

Metro Delhi  
International  
School



# Middle & High School Curriculum Guide 2015-2016



An Accredited Christian International School in New Delhi | American International Curriculum

## Contents

I:	Homework and Assignment policies
II:	High School Graduation Requirements
III:	Other MDIS Graduation Requirements
IV:	General University Entry Requirements
V:	Sequence of Select Courses
VI:	Grading & GPA Weighting
VII:	High School Transfers
VIII:	Examinations
IX:	AP Courses
X:	BYOD and Edmodo (MDIS online)
XI:	Plagiarism

### **Specific Course Descriptions**

*Course descriptions are handed out by individual teacher within the first week of lessons with specific details for assignments when appropriate. Also many handouts will be made available on your class group in edmodo.com.*

### **I: Homework & Assignment Policies**

Homework is to be assigned to aid in the development of individual study/inquiry skill, to support classroom learning, and to promote extended learning. It should not be used to introduce complicated material that requires teacher direction; otherwise we do encourage new concepts such as the “flipped classroom” for MHS students (see the Khan Academy website). Homework often has a negative connotation so teachers should try to foster the ‘love of learning’ so that students ‘want’ to keep learning when at home and so that it is not seen as a chore.

Other objectives of homework include helping students develop a sense of responsibility, learning to research and involving parents with their child’s work and progress. With these purposes in mind, the following are guidelines that the MDIS staff will follow when assigning homework:

Homework times guide:

**Grades 6-8:** 1 to 1.5hrs per day (approx. 10 hrs per week) - or around 20 min per subject on average.

**Grades 9-12:** 20-25 minutes per subject (an average of 2 hrs a subject per week)

*Note: Students may take varying amounts of time to complete homework based on their English language level and other individual abilities/work habits (ex: Some students may take 15 minutes and others 1 hour to complete the same assignment). Parents are encouraged to contact teachers if the time required for a particular class’s homework seems unreasonable.*

### **General Assignment Policies:**

- No key assignments ('key' meaning worth more than 5% of a quarter's grade) will be due within the last 2 weeks leading up to the semester exams.
- No more than two key assignments will be due on the same day in the same class.
- Key assignments must be issued with a clearly defined explanation and grading criteria.
- Key assignments cannot be due within 48 hours of issue.
- Difficult or lengthy homework assignments are not to be set/due in the two weeks before Semester Examinations.

## Late Submission of Assignments for MHS:

For non-submission of homework, the following consequences are to be implemented:

- A 10% reduction will be taken off on the first day late (i.e after the due date), and another 10% for the second, but a **zero** grade will be recorded for any subsequent day.
- In both cases, at teacher discretion, teachers may still grade any overdue assignment for the purpose of helping the student learn from their work, but the grade will not go into the official grade book.
- Extensions may be granted if parents have written a justifiable note and/or Doctor's certificate before (and under extreme cases, on the due date) but not after. Teachers will consult with the MHS Head of Curriculum or the Principal if there are questionable circumstances.
- Students can not miss any semester examinations on the school campus for any reason other than medically certified sickness or official bereavement leave.

## II: Middle School

The middle school years (6th-8th grade), or early adolescence, are critical as children mature not only physically and socially, but also mentally. According to Piaget's theory of cognitive development, early adolescents are developing from concrete, fact-based thinkers to become capable of more abstract, hypothetical thinking.

The goal of our middle school curriculum--grounded in our awareness of students' developmental needs--is to gradually build students in the knowledge and skills (especially reading, writing, thinking, and organizational skills) that will prepare them to succeed in rigorous college-prep high school courses. One of the key differences between elementary and middle school is that middle school students take semester exams in their academic subjects, to accustom them to exam preparation before they reach high school.

All middle school students take the core subjects of English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science, Social Studies, and Bible each year. They also take other specials (Music, Art, Drama, Foreign Language, PE, etc.) as teachers are available.

Subject	Details
ELA	Includes various novel studies and creative/academic writing projects, as well as vocabulary building and grammar instruction.
Math	Integrated Math (6th), Pre-Algebra (7th), Algebra I (8th)
Social Studies	Geography and Ancient Civilizations (6th), World History: Middle Ages - Industrial Revolution (7th), 20th Century World History (8th)
Science	Integrated Science Study:  <u>Grade 6:</u> Scientific Method; the Atmosphere, Global and Local Winds, Climates; Characteristics and Classification of Life; Introduction to Atoms, Elements, the Periodic Table; Waves (Sound, Earth, and Light).  <u>Grade 7:</u> Earth's Changing Surface, Types of Rocks; Levels of Organisation of Life, Types of Ecosystems; Molecules and Types of Bonds, Chemical Reactions, Acids and Bases; Law of the Conservation of Energy, Types of Energy, Magnetism, Electricity.  <u>Grade 8:</u> Space (Stars and Solar System), Geologic Time and Fossils; Medical

	<p>Knowledge and Advances through Time; Law of Conservation of Mass and Chemical Equations, Physical vs. Chemical Changes, Carbon Molecules and Recycling; Types of Forces, Newton's 3 Laws of Motion, Tools and Machines.</p> <p>Annual science fair/innovation week participation (individual or group) is required for grade 8, but grade 6 and 7 can participate for 10% overall extra credit for the class.</p>
<b>Bible</b>	<p>Old Testament: Genesis-Ruth (6th), Old Testament: the Writings and the Prophets (7th), New Testament Survey (8th)</p>

### III: High School Graduation Requirements

The current requirements below are for those students graduating in 2015 and beyond.

*To graduate from MDIS you must at least complete the following:*

Subject	Credit	Details
English LA	4.0	For each year of High School, 2 from 9-10 level and 2 from 11-12 level
Social Studies	3.0	e.g. Economics, Comparative Government, World History, World Religions, etc. (1 credit of US History is required for US passport holders)
Mathematics	3.0	Algebra 2, Geometry, and either Statistics & Probability or Pre-calculus (Calculus could be taken after the required 3 math credits)
Science	3.0	Physics, Biology, Chemistry or Earth Science/Physical Geography
Physical Education/Health	2.0	Done as three 0.5 credits of PE and 0.5 of Health
World Language	2.0	2 credits (2 years of the same language)
Bible	2.0	Christian History and Theology; Worldview/Ethics
Fine Arts	1.0	Film-making, Photography, Theatre Arts, Painting, etc
Electives	2.0	teacher aiding, peer mentoring, event management, yearbook, journalism/newspaper, an online course (additional fees charged), further world language study, or other fine arts credits
Other requirements	-	See below (includes 40 service learning hours)
total	<b>22</b>	

### IV: Other MDIS Graduation Requirements

1. If students are speakers of English as a second language, then enrolling in and passing a **TOEFL** and/or IELTS course with proficiency is an MDIS requirement. International universities will expect proof of your English ability. This is done at the student's own expense and done during outside school hours.
2. All students in Grades 11-12 need to have taken the **PSAT/SAT or ACT** if applying for Universities in USA. Please note that MDIS's College Board school code is 671868. This code allows MDIS to receive students' SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PLAN (*the PSAT version of the ACT*), or ACT scores; and receive SAT or ACT publications; and administer PLANs. MDIS students must use this number when registering for either the SAT Program or the ACT Assessment. If students enter the incorrect code number, copies of their score report will not be sent to MDIS.
3. Students are also required to participate in the external class programme while they are in attendance at MDIS. This is the 'school camp' and service-learning component. The MS, HS, and MHS camps are regarded as School days, and attendance will be taken for these dates.
4. The Service-Learning requirement is **40 hours** of unpaid service in the community over the four years of High School. Students entering MDIS in 10th, 11th or 12th grade will be expected to account for the same number of hours.
5. Students are allowed to take at least one, but no more than two, study periods per day as part of their

course load. Study periods do not earn credits towards graduation.

## V: General University Entry Requirements

It is important for students to begin their college planning early in their high school career. Since each college establishes its own particular requirements, it is important to follow the guidelines given on the websites of colleges under consideration.

Students considering attending non-American universities are advised to learn the admission requirements of those universities and how standardized examination results are evaluated for admission. Knowing admissions requirements well in advance can help in making appropriate course selection decisions.

The HS Dean is available to assist students in planning their college preparatory programs. Students are highly encouraged to take care of any post-high school career sessions offered on campus - to be led by the HS Dean and/or visiting university representatives.

## VI: Sequence of Select Courses

Ideally courses are taken in this order (the sequence may differ according to availability of course offerings in that academic year):

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<i>Math</i> (Algebra 1 prerequisite for HS)	Algebra 2	Geometry	Stats or Precalculus	(AP) Calculus (optional)
<i>Science</i>	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Earth Science or AP science (optional)
<i>English</i>	World Literature & Speech	American Literature	British Literature (AP Literature prep available)	Advanced Language and Composition (AP Language prep available)
<i>Social Studies</i>	Indian History/ World Religions (semester courses)	World History	American History	Government AND Economics (semester courses)

## VII: Grading & Grade Point Average (GPA)

All grading is done on the letter scale: A ≥ 90%, B ≥ 80%, C ≥ 70%, D ≥ 60% and F < 60%. We use the 4 point GPA scale. (A = 4.0, B = 3.0, C = 2.0, D = 1.0, and F = 0.0) GPA is calculated each semester according to credit-worth of each course. Most full year courses are 1 credit, and most half-year courses are  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit. As an example, an A (4.0) in a year long, 1 credit course would have twice as heavy of a weight as a B (3.0) in a half-year,  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit course. Therefore the GPA of these two classes would be 3.667 (*not* 3.5).

## VIII: High School Transfers

If a student transfers from another high school mid-year with up to a quarter of a full year course missing in their transcript, the student may receive credit if they pass the final MDIS exam. All previous school transcripts must be submitted to the school office before the start of the school term. Transfer students will have same graduation requirements as stated in Sections III and IV of this Curriculum Guide.

## **IX: Examinations**

School exams count for 25% of the final grade (except for some visual arts courses and electives). Semester 1 Exams are typically held in late December, while Semester 2 Exams are taken in mid-May. Transcripts are calculated according to semester grades and exams.

## **X: Advanced Placement Program (AP)**

For those students achieving consistent A grades in core subjects in grades 9-11, enrolling for an AP exam should be a priority. The school curriculum head and parents will determine a course of action for this/these test(s). In this program, students take external examinations developed by the College Entrance Examination Board at the end of each course of study. Students need not attend external classes in order to take the examinations. The AP program is well recognized in the United States. A score of 4 or 5 (and possibly a 3) on an examination may earn the student course credit or advanced standing upon entering college. Interested students are advised to check with universities in their home countries to determine how AP examinations are evaluated.

## **XI: Bring Your Own Device (BYOD), Google Class Sites, and Edmodo**

MHS Students are encouraged to bring their own laptops, iPads and SMART phones to school for use in class. Many Grades 6-12 classes will be online at a 1) Google class website or at 2) edmodo.com or Google Classrooms through secure class codes. Students should sign up for Edmodo within the first day of starting school - the teachers will supply students a class code for each subject. A letter and Code of Conduct regarding using the BYOD program at MDIS will need to be signed by students and parents. Terms and conditions apply that relate to sensible and common sense use. Abuse of the system will not be tolerated.

## **XII: Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is stealing other authors' words or ideas and presenting them as your own. Teachers have guidelines for students on how to avoid plagiarism--in short, by paraphrasing, by using quotation marks when you do use someone else's words, and by always recording bibliography information for every piece of information you collect so that you can cite where the ideas in your paper come from. Intentionally plagiarising another person's work is a Level 3 Discipline offense at MDIS - avoid it at all cost!