



**YANGON ACADEMY  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

**Middle School  
Program of Studies**

**2023 - 2024**

*Revised 28 February 2024*



### **Using Your Middle School Program of Studies**

The purpose of this *Middle School Program of Studies* is to provide students and parents with the necessary information concerning a student's academic progress at Yangon Academy from Grade 6 through 8. At YA we recognize that middle level students (grades 6, 7, and 8) are a special group of young adults with needs and perceptions. Our goal is to create a community of learners where students can achieve their full potential and feel like they are a part of a team. Middle school years are full of tremendous change and growth and we are here to help prepare you for the rigors of high school at YA or anywhere in the world. *Ad Astra! To the Stars!*

David Miller  
Director

### **About Yangon Academy**

Established in 2004, Yangon Academy International School is a private, English-medium school offering an American-based curriculum. The school provides quality education to children ages 2 to 18, from pre-nursery through grade 12. Qualified, highly experienced English-speaking teachers from around the world provide a strong academic foundation for learning. Our ever-improving campus facilities include air-conditioned classrooms, a library, a computer lab, music and art rooms, science labs, a full-sized sports court, and high speed wi-fi access throughout campus, all of which contribute to an exciting and rigorous educational experience.

### **Vision**

Yangon Academy empowers students to reach their full potential.

### **Mission**

Yangon Academy is a dynamic international school that provides a challenging K-12, American-based education which prepares our students for excellence in university and life. Our community inspires students to love learning and to contribute positively within a diverse and ever-changing world.



# Schoolwide Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

## Effective Communicators



- Listen respectfully and ask questions to facilitate understanding.
- Present information and ideas clearly and honestly with sensitivity to others.
- Demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate in multiple ways: speaking, writing, artistic/musical expression, kinesthetic/movement, mathematical/logical, interpersonal/social, intrapersonal/reflective, media/technology.
- Use appropriate technology as a tool to convey ideas.

## Creative and Critical Thinkers



- Create, adapt, and evaluate new ideas in the light of the common good.
- Think reflectively and creatively to evaluate and solve problems.
- Achieve excellence, originality, and integrity in their own work.
- Analyze and employ the arts, media, and technology to enhance the quality of life.

## Healthy Individuals



- Participate in leisure and fitness activities for a balanced and healthy lifestyle.
- Support the health and safety of self and others.
- Demonstrate a robust sense of physical and emotional happiness.

## Collaborative Team Players



- Demonstrate the skills of effective collaboration to achieve personal and group goals.
- Collaborate meaningfully, supportively, and efficiently on teams.
- Demonstrate leadership through collaboration and teamwork.
- Understand that each member of a team plays an essential role, and all are interdependent.

## Responsible Global Citizens



- Demonstrate a positive sense of respect for the dignity and welfare of others.
- Act ethically, taking responsibility for their own actions.
- Value and honor the role of family in society.
- Respect and affirm the diversity and interdependence of the world's peoples and cultures.
- Demonstrate care and concern for the environment and community.

## Lovers of Learning



- Demonstrate attributes of passion, curiosity, and inquiry.
- Continually develop their given potential.
- Take risks to imagine and innovate.
- Accept responsibility for learning.

## Global Competency at Yangon Academy

Global Competency represents the knowledge and understanding as well as the skills and habits to act on issues of global significance. By striving to develop Global Competency, Yangon Academy students are empowered “to contribute positively within a diverse and ever-changing world”. Toward these ends, Yangon Academy International School has embedded within our SLOs the **Four Domains** for global competency as developed by the Asia Society & the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO-United States).



**At Yangon Academy, globally competent students are able to...**

- ❖ **Investigate the world beyond their immediate environment**, framing significant problems and conducting well-crafted and age-appropriate research.
- ❖ **Recognize perspectives, others’ and their own**, articulating and explaining such perspectives thoughtfully and respectfully.
- ❖ **Communicate ideas effectively with diverse audiences**, bridging geographic, linguistic, ideological, and cultural barriers.
- ❖ **Take action to improve conditions**, viewing themselves as players in the world and participating reflectively.

## Middle School Philosophy and Goals

Yangon Academy Middle School is committed to challenging each student academically, fostering a love of learning and enhancing a feeling of self-worth. We believe learning to be a process in which each student discovers and constructs meaning from information and experience. The individual needs, background, and developmental level of each student serve as the starting point for all middle school learning activities. The classroom teacher functions in a guiding, supportive role as an instructor of content and skills seeking to challenge each student intellectually and personally. Student self-confidence emerges through successful achievement in a challenging and supportive academic environment. Through various performance tasks, opportunities for student choice, self-direction, and responsibility are provided. Students learn interpersonal skills and the importance of community. They are valued and accepted, and in return, learn to value and accept others. Assessment is formative as well as summative, and, along with appraisal by the teacher, includes self and peer evaluation. Positive feedback and encouragement are essential components of all middle school assessments. Middle school provides a transition for our students by building on the solid foundation established in the elementary school while at the same time providing them greater independence and responsibility for their own learning. The students are supported in their academic and social growth through small classes, intramural athletic programs, and participation in a variety of co-curricular activities.



A Yangon Academy student is expected to...

- be diligent in attempting to master such studies as are part of the program in which a student is enrolled.
- exercise self-discipline.
- accept such discipline as would be exercised by a kind, firm, and judicious parent.
- attend classes punctually and regularly.
- be courteous to fellow students and obedient and courteous to teachers.
- be clean in person and habits.
- complete assessments as required.
- show respect for school property.

## Academic Success

Education provides us with an unparalleled opportunity to envision and put into action both who we desire to be and how we will contribute to our communities. A solid academic foundation is critical to self and society. Academic skills and knowledge empower us to observe, reflect, question, and understand the world around us, and to find joy in the process.

### I succeed academically when ...

1. I know the foundational concepts of my disciplinary subjects of study.
2. I can transfer my knowledge and skills and make meaningful contributions to the real world.
3. I set high expectations for myself and work hard to continuously develop my potential.
4. I use my academic skills across all disciplines to make connections and derive meaning from my learning.
5. I am curious and have a passion for learning.



## Monitoring and Reporting Student Progress

### Advisory

Each student is assigned to a grade-level advisory section with a faculty advisor. Students should turn to their advisor for guidance on their program of study and any counseling issues. If a student has a concern or a matter they need to share or discuss with an adult, they may approach their advisor. If further support is needed, the advisor will help the student approach the Counselor and/or the Principal.

### Monitoring Student Progress

Student progress is continually monitored by teachers in various ways and recorded using the online Plus Portals system, giving students and parents updated access to assessment results. Student achievement is reported quarterly through progress reports and report cards, and parents/guardians are invited to meet with teachers twice a year at the end of the first and third quarters. If a student is earning a grade lower than a C- at mid-quarter, a progress report will be issued to alert them to improve their academic performance. The student is responsible for returning the signed progress report to the teacher to confirm that the parent/guardian has been informed of their academic status.

## Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Conferences

There are four reporting periods in the school year: two in the form of written report cards which are sent home, and two as parent-teacher conferences when reports are handed directly to the parents. Parents/guardians are invited to meet with teachers at the end of the first and third quarters to discuss their child's progress. Report cards are also uploaded to the Parent Plus Portal system.

The four report cards for 2023-24 will be issued as follows:

- Quarter 1 - October 2023 during parent-teacher conferences
- Quarter 2/Semester I - January 2024
- Quarter 3 - March 2024 during parent-teacher conferences
- Quarter 4/Semester II - June 2024

Additional details concerning student reports are provided in the *Secondary Parent-Student Handbook*.

## Grading

At Yangon Academy students receive letter grades for their schoolwork. A student's grade is determined by his/her performance in class activities, completion of assignments, performance on class projects, tests, examinations and other summative assessments. The Principal will meet with the parents of those students who earn a D in two or more courses, or an F in one or more courses in a quarter, in addition to the parent-teacher conferences.

- A is assigned to work that demonstrates excellence and is clearly exceptional.
- B represents work that is very good and shows signs of high achievement.
- C represents satisfactory completion of all assignments.
- D represents academic achievement at a minimum level.
- F indicates that key standards have not been met and no credit is earned.

### Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage Grade
A+	98-100
A	94-97
A-	90-93
B+	88-89
B	84-87
B-	80-83
C+	78-79
C	74-77
C-	70-73
D+	68-69
D	64-67
D-	60-63
F	50-59

## Middle School Subjects Required in 2023-2024

### Grades 6 - 8

English Literature  
English Academic Writing  
Mathematics  
Science  
Social Studies  
Myanmar Studies  
Mandarin  
Art  
Computer Studies  
Health & Physical Education  
Music

## MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### English Language Arts

#### English Literature 6 (Required)

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Primary Resource:** *Into Literature Grade 6* (HMH, 2022)

The 6th grade English Literature class focuses on improving students' reading comprehension and critical thinking skills through a variety of literary texts, such as novels, short stories, poetry, and nonfiction articles. Students also work on skills like identifying main ideas, making inferences, and determining the meaning of words in context. Additionally, students are introduced to literary devices and literary elements to help them better understand and analyze what they are reading. The class also teaches specific reading strategies, such as identifying main ideas, making inferences, and understanding literary elements such as setting, characterization, and plot.

#### English Academic Writing 6 (Required)

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Primary Resource:** *Into Literature Grade 6* (HMH, 2022)

The 6th-grade English Writing course focuses on developing students' writing skills by teaching them the elements of writing, such as brainstorming, outlining, drafting, revising, and editing. The students will learn diverse types of writing, such as descriptive, narrative, persuasive, and expository. They learn to use literary devices, proper grammar, and sentence structure and engage with texts of different genres. Additionally, the course aims to improve students' ability to think critically, express their ideas in written form, and communicate effectively. They are exposed to various texts and media, including literature, poetry, essays, and non-fiction articles, to develop reading comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills.



**English Literature 7 (Required)****Course Length:** 1 year**Primary Resource:** *Into Literature Grade 7* (HMH, 2022)

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade English Literature course is designed to develop the student's reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. The course includes various texts and genres like fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and plays. Students will read and analyze these texts to develop their understanding of literary elements, such as plot, characterization, and setting. The texts chosen will often reflect diverse cultures and perspectives and may include works by both classic and contemporary authors. In this course, students will develop their critical reading and thinking skills through close reading and analyzing texts. Students also learn how to connect literature to personal and cultural contexts. They are encouraged to share their own interpretations and insights about the texts. Students will also be encouraged to participate in class discussions and oral presentations to develop their ability to speak confidently and express their ideas clearly.

**English Academic Writing 7 (Required)****Course Length:** 1 year**Primary Resource:** *Into Literature Grade 7* (HMH, 2022)

A 7<sup>th</sup> grade English Writing course builds on the skills learned in 6th grade and focuses on further developing students' writing abilities. The course continues to teach diverse types of writing, such as descriptive, narrative, persuasive, and expository. The course aims to improve students' ability to use literary elements and techniques effectively in their writing and to analyze others' writing. They also learn to use different organizational patterns and to support their ideas with evidence. Additionally, students learn to revise their writing, use proper grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure, and proofread their work. The course emphasizes improving students' vocabulary by expanding their word knowledge and understanding of various figures of speech and includes the study of idioms, and figures of speech to help them enhance their communication skills.

**English Literature 8 (Required)****Course Length:** 1 year**Primary Resource:** *Into Literature Grade 8* (HMH, 2022)

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Literature course is designed to build upon the skills and knowledge developed in grade 7 and further develop students' reading, listening, and speaking skills. The course may include various texts and genres like fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and plays. Students will read and analyze these texts to develop their understanding of literary elements, such as plot, characterization, and setting, and literary devices, such as symbolism, imagery, and figurative language. Students will also be encouraged to participate in class discussions and oral presentations to develop their ability to speak confidently and express their ideas clearly. They will also learn to interpret and evaluate the meaning and significance of literary texts and connect literature and other aspects of life. Additionally, students may be introduced to various literary movements and genres and will be expected to write literary analyses and critical essays. This course aims to help students develop critical thinking skills, improve their reading comprehension and writing skills, and gain a deeper appreciation for literature.

## **English Academic Writing 8 (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Primary Resource:** *Into Literature Grade 8* (HMH, 2022)

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Academic Writing course focuses on developing and refining students' writing skills across a variety of genres and formats. Students will learn to write clear and coherent sentences, paragraphs, and essays and will be introduced to the elements of effective writing, such as organization, voice, and word choice. Additionally, students will learn to use research and evidence in their writing and will practice summarizing and synthesizing information from multiple sources. The course will also cover grammar, mechanics, usage, and the conventions of standard written English. Students will learn to edit and revise their own writing and will be expected to give and receive constructive feedback on their peers' writing. The course will include opportunities for students to explore their own interests and passions through writing. The course aims to help students become more confident and skilled writers who can effectively communicate their ideas and perspectives.



## **Social Studies**

### **Social Studies 6: The Ancient World (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Resource:** *History Alive! The Ancient World* (TCi, 2020)

The Sixth Grade Social Studies program provides a strong foundation in ancient world history and civilizations. The curriculum provides practice in understanding the emergence of early humans, ancient civilizations, geography, interpreting graphs and information, comparing regions and identifying the achievements of early civilizations to the modern world, understanding and selecting resource maps, comparing political maps in different periods, skimming and scanning for information, developing hypotheses, summarizing information, and understanding points of view.

## **Social Studies 7: The Medieval World and Beyond (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Resource:** *History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond* (TCi, 2020)

In seventh grade, students develop an understanding of the importance of Social Studies and how it relates to other fields of study. They also describe the different fields of study in humanities and social sciences, e.g., history, geography, anthropology, economics, etc., and consider why studying social studies is important. Units of study include Europe during Medieval Times, Islam in Medieval Times, Kingdoms of West Africa and Mesoamerica, and Europe's Renaissance and Reformation. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of each lesson's core ideas and of the inquiry process through a variety of paper and online assessments, e.g., quizzes, lesson games, presentations, tests, mind maps, posters, other written tasks, etc.



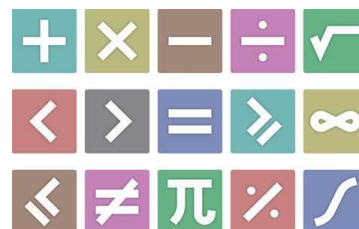
## **Social Studies 8: World Geography (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Resource:** *Geography Alive! Regions and People* (TCi, 2020)

The 8th grade year is the final bridge between the middle years and high school. To prepare the students, the Grade 8 Social Studies course will use challenging content and demand students improve their writing, researching, thinking, and speaking skills. Each unit of study is guided by a series of essential questions that drive the course. All lessons will be aimed at understanding these overarching themes. Such questions help students see geography as a study to be analyzed, questioned, and reflected upon, not simply memorized. While Grade 8 Social Studies course will be rigorous, by the end of the year students should be confident they are prepared for high school. We also genuinely hope the class will demonstrate that the critical examination of geographical concepts and skills are most relevant to their daily lives.

## Mathematics



### Integrated Mathematics 6

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Resources:** *My Pals are Here* (Marshall Cavendish Education, 2023)

This course is designed to provide a solid foundation in basic mathematics skills by exploring several topics like number skills and operations, geometry, data and probability, measurement and algebra. We aim to develop critical thinking skills, the ability to communicate properly in mathematical fashion by showing clear steps of a process, use a calculator effectively, as well as improve confidence and build a growth mindset.

### Integrated Mathematics 7

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Resources:** *Think! Mathematics Level 1, 8th Edition*, (SL Education, 2023)

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade math curriculum continues to prepare students for advanced mathematical skills while building up their basic knowledge on integers, exponents and scientific notation, the concept of congruence, similarity, linear equations, examples of functions, geometric relationship, patterns and sequences, and straight-line functions. Worded problems are used so that students can model a situation mathematically. We wish students to see the subject as a tool and a discipline with an emphasis on communicating in a mathematical fashion and appreciating its usefulness,

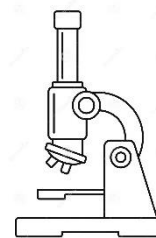
### Integrated Mathematics 8

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Resources:** *Think! Mathematics Level 2, 8th Edition*, (SL Education, 2023)

Grade 8 Integrated Mathematics is the foundational course for high school mathematics. Students will understand and apply concepts related to solving and representing single variable, linear, and quadratic functions and inequalities. The key content involves writing, solving, and graphing linear and quadratic equations, including systems of two linear equations in two unknowns. Quadratic equations are solved by factoring, completing the square, graphically, or by application of the quadratic formula. The course also includes the study of monomial and polynomial expressions, inequalities, exponents, functions, rational expressions, ratios and proportions, geometry, trigonometry, statistics and probabilities. Algebraic skills are applied in a wide variety of problem-solving situations. The 8<sup>th</sup>-grade math curriculum provides extensive learning about algebra, geometry, trigonometry, statistics and probability. This enhances the knowledge of context. Students will get familiarization with complex word problems and deductive and inductive reasoning skills and logical understanding.

## Science



### **Integrated Science 6 (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Resource:** *Glencoe iScience Course 1* (McGraw Hill, 2017)

This is an integrated science course that covers earth, life, matter, and energy.

Students review and learn map view, profile view, map legend, map scale, longitude, latitude, time zones and the international date line. Students review and learn classifying living things including autotrophs, heterotrophs, habitat, binomial nomenclature, and taxon. Students review and learn the differences between prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells, cytoplasm and mitochondria and cellular structure of plant and animal cells. Students review and learn matter, atom, substance, element, molecules, compound, and mixtures. Students review and learn energy and energy transformations, waves, light and sound and electricity and magnetism. The use of worksheets found in the digital side of the book will be used.

### **Integrated Science 7 (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Resource:** *Glencoe iScience Course 2* (McGraw Hill, 2017)

The emphasis of the 7th grade science course is to investigate and explore the Earth's processes. Activities will focus on forming and testing hypotheses in laboratory investigations to include an original investigation for which they will write a report and give a presentation. Occasionally, the PHET online laboratories are used. During both semesters, students will explore the topics of biology, chemistry, geology, and the universe. Emphasis will be placed on learning the vocabulary of science and becoming aware that science is not so much a body of knowledge, but a process of seeking and verifying knowledge.

At the end of this course, students should be able to understand the connections between Earth's processes and the physical nature of the world around us. Students will continue to develop their skills in scientific observation, inquiry, and analysis of hypotheses and theories.

### **Integrated Science 8 (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Resource:** *Glencoe iScience Course 3* (McGraw Hill, 2017)

The Grade 8 science course is a mixture of Physical, Earth and Space, and Life Sciences as well as Engineering, Technology, and Applied Science (ETS). The eighth-grade standards reflect this mixture of subjects. In this course students continue to develop their lab and processing skills in order to create, implement and explore the concepts of biology, chemistry, and physics through scientific investigation. At the end of their 8th grade year, all students will present the skills they have been developing as a scientist and engineer in a self-selected research project for the science fair.



## Myanmar Studies

### Myanmar Studies 6 (Required)

**Course Length:** 1 year

This course is intended for native Burmese speakers with foundational language skills. The common vocabulary of various themes is used to teach pupils in the sixth grade how to reply to brief instructions and formulate straightforward queries. Writing instruction focuses on concept generation, planning, and drafting, adhering to the key grammatical rules of conventional Burmese spelling and usage. Students also learn about the impact of significant individuals and historical events, geographical and cultural diversity, and the unifying features of Myanmar. This course uses grade 6 textbooks and materials published by the Myanmar National Curriculum, as well as various teacher-produced resources.

### Myanmar Studies 7 (Required)

**Course Length:** 1 year

In seventh grade, native-speaking students continue to develop their understanding of the Myanmar language and culture. To develop as critical readers of poetry, prose, and literature, students are encouraged to grow through an appreciation of rich and influential literature. This helps them to better comprehend other cultures and gain knowledge about the wider world. Additional topics studied include the history and beliefs related to major festivals and celebrations of various communities in Myanmar. This course uses grade 7 textbooks and materials published by the Myanmar National Curriculum, as well as various teacher-produced resources.

### Myanmar Studies 8 (Required)

**Course Length:** 1 year

Students in the eighth grade read and write many pieces in both formal and informal writing styles, such as persuasive writing in newsletters and advertising. They improve their ability to speak clearly and concisely using appropriate grammar. As they speak and listen, students increase their vocabulary. This course makes use of the fundamental social, linguistic, and literary conventions of standard Myanmar, as well as active reading techniques. Students use grade 8 textbooks from the Myanmar National Curriculum to guide their learning.



## **Myanmar Studies for Beginners 6-8 (Teacher placement required)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

This course is for Myanmar students who are still developing their fluency to meet the standards of the grade level Myanmar Studies course designed for native speakers. This class typically focuses on developing the students' reading and writing skills in the Burmese language and follows the same curriculum as Myanmar Studies at each grade level. The students learn about Myanmar's geographical information, history and social ethics as well. The teacher adapts the program to meet students' individual language needs. The course uses textbooks and materials from the Myanmar National Curriculum, as well as various teacher-produced resources.

## **Myanmar Studies for Non-native Speakers 6-8 (Required for Foreign Students)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

The Myanmar Studies for Non-native Speakers course is designed to introduce Myanmar language and culture to foreign students. The students learn to read Myanmar sentences through the Myanmar alphabet and vowels. Additionally, they learn about Myanmar culture such as monthly Myanmar festivals and about attractions throughout the country of Myanmar. This class teaches the students various conversations and dialogues between two or more people in which thoughts, feelings and ideas are expressed. This makes them communicate effectively. The teacher adapts the program to meet students' individual language needs. The course uses textbooks and materials from the Myanmar National Curriculum, as well as various teacher-produced resources.



## Visual Arts

### **Art 6 (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

Art 6 provides students with opportunities to experiment with basic design elements and principles through various techniques and art media. This course uses a variety of media to complete hands-on activities exploring the arrangement of line, color, shape, form, value, and texture in both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional designs, including drawing, painting, printmaking, digital art, and paper craft. The course will enable students to understand the link between different art mediums and visual arts. It is designed to expand the traditional knowledge of Fine Art, Art History, and Design, providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to use different art media to create original artwork. Students will be able to identify the Elements of art and principle of design to demonstrate their creative and personal artistic expression. The variety of art media, techniques, and concepts will prepare students for Art in the seventh grade.

### **Art 7 (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

This course extends the skills introduced in sixth grade art classes. The two-dimensional drawing and painting will be explored further into three-dimensional art as they continue to develop their knowledge of the elements of art as well as their appreciation of artwork. They will build on their understanding of the elements of art and design principles which will be applied to their art projects. The students will increase their art vocabulary and be exposed more to a variety of multi-cultural arts. Artwork and projects which are assessed will be conducted with prime consideration to peer evaluations, and individual efforts and abilities.

### **Art 8 (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

This visual art course extends students' understanding and use of design elements and principles with the aim of visually communicating ideas and information. Students will build on painting, drawing, and design skills, further exploring rendering skills with a range of media. They will use the values and tones of the elements of art to make things look three-dimension in their own artwork. They will learn to apply both skills and creativity to create better Art. To promote student growth, we weave relevant and constructive assessment as well as self-assessment into every project.





## Computer Studies



### **Computer Studies 6 (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 semester

The Grade 6 Computer Science course focuses on introducing students to the basics of computational thinking, programming, and problem-solving using a visual programming language. Students learn how to plan, debug and test algorithms, and create simple games using a visual programming language such as Scratch. Students will also learn about the responsible use of technology and how to stay safe online and gain an understanding of the different types of networks and internet technologies. The course uses hands-on projects and activities to help students understand and apply the concepts they are learning, and aims to develop critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills, which are essential for success in the modern digital age.

### **Computer Studies 7 (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 semester

Grade 7 Computer Science Course continues the study of basic programming and computational thinking. Students develop their understanding of concepts such as algorithms, data types, and basic programming constructs like loops and conditionals. They also learn to write simple programs using a visual programming language. In addition to technical aspects, students are introduced to concepts like digital citizenship, online safety and responsible use of technology. The course emphasizes understanding the logic and structures in programming and how technology works in real-world applications, and helps to build a strong foundation for further learning in computer science.

### **Computer Studies 8 (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 semester

Grade 8 computer science course builds upon the concepts covered in grade 7 and focuses on helping students develop more advanced programming skills. Students in this grade will likely continue to use a visual programming language, but may learn more complex programming constructs, such as functions and arrays. Additionally, the course may include more emphasis on problem-solving, teamwork, and logical reasoning. By the end of the grade 8 computer science, students should have a solid understanding of the basic concepts of programming and be able to write simple programs to solve problems in block-based programming languages. They should also have an understanding of digital citizenship and online safety and be able to apply this knowledge in their own online activities.



## Music

### **Music 6 (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Resource:** *The AB Guide to Music Theory* by Eric Taylor

Students enrolled in this course will be exposed to a variety of musical experiences and opportunities as students learn about the rudiments and elements of music. Students will learn fundamental concepts in music theory such as reading and writing music notation, vocabulary terms, such as rhythm, time signature, melody, pitch. Students will also construct and play triads on the keyboard. Classroom activities will combine foundational music theory with basic composition writing and performance on the bucket drums.

### **Music 7 (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Resource:** *The AB Guide to Music Theory* by Eric Taylor

The purpose of the general music class is to expose students to a wealth of information regarding the fundamentals of music, how music is created, various genres of music and the relationship of music to other cultures and curricular areas. Keeping in line with the AERO Standards, the class will complete activities that focus on the performance indicators from each standard. Students in seventh grade will be guided through different periods in music history and study the musical context and styles, composers and their music, and some other artists from some of the periods.

### **Music 8 (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Resource:** *The AB Guide to Music Theory* by Eric Taylor

The primary objective of this course is to give students a deeper understanding of the music that they listen to. Being able to understand how it is put together is essential for them to become educated consumers of music. Students will further their skills reading and writing music. This includes studying time signatures, note values, and rest values. Students will also recognize the major characteristics of musical forms, perform melodies and rhythm. This class will also

encourage students to listen critically to a variety of music. Students will learn the concepts of cultural awareness, sounds, colors, counting sequencing, history, geography and language.

## **Health and Physical Education**

### **Health & Physical Education 6 (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 semester

The HPE program focuses on body control and spatial awareness, adventure challenge, athletic movement to games, volleyball, basketball, PE traditions and culture, and health related activities. Students will be introduced to a healthy and active lifestyle and the ways exercise affects their bodies and overall fitness or well-being. This knowledge can help them to make wise decisions concentrating on their safety and health. This course will also focus on developing proficient movement skills in the areas of locomotive and individual and dual activities as well as self-discipline, coordination, sportsmanship, and independent personal fitness.

### **Health & Physical Education 7 (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 semester

This course will focus on developing students' knowledge of and competency in motor skills, movement patterns, and strategies essential to perform a variety of physical activities. These activities will include badminton, soccer, basketball, volleyball and handball. Students will also continue concepts and participate in activities to maintain and improve their health-related fitness.

### **Health & Physical Education 8 (Required)**

**Course Length:** 1 semester

The Yangon Academy School Physical Education Grade 8 program is dedicated to promoting lifetime fitness and physical activity, and enhancing personal fitness, health and wellness for all students. To that end of middle school, the focus of this curriculum is to help all students become informed, independent decision-makers capable of planning for enjoyable lifetime fitness and physical activity and achieving personal fitness and sport activity goals. The objectives of the curriculum are to assist students to become physically active and physically fit, acquire knowledge of the benefits of physical activity, health and wellness, and the principles of fitness, and become an individual capable of designing his or her own personal fitness program.



## Modern World Languages

### **Mandarin Chinese Level 1 (Required, based on teacher assessment and placement)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Resources:** *HSK 1 Textbook and Exercise Book*

In this introductory course, students learn how to read, write, and speak conversational Mandarin, as well as learning about Chinese culture. By the end of this course, students will be able to read and write Chinese characters, and speak about everyday topics such as time, family, work, weather, food, clothes, and transportation in Mandarin.

### **Mandarin Chinese Level 3 (Required, based on teacher assessment and placement)**

**Course Length:** 1 year

**Resources:** *HSK 3 Textbook and Exercise Book*

In this course, students expand on their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills of conversational Mandarin, and continue their study of Chinese culture. By the end of the course, students will be able to communicate orally and in writing about topics such as friendship, spending habits, work ethics, feelings, and emotions.





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