

Jr. High at HIS

Students entering 7th, 8th and 9th grade in the 2010-2011 school year will be beginning a three-year rotation of content that begins with a Survey of the World, then moves to Japan and the World in 2011-2012 and then to a Survey of the Ancient World in 2012-2013.

For the upcoming year students will be focusing the World, particularly South America, North America, Africa and Asia (except Japan) through most of their courses. World history and literature are the social studies and English courses for the year; science will include a study of world scientists and discoveries, arts courses will focus on art, music, and drama of around world and PE will give a taste of the sports, games and dances from around the world. Math, language and technology courses will focus on the specialized subject content and will include references to world influences where appropriate.

Classes are taught as multi-age classes with most having a mixture of 7th, 8th and 9th grade students in each class. Within the classes students can opt to take the course at a general or standard level, or to challenge themselves by taking the course at an honors level.

Jr. High students have three areas of electives: first they may choose to continue or begin with Japanese language, if they are still developing their English language skills and the ELL director recommends it, they may continue in ELL or they may take Spanish; second, students can opt for either art or choir; finally, students can enroll in either musical theater, drama, or computer applications. All entering 7th graders will be required to take a computer applications course one year of jr. high and all students must take one visual arts course, one musical arts course, and one dramatic arts course during their junior high years.

HUMANITIES

Junior High History-Survey of World History

The Survey of World History curriculum is designed to involve students in the processes (Research, evaluation and interpretation skills) and resources through which we become informed on past human cultures. From our research and reading we analyze and come to conclusions specific themes in a wide sweep of history in order to lay the foundation of understanding in history. Specific studies will focus on World Geography, the Age of Exploration, Imperialism, Independence Movements and the Modern World.

Junior High English - World Literature

Junior high world literature is a one year survey of influential classic and contemporary literary works and movements from around the globe. The literature will serve as a foundation for vocabulary building, writing practice and the strengthening of English language ability. The writing focus for this year will be comparison/contrast and persuasion/argument. This class is aligned with junior high world history. An Honors option providing a more rigorous and intense course of study is available.

Book list highlights include *Night*, *To the Edge of the World*, *Bless me Ultima*, *Remembering Slavery* and *A Girl named Disaster*.

SCIENCE

Junior High Science

Science is more than just a class at school: it is a way of thinking, acting and looking at the world. In Junior High science, students will learn the skills and thinking processes to refine their nature as scientists. They will explore concepts in life, physical and earth science each year and connect up with other young scientists around the globe using programs from the Annenberg Foundation and the JASON project.

MATH

Introduction to Secondary Math

Pre-algebra provides the background needed to understand algebra. Students broaden and deepen their knowledge of variables, expressions, integers, the solving of multi-step equations and inequalities, factors, fractions, exponents, rational numbers, ratios, proportions, probability, percents, and data analysis. Linear functions are studied as well as polynomials and nonlinear functions. Real numbers, right triangles, angle relationships, transformations, area, and volume are also explored.

Algebra I

The main thrust of this course is the solving, graphing, and writing of linear equations, inequalities, and systems. Students will master skills dealing with expressions, real number properties, exponents and exponential functions. They will be introduced to quadratic equations and functions, polynomials and factoring, radicals with geometric connections, and rational equations and functions.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Junior High PE

Physical Education at HIS is concerned with the development of all aspects of the individual: physical, social, mental and emotional. This program promotes:

- * a healthy balanced lifestyle
- * an opportunity to participate in a range of sports, games and fun activities
- * application of movement concepts
- * drug, alcohol and sex education
- * positive social relationships in group and team settings
- * responsible personal and social behaviors.

Many (if not all) values, attitudes and skills learned here are transferable to other areas of students' lives and lifelong learning. Evaluation is based on a student's effort, participation, fitness, sports skills and knowledge, determination to improve, and interpersonal skills.

ARTS

Secondary Choir

"The Kitara Concert was one of most awesome experience in my high school life" by a HIS graduate.

Prerequisite: A student should be able to sing relatively in good pitch.

Our main goal is performing. Any student who loves music is welcome to join this course, but please remember that a success of a choir will not come easily without your hard work. Since the choir requires a group work just like playing basketball or baseball, it is very essential that students are willing to work hard for the excellence of our organization. Therefore it will be not enough merely to SAY that you are interested in the group's success; you must demonstrate by your actions that you are dedicated to the goal. And if you are strongly motivated, we guarantee you that you will have a wonderful experience in your school life at HIS.

The course will cover basic vocal skills, music theory, singing various styles of songs and music history. We will especially focus on world music this year

as we integrate with the junior and senior high classes. Please note that there will be extra rehearsals before concerts and students are asked to attend these rehearsals.

Art Survey

This introductory course provides the beginning art student with an exploration of the elements of art by gaining basic skills in the techniques and tools of the two dimensional media of drawing, painting, printmaking and design. Emphasis will be placed on proper use of techniques and methods. Art history focusing on world art, art criticism, and aesthetics will be included as points for discussing art. A sketch-research book will provide the start of the personal portfolio development process.

Musical Theater

This course will be a performance-based course focusing on the wonderful world of musicals and musical theater. You will explore and perform musicals that connect to the world survey theme and learn the vital role that support staff play in creating a production.

Drama

Welcome to the theatre! This elective will begin with the elementary concepts of acting, where students will learn to speak, act and react on stage and it will culminate with a presentation that is directed, produced, and performed by all class members. Participation will be expected in lighting, make-up, costumes, stage sets as well as acting criteria for particular theatre styles as well as eras. Plays and scenes will be drawn from World sources to allow for integration with other classes.

Students will participate in various projects throughout the year with the goal of competency in written and oral communication using a variety of artistic and technological forms including individual writing assignments, collaborative assignments, technical contributions, and oral and dramatic presentations.

TECHNOLOGY

Middle School Applications

The internet is a vast ocean of information: this class will learn effective use of the internet to do high quality, topic specific research and cite it properly using citation specific tools. The advanced skills necessary to create stunning reports and presentations using the various tools available on the computers in the lab and on the internet will also be taught.

LANGUAGE

Japanese for Proficient Speakers

Japanese for Proficient Language Speakers (JPLS) is designed for

students that are capable of freely communicating orally in Japanese. All students enrolled in this course must be fluent, or near fluent, in spoken Japanese. The aim of JPLS is develop student mastery of speaking, writing, and reading Japanese. Additional focus is on Japanese history and culture. Extensive use of Authorized Japanese textbooks and NHK programs enhance instruction.

Beginning, intermediate, and advanced level JPLS are all offered at HIS; These levels are interactively taught in mixed-level classes. Prerequisite for the course is passing a fluency test administered by the instructor.

Japanese for Non-Native Speakers Junior-High

Japanese for Non-Native Speakers is a multi-leveled course in which students learn Japanese according to their own proficiency levels, from beginning, to intermediate to advanced. Students are expected to learn and improve four languages skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing, through communicative practices. Students learn the cultural aspects of Japanese as well.

Spanish

Participants can learn Spanish or improve their skills in it as they discover more about cultural traditions and daily life in Hispanic countries. Conversation, videos, music, and Hispanic speakers are featured in the activities of the courses.

English Language Learners

This class continues to support students learning the English language in the secondary within their regular classrooms as well as in the ELL classroom. Vocabulary, usage, grammar in both spoken and written English will be the accent. Coursework will often stem from students' work in their other secondary classes.

Name _____ Grade (10-11) _____

Please preference your options by marking a 1 in the box after your first choice and a 2 in the box after your second choice of each of the two or three options.

Course options					
Japanese NNS Japanese PS (teachers will place students in appropriate courses)		Art		Musical Theater	
English as a Second Language		Choir		Computer Applications	
Spanish				Drama	

This page is due on Monday May 31, 2010