



Grade 7 Middle School Program Information

Marymount's Middle School is composed of over 220 students making up a vibrant community with diverse cultural and religious backgrounds which celebrates the spirituality of the School's RSHM founders.

Students are guided toward the achievement of their full potential by empowering them to think creatively, reason critically, communicate effectively and learn continuously, fostering independence and preparing them for the rigor of their High School programs. The curriculum is based on the philosophy of the IB and Marymount's Quality Teaching and Learning characteristics which encourage personal commitment to high standards, continuous improvement and a life-long love of learning.

Central to the Middle School's core curriculum is the development of a deep understanding in the following subject areas: Language and Literature, Language Acquisition, Mathematics and Sciences, Individuals and Societies and the Arts.



* Students who enroll in Italian Literature have an option of taking the Media State Exam at the end of each school year. Students who wish to take the Media state exam are recommended to take French, German or Spanish; if students opt for Arabic, or Mandarin, they must attend an afterschool DELF or DELE Course.



Marymount also offers classes for students who wish to take the Italian Media exams through an integrated approach whereby each course meets international standards but also covers all the content required for the Italian Media Program.

In addition, embedded enrichment, service and wellbeing activities equip our students to develop their knowledge and skills across subjects for a holistic academic development.



These include: Advisory, MS Sports Program, Assemblies, ATLs, Juni Orchestra and musical performances, MUN, leadership opportunities and RSHM conferences and festivals, after school activities, student clubs and enrichment trips beyond the classroom.

Grade 7 Course Descriptions

Language and Literature

English 7

The 7th Grade English course continues to develop skills in academic reading, writing, and literary analysis. Literary studies include a prose unit on Gothic fiction and a survey unit on Sonnets, from Petrarch to Countee Cullen. The last literary unit of the year will trace global perspectives in Travel Writing. Throughout the year the literary units are the basis from which students practice and extend their critical thinking skills. Students are also provided with extra practice in composition skills, vocabulary and the mechanics of grammar usage enhancing their verbal and written articulation. Reading is integral to this course; students will be assigned reading books for the summer and academic year, and are expected to read independently.

Italian Mother Tongue - Italian Literature 7

The Italian Literature course is designed for students who are native speakers of Italian and/or have a fluent command of Italian. The class focuses on developing students' oral and written skills in Italian, as well as a deep knowledge of Italian culture and literature. Through this course students will be prepared and have the option to take the Seconda Media State Examination.

Language Acquisition

Arabic, French, German, Italian, Mandarin, and Spanish

All students take Italian. In Grade 7 Italian is available as an Intermediate, and advanced course, and as a Literature course for students in the Media Program (see above). In all other languages on offer, students will be placed in an intermediate course. All Language courses are designed to enhance students' proficiency in the language developing their receptive and productive skills. Students joining in Grade 7 will be placed in an Intermediate class and offered online language support

English Language Learner (ELL)

The Middle School ELL program is geared to teach and assist students whose first language is not English with the goal of accessing the content in other parts of the curriculum. Our School uses the WIDA assessment as an English proficiency screener to accurately place students and monitor their English language development. Students' placement in ELL is determined by their WIDA assessment, previous school records, and teacher input.

Latin Intermediate I

In this course, students will continue to develop their proficiency in the Latin language as well as their understanding of ancient Roman history. They will start approaching some of the cornerstones of western literature in a simplified version.

Mathematics and Sciences

Mathematics 7

Pre-algebra prepares the students for the transition to more advanced mathematical topics such as algebra and geometry. This course is designed to help develop abstract reasoning and symbolic manipulation skills. Specific topics covered are real numbers, proportional relationships, patterns, measurement, probability and statistics, 2- and 3-dimensional geometry, and an introduction to solving linear equations and inequalities.

Science 7

This is the second year of the Middle School Science program. The Biology topics covered during this year include muscular and skeletal systems, gas exchange and the cardiovascular system. In Chemistry, students will become familiar with the structure of the atom and the periodic table, they will learn the basics of chemical bonding and reactivity, and experiment separating methods, which will be used to investigate mixtures. In Physics, forces and motion will be studied, as well as light and sound.

Educational Technology 7

The class is designed for students to learn basic programming and interactive media design skills. Students will learn to create their own animations, interactive storybooks, and computer games. Students will learn how to think sequentially, solve problems, reason systematically and work in groups. Students will be encouraged to explore, invent, create, and solve real-world problems using a variety of tools and materials in the Fab Lab. The course integrates elements of technology and materials.

Individuals and Society

History and Geography 7

The course combines elements of History and Geography, covering the period from Humanism and the Renaissance to the Napoleonic Age. In Geography, students study the cultural and social identity of Europe, languages and dialects, religions, and ethnic and religious conflicts in Europe. The political, economic and social landscapes of selected regions of Europe are also examined in depth.

Religious Education 7

The New Testament is the basis for this course. Using Scripture and the life of Jesus, students discover the teachings of Jesus and his message on how to have life, and have it to the full. Students also examine the sanctifying work of the Church through the seven sacraments, and how to build a stronger relationship with God. Activities encourage students to reflect on their own lives and how they can apply the Gospel message of love to their everyday lives.

Arts

Art 7 (Required Course)

Art 7 provides a continuation of experiences designed to help students develop a greater understanding of the elements of Art and principles of design as related to and applied to drawing skills, applied design methods, and ceramics. Students will get additional Media preparation and instruction for future art classes, including IB Art, that continues chronologically from Art 6 to cover Early Christian, Byzantine, Medieval, and Early Renaissance art. Sketchbook work from 6th grade will be continued and the portfolio further developed.

Drama 7 (Elective Course)

This is a one year, practical course in drama, theater and performance. The focus of the course is geared towards teamwork, communication skills, public speaking and confidence building. Students will learn how to focus their skills to create their own performances, read and write scripts, design sets and costumes, and empathize with others. Students will be expected to try different acting and performance techniques as well as have a go at directing and designing a scene. Each student should gain a new respect for theater and the true meaning of group work. The nature of the course creates a risk free environment for the students to experiment and try new things.

General Music 7 (Required Course)

The course provides instruction in music appreciation, and theory at an intermediate level in line with the ABRSM theory syllabus and an in-depth knowledge of music history from the Renaissance to the Classical Era. By examining cultural perspectives of music, students will be enabled to use critical thinking skills to gain an understanding of music and its value in society. Through these musical experiences students will make connections between the various elements of music and other fields of knowledge. Students are encouraged to enter the ABRSM theory exam in May.

Chorus 7 (Elective Course)

Chorus is an elective course designed for students to develop their vocal skills and to discover the joy of working together in a choral group. In the course, students will explore singing in a variety of styles: rock, gospel, jazz, pop, etc. Performance is a key component so students will perform in the classroom, in school concerts during the year, in school masses and on retreats. An ability to sing on pitch with some degree of ease and a fundamental interest and enjoyment of singing are helpful. Students will learn how to read choral music and write musical ideas, using music as a

means of expression and communication. Students will listen to and analyze music from a wide range of traditions. Students will also learn how to describe music, express their opinions and make critical judgments about the music they hear in class and the music they perform.

Band 7 (Elective Course)

The purpose of the Band elective course is to develop students' musical understanding through the performance of a wide variety of music at an intermediate level. Students start developing individual technical skills and playing independent parts in the ensemble. The instruments available are: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, percussion (mallets or drum kit) or bass guitar, which can be rented at school. Music fundamentals, listening skills, instrumental techniques and sight reading are emphasized.

Prerequisites are: one year of beginners' band or one year of musical experience in playing a band instrument.

Students are required to perform in concerts outside of the regular school day in the course of the academic year. Some costs might be incurred for accessories and other materials.

Wellbeing

Advisory

In order to support the positive transition from Elementary School, particular attention is given to Middle School students through a daily Advisory program.

Advisors are responsible for the students' wellbeing guiding them personally, academically and socially through the academic year. They provide students with support within the School framework tracking their academic progress, mentoring them in their Enrichment Program, and helping them to integrate creativity, activity and service projects in their curriculum.

The students are encouraged and given the opportunity to meet in small groups with an advisor in the following way:

- Daily check in from 8:20 a.m. for 10 minutes with their assigned faculty advisor.
- Speak to their advisor about the day and how well they feel prepared for their classes.
- Advisors check the students' schedules and verify that the students are organized for the morning classes and the day ahead.
- Advisors remind the students to confirm they have all the materials necessary for the first two classes.
- Students are reminded of the importance of the School's dress code and are urged to always respect Marymount's uniform policy.
- Advisors remind students to look over their schedules to ensure that they have everything they need for their homework assignments.

Secondary School student groups also meet for a longer period of time with their Advisor on a weekly basis in order to focus more in-depth on issues relating to academic planning and progress as well as personal and social development in an open and trusting environment. Students also have the possibility to conference and talk individually with their Advisor.

Middle School Sports Program

Students have the opportunity to train in Sport e Salute's (former CONI) Olympic sports facilities with professional instructors from the Italian Basketball, Tennis, Soccer, Volleyball, Athletics and Swimming Federations. The Middle School Sports program is designed to promote and develop a sport-specific skill set as well as the values of teamwork, commitment, and sportsmanship. Students participate in an individual and a team sport for the year which they then practice at Sport e Salute's sports facilities (swimming, tennis, and athletics) or at Marymount's on-campus sports facilities with Sport e Salute's accredited coaches (volleyball, soccer and basketball).

Grade 7 Sports: Swimming and Basketball

Enrichment Program

Marymount is dedicated to guiding students towards the achievement of their full potential by empowering them to think creatively, reason critically, communicate effectively and learn continuously.

Teachers enable students to achieve their full potential. This includes students who need to be challenged, motivated, and inspired to learn beyond the curriculum. The School's core curriculum is inclusive and differentiated. Students who may benefit from enrichment may have a formal written plan which is developed in conjunction with their advisors, classroom teachers, parents, and the student. Learning targets will be set collaboratively and monitored by all parties. Students may benefit from enrichment for academics, athletics, and the arts.

Learning Support

In our School, diversity is a positive resource. We are aligned to the IB learning philosophy by which "Students are the center of international education in the IB with their own strengths and challenges" We strive to meet the needs of all learners and treat each student as an individual. Marymount is a responsibly inclusive School, and we promote and protect the interests of children who learn in different ways or at different rates. Aligning with the IB Learner Profile and our own Marymount Quality Teaching and Learning Statement, we challenge each student and teacher to strive to embody all of the characteristics of a Marymount education.

The Learning Support Department believes that *all* students should have the opportunity to explore and develop their skills in an educationally rich environment that will individualize their learning experiences. There are times when students experience difficulty in the regular classroom setting. When a student has difficulty in school, it may be noticed by their Advisor, the teachers, other school personnel, the parents, or the student. After the Advisor and the relevant administrator have reviewed and implemented a plan, the Learning Support Department may be consulted to determine further interventions, educational evaluations, accommodations, academic support, and/or a modified program.

Learning Support in the Secondary School consists of the following: support in ensuring that students receive accommodations as outlined in their Individual Learning Plans (ILPs), consultation with subject area teacher, Grade 6-12 small group pull out support in all academic areas, using a Study Skills class model (curriculum based on Approaches to Learning-ATL) in class support with an assigned One to One Assistant,

Sample Schedule in Grade 7

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:20 - 08:30	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory
08:35 - 09:30	English	Math	Middle School Sports Program		English
09:35 - 10:30	General Music	Art			Math
10:30 - 10:40	Break				
10:40 - 11:35	Ed. Technology	Elective	English	Art	General Music
11:40 - 12:35	Recess/Lunch				
12:35 - 13:30	Science	Religion	Modern Language	Ed. Technology	Math
13:35 - 14:30	Italian	Science	Italian	Science	Italian
14:35 - 15:30	History & Geography	Modern Language	History & Geography	Modern Language	History & Geography

ELL Students' schedule may vary to accommodate student needs.

Grades 6-8 Middle School Program

SUBJECT AREAS	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
Language and Literature	English 6 Italian Literature 6*	English 7 Italian Literature 7*	English 8 Italian Literature 8*
Language Acquisition	Italian for all A choice of Arabic, French, German, Mandarin or Spanish* Elective choice: Latin Italian and Modern Languages are not offered at Beginners Level in Grade 7. <i>Students joining in Grade 7 will be placed in an Intermediate class and offered online language support</i>		
Mathematics and Sciences	Ed. Technology Math 6 Science 6	Ed. Technology Math 7 Science 7	Ed. Technology Math 8 Science 8
Individuals and Societies	History and Geography 6 Religious Education	History and Geography 7 Religious Education	History and Geography 8 Religious Education
Arts	Art General Music Elective Courses: Drama, or Band or Chorus	Art General Music Elective Courses: Drama, or Band or Chorus	Art General Music Elective Courses: Drama, or Band or Chorus
Sports and Wellbeing	Advisory Health 6 MS Sports Program	Advisory Health 7 MS Sports Program	Advisory Health 8 MS Sports Program
Enrichment	After School Activities Athletic Enrichment Plans ATL Assemblies Enrichment Trips JuniOrchestra Leadership Opportunities Marymount Talks MSMUN Personalized Enrichment Programs		
Service	House System Service Opportunities Student Clubs		
Support	ELL Support Individualized Learning Plans Study Skills <i>Identified ELL (English Language Learners) and Learning Support students will have course choices further reviewed/adjusted to meet their individual needs. Parents will be consulted directly.</i>		

