



FIS Course Guide

Grades 6–8

School Year 2020/2021

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Purpose of the Course Guide

During these early years of upper school, we hope to tap into the natural enthusiasm for learning that middle school students possess by challenging them through academics and providing numerous opportunities to explore a variety of interests. Our goal is to guide students to be independent, globally aware and caring learners and citizens of the world. We are excited to share our diverse selection of courses in this course guide, which provides descriptions of classes offered in Grades 6–8. We hope students will consider which courses will best meet their abilities, needs and interests. This booklet contains information to support students in this exciting process. We hope you take the time to read through all the areas: Visual and Performing Arts, English, Humanities, Languages, Math, Science, and Other course options.

Course Placement

Courses will be offered based on student interest and enrollment. If a course is cancelled due to low enrollment, students and parents will be notified and an alternate course may be chosen.

Languages

Students will be placed in language classes based on past experience, placement testing and/or prerequisites taken at FIS. The language faculty will consult with individual students regarding their language placement and students will require teacher permission for all levels except Beginners.

Mathematics

Students in grade 8 will be placed in a mathematics class based on a variety of outcomes, including teacher recommendation.

All students should consult with their current mathematics teacher or take a placement exam to determine the most appropriate course to take.

Eventual Academic Pathways Offered at FIS in Grades 9-12

FIS High School Diploma

All Grade 9-12 students at FIS pursue a High School Diploma. Upon successful completion of all FIS graduation credit requirements, students will receive an FIS High School Diploma accredited by the United States' New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC).

In addition to the High School Diploma, in Grades 11 and 12, students may opt to pursue and, if successfully completed, earn the IB Diploma Programme. Students who do not opt to undertake the IBDP are flexible to enroll in any combination of non-IB and IB courses, provided they meet the graduation requirements.

The IB Diploma Programme

In Grades 11 and 12, students may pursue the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) -- a rigorous two year program, that is required by most European universities for admission and highly regarded by universities worldwide. Students must take six courses within specific subject areas in addition to the Theory of Knowledge course (a course that

explores areas of knowledge and ways of knowing). In addition, students complete a 4000-word research essay on a topic of their choice.

Whether students ultimately achieve the IBDP is determined by exams taken in each of the six subjects at the end of Grade 12 in conjunction with relevant coursework completed throughout the two years. Each course is graded on a 1-7 scale (7 being the highest). A maximum of 45 points can be achieved and a minimum of 24 points are required to earn the IBDP.

How students perform in Grade 10 is a good indicator of whether they are suited for the IBDP. A solid foundation in subjects and strong study skills are required to successfully pursue the IBDP in Grades 11 and 12.

More information on graduation pathways can be found on the FIS counseling site and in the Grades 9-12 Course Guide.

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Visual and Performing Arts

In Grades 6 and 7, students take drama, art, design technology (see “Other Courses” page) and a musical course (music/band/choir) at least once over these two years. Students might choose to take some of these classes for both years. In Grade 8, all students take drama, design technology and art and choose one musical course (music/band/choir).

Students have the opportunity to take additional visual arts classes in Grades 6–8 if they are not taking a third language class.

BAND 6–8 Students must play a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. Students need to own or rent an instrument and are expected to participate in the band performance each semester. The Band director can help connect you with an instrument supplier. Interested students are encouraged to audition for Honor Band Festivals and/or Jazz Band which have rehearsals at various times throughout the year.

Band 6 Year long class - meets 3 out of 8 days

Band 7 Year long class - meets 3 out of 8 days

Band 8 Year long class - meets 2 out of 8 days and once a cycle during lunchtime.

CHOIR 6–8 Students will learn proper vocal technique and various vocal styles. Students will learn basic music theory and note reading. They participate in a performance each semester they are enrolled in Choir. Interested students are encouraged to try-out/audition for: Festival Singers, Honor Girls’ Choir, or

Honor Boys’ Choir which have rehearsals at various times throughout the year.

Choir 6 introduces students to a variety of styles of choral music composed for unison and two-part choirs (soprano and alto).

Semester or year-long class (students can choose) - meets 3 out of 8 days

Choir 7 introduces students to a variety of styles of choral music composed for unison and two-part choirs (soprano and alto).

Semester or year-long class (students can choose) - meets 3 out of 8 days

Choir 8 introduces students to a variety of styles of choral music composed for SAB Choirs (Soprano, Alto and Baritone). Year long class - meets 2 out of 8 days

MUSIC 6–8 includes musical appreciation, theory of music, listening to various styles of music, introduction to instruments, musical history and practical music-making.

Music 6 additionally teaches the basics of the ukulele in the practical music-making unit.

Semester class - meets 3 out of 8 days

Music 7 additionally teaches the basics of the African djembe drum in the practical music-making unit.

Semester class - meets 3 out of 8 days

Music 8 additionally teaches the basics of the guitar in the practical music-making unit.

Year long class - meets 2 out of 8 days

Chamber Orchestra 6–8 is an after school program and does not count as one of the ‘musical’ courses students choose from in grades 6 and 7; therefore students may join orchestra after school. All players of violin, viola, cello and double bass are welcome to take part, regardless of their previous experience. In the fall, students generally begin preparing a program of classical and baroque works for the December concert, while the spring is often devoted to lighter selections, with the addition of solos and chamber music. In our rehearsals, we hope to learn and enhance our instrumental and ensemble playing skills, but also to explore the rich repertoire and the tradition of classical music. Our hope is to learn to communicate with each other and with the listener through music, and to understand music as a language and form of expression. **Year long class - meets once a week after school (Though not part of the school day, this class appears on the report card/transcript with a grade of Pass/Fail)**

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DRAMA 6–8 Students explore aspects of drama and movement as methods of communication. This includes improvisation, devising in groups, mime, developing a role, script work, movement, group-devised choreography, dance elements and simple choreographic structures. Students will be involved in discussions in small and large groups and reflect upon outcomes.

Drama 6 Students study: Drama terms, Choral Reading, Fairy Tales (tableaux, movement, and mime), Monologues, Student directed play, and Storytelling.

Semester class - meets 3 out of 8 days

Drama 7 Students study: Storytelling - characterization, tableaux, devising scenes, Creative Storytelling via improvisation monologues, and Student directed play.

Semester class - meets 3 out of 8 days

Drama 8 is designed to explore broad aspects of theater raising awareness and interest of Drama and Dance. Students study: familiarization, acting using improvisation as a starting point, ensemble dance, naturalistic acting – Stanislavski, neutral mask and physical theatre, dance through the ages.

Year long class - meets 2 out of 8 days

Each Spring, Grade 6–8 students have the opportunity to participate in a theater production - auditioning as actors, participating as set designers, make-up artists, and backstage

assistants. Rehearsals for the production are held after school, and sometimes on weekends as the performance nears.

VISUAL ART 6–8

Art 6 encourages students to develop drawing, painting, observational, and other skills as they explore connections between the real and abstract world.

Semester class - meets 3 out of 8 days

Art 7 encourages students to recognize links between meaning and abstraction and to appreciate that expressivity and emotion can be integral parts of meaningful work. Students learn to recognize and interpret historical and cultural precedents in visual arts.

Semester class - meets 3 out of 8 days

Art 8 encourages students to appreciate art and to recognize the uniqueness of their individual point of view while expanding their understanding and allowing for additional points of view. Students are challenged to demonstrate personal initiative and research how history and culture influence art.

Semester class - meets 4 out of 8 days

The following two art classes may be taken if a student is not taking a third language.

3D Art in the Round allows students in grades 6 and 7 to explore art through various media such as sculpture, fabrics and carving.

May be taken each year; Semester class - meets 6 out of 8 days

Printmaking Techniques in the Studio is for students in grade 8 who wish to develop their creativity and explore the many fascinating techniques that printmaking entails. Intaglio, calligraphic and transfer techniques will be among the many approaches to image-making that we investigate. Come find out why mark-making rules the realm of printmaking and why printmakers are the scientists of the art world.

Semester class - meets 6 out of 8 days

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English

In Grades 6–8, the English Language and Literature classes and the English Language Acquisition classes are organized around concept based units. All students are required to take the appropriate grade level English Language and Literature course each year unless enrolled in English Language Acquisition 1.

English Language and Literature 6 is a course where students gain fundamental language skills that help them form a strong foundation for comprehension and analysis in all areas of learning. We also hope they will develop a love of literature, and an awareness of the interaction between culture and text. The curriculum covers a wide range of skills, genres, and themes that include story elements and creative writing. In writing, students examine the elements of an effective paragraph, and learn to write analytical essays. In reading, students apply active reading strategies to read various genres more critically. Students identify and work to eliminate conventional errors such as fragmented sentences and run-on sentences, as well as other mechanical errors.

Year long class - meets 6 out of 8 days

English Language and Literature 7 is a course where students continue to build fundamental language skills that help form a strong foundation for all areas of learning. Students are encouraged to make connections between different types of texts, literary and non-literary. They develop their informative, persuasive, and imaginative writing and speaking, and their comprehension and analysis of fictional and non-fiction texts.

This course emphasizes structuring persuasive essays. Grade 7 students are introduced to the critical analysis of film.

Year long class - meets 6 out of 8 days

English Language and Literature 8 helps students further consolidate fundamental language skills and add depth to their informative, persuasive, and imaginative writing and speaking. This course promotes students' social and academic development by emphasizing a greater sense of independence and individual responsibility. Students are encouraged to identify connections between different types of texts and consider why certain text types are used for particular purposes. Students will refine their essay writing skills and also learn how to debate a contentious topic.

Year long class - meets 6 out of 8 days

English Language Acquisition (ELA) 1 is a three period course with each period(class) addressing a different focus(see below). Students in ELA 1 do not take English or Humanities. The overall ELA 1 course assists students in acquiring the English knowledge and skills that they need in order to function and communicate proficiently in all academic disciplines.

ELA 1A develops basic reading and writing skills and fundamental conversational and academic vocabulary.

ELA 1B develops speaking and listening skills to an active conversational level and writing in terms of basic grammatical accuracy.

ELA 1C develops major concepts, skills and vocabulary in the humanities (geography and history) and the students' ability to complete other subject assignments to a good standard.

Students are placed in ELA 1 based on testing and teacher recommendation

Grades 6–8: Semester or Year long class - meets 18 times during the eight day cycle

English Language Acquisition (ELA) 2 is a one period course. Students in ELA 2 take both English and Humanities. This course aims to help students develop the critical reading, writing, listening, speaking and research skills that they need in order to function and communicate proficiently in all academic disciplines. As well as focusing on language acquisition, we devote some class time to helping students understand and complete assignments in their other subjects. This includes helping them to prepare for assessment tasks and guiding them with techniques that will enable them to circumvent language-related obstacles.

Students are placed in ELA 2 based on testing and teacher recommendation

Grades 6–8: Semester or Year long class - meets 6 out of 8 days

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Languages

Students in grades 6–8 are required to take German unless, while enrolled in an English Language Acquisition class, they choose to take the Dutch, Korean or French Language and Literature class in lieu of German. Language and Literature classes are for near-native or native speakers.

Dutch Language and Literature 6, Dutch Language and Literature 7, Dutch Language and Literature 8 These courses are based on Dutch national government standards. Continuous and systematic instruction for native speakers and those who have reached native proficiency is provided. Speaking, listening, reading and writing skills are strengthened and grammar concepts mastered. Objectives are to expand vocabulary and strengthen spelling and grammar skills. Age appropriate literature is studied and students work on projects about Dutch culture (emphasis on Dutch cultural habits).

Prerequisite: native or near-native fluency in spoken and written Dutch

Year long class - meets 6 out of 8 days

French Language Acquisition Beginners 6-7 This course is designed to help students develop proficiency in the four basic skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. At the same time, these courses aim to introduce students to the appreciation of the diverse cultures of French speaking countries. The emphasis is on communication.

Prerequisites: based on student proficiency level, teacher recommendation and placement test.

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

French Language Acquisition Beginners 8 This course is comprehensive and academically challenging, combining the Beginner and Intermediate courses in one year of study. Students are able to use the present and past tenses by the end of the course and have a broad range of vocabulary and expression in the language.

Prerequisites: based on student proficiency level, teacher recommendation and placement test

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

French Language Acquisition Intermediate 7, French Language Acquisition Intermediate 8 These courses are designed to further the development of correct pronunciation, recognition and use of more advanced word patterns, as well as assimilation and expansion of basic elements of grammar including the past tense. Emphasis is placed on everyday conversation.

Prerequisites: based on student proficiency level, teacher recommendation and placement test

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

French Language Acquisition Advanced 8 The objective of this course is to solidify the vocabulary through deeper study of familiar themes and the grammatical focus is the formation and use of the past tenses as well as the conditional and future tenses. Emphasis is placed on written expression as well as an increased fluency and comprehension.

Prerequisites: based on student proficiency level, teacher recommendation and placement test

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

French Language and Literature 6-7 This course is designed to consolidate and use a full range of vocabulary and grammatical features as well as to introduce French literature.

Prerequisites: previous enrollment in a French speaking school, using French as mother tongue and student proficiency.

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

French Language and Literature 8 This class is offered to francophone students in grade 8 whose aim is to strengthen their mother tongue through the exploration of literature and culture, to develop their proficiency, or to become candidates for the French Language IB programs in grades 11 and 12. It offers a wide range of literary and non-literary text types, writing styles and techniques, allowing students to comment on the significance of any possible contexts, audiences, purpose, and the use of linguistic and literary devices.

Prerequisites: previous enrollment in a French speaking school, using French as mother tongue and student proficiency.

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

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German Language Acquisition Beginners 6-7, German Language Acquisition Beginners 8 These courses introduce students to German language, life and civilization and to facilitate their living in the Frankfurt area. The courses aim to enable students to comprehend and speak basic German. Cultural similarities and differences and knowledge of German-speaking countries are also included. The objectives are to develop the skills of listening, understanding, speaking and writing at a basic level. Students learn basic vocabulary and set phrases.

Prerequisites: based on student proficiency level, teacher recommendation and placement test

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

German Language Acquisition Intermediate 6, German Language Acquisition Intermediate 7, German Language Acquisition Intermediate 8 These courses enable students to ask and answer simple questions, to initiate and respond to simple statements, and to work on conversational fluency. Students' vocabulary is enlarged on topical themes. Writing relevant to the course topics is practiced in the workbook and in journal form. Specific attention is given to German culture in Germany.

Prerequisites: based on student proficiency level, teacher recommendation and placement test

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

German Language Acquisition Advanced 6, German Language Acquisition Advanced 7, German Language Acquisition Advanced 8 These courses are aimed at increasing students' ability to handle most social and general conversations and to communicate on definite topics relating to particular interests with a reasonable degree of accuracy; also to improve reading and comprehension skills with emphasis on fluency and pronunciation. Writing skills are developed with focus on clarity and reasonable accuracy.

Prerequisites: based on student proficiency level, teacher recommendation and placement test

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

German Language and Literature 6, German Language and Literature 7, German Language and Literature 8 These classes aim to help students review and improve basic skills (writing, reading, speaking, listening comprehension), expand vocabulary and idiomatic expression, further fluency of speech and to lead students to the appreciation of literature using some critical analysis. These courses stress mastery of grammar, sentence structure and punctuation, and competence in various types of writing.

Prerequisites: native or near-native command of German

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

Korean Language and Literature 6, Korean Language and Literature 7, Korean Language and Literature 8 These classes teach skills for understanding texts, writing and speaking. Students will learn various genres of literature, grammar, and aspects of Korean culture. In addition, students will learn Chinese characters, as many Korean words are structured on these characters.

Prerequisite: native or near-native command of Korean

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

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Spanish Language Acquisition Beginners 6-7, Spanish Language Acquisition Beginners 8 The objectives of these courses are to introduce the development of correct pronunciation, recognition and use of simple word patterns in the present tense, and the assimilation of basic elements of grammar and spelling. Emphasis is placed on communication in everyday life situations.

Prerequisites: based on student proficiency level, teacher recommendation and placement test

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

Spanish Language Acquisition Beginners 8 This course is comprehensive and academically challenging, combining the Beginner and Intermediate courses in one year of study. Students are able to handle the present and past tenses by the end of the course and have a broad range of vocabulary and expression in the language.

Prerequisite: based on student proficiency level, teacher recommendation and placement test

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

Spanish Language Acquisition Intermediate 7, Spanish Language Acquisition Intermediate 8 The objectives of these courses are to further the development of correct pronunciation, recognition and use of more advanced word patterns, as well as assimilation and expansion of basic elements of grammar including the past tense. Emphasis is placed on everyday conversation.

Prerequisites: based on student proficiency level, teacher recommendation and placement test

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

Spanish Language Acquisition Advanced 8 The objective of this course is to solidify the vocabulary through deeper study of familiar themes and the grammatical focus is the formation and use of the past tenses as well as the conditional and future forms. Emphasis is placed on written expression as well as an increased fluency and comprehension.

Prerequisites: based on student proficiency level, teacher recommendation and placement test

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

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Humanities

Humanities classes in Grades 6–8 include geography and history and all students are required to take the appropriate grade level Humanities course each year unless enrolled in English Language Acquisition 1.

Humanities 6 begins with course work inquiring into ecosystems; how ecosystems are dynamic and complex and how humans help or hinder the ecosystems. The course progresses with inquiries into early human/hominid development, and into semester two looking at human civilizations through the lens of global citizens and economics. Students will consider solutions and consequences, separate evidence-based claims; and communicate and act upon what they learn.

Year long class - meets 6 out of 8 days

Humanities 6 Immersion This is the same class as Humanities 6 but is taught in German. Students with a high level of German are eligible to take this class. Students must apply through the Head of the German Department: chris_hill@fis.edu.

Year long class - meets 6 out of 8 days

Humanities 7 encourages students to develop a global understanding of topical geographical and historical issues. The course begins with a field trip to the Medieval walled city of Rothenburg ob Tauber to begin the study of the Middle Ages. Students delve into the history of exploration and discovery, the roots of inequalities, and the growth of new ideas through the Middle Ages and into the Renaissance. The course helps students develop a deeper understanding of the physical geography of coasts and the impact of human use of coastlines globally. Students study the geography of globalization asking the question, "How interconnected are we?"

Year long class - meets 6 out of 8 days

Humanities 8 focuses on students developing the capacity to know, analyze, explain and argue about interdisciplinary challenges in our social world. Students investigate the forces of erosion and deposition, especially the processes and landforms of glaciation, as well as the Arctic and its current and future development. The Earth Summit is a major project involving a collaboration between English and Humanities and entails a high level of research with presentations on a specific city and geographical area focusing on location, culture and human ingenuity.

Year long class - meets 6 out of 8 days

Humanities 8 Immersion This is the same class as Humanities 8 but is taught in German. Students with a high level of German are eligible to take this class. Students must apply through the Head of the German Department: chris_hill@fis.edu.

Year long class - meets 6 out of 8 days

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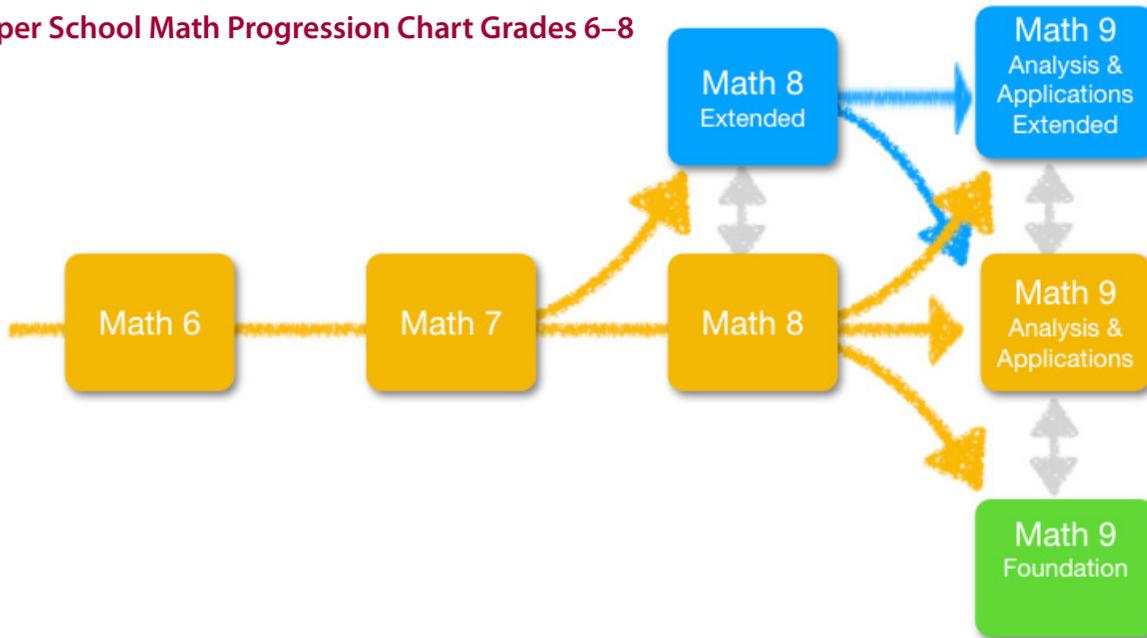


Math

All grades 6–8 students follow an integrated mathematics program and are required to take the appropriate grade level course. Topics are taught from each of three strands: Number and Algebra, Measurement Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Students are taught in mixed ability groups until Grade 8. Students should have a scientific (non-graphing) calculator, which will be used throughout the Grades 6–8 math courses. We have the Casio FX-85GTPlus available for purchase at the FIS bookstore.

Please see the Math Progression Chart below:

Upper School Math Progression Chart Grades 6–8



Math 6 students develop mathematics procedural skills along with an increasingly sophisticated understanding of mathematical concepts. They will inquire into numbers and how they are classified based on their properties and patterns, geometric thinking and data and statistics. Students are nurtured to be confident, creative users and communicators of mathematics, able to investigate, represent and interpret situations in their personal lives.

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

Math 7 students continue to develop mathematics procedural skills along with an increasingly sophisticated understanding of mathematical concepts. Students are encouraged to recognise the connections between the areas of mathematics and other disciplines, appreciate mathematics as an accessible, enjoyable discipline to study, and an important aspect of lifelong learning. Units of study include: Numbers and Algebra - Relationships, Algebraic Expressions, Ratios, Logic, Proportionality and Transformations.

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

Math 8 and Math 8 Extended In Grade 8 there are two levels of math - *Math 8* and *Math 8 Extended*. Both courses cover a common base of learner expectations. The Extended course progresses with increasing depth while extending students and while integrating multiple mathematics concepts with real world application.

Placement in Math 8 Extended is based on MAP testing, end of year exam grade, semester 2 grade, and teacher recommendation. New Grade 8 students are assigned a math course based on their math placement assessment.

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

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Science

Science in Grades 6–8 is an integrated course and all students are required to take the appropriate grade level science course each year. Students are asked to be scientists and engineers as they learn the practices and behaviors to investigate and build models and theories about the natural world and systems. The aim is to provide students with a good foundation of scientific knowledge enabling them to make informed judgments and decisions about scientific issues and to use the acquired scientific process skills for successful problem solving.

Science 6 begins with Molecules to Organisms as students inquire into, cell theory, interacting body systems, animal behaviors and plant structures, environmental and genetic growth factors, and information processing. The course progresses on to studies in Heredity, Earth's Systems, Earth and Human Activity and Energy (thermal).

Year long class - meets 6 out of 8 days

Science 7 begins with Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems as students inquire into photosynthesis, food and chemical reactions, effects of resource availability, matter energy flow and ecosystems. Students continue to develop understandings of the Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, the History of Earth, Earth's systems, Structure and Properties of Matter, Chemical Reactions and Human Impacts on Earth systems.

Year long class - meets 6 out of 8 days

Science 8 begins with Growth, Development, and Reproduction as students inquire into mutations and artificial selection. Students continue to develop their understanding of Natural Selection and Adaptations, Space Systems, Geologic Time Scale, Forces and Interactions, Energy (kinetic and potential), Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation, and the Human Impacts of human consumption of natural resources.

Year long class - meets 6 out of 8 days

After Science 8, students can choose either Biology, Chemistry or Physics in Grade 9.

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Other Courses

Some additional classes from this grouping can be taken if students are not enrolled in a third language. Each of these are noted below.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY 6–8 is a practical subject focused on problem-solving. Students will develop skills, knowledge and understanding of the design cycle and technologies in order to use information, materials, and processes to help devise practical solutions to design challenges. The fundamental components of all Design Technology/Design Thinking work are grouped into six criteria, (1) Empathy, (2) Define, (3) Ideate, (4) Develop, (5) Manufacture/Action, and (6) Evaluation. Students investigate a design context, materials, manufacturing process, tools and equipment before planning, producing and evaluating a solution.

Design Technology 6 Students engage in a number of short focused projects. They experience ‘making’ in the workshop, graphics techniques, CAD modeling, 3D printing, laser cutting and computational thinking. The goal is to develop their confidence in ‘making’.

Semester class-meets 3 out of 8 days

Design Technology 7 focuses on sustainability. Students undertake a design and make a project with sustainable design as the goal. Students will use a range of tools, machinery and computer aided design techniques to produce finished products that incorporate a recycled component.

Semester class-meets 3 out of 8 days

Design Technology 8 engages students in a full design project from start to finish. They are introduced to Fusion 360, an advanced computer aided design software package. Students will use this software to design and make a project of their choice. Their project is then manufactured using the laser cutter.

Semester class-meets 4 out of 8 days

The following two classes may be taken if a student is not enrolled in a third language.

Product Design 6 & 7 students will explore and develop a range of skills needed in order to successfully design a product. They will learn about Computer Assisted Design (CAD) and CAD Rendering, and develop specific craft, technical drawing, and design skills. **This class may be taken in both Grades 6 and 7 since the units of study are not repeated consecutive years. Semester class-meets 6 out of 8 days**

Innovation and Design 8 focuses on skill development and practical tasks: a mood light, team challenge, marketing task. Students will also work to solve a ‘real world’ problem where your design skills, knowledge of world events, culture, and desire to make a difference will all come together to design possible solutions to everyday challenges. You will create scale models to test your ideas.

Semester class-meets 6 out of 8 days

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE) 6–8 teaches basic fundamentals of a wide variety of individual, dual, and team activities.

Physical Education 6 activities emphasize cooperation, rules, strategies, sportsmanship, and safety for fair play. Students are assessed on their individual fitness level, attitude, behavior, effort, and skills.

Year long class-meets 4 out of 8 days

Physical Education 7 teaches students how to work cooperatively with classmates, enjoy physical activity, apply basic rules when playing games, understand body and spatial awareness, make connections between skills that are used across games, and understand the importance and significance of games.

Year long class-meets 4 out of 8 days

Physical Education and Health 8 Units include: fitness games, fitness testing, lacrosse, badminton, handball, street dance, track and field and striking and fielding. Health lessons are part of PE in Grade 8. Health topics include: components of fitness, heart rate, substance abuse, contraception, nutrition and more.

Year long class-meets 4 out of 8 days (Health is one of the 4 times)

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The following class may be taken if a student is not enrolled in a third language.

Physical Activity for Life 8 During the 1st half of the class, students will take part in a wide range of experiences, from traditional team sports and games, to individual activities like Parkour and yoga, to training options like TRX and fitness training (these are just a few examples). During the 2nd half of the class, students will get to pursue the activities they enjoyed the most.

Semester class-meets 6 out of 8 days

LEARNING SUPPORT CLASSES are designed to further support students with their learning needs. To be enrolled in these classes a student should have educational testing and a diagnosed learning difference. Students take one of these classes in lieu of a third language.

Executive Functioning 6–8 is designed to aid students with organization, writing, and give them specific subject support. Students will work directly with the teacher to address their own academic strengths and weaknesses and formulate strategies to build their academic skills. The teacher will individualize the support of each student by creating a learning intervention plan and develop activities that help develop academic skills. The course is designed to help students improve their academic skills, so they can have academic success.

Prerequisite: Teacher placement

Semester or Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

Math Recovery 6–8 is designed to aid students with math concepts including: problem solving, numerical operations, mathematical tools, and math fluency. The course can give specific subject support. Students work directly with the teacher to address their own academic strengths and weaknesses and formulate strategies to build their academic skills. The teacher will individualize the support of each student by creating a learning intervention plan and develop activities that help develop academic skills. The course is designed to help students improve their academic skills, so they can have academic success.

Prerequisite: Teacher placement

Semester or Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

Reading and Writing 6–8 focuses on individual needs that strengthen writing skills through academic and creative writing. Some of the activities are: journaling, research projects, class novels, film study, PEEL, planning and revising. The reading part of the class is designed to meet the individual needs of students in the areas of: fluency, comprehension, vocabulary development, and study skills. The class also offers subject support.

Prerequisite: Teacher placement

Semester or Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

Wilson Reading 6–8 is an interactive and multisensory two-year course which teaches students how to fluently and accurately decode (read) and encode (spell) by using the Wilson Reading curriculum.

Prerequisite: Teacher placement

Year long class-meets 6 out of 8 days

The following courses MAY be taken if not studying a third language

Introduction to Media 1 6 & 7 introduces students to journalism, print and online media texts. Students work on projects in which they critically evaluate and creatively construct these types of media texts. This class can be taken once in either Grade 6 or 7 and does not need to be taken before Introduction to Media 2.

Semester class-meets 3 out of 8 days

Introduction to Media 2 6 & 7 introduces students to moving image media. Students explore a range of moving image media texts, working on projects that allow them to critically evaluate and creatively construct media texts themselves. This class can be taken once in either Grade 6 or 7. A student does *not* need to take Introduction to Media 1 before taking this course.

Semester class-meets 3 out of 8 days

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Computer Technology 8 enables students to accomplish IT work more effectively, using a wide variety of tools. This class is appropriate for students interested in word-processing, web-browsing, email, etc, and are interested in learning more technical, challenging *techniques*. Topics include: web-page design & construction, graphics design & editing, Web 2.0 tools (blogs, wikis, etc), Javascript programming *for the Web*, vector graphics design, sound & video editing, Scratch video game programming. This class is good preparation for the Grade 9 Computer Technology Advanced course.

Semester class-meets 6 out of 8 days

Another course option for students in Grades 6–8 Classwork is completed on the student's own time-not during the school day.

Global Online Academy 6–8 allows students who are independent and self guided learners an opportunity to pursue a course not offered at FIS. Each is offered online with a group of students from around the world led by a teacher specializing in that subject. Students interested in this opportunity should talk with the 6–8 Principal to inquire about course offerings and availability.

Semester classes-students study and complete work on their own time outside of school hours