Grade 8

We want you to enjoy your time here at Acacia International School and thrive. This is to help you know what to expect at the school.

You will be studying this year:

English

In Grade 8, the course focuses on tragedy and writing to disturb, building a firm base from which to launch IGCSE studies in the coming years. They begin with the novel *Of Mice and Men*, and then go on to study a range of poetry from Browning to Chinua Achebe. Students are introduced to Shakespeare's life and times before proceeding to study *Romeo and Juliet*, with particular focus on the drama aspects of the text. They complete the year by exploring media and non-fiction, producing their own magazine on a topic of their choice.

Mathematics

In Grade 8, students focus on algebraic proficiency, linear equations, functions, and geometric reasoning. Includes Pythagoras' theorem, surface area, volume, and basic statistics. Emphasis is on connecting concepts, applying problem-solving strategies, and preparing for formal high school mathematics. Encourages confidence, accuracy, and the ability to interpret and communicate mathematical ideas effectively.

Science

Grade 8 Science focuses on biology, chemistry, and physics topics that deepen students' scientific understanding. In biology, learners will study photosynthesis, Reproduction in flowering, ecosystems, human environmental impact, classification, and variation, emphasizing biodiversity and conservation. In Chemistry, they will cover atomic structure, bonding, the periodic table, reaction patterns, preparation of common salts, and reaction rates, enhancing analytical skills. In physics, students will explore density, pressure, and electricity, linking theory to natural phenomena and technology. Students will engage in hands-on experiments and practical activities to develop problem-solving abilities and real-world application of scientific concepts.

French

Grade 8 French builds on the vocabulary and concepts learnt in previous grades, with a deepening of grammatical structures. In addition to revising the present tense, passé composé, and immediate future, the students will add the imperfect tense and the future

tense. They will be able to talk about people's everyday lives, Paris, leisure activities, school subjects and jobs, visiting a theme park, and health.

Geography
In Grade 8, this course will cover areas of both physical and human geography. The physical geography elements will be: rocks and soils and tectonic plates. The human geography aspects will be: tourism, employment structures, and international development. The final unit will consist of combining aspects of both physical geography and human geography as we study the geography of Russia.

History
Grade 8 students will continue to develop historical thinking, reasoning and writing skills to analyze, understand and evaluate major historical events as well as developing historical arguments. Topics to be covered include the British Empire, Independence for Africa, the Civil Rights Movement, Conflict in the Middle East - the Israeli - Arab Conflict, the Korean War.

Bible
In Grade 8, students explore the life and teachings of Jesus through a complete study of the gospel of Matthew. They will then study the book of Acts which records the history of the early church.

ICT Proficiency
In Grade 8, this course teaches students how to effectively use Microsoft Office tools like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. They will learn to create documents, manage data, design presentations, and communicate professionally. By the end, students will be confident and proficient in using Microsoft products for school, work, and daily tasks.

Guidelines for choosing electives

All students must choose one Art elective, one Music elective, one PE elective and one other elective.

All students must take either Drawing 1 or Painting in either S1 or S2, unless both courses have already been completed successfully.
Students wanting to take IGCSE Art in Grade 9/10 should have completed Drawing 1, Drawing 2 and Painting. Drawing 1 is a prerequisite for Drawing 2.

Students who have not yet completed the Swimming elective successfully must take it in either S1 or S2.

Art Electives

Design and Technology: In this course, students learn how to plan, design and create products that people use. Students learn how to join, fit and use materials effectively, solving problems by working with different media, materials and tools.

Drawing 1: In this course, students will understand the fundamental elements and principles of art and design as they explore how to create beautifully realistic drawings from observation. Students will explore a range of artwork from various times and cultures as they learn to look carefully and thoughtfully at these works, developing their analytical skills. Students will work primarily in black and white as they explore graphite, charcoal and pen. This course is a prerequisite for Drawing 2 and is a requirement for students considering IGCSE Art and Design.

Drawing 2: This course will continue to build on the foundations of Drawing 1. Students will learn to draw from a range of still life objects focusing on tone to record detail and form, exploring how objects relate to each other in terms of space. They research the work of other still life artworks and use this to influence their own selection of objects. Students will learn to make decisions based on the reviewing and reflecting process as they experiment with various media and techniques. Students will also have an opportunity to develop their skills in portraiture as they explore mood and expression. This course is a requirement for students considering IGCSE Art and Design. Students must have taken Drawing 1 to be eligible for this course.

Painting: In this course, students will experiment with media such as oil pastel and watercolor to develop their knowledge and understanding of color theory. This will involve looking at other artists' use of color and building on their own knowledge of tone. Learners will mix colors and explore combinations of colors to recreate form and mood. This course is a prerequisite for IGCSE Prep and is a requirement for students considering IGCSE Art and Design.

Photography: In this course, students will discover the basic concepts of digital photography. They will understand the history of photography and how it impacts the world. Students will gain an understanding of the mechanics of a DSLR camera, lenses and basic photographic equipment. Students will explore the elements and principles of art and design as they relate to composition, space, exposure, light and colour. Students in this course will also be responsible for documenting school events and activities.

Pottery: This course will introduce students to various forms of working with clay and ceramics, including both hand building and throwing using a pottery wheel.

Music Electives

Adungu Ensemble: We will explore the basics of this beautiful string instrument from Uganda, learning to play chords and melodies through a series of fun and appropriate repertoire. No prior knowledge is required for this class, but we are expected to take part in school performances.

Choir: Through a variety of fun and meaningful pieces, students will learn fundamental vocal technique, ensemble skills, basic music literacy, and ear training through the preparation and performance of a variety of appropriate repertoire. There will possibly be two required concerts throughout the year (one for each semester), as well as other opportunities in and out of school. Solo opportunities are available but not required. Students can continue this class if they had it in the first semester, and they can join it anew if they did not.

Percussion: We will have fun learning drum patterns from different parts of Uganda. Drums are more than just a music instrument; they are a tool of communication and teach us a lot about Ugandan culture. This class is open to all students, but preferably those who haven't done it before.

Worship Band: This is for students with prior instrumental experience and will provide opportunities to develop ensemble skills as they begin an exciting year of learning what it's like to be part of a band. They will perform in several concerts during the school year as well as learn the fundamentals of music notation, basic chord patterns, and instrument care and maintenance. Instruments explored will include keyboard, guitar (electric & acoustic), drums, and voice. This class is designed for students who already play instruments. The number of spaces available in this class is limited.

Xylophone Ensemble: In this course we will learn to play xylophones in a variety of styles through exploring and performing a wide range of repertoire. It is a fun class that offers a fun way to develop ensemble skills. An ability to read notes in the treble clef would be helpful but not required.

Physical Education Electives

Basketball: Students learn the skills, rules and techniques of basketball. Through this process, students develop sportsmanship, integrity, respect, fairness, good communication and teamwork.

Fitness: This fun course endeavours to equip students with theoretical and practical knowledge on staying healthy and keeping fit through a variety of workout programmes and fitness challenges.

Swimming: Students learn the skills, rules and techniques of swimming. Through this process, students develop sportsmanship, integrity, respect, fairness, good communication and teamwork.

Tag Rugby: Students learn the skills, rules and techniques of tag rugby. Through this process, students develop sportsmanship, integrity, respect, fairness, good communication and teamwork.

Volleyball: Students learn the skills, rules and techniques of volleyball. Through this process, students develop sportsmanship, integrity, respect, fairness, good communication and teamwork.

Other Electives

Christian Service: Students will have the opportunity to participate in a range of Christian service activities. Through a partnership with local schools and NGOs, students will engage with less privileged students and learn more about the community where they come from. Possible service activities include teaching ICT skills, paired reading and sports friendlies.

Computer Programming: Students will be introduced to programming software and apply the basics of programming in a range of creative situations.

Dance fitness: Get moving and have fun with this high-energy dance fitness class set to positive, uplifting Christian music. No dance experience is needed. You'll build strength, improve cardio fitness, and follow professionally choreographed routines, guided by a live instructor. It's a great way to stay active, build healthy habits, and support your overall well-being.

Microfarming: Microfarming learners are encouraged to recognize and appreciate the beauty in God's creation within nature. It also stirs up a sense of responsibility in nurturing and preserving nature no matter where one finds oneself. By this, learners are inspired to develop sustainable methods and practices to achieve the best yields despite limited space and resources while beautifying urban spaces.

Scratch Programming: Programming with Scratch introduces students to coding through a fun, visual platform. Using drag-and-drop blocks, students create animations, games, and interactive stories. It teaches key concepts like loops, conditionals, and events, while

building creativity, logical thinking, and problem-solving skills, making it perfect for beginners learning to code.

Web Authoring: Ideal for students who love the idea of being creative with technology. We use MS Web Expression for our HTML, and if time permits, we get involved in CSS to enhance our website projects. They will have about 2/3 projects during the duration of the course. It's fun and makes students creative.

Web design: Students will be introduced to webpage software and learn to create and replicate simple websites using this software. Skills include the addition of images and links to other pages.

Being Organised

One of the things we will ask you to do is be organised. Plan to learn and plan to be your best. All books will be given to you, and you will be expected to look after them well. You will even be given a locker to use to keep all your books and equipment in.

We expect you to have with you at all times your 'Fab 4'.

- A pencil case containing a pen, a pencil, an eraser, a ruler and a highlighter
- A reading book
- A bottle of water
- Your Planner – given to you by the school