



SHANGHAI SMIC
PRIVATE SCHOOL
INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

COURSE OF STUDY

MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-2026

Cover illustrated by Helen Zuo (8D)

SMIC VISION

Educating and nurturing students to become global citizens of honor and self-discipline who are committed to independent thinking and service to others.

Mission Statement

The heart and soul of the school is a combined partnership with families and community to provide positive, student-centered education that balances academic excellence with physical, social and emotional well-being using both an American-style curriculum and Chinese cultural traditions.

Expected School-Wide Learner Results (ESLR's)

The SMIC Private School is committed to significant local, regional, national, and international partnerships with families and communities that prepare students to be

- *Global Citizens*: Students will engage in positive active citizenship through respect for the environment, commitment to charitable causes, and an appreciation for cultural diversity.
- *Persons of Character*: Students will consistently choose to respect self and others.
- *Motivated Learners*: Students will demonstrate a passion for learning and intellectual curiosity through creativity, initiative, collaboration, and problem-solving.
- *Healthy Individuals*: Students will make appropriate choices that reflect physical well-being as well as social and emotional maturity.

The Educational Program

The SMIC Private School's (SMIC) educational program consists of academic, athletic, extra-curricular, and community service dimensions. The student handbook explores the student responsibilities, expectations, requirements, and opportunities related to life at SMIC Private School in greater detail.

The Academic Curriculum

The academic curriculum at SMIC is based on the entrance requirements for colleges and universities across North America. The American-based curriculum is blended with Chinese cultural traditions to further broaden each student's perspective. This is done to ensure continuity in the pursuit of further studies by SMIC graduates, who traditionally have gone on to study in the United States. Recent graduates have also successfully entered universities in Canada, the UK, Australia, Hong Kong, China, and Korea. The core curriculum ensures that students achieve a fundamentally sound education comprised of the liberal arts and natural sciences, as well as elective courses; all of which combine to achieve the school's aim of educating students to be well-rounded and motivated learners. SMIC endeavors to prepare students for university life by cultivating creativity, critical thinking, and a life-long love for learning.

Homework Expectations

The Course of Study gives indications of the expected homework load per course in the following way.

* an average of 20 minutes or less per day

** an average of 21-40 minutes or less per day

ENGLISH

Course Code	Course Name	Grade	HW Load
ENGL 0610	Grade 6 Literature	6	*
WRIT 0610	Writing Lab 6	6	*
ENGL 0710	Grade 7 Literature	7	*
WRIT 0710	Writing Lab 7	7	*
ENGL 0810	Grade 8 Literature	8	*
WRIT 0810	Writing Lab 8	8	*

ENGL 0610	Grade 6 Literature
Grade 6 Literature introduces students to advanced reading and analytical skills required for higher-level reading. Through engaging texts and realistic fiction novels, students work towards developing a deeper understanding of the complexities of life that characters face. Students practice sharing ideas and practicing critical thinking and problem-solving skills through close discussion and small group collaboration. Students will also explore social issues that characters encounter and make connections between their readings and the real world. Along the way, students will build upon their vocabulary and focus in depth on the meanings of a variety of character traits. The novels students will study during the year are <i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>, <i>Freak the Mighty</i>, <i>Kira-Kira</i>, and a book club novel. Our mentor texts are Deep Study of Character and Social Issues Book Club, a Lucy Calkins series. At the end of this course, students will become critical readers, creative thinkers, organized writers, and more skilled with the English language.	

WRIT 0610	Writing Lab 6
Writing Lab 6 focusing on helping students to developing good writing skills and an understanding of how to write for a variety of genres. This course teaches students proper writing techniques, strengthens their grammar, and guides them in producing processed writing pieces. Students will focus on narrative, expository, persuasive and research writing. Upon completing this course, students will be able to produce formal essays using proper formatting.	

ENGL 0710	Grade 7 Literature
Grade 7 Literature prepares students for upper-level language and academic thinking skills. Students will actively engage in close reading of various literary texts. Through research, discussions, audience-focused projects, and presentations, students will develop into a community of informed and collaborative thinkers. They will work together to enhance their ability to share ideas effectively and productively. The Grade 7 Literature and Writing teachers collaborate closely to ensure a unified approach to language learning.	

WRIT 0710	Writing Lab 7
Writing Lab 7 is aligned with English 0710, Grade 7 Literature. Students will further expand their writing techniques in narrative, informative and argument writing. Writing projects include realistic fiction and historical fiction stories, literary analysis essays and a research-based argument essay. Major areas of focus include building familiarity with the writing process, from planning to revision, deepening understanding of the writer's craft and the goals and techniques of skilled writers, strengthening fundamentals of research writing, including properly citing sources, and finally honing proficiency with grammar and language conventions.	

ENGL 0810	Grade 8 Literature
Grade 8 Literature is designed to cultivate lifelong readers by developing habits, skills, and a passion for literature that extend beyond the classroom. Students actively construct understanding by paying close attention to narrative elements, moving through a gradual release of responsibility—from attentive observation of story details to sophisticated analysis. This course fosters a supportive, interactive environment where students engage deeply with texts, discussing, questioning, and reflecting on how narrative elements shape a story's impact. Through opportunities for discussion, sharing interpretations, and collaborative inquiry, learners build on each other's insights, internalizing narrative concepts over time. By integrating careful attention to detail with ongoing interaction, Grade 8 Literature nurtures thoughtful, active readers who create meaning through engagement, analysis, and dialogue.	

WRIT 0810	Writing Lab 8
Writing Lab 8 is aligned with English 0810, Grade 8 Literature. By this stage, students are expected to have a strong command of the writing process and be able to apply their skills to various academic projects. These include narrative technique analysis	

and usage, craft and theme analysis, and position writing. At the end of this course, students will be able to analyze various texts to develop a position, clearly state and support their position using logical reasoning, and use craft tools to effectively communicate their message to their audience.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Code	Course Name	Grade	HW Load
HIST 0620	Human Geography 6	6	*
HIST 0720	Human Geography 7	7	*
HIST 0820	Ancient and Medieval World	8	*

HIST 0620	Human Geography 6
This course focuses on the distinct cultures and geography of Asia. The five themes of geography - place, location, region, human-environment interaction, and movement - will help young students organize current information as they study the world's largest and most diverse continent. In addition, students will learn to use the tools and terms of geography to understand the unique aspects of the various regions of East, Central, and Southeast Asia, and the Indian Subcontinent. Students will also explore the role of geography in shaping the customs and values of Asian cultures and examine the interactions among the many ethnic groups of Asia. Class discussion, group work and individual research projects are all important components of the coursework.	

HIST 0720	Human Geography 7
Students will continue to explore human geography by looking at the ways people interact with their environments through the lens of the five themes of geography: location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region. Aligned with the National Geography Standards, this course emphasizes key concepts such as migration, population patterns, cultural characteristics, political geography, and map skills. Students will examine real-world case studies and geographic issues across Europe, the Western Hemisphere, and Africa. Through inquiry-based activities, map analysis, and collaborative projects, students will develop geographic thinking and a deeper understanding of global connections.	

HIST 0820	Ancient and Medieval World
This class will explore the world from the beginnings of civilization through the Medieval period, focusing on themes which, when examined, will give a greater understanding of history overall, regardless of time period. The class will also endeavor to develop skills necessary to not only understand history, but to “do” it and apply it. Students will leave this class with the strong foundations necessary to succeed in high school history classes.	

MATHEMATICS

Course Code	Course Name	Grade	HW Load
MATH 0611	Middle School Math I	6	*
MATH 0630	Honors Grade 6 Math	6	**
MATH 0711	Middle School Math II	7	*
MATH 0720	Honors Grade 7 Math	7	**
MATH 0811	Middle School Math III	8	*
MATH 0820	Algebra I Honors	8	**

MATH 0611	Middle School Math I
The curriculum for this course is aligned with the United States' Common Core State Standards for Mathematics, Grade 6. In this course, instructional time should focus on five critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; (4) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (5) developing understanding of statistical thinking.	

MATH 0630	Honors Grade 6 Math
<i>Prerequisite</i>	<i>Grade 5 Math grade, the score on the Grade 6 Math Honors entrance examination, MAP scores, and teacher recommendation will all be considered for placement.</i>

The curriculum for this course is aligned with the United States' Common Core State Standards for Mathematics, Grades 6 and 7. As an accelerated course, the course will proceed at a quicker pace and cover more advanced aspects of mathematics than MATH 0611.

In this course, instructional time should focus on five critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; and developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; (4) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (5) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

MATH 0711	Middle School Math II
The 7th grade mathematics curriculum includes all Common Core Standards for Grade 7. The instructional time will focus on four critical areas (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations, (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume, and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.	

MATH 0720	Honors Grade 7 Math
<i>Prerequisite</i>	<i>For those in MATH 0630, maintenance of a B- or above for the first three quarters.</i> <i>Students with a score of C+ and lower in the first semester or third quarter in Math 0630 are required to take the entrance examination.</i> <i>For those in MATH 0611, maintenance of an A- in the first three quarters and performance on an entrance examination.</i>
The 7 th grade Accelerated mathematics curriculum covers all Common Core Standards for Grade 8. The instructional time will focus on three critical areas (1) formulating and reasoning about expression and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships, (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures	

using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

MATH 0811	Middle School Math III
This 8th Grade mathematics course follows Common Core Standards for Grade 8. The main areas for emphasis are expressions and equations, including systems of linear equations; functions to describe quantitative relationships; analysis of 2D and 3D figures and the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will study congruence and similarity. They will be able to verify the properties of geometric transformations and describe the effects of 2-D shapes using coordinates. Students will study and investigate bivariate data. They will look at the graphical representation of data to describe patterns.	

MATH 0820	Algebra I Honors
<i>Prerequisite</i>	<i>For those in MATH 0720, maintenance of a B- or above for the first three quarters. For those in MATH 0711, maintenance of an A- in the first three quarters and performance on an entrance examination.</i> <i>Students with a score of C+ and lower in the first three quarters in Math 0720 are required to take the entrance examination.</i>
Algebra I Honors incorporates all the foundation skills that are necessary for students to pursue college-preparatory mathematics in high school. The properties of and operations on numbers are extended to include the development of the real number system. Sets, equations, inequalities, exponents, polynomials, functions, graphing, systems of equations, and quadratics are the major topics of study. Additionally, the ability to make comparisons of one-variable data sets using statistical techniques including measures of central tendency, range, stem-and-leaf plots, and box-and-whisker graphs is an expectation for all students in the Algebra I program. Students are encouraged to see the connection between Algebra and other disciplines. This is an accelerated course that proceeds at a brisk pace and covers material at an advanced level.	

SCIENCE

Course Code	Course Name	Grade	HW Load
SCIE 0620	Grade 6 Integrated Science	6	*
SCIE 0720	Grade 7 Integrated Science	7	*
SCIE 0820	Grade 8 Integrated Science	8	*

SCIE 0620	Grade 6 Integrated Science
In Grade 6 Integrated Science, students will explore Earth science, life science, and physical science. Students will learn about the Earth's systems, plate tectonics, and natural resources. They will also study living organisms, focusing on cells, systems, inheritance of traits, and natural selection. Students will explore interactions of matter and energy. In addition, they will learn about different forms of energy and its transformation. Overall, this course will provide students with a well-rounded foundation in science, preparing them for future studies in more specialized areas of science and fostering a lifelong curiosity about the world around them.	

SCIE 0720	Grade 7 Integrated Science
In Grade 7 Integrated Science, students will explore chemistry, biology, and environmental science. Students will learn how chemical reactions occur in processes such as digestion, photosynthesis and cellular respiration, and matter cycling. They will also study how genetic information is encoded in genes, expressed in proteins, and passed across generations. Students will explore how traits in a population can change through natural selection. Students will also learn about the distribution of resources on Earth, how human activity causes changes in global climate, and how to mitigate human effects on natural systems. Overall, this course will provide students with a well-rounded foundation in science, preparing them for future studies in more specialized areas of science and fostering a lifelong curiosity about the world around them.	

SCIE 0820	Grade 8 Integrated Science
In Grade 8 Integrated Science, students will explore physics, chemistry and ecology. Students will learn about motion, gravity, energy, heat, sound, and electricity. They will also solve mathematical problems related to these concepts. Students will explore more deeply the chemistry concepts learned in Grade 7 Integrated Science, as they prepare for high school chemistry classes. These concepts include atomic structure, chemical bonding and reactions, periodic trends, and balancing equations. Students will investigate interactions among living things and their environment. Topics include interspecies relationships, food webs, and factors that affect population density. Overall, this course will provide students with a well-rounded foundation in science, preparing them for future studies in more specialized areas of science and fostering a lifelong curiosity about the world around them.	

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course Code	Course Name	Grade	HW Load
PHED 0620	Grade 6 Physical Education	6	*
PHED 0720	Grade 7 Physical Education	7	*
PHED 0820	Grade 8 Physical Education	8	*
PHED 0625	Grade 6 Physical Education Exploration	6	*
PHED 0725	Grade 7 Physical Education Exploration	7	*
PHED 0825	Grade 8 Physical Education Exploration	8	*

PHED 0620	Grade 6 Physical Education
In Grade 6 Physical Education, students develop fundamental skills and strategies that will prepare them for success in 7th and 8th grade PE. Through various physical activities in line with the SHAPE curriculum, students will explore different forms of exercise and engage in multiple sports activities throughout the year to enhance their competencies. In addition to developing physical skills, students will also learn about various games and sports, including the fundamentals, tactics, and strategies involved in gameplay. Through collaborative activities, students will work together to gain a deeper understanding of the principles of health-enhancing fitness programs and will have the opportunity to conduct research and design their own fitness programs. Overall, this course will provide students with a strong foundation in physical fitness, while also helping them develop important life skills like teamwork, communication, sportsmanship, and self-discipline. By the end of the course, students will have gained a deeper understanding of the importance of physical activity and will be equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to continue pursuing a healthy and active lifestyle.	

PHED 0720	Grade 7 Physical Education
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In Grade 7 Physical Education, students build upon the basic skills and strategies they learned in 6th grade. Through various physical activities and engaging in multiple sports across the year as outlined by the SHAPE curriculum, students will further develop their skills and demonstrate competencies. In addition to continuing to learn about various games and sports, including the fundamentals, tactics, and strategies involved in gameplay, students will also work collaboratively in groups to explore intermediate principles of health-enhancing fitness programs. Through research, design, and implementation of their own fitness program, students will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of physical activity and the role it plays in overall health and wellness. Overall, this course will challenge students to push themselves physically and mentally, while also providing them with the tools and knowledge needed to continue pursuing a healthy and active lifestyle. By the end of the course, students will have gained a deeper understanding of the importance of physical fitness and will be equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to continue developing their physical abilities and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

PHED 0820	Grade 8 Physical Education
In Grade 8 Physical Education, students build upon the basic skills and strategies learned in the previous two years, with a focus on fully implementing these skills. Through a variety of physical activities and engaging in multiple sports throughout the year as outlined by the SHAPE curriculum, students will have the opportunity to further develop their skills and demonstrate competencies. In addition to continuing to learn about various games and sports, including the fundamentals, tactics, and strategies involved in gameplay, students will also be introduced to more complex principles of health-enhancing fitness programs. Through research, design, and implementation of their own personalized comprehensive fitness program, students will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of physical activity and the role it plays in overall health and wellness. Overall, this course will challenge students to push themselves physically and mentally, while also providing them with the tools and knowledge needed to continue pursuing a healthy and active lifestyle. By the end of the course, students will have gained a deeper understanding of the importance of physical fitness and will be equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to continue developing their physical abilities and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.	

PHED 0625	G6 Physical Education Exploration
PHED 0725	G7 Physical Education Exploration
PHED 0825	G8 Physical Education Exploration

	PE Exploration is a dynamic and student-centered course designed to empower middle school learners (Grades 6–8) to take ownership of their physical development. Aligned with the SHAPE America national standards, this course encourages students to actively explore a variety of sports and movement-based activities to discover the fitness pathways that best suit their interests and abilities. With an emphasis on developing physical fitness through sports, students will engage in activities that enhance strength and conditioning, cardio endurance, agility, balance, flexibility, and sport-specific skills. By participating in diverse sporting experiences and using available equipment creatively, students will gain insight into how different sports can contribute to lifelong fitness and wellness. This course promotes autonomy, creativity, and resilience while encouraging students to discover what motivates them to stay active. By the end of the course, students will have a broadened understanding of how sports can be a foundation for physical fitness and will leave with a personalized toolkit to support a healthy and active lifestyle both now and in the future.
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TECHNOLOGY

Course Code	Course Name	Grade	HW Load
COMP 0610	Computer Science Fundamentals 6	6	*
COMP 2210	MS Game and Animation	7,8	*
COMP 2220	MS Computer Programming	7,8	*
COMP 2230	MS AI Computer Engineering	7,8	*
TECH 2230	MS Yearbook Design I	7,8	*
TECH 2240	MS Yearbook Design II	8	*
TECH 2310	MS Broadcast Media	6	*

COMP 0610	Computer Science Fundamentals 6
This Grade 6 Computer Science Fundamentals course introduces students to essential computing concepts and digital skills. Students will learn how to manage their network folders and understand the core operations of a computer system. They will categorize hardware devices by their function and use word processing and presentation tools to showcase their work. The course also explores why computers use the binary number system and its relation to transistors, guiding students in converting between binary and decimal numbers. Learners will grasp how data and images are represented in computers and will practice basic encryption and decryption techniques. To build computational thinking, students will explore	

programming concepts and simple algorithms in a beginner-friendly JavaScript environment.

COMP 2210	MS Game and Animation
Students will learn the basics of computer animation and game design in this course. Students will learn what is required to develop and animate characters in a digital world and create their own simple animation using programs such as Blender. In addition, the basics of game design will be covered in this class. Students will be taught about modifying games, developing game maps and the fundamentals of planning and designing a game.	

COMP 2220	MS Computer Programming
Middle School Computer Programming introduces students to the exciting world of coding using Python—one of the most beginner-friendly and widely used programming languages. Through engaging, hands-on activities, students will explore key programming concepts such as variables, conditionals, loops, lists, and object-oriented programming. They will create various interactive programs using the Python Turtle module while developing their computational thinking, problem-solving, and critical-thinking skills. By the end of the course, students will have built a strong foundation in Python, equipping them for more advanced studies in software development and computer science.	

COMP 2230	MS AI Computer Engineering
<i>Prerequisite</i>	<i>Students must have their parents sign a permission document before being enrolled in the course.</i>
This project-based course will guide students through building a computer, installing Windows 11, Ubuntu Linux and installing a generative AI locally on the computer. In addition, along the way students will learn the parts of the computer system, how they work and interact with each other. The same will be true about Operating systems and various software packages. There are costs associated with this course for materials.	

TECH 2230	MS Yearbook Design I
<i>Prerequisite</i>	<i>Students must have a recommendation from their Elective and Homeroom teachers.</i>
Students will take full creative and editorial responsibility for designing the English track pages of the Middle School yearbook section. Through real-world publishing experience, participants develop essential skills in layout design, photojournalism, copy editing, and print media production. The curriculum emphasizes professional practices including deadline management, collaborative teamwork, and constructive critique processes. Students will also exercise leadership in theme development, page creation, and editorial decision-making while capturing school events through photography (both during and occasionally after school hours). This project-based class requires commitment to a shared creative vision, with individual grades reflecting each student's contribution to producing a high-quality, memorable yearbook.	

TECH 2240	MS Yearbook Design II
<i>Prerequisite</i>	<i>Students must have completed MS Yearbook Design I in grade 7. They also need a recommendation from the MS Yearbook Design I teacher and English teacher.</i>
MS Yearbook Design II is an advanced course that builds upon the skills developed in Yearbook Design I, focusing on professional-level yearbook production. Students will refine their expertise in layout design, journalistic writing, and photo editing while taking on leadership roles in creating the English track pages of the Middle School yearbook section. Through collaboration with high school students, students will manage production timelines, lead editorial decisions, and implement quality control processes. The course emphasizes real-world publishing skills like cross-grade teamwork, print production management, and ethical photojournalism standards. By course completion, students will have portfolio-ready work demonstrating their contributions to a professionally printed yearbook.	

TECH 2310	MS Broadcast Media
This course introduces Grade 6 students to digital media production through hands-on experience in video and audio broadcasting. Students will develop foundational skills in filming, scriptwriting, on-camera presentation, and digital editing while creating professional-style school announcements, vlogs, and podcasts. The	

curriculum emphasizes both technical proficiency and media literacy, incorporating ethical storytelling practices using accessible editing tools. Designed to foster creativity and digital communication skills, this project-based course provides practical experience in modern broadcast media.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Course Code	Course Name	Grade	HW Load
ARTS 0610	Visual Studies 6	6	*
ARTS 2210	MS 2D Art	7,8	*
ARTS 2230	3D Art	7,8	*
MUSC 0610	Music 6	6	*
MUSC 2240	MS Chamber Orchestra	7,8	*
MUSC 2230	MS Music Exploration	7,8	*

ARTS 0610	Visual Studies 6
The Visual Studies 6 course combines two-dimensional and three-dimensional art techniques. Student projects include drawing, painting, mixed media, and sculpture assignments. Students are also introduced to the artist's practice of keeping a sketchbook and portfolio. They will experience a wide variety of art processes and	

techniques spanning many cultures to broaden their knowledge of art, using pens, pencils, charcoal, oil pastel, watercolor paint, magazine collage, recycled cardboard, glue, and tape. Students are encouraged to confidently explore their creative abilities and artistic ideas.

ARTS 2210	MS 2D Art
This course introduces students to the history, practices, and principal elements of 2-D Art and Design. Students will develop their skills in two-dimensional mediums such as painting, drawings, graphic design, photography, collage, and printmaking. They will study important artists and artistic movements and will investigate art and design materials, processes, and ideas. Students will practice and experiment with different 2D art skills and techniques such as observational painting and compositions. Overall, students will be encouraged to explore creative personal expression and visual communication, as they do through art and design.	

ARTS 2230	3D Art
The 3D Art course is designed for students who are interested in practical applications of art. Students will refine and apply skills and ideas they develop throughout the course to produce three-dimensional art and design. They will study important art and artists in the field. They will master different properties of diverse media, styles, subjects, and content through experimentation with materials and concepts. Overall, students will develop artistic and creative practices and habits of mind through their work with 3-D design media and approaches.	

MUSC 0610	Music 6
The Music 6 course is a continuous learning process which builds on students' existing knowledge to deepen their appreciation of music through an exploration of melody, harmony, rhythm, and dynamics, while enhancing their ability to play a variety of musical instruments. The students will explore all aspects of music performance and appreciation including duration, pitch, expression, and cultural context. Individually or in a group setting, students will learn about key musical concepts and there will be a strong focus on performance.	

MUSC 2240	MS Chamber Orchestra
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<i>Prerequisite</i>	<i>Students must have at least one year of orchestra instrument study. Interested pianists must audition and meet a specific level of ability. Only two slots are available for pianists each year.</i>
This course is for students who have studied an orchestra instrument for at least two years. Students will explore repertoires from classical music contemporary music and music from diverse cultures. They will learn how knowledge of music theory is applied in playing with accurate pitch, articulation, rhythm, dynamics, and musicianship. They will also learn to compose their own songs using software to express their ideas. Students will take part in performances in class, during lunchtimes, at school concerts, and in the community.	

MUSC 2230	MS Music Exploration
This course offers students an opportunity to explore and experience music in greater depth. Students will explore various instrument-playing skills, create music using technology, and learn song and music appreciation through analyzing the structure of the piece. Students will learn about the history of music of different cultures and the different instruments used in those cultures. Students will take part in performances during class, lunchtimes, at school concerts, and in the community.	

CHINESE

The Chinese department offers two curriculum systems that are tailored to the needs of students from different language backgrounds. The CSL (Chinese as a Second language) curriculum is aimed at non-native Chinese speakers while the CLA (Chinese Language Arts) curriculum caters to native Chinese speakers.

The CSL curriculum follows the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards to help students develop essential Chinese communication skills and effectively meet the basic needs of daily life. In time, students will develop the

ability to use Chinese in a range of practical circumstances. The curriculum is divided into thematic units, and multiple resources and differentiated materials are provided to ensure that all students can maximize their Chinese language skills.

The CLA curriculum, which is based on the 2022 Compulsory Education Chinese Curriculum Standards, offers a comprehensive, practical Chinese language education by integrating language skills with literary, cultural, and historical knowledge. A variety of vibrant teaching activities will be used to stimulate students' intrinsic motivation to learn Chinese, to encourage them to become global citizens, to empower them to use Chinese authentically, and to present their own unique views on life and values.

Course Code	Course Name	Grade	HW Load
CSL 0610	CSL G6 Developing	6	*
CSL 0620	CSL G6 Advanced	6	*
CSL 0710	CSL G7 Developing	7	*
CSL 0720	CSL G7 Advanced	7	*
CSL 0810	CSL G8 Developing	8	*
CSL 0820	CSL G8 Advanced	8	*
CHIN 0620	Chinese Language Arts 6	6	*
CHIN 0625	Accelerated Chinese 6	6	**
CHIN 0720	Chinese Language Arts 7	7	*
CHIN 0725	Accelerated Chinese 7	7	**
CHIN 0820	Chinese Language Arts 8	8	*
CHIN 0825	Accelerated Chinese 8	8	**

CSL 0610	CSL G6 Developing
CSL 0710	CSL G7 Developing
CSL 0810	CSL G8 Developing
These courses are designed to develop the Chinese language abilities of students in mixed-level classes in listening, speaking, reading, and writing through differentiated teaching content, teaching methods, and assessments. The course forms a three-year, themed cycle, which includes Chinese-themed topics such as recreation, diet and health, family relations, the environment, community and society, school life,	

animals and nature. The course also gives students meaningful insights into Chinese life and culture. Students will develop essential vocabulary and understanding of grammatical patterns as they explore these different topics. They will also learn to express themselves in Chinese in both speaking and writing. The content of each unit will feature aspects of ancient and modern Chinese culture. In addition to the thematic unit learning, additional special interactive listening, speaking, reading, and writing exercises will help students further practice their language skills.

CSL 0620	CSL G6 Advanced
This course aims to develop students' practical communication skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing as well as fostering a deep understanding of traditional Chinese culture. In terms of language application, students will learn to confidently and effectively handle a range of social tasks, relating to personal life and society, in contexts such as school, work, leisure, and social life. They will also learn to draft paragraphs and essays that have practical relevance to their personal life using relatively complex sentence structures and vocabulary.	

CSL 0720	CSL G7 Advanced
This course aims to develop students' Chinese language abilities in all four areas - listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will be introduced to topics related to modern society and traditional culture. In terms of language, students will be required to understand more complex texts, such as news reports and texts related to community life both in and outside of China. Students will also develop their ability to confidently respond to various communication tasks and express themselves clearly and concretely. They will also study texts that are structurally and conceptually more complex and develop the ability to grasp the main ideas, facts, and supporting details in such texts. This will support their work on academic writing in Chinese, where they will become comfortable with producing written work that demonstrates complex sentence patterns and vocabulary.	

CSL 0820	CSL G8 Advanced
This course aims to develop students' language skills through different modes of language practice. Students will learn about Chinese history, culture, society, life, and other topics through a variety of Chinese learning materials. When focusing on language skills, students will work to develop an understanding of more complex	

texts, such as news reports and texts related to modern and ancient culture. They will also develop the ability to write summaries of structurally and conceptually complex texts.

CHIN 0620	Chinese Language Arts 6
The course aims to develop students' ability to understand Chinese language texts in the context of real life and growth experiences. Students will study various forms of literature such as essays, fiction and poetry, and will cultivate the ability to understand the author's intention. They will experience a range of Chinese language writing techniques. The course will require students to do outside reading so that they can expand their knowledge and accumulate experience of different writing genres. Students are expected to share ideas in group discussions and writing activities.	

CHIN 0625	Accelerated Chinese 6
<i>Prerequisite</i>	<i>Regular Grade 5 CLA students require an A- or above on their Q1, Q2 and Q3 report card Q1, Q2, and Q3 report card, a teacher's recommendation, and a pass score on the Accelerated Chinese Class qualification examination. Grade 5 Accelerated Chinese Class students must maintain a grade of B or above to stay in Accelerated Chinese 6.</i>
The course aims to develop students' ability to understand texts in the context of real life and growth experiences. Students will study various forms of literature such as novels, expository writing, and ancient poems, and cultivate the ability to figure out the author's intention and to experience different writing techniques. The course will require students to do outside reading so that they can expand their knowledge and accumulate writing incentives throughout life. Students are expected to improve language organization skills through sharing thoughts, group discussions, writing practice, etc., and express their ideas, attitudes, and opinions via words more accurately. This is an accelerated course that proceeds at a brisk pace with more units and more critical standards.	

CHIN 0720	Chinese Language Arts 7
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The course aims to cultivate students' ability to explore literary works through understanding historical background and the author's experience. Students will analyze pieces of literature from different points of view, and comprehend the connotations of works, in order to understand the cultural and historical value of the writings. Students will study various forms of writing such as fiction, prose, journalism, and ancient Chinese writings to explore different points of view and enhance their critical thinking skills. Students will engage in creative activities like poster design, presentations, short film production, and performances in order to use and improve their Chinese language skills.

CHIN 0725	Accelerated Chinese 7
<i>Prerequisite</i>	<i>Regular Grade 6 CLA students need to have an A- or above on their Semester 1 report card and Semester 2 mid-term report card, a teacher's recommendation, and a pass score on the Accelerated Chinese qualification examination. Grade 6 Accelerated Chinese Class students must maintain a grade of B or above to stay in Accelerated Chinese 7.</i>
The course aims to cultivate students' ability to understand literary works via the historical background of the text and the author's experience. Students are expected to appreciate pieces of literature from different points of view, to comprehend the connotations of works, to understand the value of the writings, and to be inspired positively. Students will study various forms of literature such as novels, prose, journalism, and ancient Chinese articles to enhance their critical thinking skills and offer different points of view widely. Students are also encouraged to read texts such as news, historical materials, and classical novels, etc., so that they can expand their knowledge and accumulate writing incentives through life. Students will be asked to make posters, do presentations, produce short videos, and give stage performances, etc., to improve their word expressions comprehensively. This is an accelerated course that proceeds at a brisk pace with more units and more critical standards.	

CHIN 0820	Chinese Language Arts 8
The course aims to develop students' ability to understand and explore the values, and cultural connotations of a range of literary and other works. Through studying prose, argumentative essays, speeches, novels, and other texts, students will deepen their understanding of Chinese culture and will comprehend better the values contained in literary works produced in different eras. After analyzing the articles in depth, students will also be expected to express their own judgments and ideas in writing, through debates, in presentations, and in performances. Students will learn	

to gain a better understanding of the world and their own place in it and will develop their ability to express their understanding logically, and methodically.

CHIN 0825	Accelerated Chinese 8
<i>Prerequisite</i>	<i>Regular Grade 7 CLA students need to have an A- or above on their Semester 1 report card and Semester 2 mid-term report card, a teacher's recommendation, and a pass score on the Accelerated Chinese qualification examination. Grade 7 Accelerated Chinese Class students must maintain a grade of B or above to stay in Accelerated Chinese 8.</i>
The course aims to cultivate students' ability to understand the feelings, values, and cultural connotations conveyed by the works. Through the study of prose, argumentative essays, scripts, speeches, novels, and other texts, students are expected to learn more about Chinese culture and understand the values delivered in literary works produced in different eras. Also, students are expected to excavate their ideas and express their own judgments and rationales via analyzing the articles in-depth and practicing writing argumentative articles, debating, lecturing, and stage performing. Students will learn to understand the world and themselves through the texts and express their understanding logically, methodically, and deeply. This is an accelerated course that proceeds at a brisk pace with more units and more critical standards.	

WORLD LANGUAGES

The Spanish and French programs offer a 4-year sequence of language instruction across middle school and high school. The program's main objective is for students to communicate as indicated on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Benchmarks and Performance Indicators. The courses are also designed to increase students' understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures. This course is offered to middle school students to give them more opportunities to complete the program with a strong foundation in the French or Spanish language.

World Languages			
Course Code	Course Name	Grade	HW Load
SPAN 0810	Spanish 1	8	*
FREN 0810	French 1	8	*

SPAN 0810	Spanish 1
<i>Prerequisite</i>	<i>Students must maintain a B grade in their Grade 7 Writing Lab and Literature classes in Semesters 1 and Quarter 3.</i>
This is the first course in the four-year sequence of Spanish language instruction. This course stresses the skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing at the novice level in the three modes of communication (Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational) to enable students to communicate in both familiar and everyday contexts (introduction of self, family and friends, likes and dislikes, daily routine, food, etc.) using basic vocabulary and grammar structures. Students will be exposed to cultural components of the Spanish speaking world, such as customs, history, art, and literature. In class, students interact with authentic materials and are encouraged to use the target language as much as possible. Students who pass this course with a C grade or above during semester 1 can take Spanish 2 in high school.	

FREN 0810	French 1
<i>Pre-requisite</i>	<i>Students must maintain a B grade in their Grade 7 Writing Lab and Literature classes in Semesters 1 and Quarter 3.</i>
This is the first course in the four-year sequence of language instruction offered by the French program at the SMIC School. It introduces the basic grammar principles which will be built on in subsequent years, including the present, past, and immediate future tenses of regular along with certain irregular verbs, the use of definite and indefinite articles, demonstrative adjectives, possessive adjectives, question formation, and the pronouns "y" and "en." Chapter units will focus on thematic vocabulary with grammar to develop an acceptable proficiency in the three modes of communication (Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational). Each unit includes a cultural component emphasizing the grammar and vocabulary of the unit: "Geoculture" includes such topics as French customs, history, art, and literature. In class, students are exposed to authentic materials to develop the three modes of communication through reading, listening, speaking, and writing activities, all of which are aligned with the grammar and vocabulary topics of the text. Students who pass this course with a C grade or above during semester 1 can take French 2 in high school.	

LIFE SK

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ILLS

Course Code	Course Name	Grade
LIFE 0610	Life Skills 06	6
LIFE 0710	Life Skills 07	7
LIFE 0710	Life Skills 08	8

LIFE 0610	Life Skills 6
Grade 6 students are just beginning the transition from childhood to adolescence. In order to achieve success academically and socially, the grade 6 Life Skills curriculum focuses on the transition from elementary school to middle school with an emphasis on the skills necessary to excel in a new environment. Topics include academic and social adjustment, organizational skills, group project strategies, study skills, bullying, cyber-bullying, internet safety, tolerance, self-esteem, peer pressure, healthy relationships, personal health & teen development, effective communication, and other pertinent topics as needed. Character traits such as respect, responsibility, tolerance and kindness are also introduced during this course. A primary theme throughout the year is the development of habits that will lead each student to become a person of character.	

LIFE 0710	Life Skills 7
Grade 7 students are entering the halfway stage of middle school and early adolescence. They are facing changes that can be quite challenging to deal with. Students will study topics that will help them to make the most of middle school; decision-making skills, extracurricular opportunities, test-taking strategies, dealing with emotions like stress, anger and grief, communication with friends and family, personal health & teen development, biological human development, peer pressure, healthy choices, and other topics as needed. Character traits such as self-discipline, responsibility, compassion and empathy are also introduced during this course. This halfway stage of middle school can be a time of significant growth, learning and struggle. Therefore, the major focus of this year centers around growth and maturity, with an emphasis on being an empathetic and healthy individual.	

LIFE 0810	Life Skills 8
Grade 8 students are finishing middle school and preparing for the rigors of high school life. This is a good time to review what they have learned over the last two years, and preview what they can expect in the next four years. Students will work in class to prepare for high school life, both academically and socially. The focus on high school preparation is a special emphasis during the second semester. Topics include goal setting, time management, body image, healthy self-care, eating disorders, digital citizenship, conformity, healthy coping mechanism, conflict resolution, cultural awareness, positive relationships with teachers, and other pertinent topics as	

needed. Character traits such as determination, perseverance, teamwork, and optimism are also introduced during this course. Grade 8 students will have the unique opportunity to reflect on their time in middle school and then mentor and deliver advice to Grade 6 students throughout the year. A central theme during the year is developing a sense of self through personal growth and how that relates to the goal of becoming a global citizen.