In eighth grade, students continue to develop their literary analysis skills by studying a rich selection of literature. Several novels and poems have been specifically selected to allow crossover between Social Studies and English, allowing deeper understanding of the setting and plot. Students are also introduced to their first Shakespearean play, Romeo and Juliet. Students analyze characterizations and distinctions through comparisons, analogies or categories. In addition to determining the meaning of figurative and connotative language in a text, students think about authorial choice and analyze the role of particular sentences in developing and refining key concepts. An important feature of eighth-grade English is the use of textual evidence to support summary and analysis.

Eighth-grade students are expected to write routinely for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. They use the writing process to write well-organized, multi-paragraph texts, with an introduction, a clear thesis statement, relevant supporting details, precise language and visual imagery, formal style and appropriate conclusion. Every student will write at least one extended research paper, which combines Social Studies content with English writing skills. Students work on their speaking and listening skills, creating confident and effective communicators. From informal collaborative discussions to participating in CAISL’s JMUN Conference, students are presented with opportunities to pose questions that elicit elaboration, and respond to others’ questions and comments with relevant observations.

In eighth grade we focus on developing the following science and engineering practices or skills: Asking questions and defining problems; Developing and using models; Planning and carrying out investigations; Analyzing and interpreting data; Using mathematics and/or skills:  Asking questions and defining problems; Developing and using models; Planning and carrying out investigations; Analyzing and interpreting data; Using mathematics and developing explanations and designing solutions; Engaging in argument from evidence; Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

We develop these skills by studying the following content areas:

**Science**
- Chemical Processes in Life
- Earth Science:
  - Inheritance: Geologic Time; Sedimentary Rocks and Stratigraphy; Plate Tectonics; Continental Drift
  - In Organisms: Evolution; Biodiversity; Human Origins
- Chemistry of Life: Photosynthesis; Cellular Respiration
- Living Systems: Cells, Tissues, Organs, Systems; Reproduction
- Genetics
- Evolution
- Ecology
- Aquatic Environments
- Planetary Systems
- Space Science

**Social Studies**
- Grade 8 US History covers the early history of the United States from Colonial America to the start of the Civil War. Students analyze changes in British policies and the subsequent responses in the North American colonies which led to the American Revolution. They will develop their awareness of Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Cold War, and Human Rights. They will be able to explain the ideals in the Declaration of Independence. Topics include: Slavery, French and Indian War, American Revolution, and the Expansion of the New Nation. Emphasis is placed on developing students’ research skills by studying a variety of informational texts and primary sources. Students also participate in CAISL’s JMUN Conference, where they have the opportunity to learn about and debate key global issues.

**PE**
- The MSB PE course is designed to teach students about their physical selves and create enthusiasm for physical activity, as well as develop their physical skills. We accomplish this goal by providing our students with a balanced program that builds a strong foundation in physical fitness, develops coordination and fine motor skills, adapts to changing levels of ability, and provides a challenging experience that develops a positive self concept.

**ART**
- The Grade 8 artist focuses on observational techniques and imagination. Students develop critical thinking skills and analyze the relationships among historical movements. Work is documented by an investigation journal.

**EXPLORATORIES**
- Middle School students are offered the opportunity to explore topics without the pressure of grades. The options change annually but can include such courses as Advanced Placement, Mathematical Methodology and Visual Art. Students can choose one or two classes, and as an ensemble, with an emphasis on research projects and field experiences that are vital to their understanding of the world.

**MUSICAL THEATER**
- Grade 8 students will develop personal skills in drama both individually and as an ensemble, with an emphasis on rehearsal and audience etiquette. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a musical either in a band or a theater setting. Each class produces one major performance during the school year.

**IT LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGY**
- Students will learn the essentials on recording and editing videos using today’s digital technology. In Web Development, students will learn HTML and CSS as languages in order to create and share their own websites.

**CHOIR & ORCHESTRA**
- Grade 8 students have two music options - choir or string orchestra. Choir is a year-long class with an opportunity to learn and grow in the area of vocal music. Orchestra is a year-long class for string players with at least two years of prior instruction. Both classes study a broad range of music styles and basic music theory. These ensembles perform regularly throughout the year for formal and informal events.
Carlucci American International School of Lisbon (CAISL)

Curriculum Overview
Grade 8

Is a student-centered educational community in which we challenge ourselves and each other to do our best and to make positive contributions to our diverse and ever-changing world.