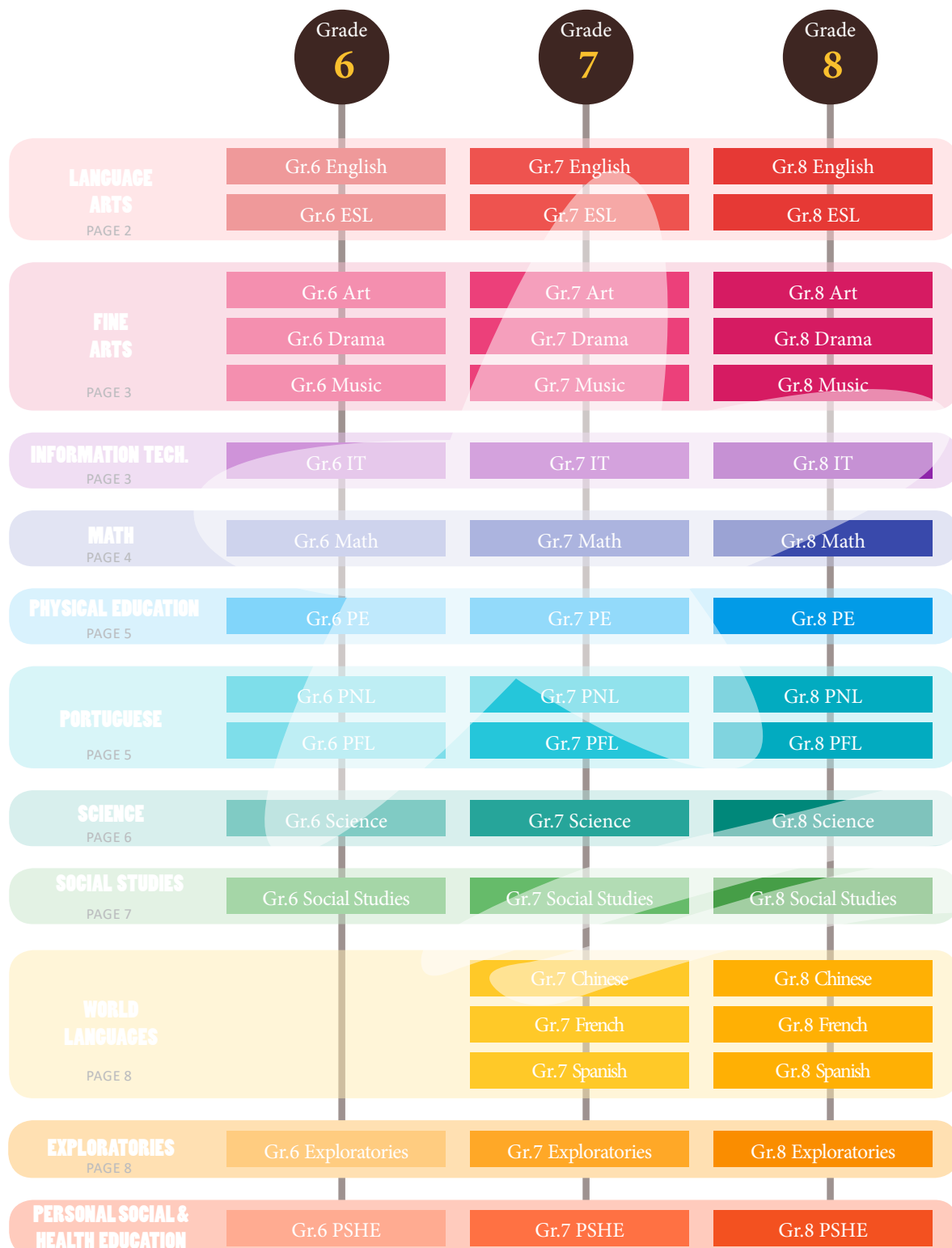


CAISL Middle School Curriculum Overview

PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION

The Middle School program allows students to expand upon the skills and knowledge acquired during Elementary School while setting the academic foundations needed for High School. Middle School students continue to develop their critical thinking and organizational skills in an environment which encourages independence and academic risk-taking. Middle School students are provided with the opportunity to take elective classes in the Arts and Information Technology and, beginning in Grade 7, they may take an additional language.



LANGUAGE ARTS

Gr.6 English

In sixth grade, students read a variety of literature, comparing and contrasting texts of different genres. Students determine the theme, or central idea of a text, and how it is conveyed through particular details. They study how a story's plot unfolds in a series of episodes (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution), how characters evolve over the course of the story's action, and how the author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text. Students determine the meaning of words, including connotative and figurative, and analyze the impact of specific word choice on meaning and tone.

Students in sixth grade write routinely over both extended and short time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. They write arguments and informational text, supporting claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. They write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences using relevant descriptive details and well-structured event sequences. With some guidance and support from peers and adults, the students develop and strengthen their writing as needed, which incorporates the use of technology during development, collaboration, and production.

Sixth graders engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. They interpret information presented in diverse media and formats, and explain how it contributes to a topic or text under study. Students delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from those that are not. Students present claims and findings, including multimedia components and visual displays for clarification, and demonstrate command of formal register.

Gr.7 English

In seventh grade, students read a variety of literature, becoming more familiar with the language of literary analysis. Students determine the theme, or central idea of a text, analyze its development throughout the text, and provide an objective summary of the text. An important feature of seventh-grade English is the use of textual evidence, both explicit and inferred, to support summary and analysis. In addition to determining the meaning of figurative and connotative language in a text, students think about authorial choice and consider the effects of a particular sound, word, or phrase on the reader. Furthermore, students analyze how the form or structure of a work contributes to its overall meaning.

Students in seventh grade write routinely over both extended and short time frames 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, appropriate register, and a conclusion. Their writing incorporates the use of technology during development, collaboration, and production.

Seventh graders listen critically to speakers and media presentations, identify and analyze information from a variety of formats, engage in collaborative discussions, and deliver oral presentations. Students follow rules for collegial discussions, pose questions that elicit elaboration, and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant observations. In their presentations, students include multimedia components and visual aids for clarification, use appropriate eye contact and volume, and apply the same conventions of standard English when speaking as in writing.

Gr.8 English

In eighth grade, students read a variety of literature, becoming more familiar with the language of literary analysis. Students determine the theme, or central idea of a text, analyze its development throughout the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting and plot, as well as analyzing how a text makes connections and distinctions through comparisons, analogies or categories. An important feature of eighth-grade English is the use of textual evidence, both explicit and inferred, to support summary and analysis. 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.

Eighth grade students write routinely over both extended and short time frames 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. Their writing incorporates the use of technology during development, collaboration, and production.

Students in eighth grade listen critically to speakers and media presentations, identify and analyze information from a variety of formats, engage in collaborative discussions, and deliver oral presentations. They follow rules for collegial discussions, pose questions that elicit elaboration, and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant observations. In their presentations, students include multimedia components and visual aids for clarification, use appropriate eye contact and volume, and apply the same conventions of standard English when speaking as in writing.

Gr.6 ESL

Gr.7 ESL

Gr.8 ESL

Students who are not yet mainstreamed into the English classes are enrolled in the “Foundations of English Classes” which is designed to teach students to become socially and academically competent in English. Students who demonstrate beginner through advanced levels are designated as part of the program. Secondary students are given support based on their individual needs and may receive support in small ESL groups, sheltered classes for science or history, or supported immersion in mainstream grade level classes.

ESL teachers regularly monitor student progress during the year. English language curriculum is delivered through the Foundations of English Program which assesses each student individually on his or her progress. As students gain proficiency, adaptations are made to their program. This is done through work samples, observations, and official testing. Students transition from ESL when they demonstrate the ability to produce work and demonstrate comprehension mostly comparable to their grade level peers.

FINE ARTS

Gr.6 Art

Gr.7 Art

Gr.8 Art

Visual Art in Middle School is offered as a full year class. It encompasses a range of technical and expressive exploration in the media of drawing, painting, sculpture and ceramics. Students will have the opportunity to work both individually and collaboratively and will maintain a sketchbook practice to assist in the development of their ability to plan, explore and communicate visual ideas. There are also Art Exploratories offered which are described in that section.

Gr.6 Drama

Gr.7 Drama

Gr.8 Drama

Students in Grades 7 and 8 may elect to take Musical Theater which will develop performance skills both individually and as an ensemble, with an emphasis on rehearsal and audience etiquette. This class produces one major performance during the school year. There are also Drama Exploratories offered which are described in that section.

Gr.6 Music

Gr.7 Music

Gr.8 Music

Middle School 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 only available as a year-long class for novice string players. Orchestra students are required to either buy or rent their instrument for the entire school year. Both ensembles perform regularly throughout the year.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Gr.6 IT

Gr.7 IT

Gr.8 IT

Every Middle School student is taught how to use IT programs to support and enhance their work. Teachers of English, Math, Science, and Social Studies incorporate instruction in Basic Computer Operations, Research, Essay Production, Spreadsheet, and PowerPoint into their lessons as use of these is valuable for the assignments they are doing. The full IT Skills Scope and Sequence can be found on this link: https://www.caislisbon.org/uploaded/Curriculum_links/2019-2020/IT_Skills_Scope_and_Sequence_by_Grade.pdf. Middle School students may elect to take Film Production class. Film focuses on script writing, recording and editing videos. By exploring their creative side and using today's digital technology, students challenge themselves to produce projects such as commercials, short films and news casts.

- (this curriculum is under production)
 - Exploratories in Robotics, Coding, and Web Development are offered as one semester, non-graded classes which encourage students to “explore” the subject. Exploratories are further explained at the end of this document.
- Coding 6 is a semester course of the Sixth Grade Curriculum. Students will be exposed to two programming languages: a block-based and a text-based language. This course covers some of the most important fundamental coding concepts such as variables, data types, input and output operations, mathematical and logical operators, functions, conditionals and

loops to control program flow. Basic operations and concepts will also be covered during class time.

MATH

Gr.6 Math

In order to cultivate an in-depth understanding of mathematics, students focus on developing their process skills through mathematical practices. They make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments, and critique the reasoning of others. Students model with mathematics and use appropriate tools strategically. They attend to precision, look for and make use of structure and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning. Process skills are the essential elements for the mastering of math and will be developed through the content shown below.

In sixth grade, students focus heavily on five key areas as they develop their process skills.

First, they focus on connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems.

Second, they build on what they did in 5th grade to work towards complete understanding of division of fractions, and also on extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers.

Third, they begin their understanding of algebra by writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations.

Fourth, they develop understanding of statistical thinking conducting surveys and analyzing the results.

Finally, they solve real world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.

Gr.7 Math

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Math 7 students extend their understanding of ratios and proportionality to solve multi-step problems. By using their understanding of ratios and proportionality, they solve a wide variety of percent problems and scale drawings.

Students develop a unified understanding of number, recognizing different representations of rational numbers, and extending the four operations to all rational numbers. By applying this knowledge, they explain and interpret the rules for operating with negative numbers. The students use this to formulate expressions and equations in one variable and use these to solve problems.

Seventh graders continue their previous work with area, and prepare for further work in Geometry as they construct 2D figures using appropriate tools and technology. They work with 2D and 3D figures, as they solve problems involving angles, area, surface area, and volume.

Students build on their previous work with single data distributions to compare data distributions and address questions about differences between populations. They work with random sampling to generate data sets and learn about the importance of representative samples for drawing inferences.

Gr.8 Math

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Algebra 1 students use linear equations and systems of linear equations to represent, analyze, and solve a variety of problems. They recognize equations for proportions as special linear equations, understanding that the constant of proportionality is the slope, and the graphs are lines through the origin.

Students also use a linear equation to describe the association between two quantities in bivariate data. At this grade, fitting the model, and assessing its fit to the data are done informally. Interpreting the model in the context of the data requires students to express a relationship and to interpret the situation.

They reason on the structure of linear equations and formulas, as well as polynomials and expressions with exponents and

radicals.

They strategically choose and implement procedures to solve linear equations in one variable, understanding that when they use the properties of equality and the concept of logical equivalence, they maintain the solutions of the original equation. Students solve systems of two linear equations in two variables and relate the systems to pairs of lines in the plane.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Gr.6 PE

The 6th Grade PE course teaches students about their physical selves and creates enthusiasm for physical activity while simultaneously help them adapt to the requirements of a Middle School program and schedule. We provide our students with a balanced program that builds a strong foundation in physical fitness, basic sport performance skills, lead-up games, and beginning understanding of tactics in sports.

Gr.7 PE

Gr.8 PE

Grade 7 and 8 Physical Education teach students about their physical selves and creates enthusiasm for physical activity while developing each student's physical skills. We provide our students with a balanced program that builds a strong foundation in physical fitness, develops sport performance skills to an advanced level, lead-up games, and an intermediate-advanced understanding of tactics in sports.

PORTUGUESE

Gr.6 PNL

A disciplina de Língua Portuguesa 6 tem como objetivo solidificar as aprendizagens feitas em anos anteriores. Pretende-se que os alunos desenvolvam as suas capacidades de expressão oral, através de variadas atividades como a apresentação de livros, o recontar de histórias ou a declamação de poemas; treinem a audição e a compreensão de vários textos; leiam e interpretem vários textos, desde contos tradicionais, diários e textos biográficos, poesia, até obras integrais narrativas, dramáticas e informativas. Os textos são o ponto de partida para variadíssimos trabalhos tais como pesquisas, produções escritas, apresentações orais e discussões em aula visando a melhor compreensão dos textos, mas também da gramática da língua portuguesa. Para fomentar o gosto pela Educação Literária, para além da leitura de obras na íntegra, na sala de aula, os alunos são também incentivados a fazer algumas leituras recreativas.

Gr.7 PNL

Neste ano de escolaridade dá-se especial atenção à leitura e interpretação de textos narrativos (textos de tradição oral e de autor; outras obras de cariz memorialístico), textos dramáticos e textos poéticos. Desenvolver-se-á a consciência das diversas categorias que regem cada tipologia textual, entre outras características estruturais e linguísticas. Estimular-se-á, também, a interpretação e a inferência partindo desses mesmos textos. Para além destas competências, a disciplina de Língua Portuguesa 7 visa sedimentar e desenvolver os conhecimentos gramaticais adquiridos no ano anterior, recorrendo à veiculação de conteúdos de conhecimento explícito da língua e à prática dos mesmos, exigindo um nível mais desenvolvido de domínio linguístico e consciência gramatical tanto morfológica como sintática. Associada às práticas da língua, desenvolver-se-á a técnica de organização e redação de textos, tais como guiões de leitura, apreciações críticas das obras lidas e produções criativas.

Gr.8 PNL

A disciplina de Língua Portuguesa 8 tem como objetivo solidificar as aprendizagens feitas em anos anteriores. Pretende-se que os alunos desenvolvam as suas capacidades de expressão oral, através de variadas atividades como a apresentação de temas gramaticais e de livros; leiam e interpretem obras integrais (texto narrativo e texto dramático), texto jornalístico e texto poético; treinem a compreensão de vários textos. Trabalha-se ainda a produção escrita, nomeadamente a redação de textos do tipo jornalístico e a composição de texto com características narrativas. Os textos são o ponto de partida

para variados trabalhos tais como pesquisas, produções escritas, apresentações orais e discussões em aula visando a melhor compreensão dos textos, mas também da gramática da língua portuguesa. Para fomentar o gosto pela Educação Literária, para além da leitura de obras na íntegra, na sala de aula, os alunos são também incentivados a fazer algumas leituras recreativas.

Gr.6 PFL

Portuguese as a Foreign Language (PFL) is required of all students who are new to the language except to those who are just beginning to learn English. It is taught at Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced level. This program will give students the opportunity to express themselves in Portuguese, orally and in writing, and to understand the culture of Portugal. Students who successfully complete the PFL program through the Advanced level are eligible to move into PNL (Portuguese as a Native Language). During the transition, students will typically receive sheltered assessment.

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SCIENCE

Gr.6 Science

In sixth 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 computational thinking; Constructing explanations and designing solutions; Engaging in argument from evidence; Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

We develop these skills by studying the following content areas:

Physical Science: Kinetic Energy and Collisions; Heat and Heat Flow.

Earth Science: Water Cycle, Weather, Climate; Global Climate Change Causes.

Life Science: Cells and Body Systems; Sexual versus Asexual Reproduction.

Gr.7 Science

In seventh 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 computational thinking; Constructing explanations and designing solutions; Engaging in argument from evidence; Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

We develop these skills by studying the following content areas:

Physical Science: Forces and Motion; Types of Interactions; Relationship Between Energy and Forces; Wave Properties

Earth Science: The Universe and Its Stars; Earth and the Solar System; The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes; Weather and Climate.

Gr.8 Science

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 computational thinking; Constructing explanations and designing solutions; Engaging in argument from evidence; Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

We develop these skills by studying the following content areas:

Physical Science: Chemical Reactions

Life Science: Structure and Function; Growth and Development of Organisms; Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms; Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems; Cycle of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems; Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience; Growth and Development of Organisms; Inheritance of Traits; Variation of Traits; Natural Selection and Adaptation; Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity

Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science: Engineering Design.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Gr.6 Social Studies

The sixth grade Social Studies curriculum has four main areas of study:

History, Culture & Perspective; Geography, People and the Environment; Economics, Innovation & Technology; Civics, Government and Human Rights.

Sixth grade Social Studies students will learn about the origins and developments of major ancient civilizations. They will identify and appreciate the significance of geographic locations in the development of civilization, as well as, learn basic map and globe skills, and become familiar with various landforms and climates. The course topics include: Early Man, Sumer and Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel, China, India, Greece, and Rome. Students will compare and contrast different aspects of these unique cultures that developed around the world during the ancient times, and analyze the factors that led to their rise and decline.

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This subject covers the Middle Centuries from the fall of Rome to the Renaissance, with specific focus on Iberia. They will study how trade, technology, the availability of natural resources, and contact with other civilizations affected the development of empires and influenced present day Iberia. Topics include: The Fall of Rome, Feudalism, monotheistic religions, the Rise and Expansion of Islam, the Protestant Reformation, and the Renaissance. Emphasis will be placed on developing students' research skills by studying a variety of informational texts and assessing the credibility of a source.

Gr.8 Social Studies

The Social Studies curriculum has four main areas of study:

History, Culture & Perspective; Geography, People and the Environment; Economics, Innovation & Technology; Civics, Government and Human Rights.

Grade 8 US History covers the early history of the United States from Colonial America to the start of the Civil War. Students will 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 Civics, Government, and Human Rights, and be able to explain the ideals in the Declaration of Independence. Topics include: Slavery, French and Indian War, American Revolution, and the origins of modern US government. Emphasis will also be placed on developing students' research skills by studying a variety of informational texts.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Gr.7 Chinese

Gr.7 French

Gr.7 Spanish

CAISL offers Chinese, French, and Spanish as Foreign Languages at level one. These courses are designed to develop

students' interest in studying a foreign language. The aim is to provide a solid foundation in order to develop language competence and cultural knowledge through speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Gr.8 Chinese

Gr.8 French

Gr.8 Spanish

CAISL offers Chinese, French, and Spanish as Foreign Languages at either levels one or two. These courses are designed to build on the students' foundation in a foreign language. The aim is to continue to provide skills so that students can further express themselves, with more ease, about familiar topics through speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

EXPLORATORIES

Gr.6 Exploratories

Gr.7 Exploratories

Gr.8 Exploratories

Middle School Exploratories are semester-long non-graded classes designed to allow students to "explore" new subjects without the pressure of grades. They are "learning for the joy of learning" experiences. The probable Exploratory offerings are listed below but courses are often added or deleted based on student interest.

Acting Introduction; Active Living; Coding; Dance; Drawing Intensive; Gardening; Global Issues; Improvisation; Robotics; Script Writing; Uncarved Block; Web Development.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL & HEALTH EDUCATION

Gr.6 PSHE

The goal of PSHE is to offer students the opportunity to learn about their personal, social and health development and to help them to find strategies to deal with the main problems that occur in this stage of development. Small group sessions, lunch time activities, guest speakers and collaborative projects, will address the following topics with the 6th grade students: coping skills, problem solving, friendship, trustworthiness, cooperation/empathy, addictions, peer pressure, bullying, stress management and puberty. 6th grade students will have close contact with the Personal Counselor so that their questions, concerns and comments can be addressed.

Gr.7 PSHE

The goal of PSHE is to offer students the opportunity to learn about their personal, social and health development and to help them to find strategies to deal with the main problems that occur in this stage of development. Small group sessions, lunch time activities, guest speakers and collaborative projects, will address the following topics with the 7th grade students: self-esteem and identity, body image, feelings, addictions, coping skills, problem solving skills, peer pressure, bystander effect, stress management, puberty and decision making process. 7th grade students will have close contact with the Personal Counselor so that their questions, concerns and comments can be addressed.

Gr.8 PSHE

The goal of PSHE is to offer students the opportunity to learn about their personal, social and health development and to help them to find strategies to deal with the main problems that occur in this stage of development. Small group sessions, lunch time activities, guest speakers and collaborative projects, will address the following topics with the 8th grade students: addictions, peer pressure, communication skills, choices/consequences, media influence in teens, stress management, sexual health and coping with changes/moving to High School. 8th grade students will have close contact with the Personal Counselor so that their questions, concerns and comments can be addressed.