideas, analyzing rhythms, singing and playing melodies, developing musical preferences and interests, and explaining their thinking behind performances. They also analyze the purpose and context of musical performances.

Myanmar Studies 6

In Myanmar Studies 6, students learn to understand the culture, language, and traditions of Myanmar. Students practice writing, reading and speaking skillfully by using vocabulary, grammar, and knowledge about Myanmar History and Culture.

Advisory

The aim of the middle school Advisory program is to enable students to make well-informed, healthy choices and to develop behaviours that contribute to the well-being of self and others. To achieve this aim, students require an understanding of self as the basis for healthy interactions with others and for career development and lifelong learning. Students also require a safe and caring school and community environment in which to explore ideas and issues surrounding personal choice, to seek accurate information, and to practise healthy behaviours.

ELL 6

Students in ELL 6 are supported in small groups and individually both inside and outside of the English/Language Arts classroom, depending on the needs of the student. The ELL teacher works closely with the English and core area teachers to provide supplementary materials to enhance learning and comprehension of the coursework. Students will be expected to work hard in class as well as outside of the classroom. Communication with the ELL teacher is important to success. Placement in ELL 6 is determined by the Principals supported by a recommendation from the Admissions Coordinator and ELL Teacher.

Grade 7

Language Arts 7

In Language Arts 7, students continue to develop a critical foundation in reading and writing narrative, informational, and argument texts. Through analysis and production of texts in these three modes, students become more adept readers, thinkers, and writers. Across the year, they come to understand the distinctions between narrative, informational and argument texts by studying fiction and nonfiction in a variety of formats and developing a more thorough understanding of audience and purpose when both reading and writing. The use of a reader or writer's notebook for each unit encourages students to be independent, engaged, and empowered learners who value close reading, idea generation, drafting, and revision.

Mathematics 7

In Mathematics 7, students develop confidence, fluency and competence in numerical calculations, theoretical ideas, representation of real numbers, measurement, geometry, and descriptive statistics. New concepts are introduced to aid and deepen overall mathematical understanding. Students learn to manipulate equations using inverse operations, properties of equality and the distributive property to isolate the variable. A variety of problem-solving techniques will be used throughout the course.

Social Studies 7

Grade 7 Social Studies explores the dynamic processing of social change and the ways in which they affect individuals and societies. Students seek to understand "turning points" throughout history, economics, civics, and geography, honing their skills in inquiry and research as they explore the interconnectedness of these different domains.

Science 7

In Science 7, students use science and engineering practices to explore the human body system, interactions of living things, ecosystems, human impact on the environment, cells, reproduction and heredity. By using hands-on experience in projects and labs, students develop a deep understanding of science as they explore it first-hand. Students apply scientific reasoning and the scientific method in their experiments about course topics.

Physical Education 7

In PE 7, students participate in a comprehensive program of skill development, team sports, individual sports, aquatics, and physical fitness activities. Students further develop their understanding of rules, skills, and strategies associated with different sports. They learn about physical conditioning exercises and lifelong physical activities. The program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, and friendly competition.

Information Technology 7

In IT 7, students build upon their foundational understanding technology and the role it plays in modern living. Students develop and continue to refine their core competencies and technological literacy in a variety of technology skills such as online research, acceptable use, copyright, plagiarism, word processing, spreadsheets, multimedia and presentation tools, and use of technology for communication

and collaboration. Students complete projects which promote both independent and collaborative work, culminating in the 7th grade digital portfolio.

Performing Arts 7 - Visual Art

In 7th Grade Visual Art students continue their exploration of a wide range of media types, art movements and artistic concepts with a particular focus on the elements of art, the principles of design and the creative process. Students think and act like an artist to generate ideas with intention, plan and refine artwork and thoughtfully present to an audience. Through self-reflection and art, analysis students develop critical thinking skills and make connections between art, core classwork and the world around them.

Performing Arts 7 - Music

In 7th Grade Music, students create, perform, respond, and connect to music through a foundation of choral repertoire. They also analyze the purpose and context of musical performances. Special care is taken to ensure that each student knows where they are in their vocal development throughout the year. On the performance stage, students will demonstrate their musical growth in at least two concerts a year, with options for students to participate in other festivals.

Myanmar Studies 7

In Myanmar Studies 7, students further develop an understanding of the culture, language, and traditions of Myanmar. Students practice writing, reading and speaking skillfully by using vocabulary, grammar, and knowledge about Myanmar History and Culture.

Advisory

The aim of the middle school Advisory program is to enable students to make well-informed, healthy choices and to develop behaviours that contribute to the well-being of self and others. To achieve this aim, students require an understanding of self as the basis for healthy interactions with others and for career development and lifelong learning. Students also require a safe and caring school and community environment in which to explore ideas and issues surrounding personal choice, to seek accurate information, and to practise healthy behaviours.

ELL 7

Students in ELL 7 are supported in small groups and individually both inside and outside of the English/Language Arts classroom, depending on the needs of the student. The ELL teacher works closely with the English and core area teachers to provide supplementary materials to enhance learning and comprehension of the coursework. Students will be expected to work hard in class as well as outside of the classroom. Communication with the ELL teacher is important to success. Placement in ELL 6 is determined by the Principals supported by a recommendation from the Admissions Coordinator and ELL Teacher.

Grade 8

Language Arts 8

In Language Arts 8, students further develop their critical foundation in reading and writing narrative, informational, and argument texts. Through analysis and production of texts in these three modes, students become more adept readers, thinkers, and writers. Across the year, they come to understand the distinctions between narrative, informational and argument texts by studying fiction and nonfiction in a variety of formats and developing a more thorough understanding of audience and purpose when both reading and writing. The use of a reader or writer's notebook for each unit encourages students to be independent, engaged, and empowered learners who value close reading, idea generation, drafting, and revision.

Math 8

In Math 8, students will be exposed to a variety of algebraic topics to prepare them for subsequent mathematics courses dealing with more complex themes and operations. Students will learn about Equations and formulas, proportion and precision, simple inequalities, multi-step and compound inequalities, function concepts, applying functions, characteristics of linear functions, using linear functions, the system of linear equations and linear inequalities.

Semester 2 of Math 8 contains very little review. It requires students attention and effort right from the beginning of the semester. In this Semester, students cover the most important unit of study of the Algebra I program. Students learn about exponents, polynomials, factoring methods, applying factoring methods, quadratic functions, solving quadratic equations, exponential functions, functions models and patterns, data analysis, and finally probability.

Social Studies 8

Grade 8 Social Studies begins a three year exploration of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. Units align with UN Goals, and students will explore both how these issues shape the modern world and how they as active global citizens can enact positive change within themselves, their local communities, their nation, and the world. Through participation in guided inquiry, project and problem based projects, and deliberation, students will develop the skills necessary to succeed in high school. Each unit provides students with the opportunity to pursue an essential question deeply, allowing students to pursue subtopics which they find personally compelling. A focus on taking effective notes, building non-fiction writing skills, citations, and oral presentations will leave students both capable and excited to participate in making an impact on their world.

Science 8

In Science 8, students use science and engineering practices to explore matter and energy; motion, forces, sound and light. By using hands-on experience in projects and labs, students develop a deep understanding of science as they explore it first-hand. Students apply scientific reasoning and the scientific method in their experiments about course topics.

Physical Education 8

In PE 8, students participate in a comprehensive program of skill development, team sports, individual sports, aquatics, and physical fitness activities. Students further develop their understanding of rules,

skills, and strategies associated with different sports. They learn about physical conditioning exercises and lifelong physical activities. The program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, and friendly competition.

Information Technology 8

In IT 8, students advance their deep understanding of technology and the role it plays in modern living. Students extend and apply their competencies and technological literacy in technology skills that include online research, acceptable use, copyright, plagiarism, word processing, spreadsheets, multimedia and presentation tools, and use of technology for communication and collaboration. Students complete projects which promote both independent and collaborative work, culminating in the 8th grade digital portfolio.

Performing Arts 8 - Visual Art

In 8th Grade Visual Art students expand their exploration of a wide range of media types, art movements and artistic concepts with a particular focus on the elements of art, the principles of design and the creative process. Students think and act like an artist to generate ideas with intention, plan and refine artwork and thoughtfully present to an audience at an age-appropriate level. Through self-reflection and art, analysis students develop critical thinking skills and make connections between art, core classwork and the world around them.

Performing Arts 8 - Music

In 8th Grade Music, students create, perform, respond, and connect to music through a foundation of choral repertoire. They also analyze the purpose and context of musical performances. Special care is taken to ensure that each student knows where they are in their vocal development throughout the year. On the performance stage, students will demonstrate their musical growth in at least two concerts a year, with options for students to participate in other festivals.

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