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Middle School Academic Program (MS)

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Middle School Overview (Grades 6-8)

In the secondary school, students move between several different classrooms each day where they meet with the respective teachers for each of their core academic courses. Two periods a week are devoted to exploratory electives that allow middle school students to choose from various courses. The school utilizes a U.S. curriculum and classroom resources.

Bible Instruction and Chapel Attendance

Our Bible curriculum not only nurtures spiritual health, it helps develop analytical and critical thinking while reinforcing academic skills. Chapel services are held each week and attendance by all students is expected. Morrison's Articles of Incorporation require each student enrolled at Morrison to attend Bible classes. Bible classes are held regularly and students receive an academic grade. Student work is assessed according to their understanding of the principles and teachings addressed in class, not on their personal convictions and beliefs.

Co-curricular Activity

There are several voluntary after school clubs/teams for secondary students to join such as robotics, art studio, Makerspace, book clubs, music, and athletics. Sports seasons include soccer, volleyball, basketball, and cross country. Additionally, there are invitational opportunities in badminton and swimming. Morrison Academy participates in TISSA (Taiwan International Schools Sports Association) competitions. Additionally, tournaments may include intra-Morrison campus events and select games against local Taipei schools. The season for each sport ranges from seven to ten weeks. Practices will be coordinated by the athletic director and are run by coaches. Practices are generally from 3:30-5:15 pm two times a week for middle school students. There will be a tournament at the close of each season. Student requirements for participation are as follows: .

- Sports Policy: Prior to practice or competition, students and parents will be required to sign a document that signifies their agreement to adhere to the MS sports policy when the student is on a MS sport team. Only one submission is required for the entire school year. Parents and students will receive a copy of the policy to review before signing.

- **Personal Commitment:** Students will be required to attend 80% of all practices and all scheduled games. This record is monitored by the coaches. Parents and teachers are encouraged to provide assistance in the areas of coaching.
- **Physical Examinations:** Students are required to have a physical examination to participate in middle and high school sports. This physical examination must be completed prior to practice or competition.
- **Athletic Insurance:** Students participating in the middle school sports program are required to have Taiwan national medical insurance coverage.
- **Academic and Behavioral Eligibility:** If a student's academic performance or behavior is not at a satisfactory level, the student's continued participation in the activity may be suspended or restricted at the discretion of the principal and Athletic Director. The student may be reinstated back to the team when satisfactory improvement has taken place.

Field Trips

Well-planned class field trips are an important part of our learning experiences. They enable students to see, apply, explore, and/or experience what is being studied in the classroom. Teachers plan for these carefully, and parents are informed about them beforehand. All school rules apply at all school-sponsored events whether on or off-campus. We encourage (and often invite) parents to go with us if space is available. See also: [Experiential Learning](#).

Mandarin

Mandarin instruction at Morrison Academy Taipei is regarded as a high-level foreign language program using North American standards. It is not designed or intended to equate to national grade-level norms or bilingual programs. Parents are encouraged to enroll their children in additional Mandarin classes if they so wish.

Mandarin instruction at Morrison Academy Taipei follows a proficiency-based approach, which is based on American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Students are placed in the appropriate level of classes depending on the results of the placement test. All students will take the placement test at the end of fifth grade and 8th grade, before entering middle and high school. The placement test may also be given in other grades to justify placement decisions.

Chinese language instruction is required for all students in kindergarten through eighth grade, except in special circumstances. All new students are placed in the appropriate class after taking the placement test.

Parents who question their child's placement level should first speak with their child's Chinese teacher and may contact the principal within the first two weeks of the first quarter to request consideration for a retest and possible trial placement at a different level. The principal and Chinese Placement Committee (CPC) will review grades (at least 90% at Mastery level of standards is required to move up a level), test and retest results, and the teacher recommendation. The principal and CPC reserve the right to ultimately place the student at the level deemed suitable after all information has been reviewed.

Physical Education (PE)

The goal of the physical education program is to engage students in a variety of physical activities and teach them skills appropriate for their age and maturity level. Students are taught the basic rules and skills for sports beginning in Kindergarten and on through Elementary, Middle, and High School, so that they can become mature and competent athletes. Our purpose is to help them discover areas of activity that they can enjoy for a lifetime.

All students are required to participate in physical education classes unless they are excused by a physician or the principal. Students who are excused from PE classes due to sickness or injury may not be allowed to participate in recess. All secondary students should wear a Morrison Academy Taipei PE uniform and non-marking running shoes for PE classes.

PE Uniforms

PE uniforms are required for students in middle and high school. The uniforms may be purchased in the cashier's office and picked up in the PE department. PE uniforms should only be worn during PE class. Students must change out of their uniforms at the end of class. Failure to do so is not abiding by the dress and appearance standards.

Secondary Exploratory Courses

Exploratory Courses are offered every quarter/semester for middle school students. At the beginning of each semester, students will be assigned two different exploratory courses for each quarter/semester. Some courses are offered for sign-up but are limited to space availability. These courses are varied and meant to be exploratory in nature. They include but are not limited to: the visual and performing arts, technology, cooking, foreign language, and fitness. This allows students to be exposed to a variety of topics and learn a range of skills outside of the core class structure. *Mandatory art and technology courses are taught during exploratory times and will be assigned to students in order to meet these requirements.*

Standardized Testing

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) is a standardized test that is administered for students in Grades 1-9 at least twice a year to monitor student growth and assist teachers with planning instruction. Students do not need to prepare for these tests other than being rested and avoiding stressing about the results. The tests do not affect the grades on report cards.

Student Files

The school will keep records for each student showing personal data and progress throughout his or her Morrison career, including academic achievement, health information, and test results. These files will be kept confidential. Only the student's parents, teachers, learning specialist, guidance counselor, and principal will be permitted to review a student's records.

Supplies

Secondary students should provide their own paper, writing instruments, and notebooks as requested by their teachers. A list of grade and subject specific supplies is provided before the beginning of the school year.

Textbooks

The school will provide student textbooks which are either made available in the classroom or can be checked out from the library.

Students must take all measures to ensure that the books are not damaged beyond ordinary wear and tear. Students may be charged for replacement if books are damaged or lost.

A Bible is issued to each student in Grade 6 and to each student who is new to Morrison. This belongs to them and is the Bible class textbook. It is expected to last. If the Bible is lost for over one week or needs replacing, another Bible is sold to the student. All Bibles will be collected at the end of the school year from returning students. They will be re-distributed at the beginning of the following school year.

Textbooks may be checked out over the summer with the approval of the teacher and librarian. A deposit payable to the cashier is required for each borrowed textbook.

Visual and Performing Arts (VPA)

MAT offers an exciting range of opportunities for students to explore and develop their creative and artistic talents. All middle school students are required to take a performing arts class every year. They are able to choose from choir, band, or orchestra. Students in instrumental music classes are encouraged to sign up for private music lessons if instructors are available. For music classes, instruction includes the elements of music theory, instrument care, reading music notation, musicianship, tone production, and ensemble rehearsal and performance techniques. Grades are largely based on class participation and playing tests.

See also: [Drama](#)

See also: [Middle School Academic Information](#)

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