RIS
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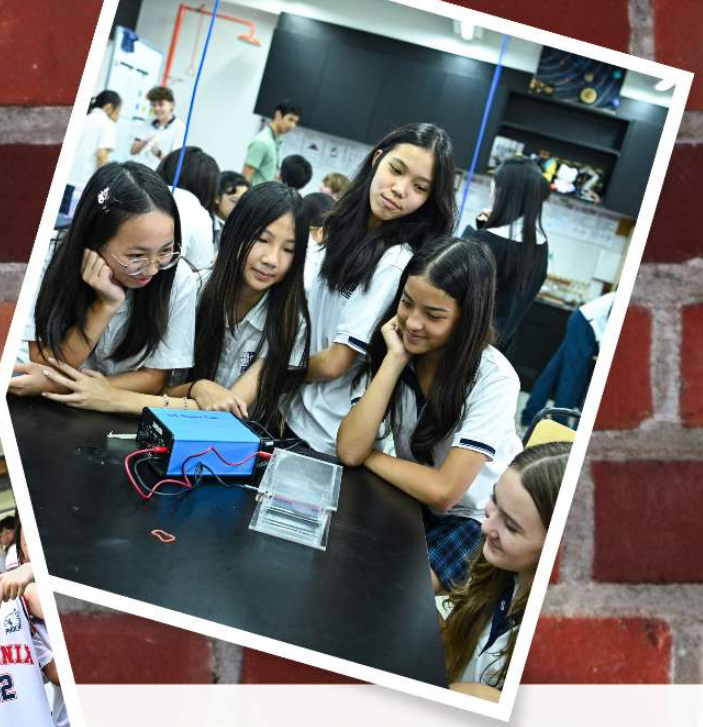


MIDDLE SCHOOL

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

2026–2027

RIS
RUAMRUDEE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

RUAMRUDEE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

6 RAMKHAMHAENG 184, MINBURI
BANGKOK 10510, THAILAND
TEL: 02-791-8900 • FAX: 02-791-8901
www.rism.ac.th • msoffice@rism.ac.th

VISION *RIS Ruamrudee International School will be known globally as a hallmark of international education, nurturing intellectual development, moral character, and physical well-being, while fostering compassion through action and shaping the lives of tomorrow's leaders.*

MISSION *RIS Ruamrudee International School is a Catholic school that provides an interfaith, inclusive, and academically rigorous education for students to be balanced, successful, and compassionate individuals.*

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2026–2027

GENERAL INFORMATION

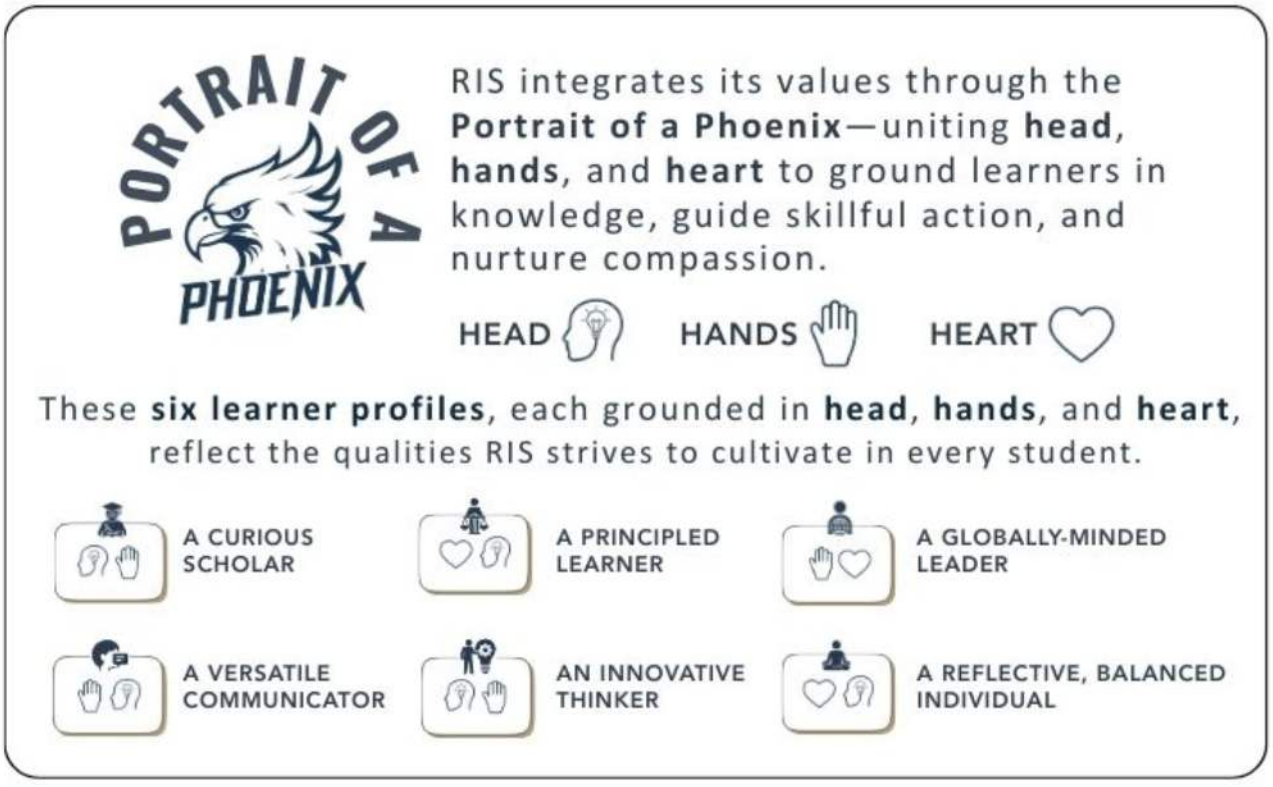
RIS VISION

Ruamrudee International School will be known globally as a hallmark of international education, nurturing intellectual development, moral character, and physical well-being, while fostering compassion through action and shaping the lives of tomorrow's leaders.

RIS MISSION

Ruamrudee International School is a Catholic school that provides an interfaith, inclusive, and academically rigorous education for students to be balanced, successful, and compassionate individuals. RIS provides quality education and fosters character development in a multicultural, caring community.

RIS PORTRAIT OF A PHOENIX



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Thank you for taking the time to read our MS Program of Studies. At RIS, we are committed to providing a well-rounded and thoughtfully structured academic experience that supports every student's academic, social, and emotional growth. Our Middle School curriculum is intentionally designed to build the strong foundational skills students need for success in high school and

beyond, while also nurturing the curiosity, confidence, and critical-thinking abilities essential in an ever-changing world.

Within this document, you will find a balanced and carefully sequenced set of core courses that ensure students develop the essential knowledge and competencies required for future academic achievement. Alongside these core offerings, you will notice a wide range of electives, rooted in student interest, that provide meaningful opportunities for exploration, creativity, and personal challenge. Whether students are deepening an existing passion or discovering a new area of curiosity, our academic program encourages them to wonder, experiment, and grow.

I am proud to work with a dedicated team of faculty and staff who believe in the power of a comprehensive, student-centered curriculum. Each year, we review and refine our course offerings to reflect the evolving needs, interests, and aspirations of our learners. We are excited to continue to partner with our students and their families throughout this journey and look forward to the many opportunities for learning, discovery, and success that lie ahead.

- Mr. Mark Dominguez

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This Program of Studies is a very important resource for planning your middle school course of study in preparation for high school. It includes all the information you need to plan your three-year middle school career at RIS.

TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Some courses are required to take for each grade level while there are other courses that you may choose from. Before choosing between these courses, consider these questions:
    - What courses align with my interests? What am I passionate about?
    - What courses provide me with an appropriate level of challenge?
    - What courses will be fun to explore?
- When selecting courses to enroll in, also consider BALANCE. Think about what courses will allow you to maintain a healthy balance in your life, your in-school and out-of-school activities, responsibilities, and sleep schedule.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- Even though a course is mentioned in this Program of Studies, there is a chance that the course may be canceled if too few students sign up for it. In general, a course may not run if fewer than ten (10) students are enrolled.
- Registration for courses is a responsibility shared by the school, the students, and the parents. A significant amount of time and effort goes into building the master schedule each year based on students' requests. The Middle School master schedule is created each spring. Once the master schedule has been created, course change requests become very limited.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The Middle School academic curriculum requires students to complete 3 full years of our Core Content subjects, which include English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, General Science, Thai Language, Religion or Values, Health & Wellness, and Physical Education. In addition, students will choose from a variety of elective courses. Below is a list of courses offered per grade level.

COURSES BY GRADE LEVEL

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
• English Language Arts 6 • Mathematics 6 • Social Studies 6 • General Science 6 • Thai Language • Values or Religion • Health & Wellness 6 • Physical Education 6	• English Language Arts 7 • Mathematics 7 or Accelerated Math 7 • Social Studies 7 • General Science 7 • Thai Language • Values or Religion • Health & Wellness 7 • Physical Education 7	• English Language Arts 8 • Mathematics 8 or Accelerated Math 8 • Social Studies 8 • General Science 8 • Thai Language • Values or Religion • Health & Wellness 8 • Physical Education 8
• Elective courses to choose from: ○ Robotics ○ Drama ○ Journalism ○ Creative Writing ○ Speech & Debate ○ Computer Science ○ Thai Classical Dance ○ Audio and Video Production ○ Photography ○ Beginning Band ○ Beginning Choir ○ Ukelele and Guitar ○ Beginning Mandarin, Spanish, or Japanese ○ Art ○ Modern Day Sports Science	• Elective courses to choose from: ○ Grade 7 Band ○ Grade 7 Choir ○ Contemporary Music Ensemble ○ Ukelele and Guitar ○ Intermediate Mandarin or Spanish ○ Beginning Japanese ○ Arts and Cuisine of Hispanic Cultures ○ Art or Intermediate Art ○ Robotics ○ Drama ○ Journalism ○ Beginner Culinary Arts ○ Creative Writing ○ Speech & Debate ○ Computer Science ○ Thai Classical Dance ○ Industrial Design: Design Thinking ○ Industrial Design: Foundations in Design ○ Photography ○ Audio and Video Production ○ Modern Day Sports Science	• Elective courses to choose from: ○ Intermediate II Mandarin or Spanish ○ Arts and Cuisine of Hispanic Cultures ○ Beginning or Intermediate Japanese ○ Grade 8 Band ○ Grade 8 Choir ○ Contemporary Music Ensemble ○ Ukelele and Guitar ○ Art, Intermediate Art, or Advanced Art ○ Robotics ○ Drama ○ Journalism ○ Beginner or Advanced Culinary Arts ○ Creative Writing ○ Speech & Debate ○ Computer Science ○ Thai Classical Dance ○ Industrial Design: Design Thinking ○ Industrial Design: Foundations in Design ○ Photography ○ Audio and Video Production ○ Modern Day Sports Science ○ MS Yearbook

ADVISORY

Even though Advisory is an ungraded component of our academic program, it is one of the most important. Advisory is a time when a teacher meets with a small group of students to support and encourage their development in order to help them be successful in and out of school. While doing well academically is important, students also need skills for maneuvering learning challenges, making good decisions, handling strong emotions, and getting along with others, and this is the time when our teachers can focus on these skills. Additionally, teachers use this time to check on a student's wellbeing, look at how the student is doing academically, and address any needs or concerns the students may have.

Students meet in their Advisory classrooms several times each week. The first 10 minutes of each school day is dedicated to Advisory. This time is crucial for students to mentally transition to the school day, verify that all assignments have been completed, check student email, and have short but meaningful check-ins with their Advisory teacher. Students also meet in Advisory once-a-cycle for an extended time to discuss various topics related to social-emotional learning, following an established curriculum. The school's Principles of Phoenix (PoP's - Head, Hands, Heart) are also weaved into the Advisory curriculum to provide purpose and direction for student growth and development during these periods. Students are encouraged to become open-minded and critical thinkers (Head) by discussing various topics such as how to solve conflict and how to respect and relate to people from different cultures or with different values. These discussions in turn help students to become effective communicators (Hands) and encourage them to embrace diversity and be compassionate with others (Heart).

Advisory provides a safe space and time for students to discuss topics and issues related to their life and stage of development, and it is a way for them to have a closer relationship with an adult on campus to whom they can turn in times of need.

THAI LANGUAGE AND CULTURE REQUIREMENTS

In compliance with regulations determined by the Thai Ministry of Education, RIS adheres to the following policies:

- All students must take a Thai class every semester.
- All Thai students must take a Thai class every semester in order to earn a Thai equivalent diploma through our American curriculum.
- All non-Thai students who have taken Thai in middle school are not required to take a Thai Language class in high school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL - STANDARDS-BASED GRADING SYSTEM

Grades for summative assessments are entered in PowerSchool as letters (E, M, P, B):

Letter Grade	**Descriptor**
E - exemplary	The student demonstrates: ● a thorough and perceptive understanding of the assignment, its instructions, and its required content and skills ● evidence that the task or tasks on the assignment are performed above expectations ● understanding by using articulate language, purposeful connections, and meaningful application, showing a strong command of the assessed standards Additional qualities: ● exceptional, nuanced, perceptive, thorough
M - meeting	The student demonstrates: ● a clear understanding of the assignment, its instructions, and its required content and skills ● evidence that the task or tasks on the assignment are performed ● understanding by using clear and effective language, connections, and application, showing a command of the assessed standards Additional qualities: ● accurate, competent, detailed, complete
P - progressing	The student demonstrates: ● a partial understanding of the assignment, its instructions, and its required content and skills ● evidence that the task or tasks on the assignment are performed just below expectations ● an incomplete or developing understanding through formative language, connections, and application, showing a lack of command of the assessed standards

	Additional qualities: ● developing, emerging, partial, work in progress
B - beginning	The student demonstrates: ● a basic or limited understanding of the assignment, its instructions, and its required content and skills ● evidence that the task or tasks on the assignment are performed below expectations ● a limited understanding through basic and unorganized language, connections, and application, showing a lack of command of the assessed standards Additional qualities: ● inadequate, incoherent, lacking, underdeveloped

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

Students must demonstrate their willingness to challenge themselves by meeting the minimum academic proficiency each semester. A grade of '**P**' or better is expected in all core courses. Students not meeting these expectations may be referred to Student Services for closer monitoring and extra support.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS BY DEPARTMENT

2026 – 2027 Course Offerings

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Why Study English Language Arts?

The Middle School English Language Arts program aims to help RIS students become effective communicators developing essential reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills over three years of study. To accomplish this goal, the English language arts program provides opportunities for our students to engage with varied text types and creative activities to learn the process of critical reading, writing, and thinking. In addition, we hope to foster students' love for reading and to support them in better understanding who we are as humans and our place within the world at large.

English Language Arts Courses

English Language Arts 6

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 3 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th Grade students***

In English Language Arts 6, students will engage with memoirs to enhance their skills in making inferences and identifying themes. Additionally, while reading the novel *The Lightning Thief*, they will participate in literature circles, engaging in discussions and writing theme paragraphs, chapter summaries, inference-based analyses, and character development paragraphs. During the first

semester, students will create a Google Site “English Learner Portfolio”, which they will continue to update throughout the school year. This portfolio will include reflections on their work along with attached artifacts. Students will also explore nonfiction texts to improve their ability to analyze main ideas, make inferences, and evaluate evidence. Students will be tasked with writing a memoir, an expository essay, an argumentative essay, and a hero's journey. They will also create presentations, take part in group discussions, build their vocabulary, and refine their grammar skills. All of these strategies will equip students to comprehend, analyze, and synthesize texts, enabling them to explore their understanding through creative means.

English Language Arts 7

Duration; ***1 year, class meets 3 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th Grade students***

In English Language Arts 7, students will read fictional stories to practice inferencing, identifying themes, and summarizing. While reading the novel *Bamboo People*, students will participate in literature circles, engaging in discussions and writing theme paragraphs, chapter summaries, inference-based analyses, and character development paragraphs. They will also read nonfiction texts to practice analyzing main ideas, making inferences, and assessing evidence. Students will write a realistic fiction story, an expository essay, an argument essay and a myth. Students will create presentations, participate in Socratic seminars, build their vocabulary, and hone their grammar skills. Students will use these strategies to comprehend, analyze, and synthesize texts and explore their understanding through creative means. Throughout the school year, students will continue updating their English Learner Portfolio with reflections and artifacts.

English Language Arts 8

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 3 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***

In English Language Arts 8, students will continue to develop their understanding of both language and literature as they move toward becoming more independent readers, writers, and thinkers. Throughout the course, students will read a range of literary and informational texts to analyze how authors convey ideas and shape meaning, while simultaneously learning to evaluate credibility and identify the purpose of sources in today’s information-rich world. Students will also learn to construct well-supported claims through frequent CER responses and short expository writing tasks, strengthening their ability to use textual evidence effectively. In addition to academic writing, students will engage in creative writing through journaling, narrative writing, and poetry, developing imagination and abstract expression. Together, these learning experiences are designed to help students grow as thoughtful, confident communicators and capable writers who value precision, creativity, and purpose.

MATHEMATICS

Why Study Mathematics?

In the many courses available at RIS, students will learn the ways in which geometry, algebra, statistics, and probability help to explain the world in which we live. Mathematics can enter our lives in a number of ways, such as when we buy items at the market, read a news article found online, or plan a project. For most people, mathematics is also used in their chosen profession: artists need to learn about perspective; musicians need to appreciate the mathematical relationships within composition; economists need to recognize trends in financial dealings; engineers need to take account of stress patterns; scientists view mathematics as a language that is vital to our understanding of events that occur in the natural world. And yet some people love

mathematics not for its usefulness in applications, but simply for its beauty and the manner in which it provides order and logic. The need for mathematics in people's lives gives us a clear and sufficient reason to study it. In the words of the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics (USA), "Do Math and you can do anything!" The following course listings give students a good idea of when—and in what order—to study math courses.

Mathematics Courses

RIS offers traditional and accelerated mathematics courses for grades 7 and 8. Students new to RIS may be required to complete a placement test as part of the process to identify which course provides the most appropriate level of challenge in math.

Mathematics in Grade 6

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 3 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th Grade students***

Math 6 Regular

The Grade 6 Mathematics course builds on the foundational skills necessary for success in higher level mathematics. The main strands of mathematical focus are number systems, expressions and equations, ratios and proportions, statistics and probability, and geometry. Within number systems students will learn order of operations, division with integers and fractions and operations with rational numbers. There is also a focus on graphing positive and negative numbers on a number line and coordinate plane. Students will begin expressions and equations with substitution of variables and writing expressions and then finish with solving one step equations and inequalities. The ratios and proportions unit will focus on ratios, ratio tables, unit rates, and solving percent problems. In statistics and probability, students will learn about measures of center, measures of variation, and data displays. Within the geometry unit, the subjects of study are areas of polygons, surface area and volume of prisms. Throughout this course of study, students will participate in individual, partner, and small group activities. Students will also be presented with investigative lessons focusing on real world problems and application.

Mathematics in Grade 7

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 3 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th Grade students***

Math 7 Regular

The Grade 7 Mathematics course continues to build on the foundational skills necessary for success in higher level mathematics. The main strands of mathematical focus are number systems, expressions and equations, ratios and proportions, statistics and probability, and geometry. Within number systems, students will learn to apply and extend previous understandings of operations with integers, operations with rational numbers, and applying these understandings to real-world mathematical problems involving the four operations. Students will continue expressions and equations by applying the properties of operations to solve one-step equations, two-step equations, simplifying expressions and using variables to represent quantities in real-world mathematical problems. The ratios and proportions unit will focus on computing unit rates associated with ratios of fractions, recognizing and representing proportional relationships, identifying the constant of proportionality, and using proportional relationships to solve multistep ratio and percent problems. In statistics and probability, students will learn how to analyze and compare populations and find probabilities of events. Within the geometry unit, the subjects of study are understanding geometric relationships by solving problems involving angles, surface area, and volume. Throughout this course of study students will participate in individual, partner

and small group activities. Students will also be presented with investigative lessons focusing on real world problems and application.

Math 7 Accelerated

The Grade 7 Mathematics course continues to build on the foundational skills necessary for success in higher level mathematics. Math 7 Accelerated covers the same curriculum as the Math Regular 7 course but also allows for a preliminary look at the grade 8 learning standards. The main strands of mathematical focus are number systems, expressions and equations, ratios and proportions, statistics and probability, and geometry. Within number systems, students will learn to apply and extend previous understandings of operations with integers, operations with rational numbers, and applying these understandings to real-world mathematical problems involving the four operations. Students will continue expressions and equations by applying the properties of operations to solve one-step equations, two-step equations, simplifying expressions and using variables to represent quantities in real-world mathematical problems. The ratios and proportions unit will focus on computing unit rates associated with ratios of fractions, recognizing and representing proportional relationships, identifying the constant of proportionality, and using proportional relationships to solve multistep ratio and percent problems. In statistics and probability students will learn how to analyze and compare populations and find probabilities of events. Within the geometry unit, the subjects of study are understanding geometric relationships by solving problems involving angles, surface area, and volume. Throughout this course of study, students will participate in individual, partner and small group activities. Students will also be presented with investigative lessons focusing on real world problems and application. Once admitted into the accelerated math program, each student must continue to meet the original entrance criteria for the course. If they do not, they may be exited from the program at the end of first or second semester each year, a process that would involve prior parent communication and administration approval.

Mathematics in Grade 8:

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 3 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***

Math 8 Regular

The Grade 8 Mathematics course builds on the foundational skills necessary for success in higher level mathematics. The main strands of mathematical focus are the number system, expressions and equations, functions, ratios and proportional relationships, statistics and probability, and geometry. The math course focuses on three critical areas: 1). Formulating and reasoning about expressions 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. This all done in cooperation with the 8 mathematical practices from the Common Core.

Math 8 Accelerated

The Grade 8 Accelerated Mathematics course continues to build on the foundational skills from the Grade 7 Accelerated math course. Math 8 Accelerated covers the same curriculum as the Math Regular 8 course but also allows for a preliminary look at the grade 9 learning standards. The main strands of mathematical focus are number and quantity, algebra, functions, geometry, and statistics and probability. Within these strands, students will experience the remaining 8th grade standards not covered in Math 7 Accelerated, as well as some Grade 9 Common Core math standards. Throughout this course of study, students will participate in individual, partner, and

small group activities. Students will also be presented with investigative lessons focusing on real world problems and application. Once admitted into the accelerated math program, each student must continue to meet the original entrance criteria for the course. If they do not, they may be exited from the program at the end of first or second semester each year, a process that would involve prior parent communication and administration approval.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Why Study Social Studies?

The Social Studies Department focuses on developing socially responsible global citizens through the study of history, psychology, geography, business, and economics. In social sciences, we are committed to educational excellence. Particular emphasis is placed on research skills and on critical analysis of primary and secondary material. The courses are both academically challenging and relevant. Students are encouraged to appreciate the rich heritage of human individuals and societies. The Social Studies Department believes that careful planning, varied instruction, and practical assessments to clear standards are major components of a student-centered curriculum. We think that students should be challenged to pursue personal excellence in order to build a better future for themselves and for others.

Social Studies Courses

Social Studies 6

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 3 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th Grade students***

Social Studies in Grade 6 is a one-year course that introduces students to fundamental research practices, the ability to differentiate between reliable and non-reliable sources, and establishes norms for citation and presenting research-based findings. To develop these skills, students will explore and be able to describe a civilization based upon its geographic context, its religious diversity, its cultural achievements, and its political and economic systems. In addition, students will be able to demonstrate their learning through a series of creative mediums, such as building their own civilization and curating their own museum exhibits.

Social Studies 7

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 3 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th Grade students***

Social Studies in Grade 7 is a one-year course that aims to develop students' abilities to compose an organized and effective response to a prompt, to conduct efficient research with an emphasis on identifying credible sources and APA citation, and to further our students' understanding of the social sciences. To develop these skills, students will explore the qualities and significance of the environment and culture through the lens of North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

Social Studies 8

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 3 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***

Social Studies in Grade 8 is a one-year course that aims to enhance students' abilities to comprehend and utilize historical sources and data as evidence, to research and organize accurate and credible information from varied digital sources, and to communicate their understanding of our interdependent, globalized world through the lens of the social sciences. To

develop these skills, we will examine content stretching from the causes and effects of the bubonic plague in Afro Eurasia to sustainability in present-day Thailand as we explore the development of science and technology throughout time and space.

SCIENCE

Why Study Science?

The RIS Science program offers students the opportunity to study and gain insights into the world in which we live. An understanding of scientific ideas will help students in personal decision-making, allowing them to express considered views and become involved in issues that are of public interest. The program is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and uses phenomenon based units to connect learning to real world contexts. Throughout history, scientifically educated people have been the ones who have most influenced the progress of their societies. In the words of Carl Sagan, “Whatever road we take, our fate is indissolubly bound up with science. It is essential as a matter of simple survival for us to understand science. In addition, science is a delight; evolution has arranged that we take pleasure in understanding—those who understand are more likely to survive.”

Science Core

General Science 6

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 3 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th Grade students***

The Middle School Grade 6 Science program is designed to foster a deep understanding of scientific principles and encourage students to explore the wonders of the natural world. This course aims to develop students' critical thinking skills, scientific reasoning, and effective communication abilities. Through engaging activities and hands-on experiments, such as building 3-D models and designing prototypes, 6th-grade students will study three major areas of science: Earth and Space Science, Life Science, and Physical Science. They hone their observation skills, learning to keenly observe the world around them and identify patterns. Through hands-on experiments, they acquire practical skills in conducting investigations, recording data, and drawing conclusions. Students will demonstrate proficiency in using the metric system, be able to develop appropriate hypotheses and design scientific experiments to solve problems, utilize scientific equipment, engage in debate, and execute independent research.

General Science 7

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 3 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th Grade students***

The Middle School Grade 7 Science program will be working in Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth and Space Science. We will be exploring ecosystem interactions, plate motion, natural resources, and human interactions and climate change. This program empowers students to think critically, explore creatively, and understand the intricate connections within our natural world. The Earth and Space Science component of the curriculum involves hands-on experiences such as experimenting with soils and stream tables, designing and constructing artificial ecosystems, modeling earth structures and processes, and evaluating earthquake-resistant building practices. In Life Science, students engage in activities such as developing ecosystem models, exploring animal interactions within ecosystems, studying the causes and effects of ecosystem disruptions, and evaluating programs aimed at restoring disturbed ecosystems. The Physical Science module

focuses on creating models of atoms and molecules, observing chemical and physical reactions, and understanding molecular heat and heat transfer.

General Science 8

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 3 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***

In the Middle School Grade 8 Science program, students will explore various fields of scientific study, encompassing Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth and Space Sciences. This builds upon 6th and 7th grade concepts to prepare students for our rigorous high school programs. These diverse scientific disciplines are organized into thematic units, including Space Systems, Forces and Interactions, Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation, Natural Selection and Adaptations, as well as Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms. Throughout the course, students will develop their critical thinking abilities by engaging in argumentation supported by evidence, employing focused thinking techniques, and collaborating within teams. The learning activities will feature a wide range of methods such as experimental simulations, projects, laboratory experiments, discussions, presentations, debates, and science reports.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Why Study Computer Science and Technology?

Computer Science and Technology have had a profound effect on society and the world. Every citizen needs some familiarity with computer science and its consequences in our homes, schools, workplaces, and communities. Computer Science is no longer a subject just for those seeking careers as programmers, it is vital in every field and career. It is the language of the 21st century.

Computer Science Electives

Computer Science 6

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th Grade students***

In Computer Science 6, students learn JavaScript programming to design and build simple video games. The focus is on core programming concepts such as sequencing, variables, conditionals, and events. This course is suitable for beginners, with optional extensions that allow students to expand their games at their own pace. Learning is project based, with no exams. Students are expected to complete their projects at a 6th grade level.

Computer Science 7

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th Grade students***

In Computer Science 7, students use JavaScript to design and build video games while developing problem solving, logic, and code organization skills. Projects are structured so students at any experience level can succeed, while students with prior coding experience can extend their work through more complex mechanics, systems, and creative features. Students may also explore 3D graphics and animations using Blender as an optional extension. Learning is project based, with no exams. Students are expected to complete their projects at a 7th grade level.

Computer Science 8

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***

In Computer Science 8, students use JavaScript to design and build video games while strengthening computational thinking and software design skills. Students are introduced to foundational artificial intelligence concepts, exploring how simple AI behaviors and decision making can be applied within games. The course is open to all levels, with projects designed so beginners can engage confidently and students with prior experience can pursue more complex implementations. Students may also explore 3D graphics and animations using Blender as an optional extension. Learning is project based, with no exams. Students are expected to complete their projects at an 8th grade level.

Robotics 6

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th Grade students***

In Robotics 6, students design, build, and program VEX IQ robots while learning the foundations of the engineering design process. The focus is on planning, building, testing, and refining robots to solve structured challenges. Students develop confidence with mechanical systems, basic sensors, and logical problem solving through hands-on projects. This course is suitable for beginners, with optional extensions that allow students to deepen their designs at an appropriate pace. Learning is demonstrated through projects and builds rather than exams.

Robotics 7

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th Grade students***

In Robotics 7, students design, build, and program VEX IQ robots while applying the engineering design cycle to open ended challenges. Projects are designed so all students can engage meaningfully, while those with prior robotics experience will find opportunities to explore more demanding design choices, strategies, and programming paths. Learning is project based, with understanding demonstrated through robot performance and ongoing refinement rather than exams.

Robotics 8

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***

In Robotics 8, students design, build, and program VEX IQ robots to solve complex, open ended challenges. The course centers on iterative engineering design, including planning, prototyping, testing, and refinement. Students are introduced to artificial intelligence concepts in robotics through the VEX AI system and sensors, exploring how robots can use data to perceive their environment and make decisions. The course is open to all levels, while students with a background in robotics will encounter more challenging design, programming, and decision making options within each project. Learning is demonstrated through hands-on projects rather than exams.

THAI LANGUAGE

Why Study Thai?

The Thai language curriculum in Middle School continues to use an interdisciplinary approach toward language learning. The program develops an understanding of concepts and development

of skills that draws upon such disciplines as history, society, geography, literature and culture. In the Middle School, emphasis in language moves from concrete to more abstract thinking skills. Analysis of literature is required, and organization and expression in writing becomes more complex. Research skills are emphasized. Various genres of literature are read throughout each year. Study of vocabulary, grammar and usage are integrated into novel study and writing instructions. Teaching of the writing process is strongly emphasized.

For non-Native Thai speakers the program is designed similarly to a Modern Language program, with an emphasis on listening, speaking, and basic reading and writing skills.

The Thai Program at RIS

All RIS students are required by the Thai Ministry of Education to study Thai each year for the full year. Students will be placed into appropriate levels by the Thai department each year. The course offerings students can take depend on their proficiency levels and are divided into first-language programming with Native and Literacy options, and Thai as a foreign language.

First-Language Thai Program

The first-language Thai program is designed for students who can read and write Thai at a first-language level. Thai students will be assigned to either Thai Native or Thai Literacy, based on their ability as determined by their previous year of study or by the results of a placement test.

Thai Native courses are carefully designed for students who possess greater language skills at the intermediate and advanced levels. To accommodate the learning needs of students, differentiated instruction is incorporated into unit plans.

Thai Literacy at each grade level is carefully designed for students who possess basic or limited knowledge of the Thai language but who have not had extensive instruction. Students will develop their skills according to their background and knowledge. Activities in this program include listening, speaking, writing, and exploring knowledge about Thai society and culture.

Thai Native

Thai 6 Native

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th Grade students***

The Grade 6 Thai Native course is mainly focused on the Thai language, culture, and history based on literacy analytical skills and project culmination to develop language communication skills in listening, visualizing, speaking, reading, and writing. The course is geared to cultivate Thai grammar through exploring classical literature and contemporary works, along with ICT education media. The course content covers society and environment: Democratic Citizenship; Thai history: History of Sukhothai; Thai classical literature: The Story of Pra Abhai Manee; The Internet and Youth Culture, as well as Thai culture, tradition, and local wisdom.

Thai 7 Native

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th Grade students***

The Grade 7 Thai Native course is mainly focused on the Thai language, culture, and history based on literacy analytical skills and project culmination to develop language communication skills in listening, visualizing, speaking, reading, and writing. The course is geared to cultivate Thai grammar through exploring classical literature and contemporary works, along with ICT education

media. The course content covers society and environment: Thai Unite Towards ASEAN; Thai history: Ayuthaya National Heritage; Thai classical literature: The Odyssey of Ramayana; Impacts of Advertising in Thai Society, as well as Thai culture, tradition, and local wisdom.

Thai 8 Native

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***

The Grade 8 Thai Native course is mainly focused on Thai language, culture, and history based on literacy analytical skills and project culmination to develop language communication skills in listening, visualizing, speaking, reading, and writing. The course is geared to cultivate Thai grammar through exploring classical literature and contemporary works, along with ICT education media. The course content covers society and environment: Becoming a Global Citizen; Thai history: The Heritage of Rattanakosin; Thai classical literature: The Tale of Khun Chang Khun Phaan; Teen Voice Magazine, as well as Thai culture, tradition, and local wisdom.

Thai Literacy

Thai 6 Literacy

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th Grade students***

The Grade 6 Thai Literacy course is designed for native Thai speakers at a literacy and beginner level. Students will develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through various interactive activities, authentic materials, and real-life situations. The course content covers society and environment: Democratic Citizenship; Thai history: History of Sukhothai; Thai classical literature: The Story of Pra Abhai Manee; The Internet and Youth Culture, as well as Thai culture, tradition, and local wisdom.

Thai 7 Literacy

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th Grade students***

The Grade 7 Thai Literacy course is designed for native Thai speakers at a literacy and beginner level. Students will develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through various interactive activities, authentic materials, and real-life situations. The course content covers society and environment: Thai Unite Towards ASEAN; Thai history: Ayuthaya National Heritage; Thai classical literature: The Odyssey of Ramayana; Impacts of Advertising in Thai Society, as well as Thai culture, tradition, and local wisdom.

Thai 8 Literacy

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***

The Grade 8 Thai Literacy course is designed for native Thai speakers at a literacy and beginner level. Students will develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through various interactive activities, authentic materials, and real-life situations.The course content covers society and environment: Becoming a Global Citizen; Thai history: The Heritage of Rattanakosin; Thai classical literature: The Tale of Khun Chang Khun Phaan; Teen Voice Magazine, as well as Thai culture, tradition, and local wisdom.

Thai as a Foreign Language

Non-Native Thai Language and Culture 6

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th Grade students***

In 6th grade, we provide a Thai language-rich experience with a focus on student communication skills. We incorporate the domains of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and cultural literacy. Each unit of study includes a corresponding activity or project, which promotes the relevancy of new grammar and vocabulary. The unit lessons are based on everyday situations according to different themes such as vacation, days at school, time and routine, hobbies and leisure time, school and staff, Thai village, etc. Students will learn a lesson of Thai history and culture and have a school field trip such as a museum or historical park. Students will expand their linguistic competence while learning those thematic topics and activities.

Non-Native Thai Language and Culture 7

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th Grade students***

In 7th grade, we continue to provide a Thai language-rich experience with a focus on student communication skills. We incorporate the domains of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and cultural literacy. Students will expand their linguistic competence using what they have acquired in their 6th grade year with the addition of the following thematic topics such as family description and personality, family activities, house and rooms, community & neighborhood, transportation, direction and road sign, Thai local foods, market, shopping and clothing. Students learn Thai culture through a unit of Thai history and have a field trip to Ayuddhaya ancient city. Students will expand their linguistic competence while learning those thematic topics and activities.

Non-Native Thai Language and Culture 8

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***

In 8th grade, we will continue to advance their listening, speaking, and basic reading and writing skills through the Thai language in the presentational, interpersonal, and interpretive modes of language. This year of study incorporates vocabulary, grammar, and culture from the previous two years as well as cover the thematic units such as body parts and sickness, hospital visits, Thai culture and tradition; Thainess, art and music, festivals, and cuisine. Students will learn Thailand geography and environment, regional attractions of Thailand, history of Bangkok; Rattanakosin Era, and tourist attractions located in Bangkok. Students will understand more about Thai history and culture through a field trip to a Thai museum in Bangkok.

Thai Classical Dance

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th, 7th, and 8th Grade students***

Thai Classical Dance develops students' understanding of Thai performing arts through both theoretical study and practical application. Students in this elective course explore the historical background, cultural significance, and aesthetic principles of Thai classical dance, including traditional gestures, movement vocabulary, music, costumes, and performance etiquette. Through guided practice, students develop fundamental movement techniques with an emphasis on

posture, body alignment, rhythmic accuracy, coordination, and graceful expression in accordance with Thai classical dance conventions.

This fun and active course encourages creativity, teamwork, confidence, and cultural appreciation while providing students with opportunities to work collaboratively and perform respectfully on stage. Students build focus, discipline, and self-expression as they engage with a unique and meaningful art form. No previous dance experience is required, only a willingness to learn and try something new!

MODERN LANGUAGES

Why Study Modern Languages?

Modern Languages (Foreign or World Languages) are an essential part of life today and have both benefits for both cognition and career. The Department is offering three languages— Japanese, Mandarin, and Spanish—under the guidance of certified and experienced teachers, all of whom are native speakers. It is our responsibility and joy to offer our students opportunities to learn one or more foreign languages, to develop the specific abilities of listening, reading, writing, and speaking, and all students are strongly encouraged to do so. RIS students live in an international community where different languages are spoken and different cultures are experienced. The more RIS students know about other languages and cultures, the better they can interact with other communities.

Recommendations

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity in Middle School to explore a language for at least two years. Students who successfully complete three years of a modern language in Middle School may gain access to more advanced language placement in high school.

Spanish Courses

Beginning Spanish

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th Grade students***

This Spanish 1 course serves as a foundational introduction to the language, equipping students with the skills and knowledge needed to progress to Spanish 2 in order to continue their study in IB, AB Initio Spanish, or Spanish 2. This course will continue to develop the language skills students need to narrate and describe using connected discourse of paragraph length on topics of current and general interest, including greetings, hobbies, descriptions, animals, colors, countries and nationalities, education, climate, dates, and aspects of Spanish and Latin American culture.

Intermediate Spanish

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th Grade students***
Prerequisite: ***"M" or better in Beginning Spanish and teacher recommendation***

This Spanish 2.1 course builds on prior knowledge, preparing students to advance confidently to Spanish 2.2 in order to continue their study in IB standard level or AP Spanish program. This course will continue to develop the language skills students need to narrate and describe using connected discourse of paragraph length on topics of current and general interest, including foods, recipes, holidays and the different activities to do, types of buildings and places, giving directions, invitations and how to reply to them, clothes, giving opinions, and other aspects of Spanish and

Latin American culture.

Intermediate Spanish II

Duration: *1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days*
Offered to: *8th Grade students*
Prerequisite: *"M" or better in Intermediate Spanish and teacher recommendation*

This Spanish 2.2 course builds on previous learning, providing students with the skills and confidence needed to advance to Spanish 3 in order to continue their study in IB standard level or AP Spanish program. This course will continue to develop the language skills students need to narrate and describe using connected discourse of paragraph length on topics of current and general interest, including healthy life, the human body and illnesses, personal interests, social relationships, professions and future plans, recycling, children's rights, fair trade, world issues and aspects of Spanish and Latin American culture.

Arts and Cuisine of Hispanic Cultures

Duration: *1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days*
Offered to: *7th and 8th Grade students*

This elective course immerses students in the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world through the exploration of film, theater, dance, and music, with an emphasis on listening comprehension, basic oral expression, functional communication, guided interaction, and intercultural awareness. Students engage in visual, musical, and creative activities while also exploring traditional foods and culinary traditions, including typical dishes, meal schedules, and celebrations. Through these experiences, students use Spanish as a meaningful tool to better understand daily life, cultural identity, and the diverse traditions of Spanish-speaking countries. Students do not need to be enrolled in Spanish language classes to take this elective.

Mandarin Courses

Beginning Mandarin

Duration: *1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days*
Offered to: *6th Grade students*

This Beginning Chinese course is designed to develop students' basic Chinese proficiency in the four skills of language learning: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This Chinese course will cover Hanyu Pinyin(Chinese pronunciation system), Pianpangbushou(Chinese writing system/radicals), simple sentence patterns, learning Chinese characters, speaking basic terms of greeting, introducing family members, counting numbers in Chinese, and exploring Chinese culture. This course aims to help students achieve the 4 skills (Communication, Culture, Receptive skills: listening and reading, and Productive skills: speaking and writing) along with the MS learning practices (Responsibility, Engagement, Respect, and Reflection).

Intermediate Mandarin

Duration: *1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days*
Offered to: *7th Grade students*
Prerequisite: *"M" or better in Beginning Mandarin and teacher recommendation*

The Chinese course of Intermediate Mandarin is a continuation of the Beginning Mandarin course, extending students' ability to understand and express themselves in Chinese with a richer vocabulary and sentence structure. Through developing receptive, productive, and interactive skills, students acquire the ability to respond and interact appropriately in real-life situations. At the end of the course, students will be able to give extended information about themselves, their

families, friends, and daily life. Students will also explore the customs, history, and art forms of Chinese people to deepen their understanding of the culture.

Intermediate Mandarin II

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***
Prerequisite: ***"M" or better in Intermediate Mandarin and teacher recommendation***

Building upon the foundations established in Intermediate Mandarin, this course offers a comprehensive approach to advancing students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in the Chinese language. Students will expand their vocabulary to discuss daily meals, weather preferences, fashion accessories, and more while mastering complex grammar structures. With a focus on real-life communication, this course equips students to engage effectively in everyday scenarios. Additionally, Intermediate Mandarin II prepares students for higher-level Mandarin studies in high school, providing a strong language foundation and a deeper cultural understanding.

Japanese

Beginning Japanese

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th, 7th, and 8th Grade students***

This course is for beginners and for non-native speakers of Japanese only. Instruction focuses on interactive communication in everyday situations and contexts for a variety of purposes. Japanese culture is introduced to develop understanding and appreciation for different traditions and customs.

Intermediate Japanese

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***
Prerequisite: ***"M" or better in Beginning Japanese and teacher recommendation***

This Intermediate Japanese course builds on students' basic knowledge to help them communicate more fluently and naturally in everyday situations. Students will learn to talk about familiar topics such as food, shopping, health, holidays, and festivals, while expressing opinions and describing their experiences in connected sentences. Through interactive tasks and cultural exploration, they will deepen their understanding of Japanese customs and daily life, preparing them to advance confidently to the next level of Japanese study.

PERFORMING ARTS: THEATRE AND MUSIC

THEATRE PROGRAM

Why Study Theatre?

Theatre is open to anyone who is creative, enjoys working with others, and is naturally imaginative and inquisitive. This course is not just for students who may wish to pursue a career in acting. There are many benefits to taking theatre courses, such as increased self-confidence, self-expression, collaboration with others, and an overall appreciation of the arts. Students will strengthen their communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills, all of which are fundamental in other subject areas and across the curriculum. Theatre courses are a lot of fun and

are quite different from most other electives. They provide a freedom to experiment and experience through "acting out," by fostering scenarios in an atmosphere that is supportive and joyful yet challenging. There is a wide range of courses available to accommodate students' interests, abilities, and experiences.

MS Drama

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th, 7th, and 8th Grade students***

In MS Drama, students work in ensembles to create collaborative scenes based on original and established literature and use improvisation to develop creative problem solving skills and critical thinking. Students learn about great periods of theater by reading written works and developing drama vocabulary. This course may be repeated at each grade level to develop greater performance skills and confidence.

Creative Writing

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th, 7th, and 8th Grade students***

This course focuses on creative writing skills in the forms of Poetry, Short Story, and Playwriting. Students learn many literary devices and practice different styles of each form by keeping a writing journal that becomes a cumulative portfolio of their semester work. Students may repeat this course each school year to further develop their writing skills and creativity.

Speech and Debate

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th, 7th, and 8th Grade students***

The Speech and Debate course explores projects based on the following: Oral Interpretation (interpreting a piece of existing literature), Extemporaneous Speech (speaking original impromptu selections with little preparation time), Original Oratory (original speech that is an informative or persuasive presentation), and Debate (solo and partner debate topics). Students learn active listening, critical thinking, problem solving. and writing and performance skills.

Journalism

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th, 7th, and 8th Grade students***

This fun and engaging elective course introduces students to the fundamentals of journalism through hands-on projects and student-led exploration. In this class, students will learn about news writing, interviewing, photojournalism, and media ethics while creating their own news stories across a variety of media. The course emphasizes collaboration, curiosity, and real-world connections, encouraging students to explore their voices and interests while developing essential communication and critical thinking skills.

VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Why Study Music?

Music is magic. As a language shared by all cultures, it brings us into community with others in the most holistic, human, and harmonious of ways. When we work together with others to create something beautiful, we enrich our capacity for connection and empathy. Research shows that, in addition to nurturing joy, expressivity, curiosity and excellence, music education has multiple benefits in terms of neurological development. Specifically, it has a measurable impact on

language acquisition and fluency in numeracy. Focused study of music promotes concentration, self discipline, resilience as well as other life long skills that transfer to all areas of our lives. Pursuing excellence in music education adds balance to scholastic life and builds positively into the culture of our school. We look forward to sharing music with you in one of our Middle School Music Ensembles.

Beginning Band

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th Grade students***

Students in Beginning Band choose a band instrument to learn after an instrument fitting, rent the instrument from the school, and perform with the Beginning Band at a semester-end concert. The following instruments are offered: Woodwinds (flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, and tenor saxophone) and Brass (trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, and tuba).
**Note - Grade 6 Beginning Band is the optimal time to begin band, as only intermediate bands are offered in Grade 7 and 8.*

Beginning Choir

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th Grade students***

Beginning Choir is offered to all Grade 6 students. No previous singing experience is necessary to enroll in this course. Students will learn music literacy skills and vocal techniques for healthy singing. These include attention to posture, position, breath control/support, diction/articulation, vowels, and expressivity while singing in harmony with others. Skill development on sight sight singing is emphasized. Students have an opportunity to work on individual and small group projects. In addition, we explore music from a variety of cultures and genres. We engage in community events through performance and participate in a winter and spring concert. This course enables students to practice ensemble skills as we think, listen, play, reflect and create in a group setting.

Grade 7 and Grade 8 Choir

Duration: ***1 semester or full year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th and 8th Grade students***

Choir is offered to all Grade 7 and 8 students. While no previous experience is necessary, this course is an extension of the skills learned in Beginning Choir. Students will learn more advanced music literacy skills and vocal techniques for healthy singing. These include attention to posture, position, breath control/support, diction/articulation, vowels, and expressivity while singing in harmony with others. Skill development on sight sight singing is emphasized. Students have an opportunity to work on individual and small group projects. In addition, we explore music from a variety of cultures and genres. We engage in community events through performance and participate in a winter and spring concert. This course enables students to practice ensemble skills as we think, listen, play, reflect and create in a group setting.
**Note: Students that wish to sing in Choir and play in Band should request the semester-long Choir option and semester-long Band option. The semester-long Choir option is only available for students who want to also enroll in the semester-long Band option.*

Grade 7 and Grade 8 Band

Duration: ***1 semester or full year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th and 8th Grade students***

This course will build on the basic skills of technique and musicality established in Beginning Band. Students learn to play proficiently alone and in small and large ensembles and to prepare for public performances. These classes share what they have learned with a concert at the end of each semester. This course is designed to be repeated in 7th and 8th grade - the curriculum and music change each year to accommodate the instrumentation, interests and abilities of the students in the group. Instruments allowed in these two courses: flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, and bari saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, and tuba. Percussionists learn all mallet, auxiliary, and drums.

**Note: Students that wish to play in Band and sing in Choir should request the semester-long Band option and semester-long Choir option. The semester-long Band option is only available for students who want to also enroll in the semester-long Choir option.*

Contemporary Music Ensemble

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th and 8th Grade students***

Contemporary Music Ensemble gives students the opportunity to perform and collaborate in a modern band setting, exploring instruments such as guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, and vocals. Through a variety of contemporary music styles, students build skills in song selection, rehearsal techniques, sound equipment care, and live performance. Emphasis in this elective course is placed on teamwork, creativity, and musical expression as students prepare and perform setlists together. The course concludes with a showcase performance, celebrating students' growth, confidence, and musicianship in a fun, performance-based environment. Open to any Grade 7 or Grade 8 student who has prior experience in either Choir or Band.

Ukelele and Guitar

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th, 7th, and 8th Grade students***

This ukulele and guitar course gives students the opportunity to perform and create music using both instruments in individual and group settings. Through a variety of musical styles, students enrolled in this elective course develop foundational playing techniques, including chords, strumming patterns, and basic fingerpicking, while learning to read chord charts, tablature, and simple rhythmic notation. Emphasis is placed on both individual skill development and collaboration as students accompany singing, create simple arrangements, and perform within the school community. The course concludes with a showcase performance, celebrating students' growth, confidence, and musicianship in a supportive, performance-based environment. No prior guitar or ukulele experience is required. Ukeleles are offered for this class by the school but students choosing to focus on guitar will need to bring a classical guitar from home.

VISUAL ARTS

Why Study the Visual Arts?

Active participation in an arts program is an important component in every child's education. The Visual Arts program offers students the opportunity to create and express ideas beyond just words. The program promotes critical thinking, develops skills and techniques, and fosters an appreciation of cultural diversity in a creative and collaborative learning environment. We believe that these skills and qualities will prepare students to be successful in a 21st-century world that demands creativity and innovative thinking.

Visual arts courses will be useful for those wishing to pursue higher education in the following fields:

- Art
- Architecture
- Interior Design
- Graphic Design
- Fashion
- Art Therapy
- Product Design
- Art Administration
- Landscape Architecture
- Theatre Design
- Photography
- Ceramics and Industrial Design
- Art Education
- Illustration

Visual Arts Courses

Art

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th, 7th, and 8th Grade students***

The Art class is designed to introduce middle school students to the exciting world of art, fostering their creativity, self-expression, and a deeper appreciation for various art forms. In this beginner art class, students will explore a wide range of artistic mediums, techniques, and styles while developing their artistic skills and visual literacy.

Intermediate Art

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th and 8th Grade students***

The Intermediate Art course for middle schoolers is designed to develop students' artistic skills and creative thinking. This course offers a deeper exploration of various art forms, techniques, and concepts, empowering students to express themselves more fluently through their artwork.

Advanced Art

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***
Prerequisite: "M" or higher in Intermediate Art and teacher recommendation

The Advanced Art course for middle schoolers is designed to offer students passionate in art the opportunity to hone their skills and creative thinking. This course's deeper exploration of various art forms, techniques, and concepts enables them to forego the high school prerequisite (Art 1) to access the full art program in Grade 9.

Industrial Design: Foundations In Design

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th and 8th Grade students***

This exciting and hands-on industrial design course is specially designed to explore the world of product design, creativity, and problem-solving. Industrial design is all around us, from the gadgets we use daily to the furniture we sit on and the cars we drive. In this course, students will embark on a journey to understand and apply the principles of industrial design to create innovative and user-friendly products.

Industrial Design: Design Thinking

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th and 8th Grade students***

The Industrial Design: Design Thinking course will delve deeper into the world of industrial design,

tackling complex design challenges and gaining a profound understanding of the design process. The course is designed to develop students' creative thinking, problem-solving skills, and design proficiency.

Audio and Video Production

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th, 7th, and 8th Grade students***

The Audio and Video Production course for middle school students is an engaging exploration of multimedia creation, placing a strong emphasis on student-led projects and fostering creativity. Throughout the course, students will develop essential presentation techniques and styles, honing their ability to effectively communicate ideas through visual storytelling. The curriculum delves into the fascinating realm of sound design, allowing students to understand the powerful impact sounds can have on perception. By integrating hands-on projects, this course provides a dynamic learning experience that empowers students to express themselves, while gaining valuable skills in audiovisual production. Students are highly recommended to bring a computer, as some editing software used for this course is not compatible with an iPad.

MS Photography

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th, 7th, and 8th Grade students***

The Middle School Photography course for middle schoolers provides an exciting opportunity for students to explore the world of photography and develop their artistic and technical skills. This hands-on course is designed to inspire young photographers, nurturing their creativity and visual storytelling abilities. Through a combination of theory and practical assignments, students will learn the art and science of photography.

MS Yearbook

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***

The Middle School Yearbook course offers students an engaging and hands-on experience in creating the annual yearbook, capturing the memories and essence of the school year. This course empowers middle schoolers with the skills and knowledge needed to design, write, photograph, and publish a memorable yearbook that celebrates their school community.

RELIGION AND VALUES

Why Study Religion?

At RIS, religious education is designed to deepen Catholic students' understanding of their faith while enriching their spiritual lives. Through participation in sacraments, retreats, service learning, and other religious activities, students learn the teachings of the Catholic Church and are encouraged to live out the message of Jesus in their daily lives. Catholic students are invited to share their faith journeys with one another, with teachers guiding and supporting them as they explore and embrace their Catholic identity. Liturgies, retreats, and service learning are essential parts of the curriculum, helping to foster both personal growth and a strong sense of community.

While the Religion program is required for Catholic students, it is also open to students of other Christian denominations and those from different religious backgrounds who wish to explore the goals of Christian education. The Redemptorist Fathers play an active role in supporting all

students' faith development. Religion classes are held weekly, in alignment with the Middle School timetable, and cover topics such as an introduction to the Old and New Testaments, social justice, morality, and Christian vocations. Additionally, all students and members of the community are invited to attend daily Mass from 6:45-7:10 am at St. Mary's Chapel, as well as monthly Mass from 7:15-7:45 am at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

Why Study Values?

Students at RIS come from a variety of religious backgrounds. The school respects this diversity but also realizes that students need to develop and apply values in their everyday lives. All students are required to take Values in each grade level. Respectful of the uniqueness and diversity of the individual, the goal of Values is to enable each student to participate in experiential learning and the evolution of their personal values system. This facilitates the internalization of the course content through lectures, discussions, debates, Service Learning, and a variety of cooperative learning and critical-thinking activities. The Values department prides itself for emphasizing experiential learning, particularly its role in awakening students to the reality of social and economic deprivation in society. Hence, Service Learning involvement is an integral and required component of the curriculum.

As we move into a more globalized, interdependent World, which is fast transpiring beyond our borders, the Values program prepares our students to think more internationally, with more compassion and empathy, and further realize our connectivity with people who have different cultures and beliefs in both physical and spiritual sense.

Religion Courses

Religion 6

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 1 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th Grade students***

The Grade 6 course focuses on the Ten Commandments, with the Beatitudes providing a foundation that highlights the happiness found in a right relationship with God. The Commandments are explored in the context of community, human dignity, freedom, responsibility, and generous service to God and others. In addition, students are required to contribute to or participate in the All School Easter Assembly.

Religion 7

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 1 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th Grade students***

The Grade 7 course prepares students for the Sacrament of Confirmation, marking a significant milestone in their Catholic faith journey. Through the strengthening of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, students are encouraged to translate their faith into action by serving others and becoming responsible members of the Church and society. As part of their commitment, students must also contribute to or participate in the All School Easter Assembly.

Religion 8

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 1 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***

The Grade 8 course introduces students to the core teachings, stories, and themes of the Bible. Students deepen their faith and strengthen their relationship with Jesus, exploring their role within the community (family, society, and Church) as they are called to worship and serve God. All students are expected to contribute to or participate in the All School Easter Assembly as part of

their course involvement.

Values Courses

Values and Human Relations 6

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 1 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th Grade students***

Values courses in the MS are part of the K–12 program of character education, a central feature of the school's mission. In the Values and Human Relations 6 course, we have an opportunity to help our students learn the values of empathy, service, and human interconnectedness. Our goal is to teach students to be capable, compassionate people, and to empower them to become the best versions of themselves. When our students feel safe, supported and part of a community, they perform better and act with more kindness. Our core feature in this course is Human Relationships, and the focuses of this course are: Finding our Core Values, Human Dignity, Service Learning, and Taking Care of Earth - Sustainability Agriculture.

Values and Equality 7

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 1 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th Grade students***

Values courses in the MS are part of a K–12 program of character education, a central feature of the school's mission. In the Values and Equality 7 course, we have an opportunity to help our students learn the value of empathy, service, and human interconnectedness. Our goal is to teach students to be capable, compassionate people, and to empower them to become the best versions of themselves. When our students feel safe, supported and part of a community, they perform better and act with more kindness. Our core feature in this course is Equality, and the focuses of this course are: Solidarity with the underprivileged - Migration and Refugees, Family and Community, Service Learning, and Taking Care of Earth - Sustainability Consumption.

Values and Global Citizenship 8

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 1 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***

Values courses in the MS are part of a K–12 program of character education, a central feature of the school's mission. In the Values and Global Citizenship 8 course, we have an opportunity to help our students learn the value of empathy, service, and human interconnectedness. Our goal is to teach students to be capable, compassionate people, and to empower them to become the best versions of themselves. When our students feel safe, supported and part of a community, they perform better and act with more kindness. Our core feature in this course is Global Citizenship, and the focuses of this course are: Human Dignity and Human Rights, Solidarity with the underprivileged - Laws and Justice, Service Learning, and Taking Care of Earth - Sustainability Tourism.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Why Study Physical Education?

The Physical Education Department of RIS Middle School makes every effort to improve the individual fitness level of each student. It is our belief that the mind and body are interdependent; the body must be fit if the mind is going to function at its maximum potential. We believe that by instilling good fitness

habits at a young age students have a better chance of these habits carrying over into adulthood. This improves overall health and quality of life. We strive to make PE a lifelong journey and to create an inclusive environment for all students. By the end of Middle School, students will be ready to take part in the planning and implementation of different types of personal fitness programs, and model responsible behavior while engaged in physical activity.

Physical Education Courses

Physical Education 6

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th Grade students***

In Grade 6 Physical Education, students learn invasion games, net/wall games, field sports, circus skills, aquatics, yoga, dance, and fitness. Students are assessed both formatively and summatively within each unit.

Physical Education 7

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th Grade students***

In Grade 7 Physical Education, students learn invasion games, net/wall games, aquatics, yoga, dance, and fitness. Students are assessed both formatively and summatively within each unit. Students also learn about goal setting, nutrition, and human growth and development in this course.

Physical Education 8

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***

In Grade 8 Physical Education, students learn invasion games, net/wall games, field sports, aquatics, yoga, dance, and fitness. Students are assessed both formatively and summatively within each unit.

Modern-Day Sports Science

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th, 7th, and 8th Grade students***

Explore the dynamic world where sports, science, technology, and entertainment collide. This course examines how kinesiology shapes athletes and how modern sports are packaged for media, fans, and global audiences. Learn how movement enhances performance, prevents injuries, and fuels careers in sports. From biomechanics to the business of pro sports and athlete branding, this project-based course gives a behind-the-scenes look at the power of movement.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Why Study Health & Wellness?

The Middle School Health and Wellness course explores current topics in health that are relevant for the youth attending our school, and is required for all students. Students will analyze influences on health behaviors, evaluate sources of information, demonstrate goal-setting and communication skills to enhance health and practice advocacy to promote community health. The emphasis of this course is studying aspects of mental, emotional, and social well-being that influence holistic health.

Health & Wellness Courses

Health & Wellness 6

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 1 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***6th Grade students***

In Grade 6 Health & Wellness, students learn about stress, mindfulness, body image, human growth and development, digital health, and social health in this course. Students are assessed both formatively and summatively within each unit.

Health & Wellness 7

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 1 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th Grade students***

In Grade 7 Health & Wellness, students learn about healthy sleep, goal setting, nutrition, human growth and development, mental health & depression, digital health, and social health in this course. Students are assessed both formatively and summatively within each unit.

Health & Wellness 8

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 1 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***

In Grade 8 Health & Wellness, students learn about emotional empathy, positive tech habits, human growth and development, substance abuse prevention, digital health, and social health in this course. Students are assessed both formatively and summatively within each unit.

CULINARY ARTS

Why Study Culinary Arts?

Cooking is a basic human skill. Studying culinary arts will help you expand your horizons in many ways. Even if you do not become a professional chef, it will give you a deeper appreciation for food as culture, food as art, your health, and more, all of which you can pass on to your friends and family through your own culinary efforts.

Preparing food isn't just about sustenance or about helping people enjoy what they eat, it's also about sharing art with people. The way you plate your dishes is an art form in itself, something that people can take pleasure in looking at. Then there's the way that you combine aromas and tastes to create different feelings, in the same way that paintings use colors and form to incite different emotions. By studying culinary arts, you'll learn how to appreciate food as an art form.

Food is closely intertwined with culture. Think about all the different foods that are available from all over the world and how people often pass down family recipes from one person to another. By studying culinary arts, you'll learn how different cultures prepare different types of foods. This will give you a much greater appreciation for different cultures, which in turn helps to build empathy for people in general.

Culinary Arts Courses

Beginner Culinary Arts

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***7th and 8th Grade students***

Beginner Culinary Arts is a course that exposes students to most of the basic skills and techniques used in cooking. As the students cook recipes for breakfasts, appetizers, main dishes, and desserts they learn to master essential skills in the kitchen, such as using measuring tools, handling knives and graters in a safe and proper manner and adjusting the temperature of the stove and oven for different recipe requirements. By cooking over 25 different recipes, students will gain a solid foundation and confidence to try almost any cooking recipes out there. You will be amazed by what your student can cook by the end of this course!
**Note: Students who take this course are required to pay 1,400 baht/semester to cover the cost of ingredients.*

Advanced Culinary Arts

Duration: ***1 semester, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***8th Grade students***

From hamburgers and quesadillas to Croque Monsieur and Paella, this course is designed to cover some of the most famous dishes in Western cuisine. With around 30 recipes from 8 different western countries, the course will give students a closer look at the different techniques and ingredients used in Western kitchens. Fun and tasty, this course can accept a maximum of 16 students per class.
**Note: Students who take this course are required to pay 1,400 baht/semester to cover the cost of ingredients.*

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

The English Language Development Program (ELD) at the Middle School aims to support the development of academic language of English Language Learners (ELLs) and the mastery of core content necessary for academic success in high school.

To do this, the ELD Program provides the following key services:

1. In-class support to provide access to the content necessary for academic success.
2. Small group ELD classes to build skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
3. Collaboration with subject teachers to scaffold materials, assignments, and assessments to ensure language learners can engage successfully in the grade-level content.

As part of the admission process, new MS students are placed in the ELD program based on the results of the WIDA Screener language proficiency test. ELD students transitioning from MS to HS who have not met MS ELD exit criteria are automatically placed in the HS ELD Program. Exit from the MS ELD Program is determined by five criteria: academic performance, ELD performance, WIDA MODEL language proficiency test scores, MAP Reading percentiles, and MAP Language percentiles.

ELD Support

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***Students enrolled in ELD Support***

ELD Classes offer explicit instruction in reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills to develop English language proficiency. Students meet in small groups for work that builds vocabulary, understanding of English grammar and syntax, pronunciation, and other aspects of language at the word level, sentence level, and discourse level. Teachers use the WIDA framework to assess proficiency levels and provide targeted instruction to meet each student's needs.

LEARNING SUPPORT

The Learning Support Program at RIS is based on the philosophy that students vary in their level of ability, achievement, motivation, and interest, and that individuals respond best to educational programs that provide appropriate challenges. When the level, pace, and style of instruction matches a student's level of achievement and rate of learning, an optimal learning environment is achieved. At RIS, we spend time getting to know and understand how children learn best through our Student Success Team (SST) and work collaboratively with parents, teachers, students, counselors, psychologists, Learning Support teachers, and administrators to develop Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) and supported classes.

The Learning Support program in the middle school is designed to help students make significant progress and reach their potential, while developing skills to participate in the general education curriculum at RIS, when appropriate. RIS supports the philosophy of inclusion and ensures students with learning support are included in the general education curriculum while meeting their individual educational goals. This is done through both collaboration and shared planning, where the learning support and classroom teacher develop lessons, strategies, accommodations, and modifications to integrate learning support students as much as possible, while still meeting the needs of individual students.

In the middle school at RIS, students with learning support will participate in a wide array of classes such as electives and required grade-level courses based on individual ability. Support in classes for students with learning support will look very different depending on the student's ability, the academic rigor of the class, and whether or not the Learning Support teacher is present in the classroom. When students with learning support are not able to successfully perform at grade level within a general education class, it is appropriate that they receive additional support in remediated instruction with a qualified Learning Support teacher. The following class is available based on the student's needs within the Learning Support program:

Study Skills

Duration: ***1 year, class meets 2 out of 4 days***
Offered to: ***Students enrolled in Learning Support***

Study Skills is a year-long program to develop study skills and learning strategies as specified in a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) to support the demands of general education classes. Yearly progress will be evaluated and recommendations will be made at IEP meetings. Entrance may occur throughout the school year subsequent to an assessment by the Learning Support program.