



ICSV Middle School Course Descriptions

English

English 6	MSENI06	Year-Long
<p>Effective communication, whether written or verbal, is an essential component of today's society. Grade 6 English is designed to assist students in developing in reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary. It improves upon students' elementary language foundations. Students will be able to read and analyze literature, to identify and correctly apply the mechanics of language use, and to communicate their thoughts and beliefs effectively in writing. The result of this is to succeed in communicating effectively in each class and area of life throughout their Middle School years.</p>		
English 7	MSENI07	Year-Long
<p>English 7 is designed to reinforce the study of literature, grammar, and writing. The class will encourage students to critically evaluate literature from a Christian worldview. Students will be enabled to express their own, original thoughts through writing and discussion. The technicalities of writing will be reinforced through the explicit study of grammar as well as the formative processes of essay development. Students will write various types of essays and enter the next year of study feeling confident rather than intimidated.</p>		
English 8	MSENI08	Year-Long
<p>Students will experience an integrated reading, vocabulary, grammar, and writing approach to language. Units are developed to present literary forms including short stories, poetry, drama, fiction and nonfiction. Sentence structure, paragraph structure and grammar are stressed in writing assignments that culminate in the student's ability to create argumentative, narrative, and informative style essays. The results of this program should prepare students to enter high school and succeed in communicating effectively.</p>		
Intensive English (<i>not offered 2022-2023</i>)	MSENI01	Year-Long
<p>English is the medium of instruction at ICSV. Students must demonstrate English proficiency in Reading and Writing, and this class targets both. For reading, the main purpose of this class is to improve students' fluency and understanding of English texts. Students are grouped in small groups and instructed using texts just above their current reading level to challenge, but not confuse, each student. The focus is on reading comprehension using various inquiry-based strategies and self-advocacy, when understanding is interrupted. Both informational texts and literary texts are discussed and annotated. For writing, the focus begins with word work, then it progresses to sentence, paragraph, and multi-paragraph writing. The year-end writing objective is to develop students' ability to follow all steps in the writing process for essay, narrative and informational pieces. This class is designed to be responsive to the individual needs</p>		



of the students to bridge any learning gaps in literacy as efficiently as possible.

Math

Math 6	MSMA206	Year-Long
<p>Students in this course develop critical thinking skills while learning patience and persistence in problem solving. They practice approaching mathematics with a growth mindset, learning to communicate and collaborate as they develop a better understanding of numerical operations, proportionality, percentages, algebraic reasoning, collecting, displaying, and analyzing data, geometry, and probability. These skills and the ability to apply mathematics to real life situations lays the foundation for more advanced math classes.</p>		
Grade 7: Pre-Algebra	MSMA208	Year-Long
<p>Pre-Algebra is a foundational course that prepares students to take Algebra I. They explore and apply operations to decimal numbers, rational numbers, and integers. They learn to write, simplify, and solve algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities. In addition, students learn to solve equations, and solve problems involving perimeter, area and volume. Students also learn the basics of probability, rates, and proportions.</p>		
Algebra I	MSMA210	Year-Long Credits: 1.0
<p><i>Prerequisites: Pre-Algebra</i></p> <p>Students learn to enjoy Algebra and to develop an appreciation of the elegance and power of Algebra. They develop logical, critical, and creative thinking while learning patience and persistence in problem-solving. Students learn to communicate clearly and confidently in a variety of contexts as they develop an understanding of the principles and nature of Algebra. They apply and transfer skills to alternative situations and other areas of knowledge. The content of Algebra I is organized around families of functions, with special emphasis on linear and quadratic functions. As students learn about each family of functions, they will learn to represent them in multiple ways – as verbal descriptions, equations, tables, and graphs. They will also learn to model real-world situations using functions in order to solve problems arising from those situations. In addition to its algebra content, the course includes lessons on probability and data analysis as well as numerous examples and exercises involving geometry. The course provides a solid foundation for subsequent mathematics courses in the upper school as well as preparation for standardized tests.</p>		



Science

Grade 6: Earth Science	MSSC406	Year-Long
<p>In Sixth Grade Science students investigate and study Earth science. They learn about the natural world by using systems, order, and organization, as well as evidence, models, and explanation. Science students journey from the earth's core, to its surface and finally to the air and atmosphere around it. In particular, students study the Earth's interior, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, minerals, rocks, mapping, weathering, erosion, the atmosphere, weather, and climate. Students demonstrate an understanding of natural hazards and their effect on humans and human life. They explore God's marvelous creation by focusing specifically on the earth, its different systems, and the complexity and interconnectedness of these systems. Through labs, investigations, and discussion students will recognize and learn to appreciate God's intricate plan of design.</p>		
Grade 7: Life Science	MSSC407	Year-Long
<p>The 7th grade science is designed to enhance students' knowledge and experience of the world around them through personal and classroom investigation, discovery, measuring, calculating, reasoning, connecting, communicating and relating science to everyday life. Students demonstrate an understanding of the structure and function within living systems. They study populations, ecosystems, adaptations, and the diversity of organisms of the Earth. Students also study the history of science and begin to learn of important people who have advanced scientific thought. Specific units include: diversity of living things; cells; genetics; viruses and fungi; plants; sponges, cnidarians, and worms; mollusks, arthropods, and echinoderms; fish, amphibians, and reptiles; birds and mammals.</p> <p>They learn that God placed us on the Earth and that we were given the responsibility to take care of it. We are to be good stewards of what belongs to God, both in the environment and in our bodies.</p>		
Bio/Chem/Physics Year I (Grade 8) <i>offered starting in 2022-2023</i>	MSSC422	Year-Long Credits: 1.0
<p>Science in grade 8 follows the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) which is founded on four core building blocks that support the wider mission and student competencies of the International Baccalaureate (IB): concepts, global contexts, approaches to teaching, and approaches to learning. MYP is concept-based and so students are able to integrate learning, add coherence to the curriculum, deepen disciplinary understanding, build the capacity to engage with complex ideas and allow the transfer of learning to new contexts. Through the use of technology and the focus on deeper levels of understanding, the examination process will be an engaging, positive experience for students.</p> <p>In this year, students learn to better understand the fundamental principles underlying all of matter, so as to appreciate the orderliness of creation. They also realize the importance of scientific literacy in this age of technology. Students develop a sense of awe at the majesty and mystery of the created universe. The</p>		



first semester will focus on Chemistry with topics listed below and then transition into Biology and Physics topics.

Through numerous laboratories students experience first hand interactions between atoms, ions, and compounds that describe the movement of electrons in a world we cannot see. Students will become both proficient and accurate in laboratory procedures and carry them out safely and carefully.

- Students would also benefit from practice with extended writing, including the ability to write a complete method. This will strengthen their ability to organize their thoughts, explain and justify their ideas, and use scientific terminology effectively.

Students will conduct a semester project integrating covered studied topics in a particular semester.

Chemistry <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Matter- Periodic table- Atoms to ions- Naming Chemicals- Chem. reactions	Chemistry <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Naming Chemicals- Types of Chem. reactions- Reactivity- Biochemistry	Biology <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cell - organelles- Photosynthesis- Cell. respiration	Physics <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Motion- Velocity- Acceleration- Vector- Forces
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Social Studies

Grade 6- Ancient History: Creation-400 AD	MSSS306	Year-Long
<p>In sixth grade, students develop the ability to identify and analyze story elements in literature. They become efficient and clear in writing different types of paragraphs. They also evaluate new inventions and technology as these things changed the way humans live their daily lives, as well as helped to shape governments and societies. Students study ancient Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, the ancient African Kingdoms, ancient India, ancient China, ancient America, and ancient and classical Greece. In addition, students study the rise of the Roman Empire and the birth of Christianity.</p>		
Grade 7- Ancient History- 400 AD- 1600 AD	MSSS307	Year-Long
<p>This course strives to develop in students an understanding of and a continuing interest in the past. Students are encouraged to engage with multiple perspectives and to appreciate the complex nature of historical concepts, issues, events and developments. The course promotes international mindedness through the study of history from more than one region of the world. Students also develop an understanding of history as a discipline and a historical consciousness, including a sense of chronology and context, and an understanding of different historical perspectives. More specifically, students study the growth of Islam, African, Asian, and American civilizations, medieval Europe starting with the fall of the Roman Empire, the European Renaissance and Reformation, and early modern Europe.</p>		
Grade 8- United States History	MSSS308	Year-Long
<p>The United States is a major influencer in our world today. How did that come to be? Whether we are discussing economics, politics, culture, entertainment, or innovation, it is easy to see that the history of the U.S. is worth studying...regardless of where in the world we all come from. Studying U.S. History can help us to better understand many different aspects of the way the world works today. In 8th Grade Social Studies, we will learn about the history of the United States from its first settlers until the turn of the 20th century. We will be studying the history, geography, and culture of the many people groups who helped create and grow the U.S., including: The first Americans and the colonies, the American Revolution and Independence, forming a government and the U.S. Constitution, Manifest Destiny and the growth of the U.S., slavery, the U.S. Civil War, migration, and industrialization.</p>		



Bible

Grade 6– Route 66 Year 1	MSBI906	Year-Long
<p>During 32 weeks, the course will take the students on a journey through the Bible, from the dawn of time to the prophetic revelation of God’s glory, from Genesis to the magnificent book of Daniel. Attentive students should complete this study with an appreciation for the broad arc of Scripture/ Old Testament, along with an introductory understanding of each book in context. Throughout the course, students will see how God uses imperfect men and women to reflect His majesty to the world. The course will also provide an opportunity to learn a systematic study of the Bible, and how to apply it in everyday life.</p> <p>Through reasoning, connecting, communicating and relating the Bible to everyday life, students will have the opportunity to discuss global issues such as: famine and food, politics, exile (refugees, living abroad), wisdom literature, and literary analysis.</p>		
Grade 7– Route 66 Year 2	MSBI907	Year-Long
<p>Route 66 gives students a road map of God’s Word and His work as a continuous story - His Story. The Bible is the textbook. Students will learn themes and summaries of books that will prepare their hearts and minds for more detailed studies later on. This year focuses on the minor prophets and the New Testament. The goal is not in covering the details of every Bible story, but in the surveying of God’s wonderful might and undeserved grace. While the student can complete most of the Student Manual by searching Scripture, there will periodically be “fill-ins.” These are primarily historical or chronological notes to aid in understanding. Also, vocabulary boxes appear in many lessons, which require students to research and record the definition from an English or Bible dictionary. A Scripture memory program is included in each lesson.</p>		
Grade 8- The God Man	MSBI908	Year-long
<p>This course invites us to know more about Jesus. We journey together through the accounts of the Gospel writers to learn what Jesus was like on this earth, where he went, and what he did. Christ lived over two thousand years ago, yet our lives are different today because of him. Throughout this course, we seek to understand why that is while asking the question, “What does Jesus mean to us?”</p>		



Foreign Language

German 1 – approximately equivalent to A1	MSFL511	Year-long
<p>Students at this level learn to speak, read, write, and understand German on a very basic level. Students will develop understanding of and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of different types of needs. They will be able to introduce themselves and others and can speak and answer or formulate questions about personal details, such as where they live, where they come from, their hobbies, people they know, and things they have. The students will be able to interact in a simple way, provided that the other person talks slowly and clearly. Students will develop a basic understanding of the Austrian culture, as well as customs and traditions of the Austrian/German speaking community. In general, students will develop the following vocabulary: numbers, hobbies, food, family, time, dates, school, animals, and vacation. They will learn the present, past preterite, and perfect tenses; nouns, articles, verbs, conjunctions, prepositions, and adjectives; forming questions; uses of the nominative, dative, and accusative cases; the indicative, imperative, and conjunctive modes; negation; comparatives; and formal and informal introductions.</p>		
German 2 – approximately equivalent to A2	MSFL512	Year-Long
<p>Students at this level learn to speak, read, write and understand the German language on a more advanced level. They will be able to understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance, such as very basic personal information, family, school environment, shopping, free time hobbies, and local geography. In general, students will gain knowledge in the following areas: the present, simple past, present perfect and future tenses; the three cases; reflexive verbs; clauses; question words; conjunctions; the indicative and imperative moods; comparative and superlative; pronouns; and prepositions.</p>		
German 3 – approximately equivalent to B1	MSFL513	Year-Long
<p>Students at this level will understand the main points of clear, standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered at school, during leisure, in their family, and at work. They will be able to deal with most situations likely to arise while traveling in an area where the German language is spoken. The students will be able to produce a simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest and can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes, and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. In general, students will gain knowledge in the following areas: future, simple past, present perfect, and plusquamperfekt tense; conjunctions; four cases; relative pronouns; the passive; infinitive sentences; and the present participle form. Specific vocabulary units include health, entertainment, technology, characteristics, feelings, relationships, and traffic.</p>		
German 4 – approximately equivalent to B2	MSFL514	Year-Long
<p>Students at this level will learn to speak, read, write, and understand the German language on a</p>		



proficient level. They will be able to understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics. Students will master their degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction and producing essays with an extended length possible. The essays will be clear, well-structured, and detailed and show controlled use of grammar and vocabulary. Students will understand the German/Austrian culture, customs, and traditions of the German speaking community. In general, the students will master their knowledge in the following areas: spelling such as ss/ß; expanding of vowels, double consonants, capitalization; fictional and nonfictional texts; creative writing; and verb tenses including the past perfect.

German 5 – approximately equivalent to C1 (*not offered in 2023-2024*)

Year-Long

Students at this level elevate their proficiency in speaking, reading, writing, and comprehending the German language. They will gain the ability to understand different text genres spanning both tangible and conceptual subjects. Achieving a heightened degree of fluency and spontaneity, students engage in regular interactions and produce lengthy essays with clarity, strong structure, and attention to grammar and vocabulary usage. The objective is to orient students towards text styles commonly encountered in High School. The literature emphasis centers on the themes of the Second World War and the Holocaust. Additionally, students acquire an understanding of German/Austrian history and culture. Overall, students will refine their expertise in areas such as spelling distinctions, capitalization, punctuation, handling fictional and nonfictional texts, engaging in creative writing, and mastering all verb tenses and main/subordinate clauses.

English Language Learning

Middle School ELL Tutoring

MSEL501/502

Year-long

English is the medium of instruction at ICSV, so students must have an academic level of English proficiency. ELL tutoring is an additional class for students taking either Intensive English or Extended ELL that allows new English learners to get assistance with their assignments from other subjects. The class also helps students work on their organizational and computer skills such as typing.

Middle School ELL Class

MSEL551

Year-Long

English is the medium of instruction at ICSV. It is imperative that students have an academic level of English proficiency. This class will assist students in understanding and using basic grammatical, reading, writing, pronunciation, and listening comprehension skills. Students will grow in social and academic English and be able to more fully participate in mainstream classes. The ELL teachers will also guide students in viewing literature, projects, and conversations from a Christian perspective.



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Fine Arts and Electives

MS Art I	MSFA615	Semester
<p>This course develops 6th grade students' skills through a variety of art experiences. These help students to continue to develop as observers and creators. Students will grow in their ability to describe, interpret, evaluate, and respond to works in the visual arts by completing various projects of their own as well as comparing works of others. These projects include, but are not limited to: drawing from observation, use of various art media using subject matter from their imaginations, and mixed media incorporating artworks from other artists in art history. This course helps students to discover and recognize their unique talents, gaining an understanding of God's creation and of art as a means of human expression. This course begins to teach students to evaluate art's purpose through the use of critiques. In this way, students begin to understand the meaning and impact that the visual arts have in the world in which they live.</p>		
MS Art II	MSFA615	Semester
<p>This course continues to expand 7th grade students' skills through a variety of art experiences. These help students to continue to develop as observers and creators. Students will grow in their ability to describe, interpret, evaluate, and respond to works in the visual arts by completing various projects of their own, as well as comparing works of others. In this course, students will further advance their artistic skill and ability to incorporate mixed media and technology into the creation of their work by putting an emphasis on developing their use of technology in their creative work. This course helps students to better recognize their unique talents, gaining an understanding of God's creation and of art as a means of human expression. Students will learn to evaluate art's purpose through the use of critiques. In this way, students continue to understand the meaning and impact that the visual arts have in the world in which they live.</p>		
MS Art III	MSFA615	Semester
<p>This course continues to advance 8th grade students' skills through a variety of art experiences. These help students to continue to develop into more proficient observers and creators. Students will grow further in their ability to describe, interpret, evaluate, and respond to works in the visual arts. This is done by completing various projects of their own as well as comparing works of others. In this course, students will further develop their artistic skill and ability to incorporate mixed media and technology into the creation of their work. This course puts an emphasis on refining students' use of technology in their artwork to show more efficient and proficient utilization of relevant technology. This course helps students to better recognize their unique talents, gaining an understanding of God's creation and of art as a means of human expression. Students will continue to learn how to evaluate art's purpose through the use of critiques. In this way, students continue to understand the meaning and impact that the visual</p>		



arts have in the world in which they live.		
MS Sculpture <i>(not offered 2022-2023)</i>	MSEL502	Semester
<p>Middle School Sculpture is a semester art elective course in which students will gain a basic exposure and understanding of sculpture as an art form. Students will come to understand how God and visual art relate together, in creativity, skill, and in use, while developing the beginner skills specific to sculptural 3D work. Students will continue to learn how to apply the elements and principles of design in their own sculptural work at a beginner level. That each student will learn to explore in depth a variety of forms of sculpture including relief, additive, subtractive, and assemblage sculpture. Materials that students use will vary, however, cardboard, clay, and wire will likely all be used as they are readily available.. Each student will further develop skills in looking at and critiquing works of sculptural artwork including their own. Each student will come to a greater appreciation of Art as it pertains to works in 3 dimensions.</p>		
MS Computers Grade 6	MSEL815	Semester
<p>This is a project-based class that meets twice a week for students in grade 6. In the class students will learn how to utilize the various components of their ICSV G Suite account to complete work for classes (with an emphasis on Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides, Google Draw, and Google Sites). Other topics that will be explored in the class include keyboarding, digital citizenship, and creating and editing computer graphics and video.</p>		
MS Computers Grade 7	MSEL815	Semester
<p>In MS Computers Grade 7 web development is emphasized, with students learning to code in HTML and CSS to create their own web pages. As students begin to see themselves as programmers, they are encouraged to think critically about the impact of sharing information online and how to be more critical consumers of content. They are also introduced to problem solving as it relates to programming while they learn skills such as debugging, using resources, and teamwork.</p>		
MS Computers Grade 8	MSEL815	Semester
<p>In MS Computers Grade 8 students program images, animations, interactive art, and games. Starting off with simple, primitive shapes and building up to more sophisticated sprite-based games, students become familiar with the programming concepts and the design process computer scientists use daily. They then learn how these simpler constructs can be combined to create more complex programs. Students also consider the broader social impacts of computing, the importance of using data to solve problems and how computers can help in this process.</p>		
Minecraft <i>(not offered 2022-2023)</i>	MSEL823	Semester



In the Minecraft middle school elective, server-based Minecraft Education Edition is used to allow students to collaborate in teams, problem solve, and create projects. Students will be challenged by building projects in the digital world of Minecraft. Students who are new to Minecraft learn the basics, while experienced students work towards becoming a master builder. Students will collaborate and communicate with teammates while thinking critically and creatively about their builds.

MS Music

MSFA635

Semester

In this course students will explore, develop and enjoy music through listening assignments, developing singing technique, music theory, sight-singing, and basic piano technique. Students will explore the way music has influenced history, the world, and their own specific cultures. The ICSV Fine Arts program strives to use music to glorify God, give the students an expressive outlet in the midst of life struggles, and impact the world and their community in a positive way.

MS Choir *(not offered 2022-2023)*

MSEL636

Semester

MS Choir aims to facilitate a learning environment that impacts students' lives. Living in Vienna, the “City of Music,” ICSV students have the unique opportunity to make authentic connections with the invaluable gift God has given to mankind in singing in an ensemble, and their ability to learn and share this gift with others. Students also learn about neuroscience research data that supports how their academic subjects improve by developing musical skills in a collaborative environment.

In MS Choir, students will study a range of repertoire from classical to gospel applying the bel canto vocal technique. Students will learn music theory, sight-singing, rhythm, music history and stylistic understanding as they sing a range of selected repertoire. There are solo opportunities, and a focus on developing harmony and dynamics. There is an emphasis on collaborative skills and developing an excellent character in this ensemble. Students are assessed in 4 Criteria: Criterion A: Knowledge and Understanding (keywords, vocal technique, vocal styles, languages) B: Application (rehearsals, recordings and performances, C: Reflection: Journal entry, D: Personal Engagement: approach to learning, attitude, independent and collaborative skills. MS Choir students perform in concerts in Vienna’s beautiful venues and are graded on their final performance.

MS Life Skills

MSEL107

Year-Long

In this one hour per week course, middle school students will learn a variety of practical skills designed to aid them in school and beyond. The course is co-taught by the ICSV librarian, school counselor, and chaplain. Students will learn research and organizational skills, including MLA format, searching through library databases and catalogs, efficient search engine use, avoiding plagiarism, online resource management, and proper citations. Further, students will learn social emotional skills such as stress management, social media etiquette, healthy friendship, identity formation, personal boundaries, gratitude, and reflection.



Physical Education

MS Physical Education	MSEL740	Semester
<p>We are created in the image of God to bring honor to God in the way we use and treat our bodies. International Christian School of Vienna recognizes that good health includes the physical, mental, social, and spiritual sides of the individual. A quality physical education program should include a wide variety of physical experiences that include activities for the individual and also for groups. We desire that our students would want to pursue physical activity for the rest of their life.</p> <p>In this class, students develop their motor skills by using games and age-appropriate movement drills. As they participate in structured “team oriented” and/or lead-up games for sports such as soccer, volleyball, gymnastics, and basketball, students experience and discuss issues related to participation and personal fitness. In doing so, they develop an appreciation of a healthy and active lifestyle.</p>		
MS Sports <i>(not offered 2022-2023)</i>	MSEL749	Semester
<p>We are created in the image of God to bring honor to God in the way we use and treat our bodies. International Christian School of Vienna recognizes that good health includes the physical, mental, social, and spiritual sides of the individual. We desire that our students would want to pursue physical activity for the rest of their life.</p> <p>In this class, students can play soccer, basketball or volleyball. What is most important is that they should have fun while playing with other students. It is up to them what they want to play with the other kids.</p>		



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