

**PREVIEW of the
Middle School Division
...**

2017-2018

Topics

- Middle School Goals
- Successful Middle Schools
- New Middle School Vice-Principal
- New Middle School Counsellor
- Middle School Identity
- Middle School Instructional Teams
- Middle School Scheduling
- Middle School English Curriculum Updates
- Middle School Math Curriculum Updates
- Honors Courses

Middle School Goals

Our goal is to provide a challenging and developmentally appropriate program of studies that allows Middle School students to explore a wide variety of subjects, make connections to other disciplines and their daily lives, and mature into young adults.

To meet this goal, we are implementing several changes to our structures that will cater to the unique requirements of Middle School students and give them a new sense of identity, separate from their High School counterparts.

Why make these changes?

Middle School students have very specific needs and are quite different from High School students in terms of their development and decision making. They are undergoing...

- Significant physical changes - rapid growth, onset of puberty
- Significant changes in the brain - developing of the part of the brain in charge of planning, reasoning, anticipating consequences, sustaining attention and making decisions.
- Significant intellectual growth - development of metacognition, independent thought, abstract thought
- Moral development - no longer accept adults moral judgement - developing personal values

Successful Middle Schools

Exemplary middle level schools address the distinctiveness of early adolescence with various instructional and organizational features. Five key components are generally recognized by educators, associations, foundations, state boards of education, and researchers. (NMSA)

1. *Interdisciplinary teaming* - Grade level teams working together to create transfer opportunities
2. *Advisory programs* - An advocate for each child
3. *Varied instruction* - collaboration, problem solving, groupings, projects, reading, performing...
4. *Exploratory programs* - Band, Choir, Theatre, Visual Art, French, Spanish, Arabic, PE...
5. *Transition programs* - MS Orientation Day for Grade 5, Soft Start for Grade 6, HS Orientation for Gr. 9

Developmentally Responsive Middle School Characteristics

National Middle School Association (NMSA) believes that developmentally responsive middle level schools are characterized by:

- a shared vision
- educators committed to young adolescents
- a positive school climate
- an adult advocate for every student
- family and community partnerships
- high expectations for all

Designated Middle School Vice Principal

The GAA secondary team will be restructuring its admin team to include a Middle School Vice Principal and a High School Vice Principal.

Peter Thorpe is excited to be returning to GAA this fall in the role of Middle School VP.

With over 20 years of experience working with this age group, he will be overseeing the Middle School team and helping to create a new and improved Middle School program and a newfound identity for Middle School students.

Designated Middle School Counsellor

We are pleased to announce that GAA is adding another counsellor to our student support team for the 2017-2018 school year.

Ms. Cynthia Perez is an experienced Middle School counsellor who will be dedicated to servicing the social and emotional needs of our students in Grades 6 through 8. She has previous international experience working at schools in Dubai and Stavanger, Norway. Ms. Perez has two Master's degrees - one in school counselling and the other in licensed professional counselling.



Creating a Middle School Identity

- Identifying an area of the building that is for Middle School students
- All English, Math and Social Studies class take place in this area
- Common area for Middle School students - breaks and lunch recess
- Middle School Student Council to provide students with a voice
- Events, clubs and unique opportunities for Middle School students



MS
Common
Area

SECOND FLOOR

by Department 2017-2018

Secondary Library/IB Lounge/MS Commons

- A new library dedicated to the Secondary Division will be located in the current IB Lounge
- MS students will have a dedicated commons area

Middle School Instruction

- Unique grade level teams of dedicated Middle School teachers for all core subjects.
- Experienced teachers who are specifically trained and understand the distinct needs of Middle School students.
- Common planning time for teams to collaborate regarding teaching strategies, plan interdisciplinary opportunities, and discuss student needs.
- Regularly monitoring of student progress data to ensure that appropriate interventions are in place.

Middle School English Team

- Ms. Helen Hyun: English 6
- Mr. Richard Cugley: English 7
- Mrs. Christina Kane: English 8

Middle School will use a co-teaching model for ELL and LS students in English class.

Middle School Math Team

- Mrs. Sarah Firestone: Integrated Math 6
- Ms. Tejal Bhatt: Integrated Math 7
- Ms. Madji Ndiaye: Integrated Math I (Grade 8)

Middle School Social Studies Team

- Mr. Patrick King: Ancient Civilizations 6
- Mr. Ronald Salmond: World History 7
- Mr. David Cruz: World Geography 8

Middle School Science Team

- Mr. Jonathan Yoon: Science 6
- Mr. John Kane: Science 7
- Ms. Sarah Ann Shae: Science 8

Middle School will use a co-teaching model for ELL and LS students in Science class.

Middle School Scheduling

For the 2017-2018 school year, we have managed to stagger the lunch times for Middle School and High School students. This means that there will only be 15 minutes of overlap during the lunch break.

Middle School			High School		
	<i>STAGGERED LUNCH</i>			<i>STAGGERED LUNCH</i>	
	Timings	Mins		Timings	Mins
Period 1	7:45-9:15	90	Period 1	7:45-9:15	90
pass	9:15-9:25	10	pass	9:15-9:25	10
Period 2	9:25-10:55	90	Period 2	9:25-10:55	90
pass	10:55-11:05	10	pass	10:55-11:05	10
Period 3	11:05-12:30	85	Period 3	11:05-12:35	90
Lunch	12:30-1:05	35	pass	12:35-12:40	5
Advisory	1:05-1:25	20	Homeroom	12:40-12:50	10
Pass	1:25-1:30	5	Lunch	12:50-1:25	35
Period 4	1:30-2:55	85	Period 4	1:25-2:55	90
		430			430
Instruct Min/Wk	2.5 * 90 (or 85)	212.5-225	Instruct Min/Wk	2.5 * 90	225

MS English Curriculum Updates

- Implementation of Reader's / Writer's Workshop in grades 6, 7, 8
- Grade 6, 7, 8 language arts teachers will provide a seamless transition from grade 5 elementary to grade 9 high school

GAA Math Curriculum

Based on : American Education Reaches Out (AERO) Common Core Plus

Why the Integrated Mathematics Pathway ?

Rationale Behind Integrated Math

- Seeing mathematics as a coherent whole
- Opportunities for connections across the units is enhanced in the integrated approach
- The IBDP Math curriculum also uses an integrated approach.
- All three courses in both pathways include the same content standards.
- Across the three courses, students in the traditional pathway study the same content as students in the integrated pathway.

Other Questions...

Which teachers are qualified to teach in the integrated pathway?

The qualifications necessary to teach courses in the integrated pathway are the same as those on the traditional pathway.

Are there be textbooks for the integrated pathway?

Yes, we have adopted the Holt McDougal Integrated Mathematics Series and will have other resources to support implementation of the integrated pathway.

Honors Classes

Beginning in the 17-18 school year, students in grades 7, 8, 9 & 10 will have the opportunity to take Honors level classes in Math.

Placement in Honors classes will be based on the history of MAPS RIT scores, semester grades, and teacher recommendation.

Secondary Math at GAA Pathways 2017/2018

	<u>Honors</u>	<u>Regular</u>
Grade 6	Integrated Math 6	Integrated Math 6
Grade 7	Integrated Math 7 Honors	Integrated Math 7
Grade 8	Integrated Math I Honors	Integrated Math I
Grade 9	Integrated Math II Honors	Integrated Math II
Grade 10	Pre-Calculus	Algebra 2
Grade 11/12	IBDP - HL/SL	IBDP - HL/SL/Studies or Non IB: Statistics or Math Foundations

2018 Onwards

Grade 6

Integrated Math
6

Grade 7

Integrated Math
7

Integrated Math
7 Honors

Grade 8

Integrated Math
I

Integrated Math
I Honors

Grade 9

Integrated Math
II

Integrated Math
II Honors

Grade
10

Integrated Math
III

Integrated Math
III Honors

Grade
11 & 12

Statistics

Advanced
Quantitative
Reasoning

IBDP Math
Studies SL

IBDP Math SL

IBDP Math HL

Thank you