

MIA Curriculum Overview



Middle School Course Offerings

English Language Arts

The MIA Middle School English Language Arts classes, use the Savvas Realize integrated materials in the “My Perspectives” leveled series, emphasizing the learner's perspective in an interactive, engaging, and relevant learning environment. Following the philosophy that increasing student engagement increases student achievement, interactive learning blends print and technology in a student-centered, teacher-inspired classroom that provides next-generation learning experiences. The goal is to guide and encourage each student to become a fluent reader, proficient writer, and lifelong learner.

Students read various genres to work on specific skills such as vocabulary development, reading closely, making inferences, analyzing text organization, and identifying literary and rhetorical devices. These genres include short stories and novels; memoirs, speeches, autobiographies, and biographies; informative essays and nonfiction articles; persuasive and reflective essays; opinion pieces and debate; poetry; drama; legend and myth. Enrichment with each piece integrates vocabulary, grammar and writing, group and class discussion, and analyzing and responding to charts, images, and videos.

For additional practice with vocabulary, students in Middle School use Sadlier Connect. Practice and assessments are assigned based on level. Vocabulary is introduced in class, and students work independently to complete activities.

Students also practice the process of composition, including pre-writing, drafting, revising, proofreading, and publishing as they respond to literature and write from different points of view for different purposes and audiences. They produce essays and reports in MLA format on various topics, which demonstrate their understanding of the text by citing evidence and their mastery of grammar, punctuation, and capitalization rules as well as sentence and paragraph formulation. Some assessments are in the form of projects or presentations requiring technology and collaboration with classmates.

The Grade 6 class encourages and motivates students as they transition from elementary to middle school, strengthening their language arts skills and helping them to learn to work more independently and apply learned soft skills such as time management, organization of materials, and note-taking. In the Grade 7 class, students explore more challenging topics as they develop their confidence and reading, writing, discussion, and presentation skills. Grade 8 English challenges students to further hone all these skills, preparing them for the academic demands they will face in high school and beyond.

MIA Curriculum Overview



Middle School Course Offerings

Mathematics

Math 6

Students explore mathematical topics such as problem-solving, fractions, decimals, percents, geometry, measurement, probability, statistics, and algebra. The use of technology and web resources supports student learning. Grade 6 Mathematics allows students to deepen their understanding of math. They master fundamental math concepts and develop writing and problem-solving skills necessary for success in grade 7 mathematics.

Math 7

Grade 7 Mathematics allows students to deepen their understanding of math. They expand their understanding of number relationships to integers and proportional reasoning. Students also extend their study of mathematical topics such as problem-solving, fractions, decimals, percents, geometry, and algebra. Students apply problem-solving strategies to real-world situations and develop a deeper understanding of probability, statistics, and geometry.

Math 8 - Pre-Algebra

In this course, students gain an understanding of linear and nonlinear functions and of incorporating and representing quadratic equations. They also learn the application of solutions involving number theory, rational and irrational numbers, and equations and inequalities. Students should recognize and apply two-dimensional and three-dimensional formulas, including the Pythagorean Theorem, surface area, and volume. Pre-Algebra builds upon the essential skills of arithmetic as they apply to algebra. Real numbers and linear equations, linear inequalities, factoring, fractions, graphing, and some elements of geometry are stressed in preparation for a rigorous course in Algebra 1.

MIA Curriculum Overview



Middle School Course Offerings

Science

Science 6 - Earth Science

Science is the development of answers to questions through observation, experimentation, and tested truths. Earth science curriculum focuses on studying the planet and its place and relation to the rest of the universe. An Earth science course teaches students fundamental geology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy concepts. Grade 6 students practice the skills needed to open the door to the world of scientific research. Grade 6 Science will range from hands-on labs to lectures and discussions. Students must keep a notebook, participate in class activities, and work cooperatively on group projects. Supplemental videos and web resources will also enhance the learning experience.

Science 7 - Life Science

This course teaches students several important concepts about cells and heredity, the five kingdoms, human body systems, and ecology. The crucial principles of scientific inquiry, hypotheses, and analyzing data are reviewed. Students can also expect to learn about the building blocks of life; animal and plant cells; birds and mammals; the immune system; living things, and the environment. Additionally, students understand how to differentiate between atoms, elements, molecules, and compounds; compare and contrast animal and plant cells; identify the components and structure of DNA; describe factors that contribute to the extinction of a species; and differentiate between learned and inherited behaviors. Supplemental videos and web resources will also enhance the learning experience.

Science 8 - Physical Science

In Grade 8 physical science, students learn about the non-living side of the scientific world. The goal is to emphasize critical thinking skills and learning through the scientific process. Instruction incorporates high expectations, inquiry-based learning instruction and activities, and lessons relating to our lives. All students can participate in class discussions, and regular experiments are incorporated. The following topics are covered: measurement, density and buoyancy, the structure of matter, the periodic table, chemistry, physics (motion and forces), and the solar system and astronomy. Supplemental videos and web resources will also enhance the learning experience.

MIA Curriculum Overview



Middle School Course Offerings

Social Studies

Social Studies 6 - Civics and Geography

Social Studies 6 is a geography-based course that introduces students to the physical and human geography of the world. Students will explore patterns of natural and human characteristics and use case studies to examine how the physical environment has provided benefits and obstacles to human society. In doing so, students will explore how humans have used, adapted, or modified their environment and the consequences. Students will examine various global issues from human activities, such as migration and settlement, culture and cultural diffusion, population and demographic changes, resource use, and increasing trade and economic interdependence networks. Students will investigate how local, national, and international governmental and non-governmental organizations respond to contemporary issues. The different regions of the world will be used to illuminate examples of how these global issues or problems affect people in places around the world. They will deepen their understanding of history, geography, economics, and political science disciplines. There is an additional focus on Civics, starting with government processes and functions. Students will learn how early legal systems influenced the writers of the Constitution. They learn about the rights and responsibilities of citizens, as well as civic engagement in the community. Students will explore how these social studies fields are complementary and interdependent.

Social Studies 7 - World Cultures

Seventh-grade Social Studies builds upon the foundation in 6th grade geography and focuses on learning and applying basic geography skills in studying places and regions, physical and human systems, and our environment and society. Students will study historical and modern geographical and political issues in Canada, the United States, Latin America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania, and Antarctica. They explore major and significant changes in each era through a chronological organization. Students learn about the earliest humans and explore early migration and settlement patterns. In studying the origins of farming and its impact on emerging human cultures, students analyze evidence from archaeology and anthropology and employ a wide range of data sources, including artifacts, photographs, and geographic information. Students examine how the emergence of pastoral and agrarian societies set the stage for developing powerful empires, trade networks, and the diffusion of people, resources, and ideas. Students also

MIA Curriculum Overview



Middle School Course Offerings

Social Studies Cont.

Social Studies 7 - World Cultures cont.

examine the development of belief systems in their historical context. These new belief systems had distinctive beliefs, texts, and rituals. Each shaped cultures by developing ethical practices and establishing codes within which diverse people could communicate and interact, often well beyond their local neighborhood. In doing so, students consider why some belief systems grew into world religions.

Social Studies 8 - American History Part I

This course is intended to introduce our middle school students to the founding, development, and growth of the United States from the pre-colonial era up to the Civil War and the Reconstruction Era. The first semester begins in the Prehistoric Era with supplemental information from *The Woven Truth, Volumes I & II*, which depict the early migrations and settlements as humanity spread out from the Cradle of Civilization, focusing on the North American continent. The "Age of Exploration" is followed by the colonization of the "New World" and proceeds to the nation's growth. The second semester continues from the Civil War to 1900. Through close reading, in-class assignments, collaborative learning, and discussion, the students learn the founding principles that have guided our nation's history.

MIA Curriculum Overview



Middle School Course Offerings

Electives

Art

The middle school art curriculum encompasses a variety of topics based on the art elements and principles of design. Units include drawing, painting, printmaking, and art history. The instructor provides students with the skills and knowledge needed to meet the Michigan Merit Curriculum Standards, Benchmarks, and Grade Level Content Expectations.

Each year, students work on a theme-based acrylic artwork. Students also work on three-dimensional works of art with clay or other media. Every year students can participate in art competitions, such as Doodle for Google, MDOT International Aviation Art Contest, and the Toyota Dream Car Art Contest. Students also have the opportunity to display their work mounted and presented at Trader Joe's, Barnes and Noble Bookstore, and in MIA's Annual Gathering.

Physical Education

The physical education curriculum encompasses many activities emphasizing lifetime activities, healthy lifestyle and wellness awareness, and team sports activities. Students learn about fitness and wellness and how it relates to quality of life. Students are provided with a basic knowledge of nutrition, exercise, stress management, and other areas of wellness, along with the impact each has on maintaining healthy lifestyles. Curricula material is derived from OpenPhysEd.org. OPEN instructional modules provide objectives aligned with the State Standards and incorporate learning activities, assessments, and resources to help students develop physical literacy skills, knowledge, and confidence.

MIA Curriculum Overview



Middle School Course Offerings

Islamic Studies

Islamic Studies 6

This course is designed to strengthen students' implementation of Islamic principles and ethics in their daily lives. Various topics and concepts will be covered interactively and engagingly to deepen students' understanding and practice of Islam. Some topics included: Aqidah (types of Tawheed, Angels, some of Allah SWT's names and attributes...), Fiqh (Salah al Qadah, Salah al Masbouq), Prophets: (Prophet Musa (AS), and Seerah (Ghazwat Al Khandaq, Sulh Al Hudaybiyyah). The aim is for the course to be enjoyable and relevant to the students so they acquire both the knowledge and the concept of how crucial application is to their personal lives. In addition to the text, other readings and short videos reinforce and supplement the lessons while engendering engaging, lively discussion.

Islamic Studies 7

This course is designed to expand students' knowledge of the history and message of Islam interactively and engagingly. The various units covered include: Allah's Message and Messengers, Journey to the Hereafter, Islam Prevails Over Arabia, Muslim Lifestyle, and Zakah and Charity. By the end of this course, students will have deepened their knowledge of Islam and the importance of its application in their daily lives. In addition to the text, other readings and short videos reinforce and supplement the lessons while engendering lively class discussions.

Islamic Studies 8

This course is designed to teach and transmit a standard set of beliefs, values, and norms – with an emphasis on boosting the level of communication between adults and young people. Muslims worldwide share a standard set of values based upon the Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (sallallahu 'alayhi wasallam). This course aims to help students develop spiritually and morally, take pride in being Muslims, and achieve balanced personalities that reflect the moderation of Islam. Grade 8 topics of study include The Stories of the Two Martyrs Prophets Zakariyyah (as) and Prophet Yahya (as), Fiqh of Sawm, Important Principles Concerning Qadr and Life and Death, How to Practice Sabr, Ghazwah Tabuk, the passing of Prophet Muhammad (sallallahu 'alayhi wasallam), and much more. In addition to the text, other readings and short videos reinforce and supplement the lessons while engendering lively class discussions.

MIA Curriculum Overview



Middle School Course Offerings

Qur'an

Qur'an Beginner MS

Students will learn many surahs from Juz Amma (the Thirtieth Juzu') during this course. In addition to memorizing the ayaat, they will learn their meanings, the reasons for revelation, and the provisions of intonation [*ahkam-tajweed*]. Lessons will be drawn from Quranic verses that can be applied daily. The coursebook contains the translation, explanation, word-by-word meanings and the ayaat.

Qur'an Beginner Level II MS

This course covers the *tafsir*, *tajweed*, and memorization of Surahs Al-Waqia'h, Ar-Rahman, and Al-Qamar, insha Allah. As they memorize, students learn to consistently apply *tajweed* rules as key for an authentic Quran recitation. To strengthen and perfect their *tajweed* skills, students study Al-Qa'idiah Al-Nuraniyyah. In *tafsir*, students will learn the meaning of significant stories and themes, translating them into ethics and manners drawn from the book of Allah (SWT). The goal is for students to begin implementing guidance from the Quran in their daily lives, thereby attaining the ultimate achievement as Muslims.

Qur'an Intermediate MS

In this course, we cover the *tafsir*, *tajweed*, and memorization of Surah Al-Kahf. Students will continue focusing on *tajweed* rules as they work towards a more authentic Quran recitation. In *tafsir*, students will discuss and reflect on the meaning of major stories and themes. This course aims to help students develop a firm understanding, love, and appreciation for the Words of Allah, ultimately applying the tenets of faith to their daily lives, Insha'Allah. We cover most concepts of *tajweed*.

Qur'an Advanced MS

In this course, students will be learning Surat-ul-Anbiya' & Surat Saad. We will focus on memorization, *tafsir* (meaning of the ayat), the reasons for revelation, and *ahkam-tajweed*. Studying the *tafsir* of the ayat allows us to explore the deeper meanings behind the verses and the life lessons we can take from them. At the same time, learning *ahkam-tajweed* allows students to learn how to recite the Quran in the way it was revealed while also reinforcing the

MIA Curriculum Overview



Middle School Course Offerings

Arabic

All Arabic courses observe World-Readiness Standards for learning foreign languages: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities. Additionally, the MIA Arabic Language Department utilizes the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) proficiency guidelines to assess students' use of the four skills of language, including speaking, writing, listening, and reading.

Arabic Beginner MS

This course aims to help non-Arabic speakers improve their Arabic language, including listening, reading, reading comprehension, translation, dialogue, pronunciation, spelling, vocabulary, and writing. To this end, basic Arabic grammar will be covered, such as plurals and singulars, pronouns, and articles. By immersing students in the language as much as possible, only modern standard Arabic is used in class.

Arabic Intermediate MS

This continuation course aims to help students achieve proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing Arabic, increasing their comfort and ability to use the language in various contexts. By the end of the school year, students will demonstrate increased fluency and proficiency in using academic Arabic about the four language skills.

Arabic Intermediate II MS

Continuing where students left off in Intermediate I, students in this course will further develop their use of the four skills of language: reading, listening, writing, and speaking. They will deal with more complex linguistic text as they expand their vocabulary repertoire. In addition to class discussion, students will practice listening skills through recorded texts, which will be used for comprehension and to draw out new vocabulary and grammatical structures.

Arabic Advanced MS

This course will take students to new linguistic heights! Learners will advance more acceleratedly, dealing with more complex linguistic issues and lengthier texts. Expanding students' vocabulary repertoire will go hand-in-hand with improving their four linguistic skills of listening, reading, writing, and speaking, giving them the support they need to reach proficiency in Arabic for the Middle School level.

MIA Curriculum Overview



Middle School Course Offerings

Computer Science

Computer Applications

This course aims to familiarize students with basic aspects of computers in a broad range of sub-disciplines and specialization areas. Grade 6 students will begin with CS Fundamentals, Problem Solving, Web Development, and Robotics. Grade 7 students will continue with CS Fundamentals and Robotics and be introduced to Interactive Animation and Game Development. Grade 8 students will continue with the CS Fundamentals and Robotics curriculum and delve into User Centered Design and App prototyping. Through these courses, students will gain proficiency and mastery in various computer skills and be able to learn these skills enjoyably and engagingly. All course materials are derived from Code.org.

MIA Curriculum Overview



Middle School Course Offerings

Life Skills

This course is designed to support students in their academic, social-emotional, and spiritual lives. The objective of this course is to assist students with high school, college, and career preparation as well as build basic skills not covered formally in other academic areas. Life Skills focuses on mental health and well-being, teaching students healthy coping skills and resiliency. Students learn to speak and listen effectively, work with their teachers, peers, and family, and approach problems with a growth mindset. Students who complete this course successfully will: acquire essential study, organizational, and critical thinking skills; be emotionally literate regarding self and others; develop a store of and apply basic social skills; learn basic outdoor and indoor safety skills; and build basic home economic skills. Additionally, students are taught vital leadership skills, which will help them become dynamic and contributing members of the Muslim community and the greater society.

MIA Curriculum Overview



Middle School Course Offerings

Supplementary Course Offerings:

Middle School

In addition to the course offerings through Michigan Islamic Academy, rising freshmen have a wide selection of both core and elective courses through Washtenaw Community College and Eastern Michigan University (in both cases transferable to the University of Michigan and other Michigan universities), and Michigan Virtual (following the completion of grade 8). For the complete listing of courses offered through Michigan Virtual, please visit

<https://michiganvirtual.org/students/courses/>The complete selection of courses offered to MIA students through Washtenaw Community College can be found at the following link (select the drop-down menu for “Washtenaw Community College” from the list of universities):

<https://admissions.umich.edu/apply/transfer-applicants/community-college-students/michigan-transfer-agreement>. These courses may be offered onsite at MIA, depending upon instructor availability, or can be registered for by the student independently to be taken at WCC, virtually, or online. The courses offered through Eastern Michigan University are through the Eastern Scholars Program and are taught by EMU professors onsite at MIA. Course offerings vary each semester depending on student interests and needs.