



**VAUGHN**  
**Middle School**

*Globally Minded, Locally Inspired*



## English Language and Literature

English Language and Literature builds on experiences in English language learning that students have gained in their previous educational experiences. English language and literature is designed to help students build their critical thinking and communicative skills. Students will increase these skills through the following six areas: listening, speaking, reading, writing, observing and presenting.

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## Individuals and Societies

Individuals and Societies is an American history course that encourages learners to respect and understand the world around them and equips them with the necessary skills to inquire into historical, geographical, political, social, economic, and cultural factors that have an impact on individuals, societies and environments. Students collect, describe and analyze data used in studies of societies, including original source material.

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## Mathematics

Mathematics aims to equip all students with the knowledge, understanding and intellectual capabilities to address further courses in mathematics, as well as to prepare those students who will use mathematics in their studies, workplaces and lives in general. This course involves more than simply learning formulae or rules. Students will explore the concept that all of the answers to mathematics are not found in a book but, rather, that the students can be active participants in the search for concepts and relationships.

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## Science

With inquiry at the core, the Science framework aims to guide students to investigate issues through research, observation and experimentation, both independently and collaboratively. Scientific inquiry also fosters critical and creative thinking about research and design, as well as the identification of assumptions and alternative explanations. MYP science courses are designed to enable students to access, use and communicate scientific knowledge correctly and confidently in oral, written and visual modes.

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## Language Acquisition

The study of additional languages in the MYP provides students with the opportunity to develop insights into the features, processes and craft of language and the concept of culture, and to realize that there are diverse ways of living, behaving and viewing the world. Students will develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the target language. Our goal is that 90% of the class will be conducted in the target language in order to develop a higher level of fluency for students. Students at Vaughn spend three years studying Spanish. Accelerated classes are offered for students who already speak Spanish.

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## Physical and Health Education

Physical and health education aims to empower students to understand and appreciate the value of being physically active, as well as mentally balanced, and strives to develop the motivation for making healthy life choices. Physical and health education focuses on learning how to maintain healthy physical, mental and emotional states through exercise, games, and classroom activities.

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## Design

MYP design challenges all students to apply practical and creative thinking skills while using the Design Cycle to solve problems; encourages students to explore the role of design in both historical and contemporary contexts; and raises students' awareness of their responsibilities when making design decisions and taking action. Students will be required to adopt an approach that allows them to think creatively, while meeting the requirements of a design specification.

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## Visual and Performing Arts

Arts in the MYP stimulate young imaginations, challenge perceptions, and develop creative and analytical skills. Involvement in the arts encourages students to understand the arts in context and the cultural histories of artworks, thus supporting the development of an inquiring and empathetic world view. Students will have the opportunity to function as artists, as well as learners of the arts. Students develop through creating, performing and presenting arts in ways that engage and convey feelings, experiences and ideas. Students will be placed in Beginning, Intermediate or Advanced courses based on their previous experience. Music and Theater courses may require performances during and after school hours. Students can bring their own instrument or rent one. We may not offer all options every year.

**Visual Art** – Students may draw, paint, work with clay, make wire and plastic sculptures, jewelry, and ornaments. Visual arts students develop an appreciation for the expressive and aesthetic diversity in the world around them.

**Digital Media Arts** – Students will use technology to access and communicate with visual art while also developing skills in sketching and composition. May include digital painting, image editing, animation, photography & desktop publishing.

**Drama/Theater** – Drama encourages students to appreciate performance arts and media through the processes of researching, creating, preparing, presenting and critically reflecting on theatre— as participants and audience members.

**Music Appreciation** – Students explore the major styles, influences, and personalities that shaped the world's musical landscape. This is not a performance-based class.

**Choir** – This class teaches students to read and perform choral music. Various musical styles are explored.

**Mariachi** – Students in this class study mariachi-style singing, violin, vihuela, guitar, guitarron and trumpet. This class is only available to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who already have instrument experience.

**Orchestra** – This class works with these instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello and Bass. Students will learn to read music and perform through bowing and plucking.

**Concert Band** – This class teaches students to perform on flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophones, trumpets, horns, trombones, baritones and percussion instruments. Students will also learn to read music.

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