



**International School
HO CHI MINH CITY
AMERICAN ACADEMY**

POSITIVE • CARING • ENGAGED

HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE

ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022

AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
For students aged 11-18



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Welcome



Mr. Nathan Swenson
Head of School

A Welcome from Head of School, Nathan Swenson

I always welcome the opportunity to showcase our wonderful school to prospective students and their families, and to the fellow education professionals who frequently visit to find out the secret of our success.

We are a leading American curriculum secondary school in Ho Chi Minh City, inspiring and challenging students aged 11 to 18 years old to achieve personal excellence.

Our highly qualified and dedicated teachers are student-focused, committed to developing each child's unique interests, abilities, and ambitions. This approach creates a culture of achievement in our close-knit community of over 300 students, demonstrated in our graduates' U.S. \$1m scholarship fund to overseas universities.

We lay the foundations for success with 100% English language immersion and a rigorous American accredited curriculum from age 11. At the same time, we offer an extensive Vietnamese Studies Program to ensure our students maintain their Mother Tongue and cultural roots. ISHCMC - American Academy is proud to be the only school in Vietnam to offer university-level courses through both Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA) and Advanced Placement (AP), giving your child unparalleled competitive advantage.

Above excellence in academics, our vision commits us to empowering our students to reach their potential across all endeavors – in the arts, sports, technology, and elsewhere. I welcome you to visit us to experience first-hand what sets ISHCMC – American Academy apart in the world of education.

TEACHING AND LEARNING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

ISHCMC - American Academy is a learning community where students, parents and teachers work together to create a positive, caring and engaging environment where students develop the skills and mindsets they need to be successful in life.

School Mission

Welcome to the International School Ho Chi Minh City - American Academy (ISHCMC - American Academy). In everything we do at ISHCMC-AA we aim to be POSITIVE, CARING and ENGAGED.

We are POSITIVE

We take a positive approach to live using a growth mindset.

We are CARING

We care for ourselves and others.

We are ENGAGED

We engage in the world around us.

The School Curriculum: What We Teach

Our school curriculum is driven by American and International academic standards and is intentionally designed to be flexible and responsive to the goals and needs of our students. High School course offerings and graduation requirements are designed to give students options to build their own pathway towards graduation based on their own skills and interests.

Beyond those academic standards, we endeavour to build the skills and mindsets our students will need to lead successful and meaningful lives. **Future Ready Skills:** Learning experiences at ISHCMC-AA build students' knowledge and understanding of the world and develop skills and habits that will bring them success and well-being in an international context. **Character and Mindsets:** The core goal of education at ISHCMC-AA is the development of character and community. We foster mindsets that support learning, internationalism and well-being for all.

| Our Academic Standards | Curricular and Co-curricular programs |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English: Common Core (New York State) • Math: Common Core Integrated Mathematics • Social Studies: Common Core (New York State) • Science and Technology: Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) • Vietnamese Studies: MOET Standards for International Schools. • Arts: AERO* Music, AERO* Visual Arts • Physical Education: SHAPE America • Health: Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Framework | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAL (English as an additional language) • Advisory Program/Positive Education • House Program • Academic Counselling • Social and Emotional Counselling • College and Career Counselling • Field Studies Program • SISAC Sports teams • After-School Activities (ASAs) • Assistantship Program • Sports Leadership Program • Peer Tutoring • Peer Mediation • Outdoor Education: Cognita Framework |
| Advanced and College level courses (Grade 11-12) | |
| Advanced Placement (AP) Syracuse University Project Advanced (SUPA) | |

Teaching and Learning at ISHCMC-AA: How we Teach

The amazing faculty at ISHCMC-AA is made up of highly motivated and experienced teachers from around the world. Our teachers use a range of methods in their classrooms to understand and support the needs and interests of our students.

| Principles of Quality Teaching and Learning | | |
|---|--|---|
| We develop positive mindsets and focus on growth in students. Every child has an opportunity to grow given personalized support and quality feedback. | We nurture caring classroom and school communities with a focus on well-being for all. | Foster student engagement using active, challenging, relevant, collaborative and meaningful activities. |

Instruction and Learning Activities

Our teachers use a range of methods to support student learning in the classroom, depending on the needs of the students and the goals of the lesson. Teachers engage students using combinations of teacher-led direct instruction, individual tasks, collaborative learning, project oriented learning, research, problem-solving, student reflection, peer feedback and group discussion. The language of instruction is always English and students are supported to access materials and build their academic language skills.

Feedback and Assessment

Ongoing and continuous feedback and assessment is a hallmark of teaching and learning at ISHCMC-AA. Students begin each unit with **diagnostic assessments** to measure their skills and prior knowledge and allow the teacher to support and tailor instruction. Teachers use **formative assessments** to provide feedback to students, understand the effectiveness of their teaching and adapt as needed.

Summative assessments, which form the basis for a student’s grade in a class, take place after a child has had time to practice and get feedback from the teacher. Types of assessment we use include ISHCMC-AA include quizzes, tests, projects, essays, and presentations.

Standardized testing

Each year in September and May grade 6-10 students sit the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) tests to measure basic skills in Reading and Math. Students and teachers review September scores to understand student strengths and needs for the year. Students and teachers review the scores in May to measure student growth and understand the effectiveness our school programs.

Grade 11 students sit the PSAT tests in September and the results are reviewed by students and teachers to target strengths and areas for growth. The PSAT is also used as practice for the SAT and students are advised how to focus their studies and improve their scores.

Reporting Student Progress and Achievement

We report student progress and achievement at various times throughout the school year. Teachers update student records in PowerSchool each week. Parents and students are encouraged to review feedback regularly.

| | |
|--|--|
| Semester 1 Reports Progress report and Parent-Student Conferences (October) Semester Report (January) | Semester 2 Reports Progress report and Parent-Student Conferences (March) Final Report (June) |
| High School Transcripts Transcripts include all semester grades and credits earned from grade 9-12. Transcripts are issued for graduating students and can be requested from the school registrar. | |



HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

| Core Subjects | 15 credits |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| English Language Arts | 4.0 credits |
| Mathematics | 3.0 credits |
| Sciences | 3.0 credits |
| Social Studies | 3.0 credits |
| World Languages | 2.0 credits |
| Other Required Subjects | 9 credits |
| Physical/Health Education | 1.0 credit |
| Arts/ICT/Technology | 2.0 credits |
| Electives | 6.0 credits |
| Total Required to Graduate | 24 credits |

The 6.0 additional credits required can be made up of credits from various subjects where the student has already completed the minimum requirement. For example, if a student completes 4.0 credits in Science, 3.0 will meet the Science requirement and the remaining 1.0 can be used to satisfy the overall number of graduation credits. EAL Intensive classes and the Assistant Program credits also count toward satisfying the overall 24 graduation credits.

ASSESSMENT and GRADING in High School

Teachers at ISHCMC-AA assess student learning against international and U.S. standards. We believe that the feedback students get as they are learning concepts and skills is essential to their growth and development. Teachers record both formative and summative feedback in the form of grades and comments in PowerSchool and we encourage students and their parents to use that as a tool to improve.

Half way through each semester, we issue a progress report for each student with specific feedback on how to improve in their classes. Teachers report student achievement on the standards at the end of each semester in a report card. Progress reports and Report cards are emailed to parents and can be printed on request.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

We use number grades from 0 to 100. In the High School, we calculate and report GPA (Grade Point Average) which is used by some colleges and universities. College level classes (SUPA and AP) are weighted in the GPA to reflect the level of difficulty. We do not rank students based on their achievement.

| Grade Scale and GPA Calculation | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Percent | Letter Grade | Public School Equivalent | Unweighted GPA | Weighted (SUPA & AP) |
| 98-100 | A+ | 10 | 4.00 | 5.00 |
| 93-97 | A | | 4.00 | 5.00 |
| 90-92 | A- | 9 | 3.67 | 4.67 |
| 88-89 | B+ | | 3.33 | 4.33 |
| 83-87 | B | 8 | 3.00 | 4.00 |
| 80-82 | B- | | 2.67 | 3.67 |
| 78-79 | C+ | | 2.33 | 3.33 |
| 73-77 | C | 7 | 2.00 | 3.00 |
| 70-72 | C- | | 1.67 | 2.67 |
| 68-69 | D+ | | 1.33 | 2.33 |
| 63-67 | D | 6 | 1.00 | 2.00 |
| 60-62 | D- | | 0.67 | 1.67 |
| Below 60 | F | 5 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

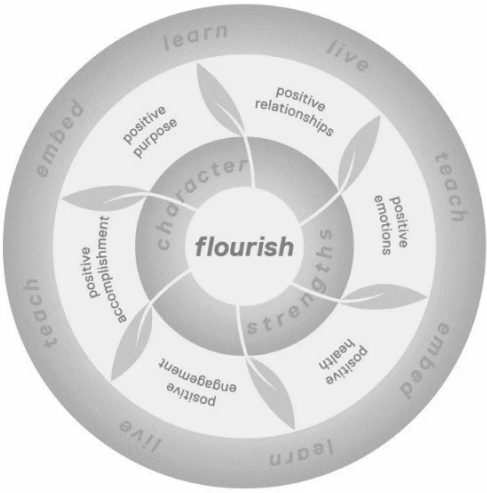
Weighted courses include Advanced Placement (AP) and university-level dual enrollment with Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA). Only courses taken at ISHCMC - American Academy count toward cumulative GPA. GPA is calculated semesterly.

Parents and students are invited to meet with teachers at any time to discuss their progress and achievement. We also hold formal conferences twice in the year for this purpose.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ADVISORY

Students meet in their advisory groups each day. Our advisory program is based on the principles of Positive Education. In their advisory meetings, students develop skills and mindsets to support their academic progress as well as their social and emotional well-being.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

We endeavour to teach and encourage students to use the English language as a means of communication and as an outlet for creative and scholarly pursuits.

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|--|
| English 9 | English 10 | English 11 | English 12 SUPA Academic Writing SUPA Creative Non-Fiction |
|-----------|------------|------------|--|

English 9
Credit 1. Full year

In their first year of high school English Language Arts, students will learn the skills and strategies to put literature and nonfiction text in greater rhetorical context. A large emphasis is placed on understanding what “text” is and what documents or visual can be considered as text for analysis. Many of the grade nine novels share similar themes related to individuality and social justice. Emphasis is placed on strengthening creative and critical thinking skills, and students are encouraged to develop connections between texts and the outside world. These skills are taught through a variety of texts including short stories, plays, poetry, novels, and film.

English 10
Credit 1. Full year

This course extends the range of analytical reading, writing, oral communication and thinking skills that students need for success in secondary school academic programs. Students will study and interpret challenging texts from contemporary and historical periods, including novels, poems, plays and opinion pieces. Students continue to examine texts from different cultural and historical backgrounds, and an important focus will be the thoughtful use of spoken and written language.

English 11
Credit 1. Full year

Grade 11 English Language Arts is a college preparatory course. Analytical reading, essay composition, and use of rhetorical and literary devices in presentations and writing are emphasized. Critical thinking, close reading, literary analysis, and persuasive writing will focus on elements of purpose, audience, perspective, and author’s tools. The course integrates literary studies of short stories, novels, and nonfiction, exploring classical and contemporary themes in a cross-section of global literature.

English 12
Credit 1. Full year

Grade 12 English Language Arts is a college preparatory course with a focus on literary & academic non fiction, drama/screenplay, visual & rhetorical analysis, scholarly research and public speaking. The first nine weeks of instruction is dedicated to studying personal narrative and writing the college essay. This encourages students to examine themselves, their career aspirations, and their future plans. The course instructor works alongside the Counselor to prepare Grade 12 students for academic and professional pursuits in the English language in university and beyond.

Reading and Writing for College
Credit: 1

Would you like to be more confident in your ability to meet the challenge of college level reading and writing? This course is designed to help students improve their reading and writing skills and strategies

to be ready for the level expected in college. This course should be taken in addition to English 11 and/or English 12 and can be taken more than once for credit.

WRT 105. Studio 1: Practices of Academic Writing (SUPA)
Credit: 1. Semester 2, weighted GPA (3 SU Credits)

Prerequisite(s): Grade 12 standing, B or better in English Language Arts, recommendation from instructor

This course teaches students strategies of critical academic writing in various genres, including analysis, argument, and researched writing. The course challenges students to understand that effective communication requires people to be aware of the complex factors that shape every rhetorical context, including issues of power, history, difference, and community; and that writing as a process involves reflection and revision. This writing course is a site of active learning where students have responsibility for their own progress and for that of their peers. Students write formal papers for each major unit, in addition to various informal writing assignments and a culminating portfolio. This is a college course offered through Syracuse University, and students paying the (discounted) fee for SU credit will receive a Syracuse University transcript.

WRT 114. Writing Culture: Introduction to Creative Non-Fiction (SUPA)
Credit: 1. Semester 1, weighted GPA (3 SU Credits)

Prerequisite(s): Grade 12 standing, B or better in English Language Arts, recommendation from instructor.

This course focuses on the genre of creative nonfiction. Students explore varieties of creative nonfiction, such as memoir; biography; the personal essay; travel, science, and food writing; and “new journalism.” Students will craft and workshop their own creative nonfiction compositions and to read varied examples of contemporary creative nonfiction (e.g., Michael Pollan’s The Omnivore’s Dilemma, Rebecca Skloot’s The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, George Saunders’ The Braindead Megaphone, etc.). Students explore how writing about culture can be creative but also informative. As a course that invites students to reflect on the “personal” while attempting to make the personal meaningful for diverse audiences, WRT 114 necessarily requires they develop strong analytic and self-reflexive skills. Students will be expected to read and critically reflect upon complex nonfiction texts from different genres such as science writing or new journalism, to write frequently, and to engage in researched writing projects of their own.



MATHEMATICS

With the changes that are taking place in today’s world, students will need to be able to adapt to ever changing conditions. Through studying mathematics they will learn to be critical thinkers who analyze, assess situations, and find solutions to problems. They will require the ability to use technology effectively and the skills for processing large amounts of quantitative information. The mathematics curriculum will prepare students for becoming a global citizen who can thrive. Our vision is to ensure our students have the essential mathematical knowledge and skills; with skills of reasoning, problem solving, and communication; and, most importantly, with the ability and the incentive to continue learning on their own.

At ISHCMC - American Academy, students have multiple pathways for their math education.

| Grade 9 | Grade 10 | Grade 11 → Grade 12 |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| Integrated Math 9 | Integrated Math 10 | Pre-Calculus → AP Calculus General Statistics → AP Statistics Essential Mathematics → General Statistics |

Integrated Math 9

Credit 1. Full year
Prerequisite: Grade 9 Standing

Integrated Maths 9 is year one of a three-year high school mathematics sequence. The program is designed to use patterns, modeling, and conjectures to build student understanding and competency in mathematics. The expectation is to develop and maintain a students growth mindset and teach students how to learn math in a collaborative process where multiple methods and representations are celebrated. Students will be expected to learn through collaboration, collection of data, experimentation, and conjectures. The students will learn mathematical sense-making, make and test conjectures and justify conclusions, use mathematical models to represent real-world data, be able to provide clear and concise answers, and have computational and symbolic fluency.

Integrated Math 10

Credit 1. Full year
Prerequisite: Integrated Math 9

Integrated Math 10 is the second year of a three year high school mathematics sequence. The program is designed to use patterns, modeling and conjectures to build student understanding and competency in mathematics. The expectation is to develop and maintain a student’s growth mindset and teach students how to learn math in a collaborative process where multiple methods and representations are celebrated. Students will be expected to learn through collaboration, collection of data, experimentation and conjectures. Technology will also play a key role in learning. Students will learn mathematical sense making, make and test conjectures, justify conclusions, use mathematical models to represent real-world data, be able to provide clear and concise answers, and have computational and symbolic fluency.

Essential Mathematics

Credit 1. Full year
Prerequisite: Math 10

Students will explore the major domains of mathematics including Number, Data, Location and time, Measurement and Finance. Students will develop their conceptual understanding through tasks that

require them to connect mathematical concepts, operations and relations. They will observe concepts, rules and facts from real world mathematics and data, and calculate using appropriate mathematical processes. Tasks go beyond the traditional ideas of numeracy to build skills of estimation, problem-solving and reasoning and develop students into thinking citizens who interpret and use mathematics to make informed predictions and decisions about personal and financial priorities. Students will see mathematics as applicable to their employability and lifestyles, and develop leadership skills through self-direction and productive engagement in their learning. They will need curiosity and imagination, and appreciate the benefits of technology. Students will gain an appreciation that there is rarely one way of doing things and that real-world mathematics requires adaptability and flexibility.

General Statistics

Credit 1. Full year
Prerequisite: Math 10

This course provides an introduction to statistical reasoning, including sampling, elementary probability, statistical inference, and data analysis. Students will examine data analysis; correlation and regression; sampling and experimental design; basic probability (random variables, expected values, normal and binomial distributions); hypothesis testing and confidence intervals for means, proportions, and regression parameters; and use of spreadsheet software.

Pre-Calculus

Credit 1. Full year
Prerequisite: Math 10, instructor recommendation.

This course is a continuation of Algebra 2. Students will consolidate their understanding of the functions studied in Algebra 2. They will also study more types of functions, such as rational, polynomial and trigonometric functions. Students will be also develop their analytical and communication skills. Students will also work with Graphing Display Calculators to help with understanding of key concepts and to solve real-world problems.

AP Statistics

Credit: 1. Full year, weighted GPA
Prerequisite(s): General Statistics or Pre-Calculus, instructor recommendation

AP Statistics is an introductory college-level statistics course that introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will be given the opportunity to develop their understanding of statistics using technology, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they explore concepts like variation and distribution; patterns and uncertainty; and data-based predictions, decisions, and conclusions.

Advanced Calculus: AP Calculus AB

Credit: 1. Full year, weighted GPA
Prerequisite(s): Pre-Calculus, instructor recommendation.

AP Calculus AB is an introductory college-level calculus course. Students build their understanding of differential and integral calculus through engaging with real-world problems represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally and using definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions as they explore concepts like change, limits, and the analysis of functions. Students enrolled in AP courses are required to take the AP exam. Additional fees are associated with this course including exam fees and the purchase of a graphing calculator.

Advanced Calculus: MAT 295 Calculus 1 (SUPA)

Credit 1, weighted GPA (3 SU credits)
Prerequisite(s): Pre-Calculus, instructor recommendation.

MAT 295 is an introductory course to Calculus. This course is designed for mathematics, science and engineering majors and for those students in other majors who intend to take more advanced courses in mathematics. In this course students learn to deal with functions, limits, differentiation, and integration as well as applications such as curve sketching, optimization, and computation of areas, volumes, and arc lengths. Additional fees are associated with this course including exam fees and the purchase of a graphing calculator.

SCIENCE

The Science Department seeks to inspire our students to be lifelong learners. We strive to equip students with scientific skills and problem-solving strategies, using materials and resources appropriate to each developmental level. The program offers stimulating and enriching experiences to challenge students across a range of learning abilities. Students are given the opportunity to develop science skills through various techniques that include investigating concepts through practical experimentations. Students are encouraged to apply their literacy skills in science courses while being responsible, safety conscious and mindful of ethical practices. Teachers, aiming to assist students in achieving academic excellence, will emphasize the importance of science through hands on manipulation and report writing.

| SY 2021-2022 | | |
|---|---|---|
| Grade 9 Grade 9 Physics & Engineering | Grade 10 Grade 10 Physics & Engineering | Grade 11 & 12 General Environmental Science Physics & Engineering (Science Elective) Forensic Science Advanced Chemistry (SUPA/AP) Advanced Earth Systems (SUPA/AP) |

| SY 2022-2023 | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Grade 9 Science 9: Physics Engineering | Grade 10 Science 10: Biology & Environmental Science | Grade 11 Science 11: Chemistry | Grade 11 & 12 Advanced Environmental Science (AP/SUPA)** Forensic Science SUPA Chemistry |

**In SY2021-22 Grade 9, 10 and 11 students will take the new HS Physics & Engineering course.*
***Decision to offer AP or SUPA course depends on access to teacher training courses at Syracuse University. To be determined in March 2021.*

Science 9: Physics & Engineering

Credit 1. Full year
Prerequisite: Grade 9 standing

Physics studies energy, forces, matter and its motion and behavior through space and time. This course will emphasize the utilization of physics content through real world applications. Students will be asked to engage in project-based learning, proving they have met the learning objectives by building, testing, and improving their projects using the design process. Topics of study will include renewable and nonrenewable energy sources.

Science 10: Biology & Environmental Science

Credit 1. Full year
Prerequisite: Grade 10 standing.

Biology is devoted to the study of living things and their processes and this will be combined with the study of environment science. In doing so, students will learn about biology then apply those concepts to the world we exist in. Throughout this one-year course, students are provided the opportunity to develop scientific process skills, laboratory techniques, and gain an understanding of the fundamental principles of living organisms with an emphasis on sustainability. Students will explore biological science as a process, cell structure and function, genetics and heredity, evolution and classification and diversity of living.

Science 11: Chemistry & Science Literacy

Credit 1. Full year
Prerequisite: Grade 11 standing.

This course explores the major topics within Chemistry, including atomic structure, periodic trends, chemical bonding and reactions, gases, thermochemistry, and kinetics. Students in this class will gain an in-depth understanding of the most important ideas within Chemistry, making them well-prepared for further study in university. Regular laboratory work will be focused on applying science concepts and becoming comfortable with equipment and techniques. The content of this class is focused on understanding and applying concepts rather than memorization.

AP Environmental Science / General Environmental Science

Credit: 1. Full year
Prerequisite(s): Grade 11/12 standing, Science 10.

This course is a laboratory-based class focused on understanding the earth and how humans interact with the environment. Students are engaged in the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies which are required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. The course requires students to identify and analyze natural and human-made environmental problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary, embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography.

** Students who select AP Environmental Science complete additional assignments and write the AP Exam (exam fees apply)*

EAR 203: Earth System Science (SUPA)

Credit: 1. Full year (weighted GPA)
Prerequisite(s): Grade 11/12 standing, Science 10.

With increasing global population, the threat of global warming, and a growing demand for raw materials and energy, grasping a basic understanding of the Earth system is more important than ever. EAR 203 illustrates the interconnectedness of biologic, hydrologic, atmospheric, and geologic processes in shaping our planet. You will learn how the basic elements of the Earth interact through various linkages and feedbacks that operate over timescales from a few to millions of years. A major goal is to give students a basic, yet comprehensive, view of the Earth system necessary for evaluating information and making decisions about environmental issues.

Forensic Science

Credit: 1. Full year
Prerequisite(s): Grade 11/12 standing, Science 10.

Forensic Science is the application of science (chemistry, physics, and biology) to criminal and civil laws that are enforced by police agencies in a criminal justice system - in short, it is the practical application of science to matters of the law. It includes the investigation of fingerprinting, fiber analysis, ballistics, arson, trace evidence analysis, poisons, drugs, blood spatters, and blood samples. Students are taught the proper collection, preservation, and laboratory analysis of various samples. This course surveys key topics in forensic science, including the application of the scientific process to forensic analysis, procedures and principles of crime scene investigation, physical and trace evidence, and the law and courtroom procedures from the perspective of the forensic scientist. Through lessons, laboratories, and analysis of fictional and nonfictional crime scenarios, students learn about forensic tools, technical resources, forming and testing hypotheses, proper data collection, and responsible conclusions.

CHEM 106 & 107, General Chemistry 1 (SUPA)

Credit 1, weighted GPA (4 SU Credits)
Prerequisite(s): Grade 11/12 standing, recommended B or better in Science 11, teacher recommendation

Sign up for CHE 106 and get a fascinating and fundamental grasp of the underpinnings of reality (as we currently understand them!) You'll investigate forms of energy, atomic structure, quantum theory, periodic law, molecular geometry, properties of liquids and gases, and more.

You'll learn the concepts necessary for continued study in chemistry, medicine, biology, engineering, and physics. Students also follow the lab course (CHE 107), you'll learn how to handle chemicals and equipment safely and the correct procedures for manipulating and reporting data.



SOCIAL STUDIES

Our goal is to develop socially aware global citizens. We desire that our students will be actively involved in their world through critical understanding of world issues and patterns, and they will then be able to share their positions in an organized and logical framework.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Grade 9 World History 1 | Grade 10 World History 2 | Grade 11 Global Issues (additional classes by choice) | Grade 12 Business Economics American Cultural Studies AP Psychology |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|

World History 1

Credit 1
Required course for Grade 9 students.

World History I is a year long course that traces the human history from early societies and the agricultural revolution through the development of religious empires to the rise of international trade in the early 1500's. Students build historical knowledge through reading and research and expand their skills in the evaluation of sources and the creation of media. Through collaborative simulations and project work, students apply what they know to their own context in the 21st century and build a portfolio of their work.

World History 2

Credit 1
Required course for Grade 10 students.

World History II is a continuation of World History I. The course begins in the Modern Era post 1492 and follows the development of global events from the Enlightenment to the Industrial Revolution and the imperial conquests preludeing the World Wars, through the Cold War and the present struggle against violent ideological extremism. The learning methodology consistently relies on lecture, discussion, debate, Document-Based Questions primary source analysis, and protracted writing assignments and research.

Global Issues

Credit 1
Required course for Grade 11 students.

This course is intended to aid students in developing an informed opinion about the modern world and future global trends. Throughout the year students will be able to discover, analyze, compare and solve global problems. We will use different technologies to make our learning engaging and interesting. The course material will provide students with an opportunity to build awareness of how a nation's history, culture, and ideology impact their society and global influence. In particular, the course examines those aspects and how they impact what decisions a country makes, or doesn't make, on the global stage. Additionally, the class will capitalize any opportunity to become involved in the community and make a difference.

Business Economics

Credit 1. Full year

Prerequisite: Grade 11 or 12 standing (Global Issues recommended).

Students will learn the basic theories of economics that underlie the behavior of individuals, businesses and nations. Students will get a chance to apply micro-economic theories to their own life and real world scenarios and to deepen their understanding of business and markets, including the drivers of the stock market. The course will also introduce you to the major macroeconomic theories that help to understand international trade and global economic competition.

Model United Nations (MUN)

Credit: 1. Full year.

Model UN provides an academic learning experience through the simulation of the structures, processes, and issues of the member nations of the United Nations Organization. The Model UN class offers students a unique opportunity to learn about international relations while role-playing United Nations delegates. Students will have the opportunity to improve their substantial researching, public speaking, debating, and writing skills, as well as critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership abilities.

American Cultural Studies

Credit: 1. Full year

Prerequisite: Grade 11 or 12 standing.

By both traditional measures of power, “how much gold do you have?” and “how strong is your army?” the United States is far and away the most powerful and influential country on the planet. How did it come to be this way? Furthermore, what is an American? It’s more than just a citizenship. It is a series of attitudes and worldviews that are often, though not universally shared, among its people that help create a common character or Americanness’. By examining our cultures and ourselves, we will have a better understanding to examine American culture and how it was formed.

Comparative Government / AP Comparative Government and Politics

Credit: 1. Full year

Prerequisite: Grade 11 or 12 standing.

This course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and political, economic, and social challenges of six selected countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Students build their understanding of government and politics through analysis of data and sources to explore topics like power and authority, legitimacy and stability, democratization, internal and external forces, and methods of political analysis.

* Students who select AP Comparative Government and Politics complete additional assignments and write the AP Exam (exam fee applies).

AP Psychology

Credit 1. Full year

Prerequisite: Grade 11 or 12 standing, Biology.

AP Psychology is an introductory college-level psychology course. Students cultivate their understanding of the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes through inquiry-based investigations as they explore concepts like the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatment of abnormal behavior, and social psychology. Students will take the AP exam (exam fees apply).

WORLD LANGUAGES

Students who hold a Vietnamese passport are required to take Vietnamese Studies each year. We promote deep study and understanding of your mother tongue and culture as they form the basis of your identity and are crucial to learning new concepts in every subject. Students who do not hold a Vietnamese passport are not required to take Vietnamese studies. Exemption from Vietnamese Studies must be applied for with the Curriculum Coordinator upon the student’s enrollment in the school. Students must have an alternate plan to gain their 2.0 required credits in World Languages.

Vietnamese Studies

Each year, students take a core academic class in Vietnamese Studies which covers Language Arts, History & Geography. Vietnamese Studies is required as a core subject for all students who are Vietnamese nationals.

Vietnamese 9

Credit 1. Full year.

In Vietnamese 9, students learn about medieval literature, modern literature and conversation motto. In Geography, student learn about economic of Vietnam as agricultural, industrial, trade, transportation. As part of the Grade 9 Field Study Trip, students visit Cambodia, where they are challenged to think about the two countries’ relationships in these areas. In History, students will look at Vietnam’s modern history which was ravaged and divided by wars, French colonial intervention, the American involvement in the region and occupation by the Japanese Empire. This course also covers the August Revolution, and the birth of the united Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 1976.

Vietnamese 10

Credit 1. Full year.

In Vietnamese 10, students focus on folklore, Medieval literature, language style, and writing notes and documents. In Geography, students start exploring the various regions of Vietnam including the Mekong Delta, Southeast, Central Highland and Red River Delta. The Grade 10 Field Study Trip takes place in the Mekong Delta where students get a firsthand experience of life in the region. In History, students look at major stages of development of the nation’s history from its origin to the 19th century, the main achievements regarding the country’s foundations, and an awareness of some of the limitations of feudal society.

Vietnamese 11

Credit 1. Full year.

In Vietnamese 11, students learn about Medieval literature, Modern literature and language styles. In Geography, students explore the various regions of Vietnam including the Northwest, Northeast, North Central Coast and South Central Coast. Our Grade 11 Field Study Trip, the Sun Bear Scramble, is an Amazing-Race style competition that takes students across Central Vietnam. In History, the students will be exploring two main topics: The French colonial period in Vietnam and the patriotic resistance movement.

Vietnamese 12

Credit 1. Full year.

In their senior year, Vietnamese nationals are required to take a half-year course in Vietnamese Studies. Students focus on modern Vietnamese literature, language, and the style of writing discourse.

In Geography, students learn about Vietnamese culture, government and politics. The Grade 12 Field Study Trip takes students to Hang En Cave in the Phong Nha region, where students are challenged to think about how Vietnamese policies and culture connect with the conflicting initiatives to protect or develop the region. In History, students will look at Vietnam's fight for freedom, reunification of Vietnam, and social and economic development achievements after 1975.

Mandarin Language & Culture

Our Mandarin language program is open to all students who are not enrolled in Intensive EAL. Students can start their Mandarin studies as early as 6th grade and as late as 12th grade. Mandarin 1 and Mandarin 2 fulfill the 2.0 credit World Languages graduation requirement. Mandarin classes are mixed ability groups and students learn in a technology rich and collaborative environment.

Mandarin 1

Credit 1. Full year.

This course corresponds to HSK Level 1. Students will be introduced to Chinese script and will master 150 vocabulary items and basic grammar. Units include: Greeting & Introduction, Time & Date, Family Members, Jobs, Transportation, and Daily Routine.

Mandarin 2

Credit: 1. Full year.

This course corresponds to HSK Level 2. Students will master 250 vocabulary items and more advanced grammar. Units include: Colors, Clothing, Weather, Directions, Traveling, Holidays, and School Subjects.

Mandarin 3

Credit: 1. Full year.

This course corresponds to HSK Level 3. Students will master 600 vocabulary items and more advanced grammar. Units include: Body Parts, Currency, Food and Health, Shopping, Home Life, Stationery and Gifts, Asking Directions.



ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

Support entering, beginning and developing language learners by enhancing their social, instructional and academic language in order to ensure optimal success in the American English curriculum.

Reading & Writing Workshop 9 and 10

Credit 1. Full Year.

This grade-levelled course is designed to support intermediate English language learners in grades 9 and 10. Enrollment in the course is determined by test data and teacher recommendation.

The goal is to increase English language skills at the sentence and word/phrase level through:

- Explicit grammar instruction with lots of practice
- Explicit reading & writing instruction
- Improve all 4 domains of the academic language of science, social studies and language arts

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

2-D Art

Credit 0.5. Fall & Spring.

This is an introductory, half year long course in which the student explores a variety of media in the areas of drawing and design. The course helps students develop the critical thinking and fine motor skills necessary to use art tools, appreciate, understand, and create art. An understanding of various art styles and techniques is developed through hands-on experiences. Basic gesture, contour, mass, and value drawing styles are learned. Art appreciation and discussion of artwork are introduced. Students will develop some basic art vocabulary, a general art history background, and various art skills and techniques. Studio emphasis is on creative problem solving, experimentation, and a highly individualized response and expression.

Visual Art

Credit: 1. Full year.

Prerequisite(s): Grade 11 or 12 standing.

The Visual Arts program is both an academic and practical program that emphasizes the interrelationship between research and artistic production. The course expounds creativity; however, the foundation of this creativity is research and exploration into practical art, as well as art theory, history and culture. Students will develop art vocabulary, a general art history background, and various art skills and techniques, all of which are needed to be successful at the next level. Students will hopefully develop a lifelong interest in the visual arts as a result of taking this class. Students must be willing to take risks by challenging themselves with new media, advanced complexity, and new techniques in their projects. Successful students in Visual Arts are dedicated and give effort on various levels to finish all started projects.

Pottery

Credit: 1. Full year.

Prerequisite(s): Grade 11 or 12 standing.

This course introduces pottery as an art form and explores the basics of forming and shaping clay. Students learn glazing, firing, designing and kiln loading. Students receive an overview of the history of ceramics and acquire techniques in hand-building. Students may also learning beginner techniques in slip molding and wheel thrown pottery.

Beginner Band 9

Credit 0.5. Full Year.

Grade nine beginner band gives students the opportunity to begin learning a new instrument. Students are not required to have any prior experience of music when entering the class and will be taught how to read rhythm and notation through their first year of playing. In the band classroom, students will have the opportunity to work with their peers in a full band setting and will have the chance to perform at various times during the school year.

High School Band

Credit 1.0 per academic year

Prerequisite(s): Beginner Band or Recommendation of Instructor.

The emphasis of this course is the performance of various musical styles and forms in a large ensemble setting. Members of the band program continue to develop their instrumental musicianship through the repertoire studied in class as well as opportunities to reflect and connect music to various times, places, and groups.

Jazz Band

Credit 0.5 Full Year

Prerequisite: Grade 11 or 12 and 2 Years of High School Band or Recommendation of Instructor.

Students are introduced to various styles of jazz through performance, aural comprehension, and music history. Members of the jazz band will also explore the basics of jazz improvisation and arranging. Previous jazz band experience, though an asset, is not required. Workshops, concerts, tours, and festivals are an intrinsic part of the jazz program.

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION

Health Education 9 and 10

Credit 0.5 (Combined credit with Physical Education): Fall and Spring Semester.

Health Education emphasizes the importance of knowledge, skills, attitudes and practices relating to health and wellness. In this class, students will acquire the knowledge relating to the physical, emotional, social health, practice positive healthy behaviors, develop wise decision-making skills, demonstrate the ability to access accurate health information, analyze the influences on health, use communication skills and advocate for personal and community health.

Physical Education 9 and 10

Credit 0.5 (Combined Credit with Health Education): Fall and Spring Semester.

The Physical Education program will concentrate on the cognitive, physical, and social skills necessary to pursue a lifetime of activity, health, and fitness. The course will expose students to a variety of global games and sports that help introduce them to a number of different cultures. Students will develop their physical skills as well as be challenged to think creatively while applying that to a variety of social settings. The idea is to help students and their passion, and to equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in life. Students must be willing to challenge themselves and are expected to have an active role in every class. Successful students in Physical Education must be prepared for class, offer a consistently high level of effort, and demonstrate respect toward themselves, others, and school at all times.

Health, PE and Sports Leadership

Credit 1: Full Year.

The Sports Leadership classes uses sport to deliver fun and engaging physical activities with other students and within the community. Students will plan, lead and evaluate sports/physical activity sessions over a number of hours and then demonstrate their leadership skills as part of their assessment. The courses involve both guided & peer-to-peer learning and supervised leadership to ensure that learners have all the skills they need to lead basic physical activities to other people. Health, PE and Sports Leadership can be taken more than once for credit but priority will be given to students who have not had the course in Grade 11.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Grade 9 Engineering & Design | Grade 10 Computer Science Discoveries | Grade 11 & 12 Robotics and Engineering AP Computer Science Principles Digital Design |
|---------------------------------|--|---|

Engineering & Design

Credit: 0.5 Fall and Spring Semester.

Students will learn about digital design and engineering principles. Transitioning from Lego to VEX, they will have the chance to design, construct, and program their own robots as a team to achieve set goals. They will also learn a variety of digital media including 2D and 3D graphics, modeling and animation, and

web page creation. Finally they will enhance their ability to code and apply this to programmable circuits as they construct electronic circuits.

Computer Science Discoveries

Credit: 0.5 Fall and Spring Semester.

Computer Science Discoveries takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, animations, games, and physical computing systems.

AP Computer Science Principles

Credit: 1. Full year.

AP Computer Science Principles offers a multidisciplinary approach to teaching the underlying principles of computation. The course will introduce students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the Internet, cybersecurity concerns, and computing impacts. AP Computer Science Principles also gives students the opportunity to use current technologies to create computational artifacts for both self-expression and problem solving. Together, these aspects of the course make up a rigorous and rich curriculum that aims to broaden participation in computer science.

Robotics and Engineering

Credit: 1. Full year.

This course allows students to learn and combine a wide range of skills and put them to the test in a practical and competitive environment. Students will cover the basics of: Programming, Electronics, Mechanics and Simple Machines, Design, Driver Control, and Physics. The culmination of these skills will lead to creating their own VEX Robots as a team and specialising in an area of their choice. Exceptional teams will have the chance to compete nationally with their robot.

Digital Media

Credit: 1. Full year.

Students will systematically learn a wide range of digital media skills and apply these skills toward the production of media content for a particular user, client, or audience. Students will cover the basics of digital publishing & information, image manipulation, social media & advertising, web & app development audio & video editing, interactive media & games, 3D & vector-based CAD, digital art, and immersive experiences such as virtual & augmented reality. Students will also study and apply the Creative Design Process, Content Marketing, The Design Cycle, and Editing, Directing & Producing in the development of competitive projects, and where applicable, will be involving target audiences, users, and clients in the creation and completion of final products.

ELECTIVES & INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES

Skills 9

Credit: 0.5 Semester.

Learn and practice skills that will make you a happier and more effective learner in High School. Skills to practice include time and project management, collaboration, self advocacy and forward planning.

Public Speaking 10

Credit: 0.5. Semester.

This elective, for 10th grade students, is an introduction to verbal communication with emphasis on the practical skill of public speaking. The goal is for students to gain confidence in typical public speaking situations. A variety of methods will be used including in-class activities, lectures, skill building exercises, small group activities, assessments of outside speakers, and oral presentations, some of which may be recorded. This is a performance based course, so the focus will be on the ability to deliver an effective speech. Students are required to deliver speeches in a public setting to fulfill course requirements.

Film Studies

Credit: 1. Full year (Social Studies / English credit).

In this course, 11th and 12th grade students are introduced to the basics of film analysis to give them the tools to identify, analyze, evaluate and enjoy film as both art and entertainment. Building on their text analysis skills, students will understand the history of film, film making techniques, and the basic building blocks of how films are constructed. Students will investigate films from a variety of cultures, genres, and time periods through regular readings, discussions/presentations, and writing assignments.

Student Publications: Introduction to Magazine Writing & Production (& Yearbook)

Credit: 1. Full year.

This class revolves around a focus of students assessing their own sources of news and producing a monthly magazine. Students will examine the question: “What is News?” in order to understand and evaluate the elements of news and magazine reporting. They will then identify and write news stories within the ISHCMC - American Academy school community. A major goal in the class will be the actual production of a school magazine for students, faculty, and parents, as well as the school yearbook. Students will become familiar with and start to use journalistic vocabulary to identify the parts of the page and features. Students will also look at placement issues and be trained in magazine layout using Adobe InDesign. Since this course is an introductory level course, vocabulary and English usage skills will be emphasized and reinforced throughout the study of journalism, news values, design, and magazine production.

Editorial Internship: Introduction to Administration of a Print Magazine

Credit: 1. Full Year.

This class is a continuation of Student Publications for grade 12 students. As a second-year magazine staff member, editorial interns will take on more responsibility for section editing, layout, design and final production. Students must fill in an application. Successful applicants will have shown commitment, punctuality, and attention to detail throughout their first year on the Reverberations staff. This course meets at the same time as Student Publications. Students are graded on their leadership roles as well as collaborative skills.

Psychology of Counseling

Credit: 1

Prerequisites: None.

How can we take care of our mental health and build resilience? What are the signs that a person is experiencing a mental health problem? And, how can counseling professionals help? In this class, students will learn about mental health symptoms and how to get help. Students will learn about therapeutic communication and also become certified in Mental Health First Aid for Teens. Students can take both AP Psychology and this class, or only one of these courses.

Independent Study

Credit: 0.5 OR 1 (Fall and Spring Semester, or Full year).

Your independent study credit is meant to encourage you to follow a passion or interest that you can't do in traditional courses at school. You can take an online course ([Keystone catalog](#)) OR design your own course or project. An independent study credit should represent about 100 hours of work, including in and out of school hours. A half credit is approximately 50 hours of work. Students complete a formal proposal and submit a reflection journal. Students who are selected for this course should have a study hall in their timetable.

ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Assistantships

Credit 1. Full Year.

ISHCMC - American Academy's Assistant Program is for motivated grade 11 & 12 students who are ready to build their life and career skills by helping in various areas of the school program. Today's students need to develop thinking skills, content knowledge, and social and emotional competencies to navigate complex life and work environments. In this program students build flexibility, adaptability, initiative, self-direction, cross-cultural and social skills, productivity, accountability, leadership and responsibility. The grade is Pass/Fail and is not included in the GPA. In order to receive credit, students must complete assigned projects, reflections, blog entries, and an end-of-year survey. Students should approach the relevant teacher or staff member to discuss an assistantship. Acceptance to the Assistant Program is by request/nomination and must be approved by the counsellor. Positions offered change on an annual basis.

FIELD STUDIES PROGRAM - Where Character is Built

Our field studies program is an important and valued part of our curriculum and student attendance is mandatory. Each year, students participate in 4-5 day trips designed to enhance classroom learning and to deepen the character and community building. Children develop an understanding of their character strengths, strengthen their relationships with others, build awareness of culture and history, and learn valuable outdoor and physical fitness skills. The field trips encourage children to:

- Be a leader in their school community
- Assist people who need help
- Accomplish their goals
- Believe in their ability to succeed
- Take responsibility for their actions
- Participate in service to their community
- Challenge themselves with new activities
- Compliment others on their strengths



ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES

Advanced level classes are generally designed for grade 12 students. Any student wishing to enroll in an advanced class should seek advice from the counselor. To enroll in advanced classes, students must meet prerequisites including preparatory courses and both high academic standing and motivation. Because of the level of difficulty and pace of learning in advanced classes, students will not be approved to take more than 3 in any one semester.

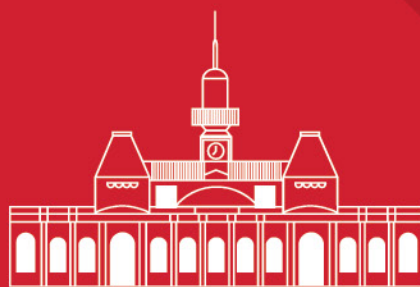
Advanced Placement (AP)

Our Advanced Placement courses are offered through the College Board in the US. AP courses are designed to allow students to take on college-level work while still in high school. Students can often earn college credit and placement with success in AP courses. Students who enroll in AP courses are expected to sit the exams. Please note an additional exam fee of \$124 USD is payable through the ISHCMC-AA cashier.

Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA)

One of the hallmarks of our academic program is our partnership with Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA). Our teachers train with SUPA to offer Syracuse University courses for credit to our juniors and seniors. This program enables our students to measure their ability to do college work prior to full-time college study. We are the only school in Vietnam to offer this program. Students register with the university and upon completion of their dual enrollment courses receive an SU transcript in addition to their high school course credit. SUPA credits are transferable to hundreds of colleges and universities nationwide. Note that there is a per-credit tuition charge of approximately \$112 per credit hour associated with SU courses (which is significantly discounted compared to regular Syracuse University tuition fees).

*Students must register and pay directly to SU. Students who do not register and pay by the deadline will be dropped from the course and will need to change their course of study.



**International School
HO CHI MINH CITY
AMERICAN ACADEMY**

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ISHCMC - AMERICAN ACADEMY

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