



THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

2016-17 MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRENT INFORMATION GRADES 6-8

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MISSION STATEMENT

TASIS is a family of international schools that welcomes young people from all nationalities to an educational community which fosters a passion for excellence along with mutual respect and understanding. Consistent with the vision of its founder, M. Crist Fleming, TASIS is committed to transmitting the heritage of Western civilization and world cultures: the creations, achievements, traditions, and ideals from the past that offer purpose in the present and hope for the future. Seeking to balance the pursuit of knowledge with the love of wisdom, and promoting the skills of lifelong learning, an appreciation for beauty, and the development of character, each school combines a challenging academic program with opportunities for artistic endeavor, physical activity, and service to others. Believing in the worth of each individual and the importance of enduring relationships, TASIS seeks to embody and instill the values of personal responsibility, civility, compassion, justice, and truth.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The TASIS Middle School is a welcoming and exciting bridge from Elementary to High School. The student body consists of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders from numerous countries and backgrounds. It includes day and boarding students who are English language learners, Italian Section students, and mainstream English students. This diverse group brings a spirited quality to our school. Our philosophy recognizes the fundamental importance of a caring and nurturing community for our Middle School students. The TASIS Middle School combines rigor, support, and joy to help students be their best selves.

ACADEMICS

The Middle School academic program is based on the ideas of the Core Knowledge program while still accommodating the wide range of languages and cultures present in the School. We offer students a chance to excel in the liberal arts and in a foreign language while preparing them for the rigors of high school academics. This is especially important for children who are keen to enroll in International Baccalaureate or Advanced Placement courses in High School.

All students take classes in English, Mathematics, Science, History, Art, Music, and Physical Education. Native English-speakers study Italian, and students still learning English as an academic language have an additional period of English instruction. We offer three levels of English and five levels of Mathematics over three grade levels, which allows us to place students by both grade level and ability. The Middle School program also has an Italian Section for residents of Ticino.

Courses meet in well-equipped classrooms in a concentrated part of the larger TASIS campus. Our Middle School students follow a distinctive schedule that has been carefully planned to include age-appropriate class lengths and breaks. We offer special Dean's List privileges for students who excel in academics and effort.

Academic Help Centers are available during lunch recess every day. A weekly supervised study period is built into each student's schedule, and we also offer frequent workshops in note-taking and study skills. Students are expected to master basic content, become more inquisitive and analytical, develop research skills, and organize and

present their learning in both verbal and written form. We also offer a specialized Learning Resource Center for students with diagnosed learning differences and a School Counselor for social and emotional support.

COURSE OFFERINGS

For detailed course descriptions, see the Middle School Course Offerings Book, available on the TASIS website.

English

6th Grade English
7th Grade English
8th Grade English

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

EAL Beginning
EAL Emerging
EAL Developing

Mathematics

Mathematics 1
Mathematics 2
Mathematics 3
Mathematics 4
Mathematics 5

Science

Science 6
Science 7
Science 8

History

History 6
History 7
History 8
EAL History

Modern Language

Beginner Italian
Intermediate Italian
Advanced Italian
Beginner German
Intermediate German
Advanced German
Beginner French
Intermediate French

Fine Arts

Art
Music

Physical Education

Physical Education & Health

Sezione Italiana (Italian Section)

Storia Geografia (History)
Scrittura (Writing)
Lingua Italiana (Italian Language)
Arte (Art)

THE ADVISOR PROGRAM

Every student is assigned a faculty advisor, who serves as the first point of contact for parents and students as they navigate life at TASIS. Advisors work with groups of 6-8 students who meet formally three times a week and have lunch together once a week. Advisors monitor academic progress, discuss social and emotional struggles or problems, and act as an advocate in disciplinary situations. This special relationship provides students with a trusted adult who is readily available should difficulties arise in any area of their lives and helps provide a secure, nurturing environment for our students.

STUDENT LIFE

Our students are expected to become tolerant and understanding of others and of the larger world around them, to gain greater respect for themselves and for others, and to participate actively in our community. Respect, honesty, compassion, empathy, and responsibility are values that are integral to our program.

Service Learning

Service is a fundamental part of a TASIS education, inspiring students to think beyond themselves and assume active roles in improving society. Service Learning helps students develop not only their leadership and organizational skills, but also their academic and citizenship skills while helping TASIS and the local community. It develops a sense of independence and a strong work ethic and instills awareness in the necessity and value of service. Service projects are grade-level based and focus on a variety of causes.

After-School Sports and Activities

Our specially designed After-School Sports and Activities program includes a variety of activities, learning opportunities, and competitive sports. As many activities meet just twice a week, children are free to participate in more than one activity per session. New after-school activities are offered three times per year, giving students an opportunity to try new pursuits or continue their progress.

Weekend Clubs

In addition to our activities schedule, we have partnered with local professional organizations to give our students the opportunity to learn or improve their skills. Over the course of five Sundays, students receive instruction, transportation, and supervision at all times. The Climbing Club, with help from the Piotta Climbing Club, uses climbing walls and natural sites around Switzerland. The winter Ski Club,

with instructors from the Lugano Ski Club, challenges children to improve their winter sports skills.

Travel Opportunities

In the spirit of our founder, M. Crist Fleming, we believe that travel is one of the best ways to teach students to be courageous, tolerant, respectful, and inquisitive. In the fall, Middle School students participate in Academic Travel, a TASIS tradition during which small groups of teachers and students spend 3-4 days discovering a destination. Recent trips include the Amalfi Coast, Barcelona, Lausanne, and Zurich. In the spring, our 6th graders attend another Academic Travel experience, while our 7th and 8th graders relocate to St. Moritz for Winter Adventure, a week of fun in the snow. For our boarding students, we offer trips to nearby destinations nearly every weekend, including Milan, Bergamo, Turin, and Lucerne. Special overnight weekend trips for boarding students include skiing in Zermatt and touring museums and architecture in Tuscany.

Special Annual Activities

Every year, the Middle School participates in numerous special annual activities. These include the Fall Festival, our festive Christmas celebration, special activities to prepare and welcome 5th graders into the Middle School, and numerous ceremonies to honor our students' leadership, academic, sports, or service achievements. We also host an annual 8th Grade Moving-Up ceremony to celebrate their passage to the High School.

A Celebration of Cultures

Our diverse program encourages the blending of cultures both inside and outside the classroom. Our activities aim to promote a positive, inclusive learning environment. Parents, teachers, and administrators meet regularly to discuss and develop many aspects of the School program via the Parent Support Committee, and we welcome parental involvement in their children's education.

In our efforts to build community and provide a "home away from home" environment for our Middle Schoolers, we lay the foundation for success. We strive constantly to be a coherent community with consistent and supportive relationships among the students, faculty, administration, and parents.

ADMINISTRATION

Lyle Rigg, B.A., M.A., M.Ed.; Headmaster
Miami University (Ohio), West Texas State,
Harvard University

Tim Fitzgerald, B.A., M.A., M.A.
Academic Dean, Math Teacher
Sacred Heart University, Fairfield University,
Lehigh University

Marie-Josée Breton, B.A.; Dean of Student Affairs
McGill University, Canada

David Jepson, B.A., B.A., M.A.T., Ed.M., Director of Studies
Wheaton College, University of London (UK),
Boston College, Harvard University, USA

William E. Eichner, B.F.A., M.A., M.A.; Admissions Director
Ohio University, Syracuse University,
Michigan State University, USA

Guia Berera, M.A.; Italian Section Coordinator
Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy

Nilda Lucchini, B.A., M.Ed., Curriculum Coordinator
Franklin College, Switzerland; Lehigh University, USA

DEPARTMENT HEADS AND COORDINATORS

Martyn Dukes, B.A., A.T.C.; Fine Arts
Kent Institute of Art and Design, Loughborough
College of Art and Design, University of London,
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FACULTY AND STAFF

Patrick Alava, B.Sc., M.B.A., B.Ed.; Mathematics, History
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Spring Hill College

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Allison Raymond, B.A., M.Ed.; EAL, Mathematics
George Washington/Georgetown Women's College,
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University of Alberta, Memorial University of Newfoundland,
Canada

Masahiro Yo, '04, B.A.; Mathematics, Physical Education
Tufts University, USA

DAILY SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 - 8:45 A	8:00 - 9:00 A	8:00 - 9:00 G	8:00 - 9:00 E	8:00 - 9:00 C
8:50 - 9:35 B	9:05 - 10:05 B	9:05 - 10:05 H	9:05 - 10:05 F	9:05 - 10:05 D
9:35 - 9:40 Snacks	10:05 - 10:10 Snacks	10:05 - 10:10 Snacks	10:05 - 10:10 Snacks	10:05 - 10:10 Snacks
9:45 - 10:30 C	10:15 - 11:15 C	10:15 - 11:15 A	10:15 - 11:15 G	10:15 - 11:15 E
10:35 - 11:20 D	11:20 - 12:20 D	11:20 - 12:20 B	11:20 - 12:20 H	11:20 - 12:20 F
11:25 - 12:10 E	12:25 - 13:10 Lunch	12:25 - 13:10 Lunch	12:25 - 13:10 Lunch	12:25 - 13:10 Lunch
12:15 - 13:05 Lunch	13:15 - 14:15 E	13:15 - 14:15 C	13:15 - 14:15 A	13:15 - 14:15 G
13:10 - 13:25 Advisor	14:20 - 15:20 F	14:20 - 15:20 D	14:20 - 15:20 B	14:20 - 15:20 H
13:30-14:15 F	15:25 - 15:55 Service Learning	15:25 - 15:55 Assembly	15:25 - 15:55 Advisor	
14:20 - 15:05 G				
15:10 - 15:55 H				

BOARDING STUDENT INFORMATION

Boarding students occupy a special niche in our Middle School. Many are away from home for the first time, and we aim to foster an environment that is comfortable, supportive, and positive. Our team of dorm parents and activity leaders are passionate about working with this age group, and our boarding structure gives students the freedom to become independent individuals within the context of a clearly defined boarding structure.

CHECK-IN

Monday-Thursday: 18:45-18:55; Study Hall begins at 19:00

LIGHTS OUT AND CURFEW

Sunday-Thursday: 22:00

Students must remain in their dorms until 06:00 the following day.

Special off-campus or late check-in permission may be obtained from the Duty Administrator or the Middle School Administrators. If granted, the student must notify the Dorm Parent on duty.

During the week, students may only check out with family members.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday Schedule

08:00 - 16:00	Class Day
17:30 - 18:30	Dinner
18:45 - 19:00	First Check-In; students must remain on campus for the evening.
20:45 - 21:00	Second Check-In; students must remain in their dorms.
23:00	Lights Out; students must remain in their dorms until 06:00 the following day.

Saturday Schedule

08:00 - 09:30	Breakfast
11:45 - 13:00	Lunch
17:30 - 18:30	Dinner
18:45 - 19:00	Check-In; students must remain on campus for the evening
19:00 - 19:30	Room Clean-Up
20:45 - 21:00	Second Check-In; students must remain in their dorms.
23:00	Lights Out; students must remain in their dorms until 06:00 the following day.

Sunday Schedule

10:30 - 12:30	Brunch
17:30 - 19:00	Dinner
18:45	Check-In
19:00	Study Hall begins
22:00	Lights Out; students must remain in their dorms until 06:00 the following day.

Weekend Activities

Each weekend, we offer a variety of activities and events. Some activities are also open to day students. Popular activities include:

- Paddle boating on Lake Lugano
- Attending a Lugano hockey game or Inter Milan/AC Milan football match
- Dinner at a local Chinese, Turkish, or Japanese restaurant
- Day trips to Lucerne, Milan, and Zurich
- Visiting the Botanical Gardens in Mendrisio
- Nearby Monte Tamaro's adventure park and ropes course
- Bowling and pizza night
- Flag football on campus
- Brunch, lunch, or dinner at a teacher's home
- The Gardaland amusement park in Italy
- The Como market and a boat ride around Lake Como
- A weekend ski trip to Zermatt
- Seeing a performance of *The Nutcracker* ballet
- A trip up Monte Generoso
- Visiting Valle Verzasca for hiking and swimming

Visiting Lugano

Middle School boarding students may walk or take the bus or a taxi to Lugano. They must travel in groups of two or more. Visiting Lugano during the day is permitted

- on Friday afternoons after class until first check-in.
- on Saturdays from 12:00 until first check-in.

Day trips to anywhere outside Lugano (excluding School-sponsored trips) are not permitted.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CALENDAR 2016-17

Fall Semester

September 2	Opening Day
September 3	Orientation
September 5	First Day of Classes
October 10	No Classes
October 21–22	Family Weekend
October 31–November 2	Academic Travel for 6th Graders
October 31–November 3	Academic Travel for 7th and 8th Graders
November 3–4	No Classes for 6th Graders
November 5	No Classes for 7th and 8th Graders
November 25	No Classes
December 16	Last Day of Classes
December 17	Dormitories Close

Spring Semester

January 7	Dormitories Open
January 8	Boarding Students return to campus
January 9	Classes Resume
January 26	End of First Semester
February 27–March 1	Academic Travel for 6th Graders
February 27–March 3	Winter Adventure for 7th and 8th Graders
March 2–3	No Classes for 6th Graders
April 7	Last Day of Classes
April 7–23	Spring Holiday
April 22	Dormitories Open
April 24	Classes Resume
June 5	Last Day of Classes
June 6	8th Grade Moving-Up Ceremony
June 7	Dormitories Close



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