



**Sir Manasseh Meyer  
International School**

A VISION FOR EXCELLENCE

## **GRADE 8 CURRICULUM SUMMARY**

- ENGLISH
- ENGLISH WRITING
- MATHEMATICS
- SCIENCE
- HISTORY
- MANDARIN

## ENGLISH

Students will read and examine works of literature written by American authors between the Colonial period and the twentieth century. The authors and their works were selected for having artistic merit and lasting value within the established body of literature representing this time frame. In subject, the works represent the sweep of America's settlement and growth, the themes of clashing cultures, slavery, and civil rights.

Texts used for study: **OTHELLO- SHAKESPEARE; THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HALLOW AND RIP VAN WINKLE; THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN- MARK TWAIN; TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD- HARPER LEE; THE CALL OF THE WILD- JACK LONDON; BLACK BOY- RICHARD WRIGHT; THE CATCHER IN THE RYE- J. D. SALINGER.**

**OBJECTIVES:** To learn the elements of literature and to practice critical literary analysis for the purpose of articulate and thoughtful discussion of literature.

To improve skills in expository and creative writing and to increase proficiency in grammar and mechanics as the mark of an educated person.

To expand vocabulary particularly geared toward success in high school and on sat and equivalent tests.

To continue practicing the process of writing research papers, especially as it applies to writing literary criticism and analysis.

## ENGLISH WRITING

Through the Hochman Method, students will learn, develop and utilize different sentence strategies to build linguistically complex sentences that will be used across all disciplines. Students will continue to refine their outline skills in preparation for the year end six page interdisciplinary (5-6 classroom subjects) research paper. Examination of primary source material (speeches, documentaries, laws, constitutions etc) will allow students to continue to develop and improve their analytical skills through paraphrasing and quoting to give evidence to their opinion. Morphology and etymology as cornerstones for building a robust vocabulary are also taught.

## MATHEMATICS - GEOMETRY

- Points & Lines
- The Language & Logic of Geometry
- Angles & Lines
- Congruence Transformations
- Proofs Using Congruence
- Polygons & Symmetry
- Applications of Congruent Triangles
- Lengths & Areas
- Three-Dimensional Figures
- Formulas for Volume
- Indirect & Coordinate Proofs
- Similarity
- Similar Triangles & Trigonometry

## SCIENCE

**ELECTRONICS:** Students learn fundamental electrical circuitry and basic electronic principles. They make simple and complex circuits, quantify electrical interactions and properties (current, voltage, resistance) using a digital multimeter, and discover how different components affect circuits (resistors, diodes, LEDs, capacitors, transistors). They make and read schematics and construct solid-state devices.

**PLANETARY SCIENCE:** Students study Astronomy as the study of everything we can observe and imagine beyond Earth – the Moon, the Sun, the solar system with all its planets and lesser objects, the Milky Way, and the vastness of the cosmos

**HUMAN BRAIN AND SENSES:** This module emphasizes the use of knowledge and evidence to construct explanations for the relationship between structure and function in the human sensory and nervous system. Students investigate how the brain and senses acquire, interpret, and respond to information.

## HISTORY

**CORE CURRICULUM: HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES:** Students will study the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the United States from its earliest settlements through modern times.

## MANDARIN

- Core vocabulary list of 400 words.
- Develop listening and speaking of high-occurrence sentence patterns relating to social interaction.
- Comfortable in recognizing high-occurrence Mandarin characters and ability to harness electronic medium for modern Mandarin application and self-learning.
- Comfortable in using Mandarin in survival situations showing ability to reach beyond the immediacy of the situation.
- Develop insights in contemporary China-related topics that are of general interest.