



LAAS LONATI ANGLO-AMERICAN SCHOOL
MIDDLE SCHOOL – SCUOLA SECONDARIA DI PRIMO GRADO NON PARITARIA
Via Bormioli, 60 - 25135 Brescia

LAAS Middle School Grade 7 Program of Studies – Year-long Courses

Mathematics I

Mathematics I provides an investigative approach to the learning of math. Students are encouraged to develop mathematical skills, initiative and a transdisciplinary approach that encourage results. Mathematics I students examine *Aritmetica* and *Geometria* topics which include the four operations, fractions, order of operations (*espressioni*), polygons and triangles, along with *Misure* and a systematic study of statistics and data handling (*Statistica*). Theoretical applications deepen problem solving skills.

Science I

Science I assists students to develop an understanding of key concepts as they begin to scientifically make sense of the world around them. Students are introduced to scientific terminology and reasoning skills through various concepts and analyses, following which, the Scientific Method is carefully examined. Students explore physical science, life science and environmental topics while also participating in laboratory activities that encourage and support further scientific understanding and application of concepts.

Humanities I

Humanities I examines how people have lived and documented the human experience over time. It uses history, geography, philosophy, religion, literature, economics and government as a basis for understanding human achievement. The course begins a series of three Humanities classes offered in English in consecutive grades at LAAS Middle School. In Humanities I, students focus on the people and events between pre-history and the 1st century CE, including major river civilizations, as well as ancient Greece and imperial Rome.

English Language Arts I

English Language Arts I encourages students to develop and deepen their use of the English language as readers, writers and presenters. Fundamental to this is the growth of skills and use of strategies that promote and support: comprehension of various forms of literature and differing text types; expression of the self through a variety of writing formats; expansion of research knowledge for interdisciplinary use; engagement with differing forms of communication; and awareness of word choice, content, organization and mechanics of the English language.

Italian I

Il corso di Italiano I ha come obiettivo incrementare, negli studenti italiani, le competenze linguistiche che sono indispensabili alla crescita e all'approfondimento della Lingua italiana. Sarà necessario non solo consolidare le competenze grammaticali, ma anche perfezionare lo studio della storia e della geografia italiana, al fine di soddisfare i requisiti specifici dell'Esame di Stato di 1° Livello Italiano – obbligatorio per tutti gli studenti italiani. Allo stesso tempo, per gli studenti che sono nuovi alla lingua italiana, verrà fornito un percorso individuale, che consenta loro di acquisire la competenza linguistica di base attraverso metodologie efficaci.

Latin I

Today, the idea of learning the language and the customs of the ancients is more and more widespread as a prerequisite for the attainment of the fundamental principles of Western civilization. Moreover, learning a classical humanistic discipline like the Latin language contributes to greater intellectual openness. In this light, Latin I aims to provide students with an introduction to Latin culture by way of studying classic texts of the Greek and Roman theatre.

Spanish I

Spanish I introduces students to the basics of the Spanish language and culture. Students focus on communication about their immediate world and daily life activities, read material on familiar topics and basic literature, and write short, directed compositions. They begin learning grammatical features while progressing in the use of the language. The level that students aim to acquire by the end of the year is A1, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Music I

Music I strives to develop comprehensive musicianship among students with a focus on musical literacy and the exploration of the fundamental characteristics of sound. Students reflect on the functions of music and the variety of musical genres, as well as on the classification of musical instruments. Additionally, they practice singing and work on their performing skills, thus improving their ability to collaborate and show empathy.

Visual Arts I

Visual Arts I introduces students to the history and techniques of Art, including principles and elements of design so as to learn how to apply them in various basic mediums to reach their creative goals. Their work is re-enforced by learning to recognize specific historic periods, cultures and styles. Students learn to appreciate drawing skills, design methods and techniques during practical lessons and discover what they developed of their own talent.

Physical Education I

Physical Education I promotes the physical health and wellness of the adolescent child. It focuses on the introduction of various sports and competitive and non-competitive games. Students are also challenged with setting personal fitness goals within their own regimen. The course gives special attention to continued age-appropriate development of conditional and coordination skills involved in artistic gymnastics, dance, athletics and various sports.



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Grade 7 Program of Studies – Semester-long Courses

Semester 1

Study Strategies

Study Strategies is a semester-long orientation course for all incoming Grade 7 students. Its purpose is to offer a host of educational strategies and techniques that are critical to academic and personal development in middle school and beyond. Lessons in this weekly course are tailored to guide and assist students in taking-in, organizing and retaining new information while confronting challenges posed by middle school assessment and social interaction. Lessons and activities are designed to foster student academic growth.

Innovations I

Innovations I is a weekly course that investigates scientific topics related to the world of technology, focusing on programming processes and the development of problem-solving skills. The course introduces innovative technology from the basics of computing, as students learn new ways of using the Windows Office package programs. An active learning method uses 'learning by doing' didactics. Additionally, students analyze the proper ways to best approach internet use and aim to study basic robotic programming with practical and entertaining exercises.

Semester 2

Teen Talks

Teen Talks is a once-weekly course designed for students to engage with topics which are particularly relevant and meaningful to them at this stage in their lives. Talks are framed on discussion questions that seek to deepen awareness and understanding of such issues as gender stereotypes, body awareness, crushes, peer communication, parent expectations, influence of technology and social media, etc. Teen Talks seeks to support students as they meet the challenges of adolescence. Through this course, students can develop an informed, pro-active approach toward challenges they may encounter as teens.

Civics

Civics promotes a greater understanding of the role of the citizen within government, including the rights and responsibilities of citizens. This once-weekly course supports classroom discussion and analysis on normative and empirical aspects of government in society. Students examine leadership, power and authority, types of government, the political spectrum, and the role of government in people's lives. Through a variety of activities and assignments, students engage with the course material, developing awareness of civic accountability.

Grade 7 Program of Studies – Elective

Ecology

Note: This course is provided for students who are exempt from preparation for the "Esame di Idoneità" and the "Esame di Stato di I livello."

The main objective of the year-long Ecology course is to achieve a comprehensive coverage of ecological principles while finding solutions to the complex problems of today's natural world. Students explore both the physical and biological features of environments and real-world applications of theories that attempt to resolve modern environmental problems. In particular, students examine habitat and species conservation, resource depletion and waste management from an aspect of environmental planning and sustainability.

Grade 7 Program of Studies – Optional Study

Flex Time

Flex Time is used as a study time for students, allowing them to privately read or complete homework in a supervised area. On certain days of the week, students may opt to stay at school for Flex Time or leave the school building at 3:15 p.m., instead of 4:10 p.m., subject to parent/guardian approval. Flex time is noted on the timetable of students. A written communication must be submitted to the School Office each time parents/guardians grant their student permission to leave at 3:15 p.m.



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LAAS Middle School Grade 8 Program of Studies – Year-long Courses

Mathematics II

Mathematics II supports students as they hone previously-acquired skills and apply new strategies to solve higher-level mathematical problems and equations. Mathematics I emphasizes advanced levels of number application (*Aritmetica*), geometry (*Geometria*) and statistics (*Statistica*). Topics include: fractions and decimals (including recurring decimals) integrated with order of operations (*espressioni*), *Radice Quadrata*, Area, the Pythagoras Theorem (*Teorema di Pitagora*), Ratio and Proportion (*Rapporti e Proporzioni*) and graphs.

Science II

Science II involves students in developing a deeper understanding of key concepts as they apply scientific reasoning and skills to real life scenarios. Students explore related topics involving physical science, life science, earth and space science and environmental studies. Middle school performance expectations combine core ideas with scientific practices and integrative concepts to support students as they develop working rational knowledge across the science disciplines.

Humanities II

Humanities II builds off of knowledge acquired in previous study, examining how people have lived and progressed across time and cross-culturally. This course is the second in a series of three Humanities classes offered in consecutive grades at LAAS Middle School. In Humanities II, students investigate the philosophic, religious, political, economic and cultural turning points within the time period between the 5th century BCE to the 14th century CE. An emphasis is placed on communication in English in a variety of forms.

English Language Arts II

English Language Arts II emboldens students to expand upon their use of the English language in order to deepen their engagement with the texts to be studied and to refine their responses to more challenging writing and speaking opportunities. Necessary to this is the continued growth of skills and accretion of strategies promoting: understanding of fiction, poetry and informational texts; expression of the self through memoir and creative writing; expansion of research citation techniques; and continued awareness of word choice, content, organization and mechanics.

Italian II

Il corso di italiano II continua ad ampliare e approfondire il genere poetico, epico e letterario in generale, in particolare il racconto. Lo studio sistematico della grammatica italiana darà particolare enfasi all'analisi logica, mirando allo sviluppo e al consolidamento delle competenze linguistiche. Lo studio della storia riguarderà i principali eventi dalla fine del Medioevo fino all'alba della società moderna, compresa la Rivoluzione Francese. Lo studio della geografia metterà in evidenza la struttura politica della penisola italiana e del continente europeo.

Latin II

Study of the language and the customs of the ancients is increasingly sought out as an indispensable subject in tune with the learning of the fundamental principles of Western civilization. As a humanistic discipline, the Latin language also inspires an open outlook toward culture and society. The Latin II program concludes the study of Latin at LAAS, with the aim being to demonstrate its underlying support of Italian grammar with logical and periodic analysis. Basic morphology is studied and completed within the final year.

Spanish II

Spanish II builds on previously-acquired skills of Spanish I, with students continuing to examine and appreciate the culture of the Spanish-speaking world while broadening and improving upon their vocabulary and grammar skills. Greater accuracy with basic language structures is emphasized with exposure to more complex language features and familiar themes in Hispanic literature. The level that students aim to acquire by the end of the year is A1-A2, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Economics

Economics is the science of studying how individuals, businesses and governments choose to make decisions to allocate resources in a world of scarcity. It also examines the motives that drive those choices. Economics at LAAS looks at the interplay between producers and consumers and the forces of supply and demand. The role of money is explored, and careers are investigated. Obtaining basic personal financial literacy in English gives students a deeper understanding of spending and savings programs aimed at their future goals.

Visual Arts II

Visual Arts II consolidates skills based on the principles and elements of design, while investigating and learning about artists, movements and events in art history assignments. The course supports greater interaction, creativity and critical analysis. Students of Visual Arts II comprehend how to use materials and techniques, recognize their ability to use various media to communicate their ideas, and learn to appreciate their own personal style.

Music II

Music II focuses on the historical development of music through different epochs (Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, and Classicism), allowing students to gain awareness of time and related transformations of musical styles and purposes. Students strengthen their knowledge of musical notation and listen to pieces of milestone-composers to develop their critical listening skills. Additionally, they practice singing and work on their performing skills, thus improving their ability to collaborate and show empathy.



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Innovations II

During Innovations II, scientific topics related to the world of technology are investigated, focusing on programming processes and developing problem solving skills. An active learning method uses 'learning by doing' didactics. The course provides an introduction to programming, beginning from the logical basics and arriving at robotics script management. The processes for handling an object in the virtual and then physical space are analyzed, using step-by-step software that becomes increasingly complex and specific.

Physical Education II

Physical Education II continues to focus on the introduction of various sports and their rules, while reinforcing coordination through increasingly complex training. Tennis, rugby and hockey are introduced to support conditional abilities. Technical and tactical training are organized in the form of games and competitions played individually and in teams.

Grade 8 Program of Studies – Electives

World Geography and Cultures

Note: This course is provided for students who are exempt from preparation for the "Esame di Idoneità" and the "Esame di Stato di I livello."
World Geography and Cultures introduces students to the study of geography and concepts involving both physical and human geography. Organized and explored by region, this year-long course in English gives students an in-depth look at the physical aspects of places around the globe with a balanced examination of world cultures, societal development, standards of living, systems of government and economic ways of

Introduction to Advertising

Note: This course is provided for students who are exempt from preparation for the "Esame di Idoneità" and the "Esame di Stato di I livello."
Introduction to Advertising offers students with an insight into the world of corporates and effective business management. Students will analyze various business strategies used in order to sell a product or service effectively. They will further examine how effective communication is used by firms to send the message to their target audience using the appropriate means of advertising and design.

Grade 8 Program of Studies – Optional Study

Flex Time

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LAAS Middle School Grade 9 Program of Studies – Year-long Courses

Mathematics III

Mathematics III reinforces previously-acquired skills and strategies involving numerical application (*Aritmetica*), algebra, geometry (*Geometria*) and statistics (*Statistica*). Critical thinking and calculated decision-making skills are encouraged through the continued execution of various logic-based strategies. A high emphasis is placed on students' independent problem solving, geometrical reasoning, manipulation of symbols, communication, numeric application and visual representations which are fundamental to the course.

Science III

Science III encourages use of previously-acquired skills and knowledge to advanced scientific studies through on-going research, laboratory activities and real life applications. Topics investigate physical science, life science and earth and space science themes. Students are required to implement research skills during their final year science fair exhibition, demonstrating a useful, relevant, sophisticated application of their achieved scientific understanding.

Humanities III

Humanities III sees the progression of humankind and its ideas across a turbulent and intriguing time period. This course is the final in a series of three Humanities classes offered in consecutive grades at LAAS Middle School. In Humanities III, general themes include the search for personal expression, scientific understanding, and individual freedom within the revolutionary period of the 14th to 18th centuries. An emphasis is placed on writing and communicating conceptual understanding in English.

English Language Arts III

English Language Arts III emphasizes reading, writing, speaking/listening and grammar/vocabulary opportunities that assist students in mastering upper-level objectives. Within the final year of Middle School, students of ELA III explore literary criticism and commentary, as well as research and writing methods to support them in completion of the LAAS Personal Investigation Project (PIP). Students also prepare for the Cambridge Preliminary (PET) exam, aiming for Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) Level B1.

Italian III

Il corso di Italiano III consolida lo studio dell'analisi logica del periodo di frasi complesse. Il lavoro in classe prende in esame sia la poesia che la letteratura fornendo strumenti linguistici e abilità di scrittura. L'esame di testi argomentativi e l'analisi di fonti storiche completano lo studio della storia dal XIX secolo ad oggi, gli studenti saranno in grado di sfruttare le proprie capacità di pensiero critico per supportare in modo convincente ed esprimere efficacemente le proprie opinioni ed idee. Verranno esplorate le regioni geografiche e le particolarità culinarie d'Italia.

Spanish III

Spanish III continues with progress made in Spanish II with an emphasis on communication and development of speaking and writing skills. Students show a greater level of accuracy when using increasingly complex language structures. A variety of texts and well-known Hispanic literature are used to encourage fluency, allowing students to deepen their knowledge of the culture. The level that students aim to acquire by the end of the year is A2, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Innovations III

During Innovations III, students examine the basics of mechanics and electronics that are the pillars of automation and robotics. They investigate the specific rules for self-managed moves and programs which make their robots autonomous. In the second half of the year, students design competing robots and industrial automations that allow them to participate in competitions.

Music III

Music III strives to further explore the development of musical history, focusing on Romantic, late-Romantic and 20th-century music. Students learn to comment on music with appropriate terminology and begin to form their own musical identities, proposing active listening activities. Additionally, they practice singing and work on their performing skills, thus improving their ability to collaborate and show empathy while becoming aware of the expressive and aesthetic values of music.

Visual Arts III

Visual Arts III provides opportunities for students to demonstrate understanding of the elements of art forms, including specialized language, concepts and processes. It furthers their knowledge of art forms by placing artworks within their historic context. Students of the course appreciate how to handle different art media, produce an art exhibition, and aim to effectively communicate their work in written and oral format explanations.

Physical Education III

Physical Education III continues to highlight various sports, their rules and the positive attitudes that sports performance encourages. Graduated training intensifies by way of moderate and vigorous workouts, reinforcing coordination and conditional skills. Activities promote muscle strength, muscle endurance, aerobic capacity, flexibility and body composition. Games and sports support advanced strategies, as students play games and compete in teams and individually.



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Personal Investigation Project (PIP)

The LAAS Personal Investigation Project is the year-long capstone program for studies at LAAS. It is explored in a class held once weekly in English. More than just a final *product*, the PIP demonstrates the *process* by which a student has acquired/enhanced/exhibited a critical skill set of abilities and talents, beginning in September and ending in June of the student's final year. The PIP takes the form of a process journal, a multi-page researched report, and an audio-visual recording in English on a topic of one's personal interest, supported by three pathways of the student's choice, including literary, historical, geographical, economic, scientific, mathematical, artistic or technical perspectives. Above all, the PIP is an accomplishment that is appreciated and celebrated by the entire school community. The PIP is what it means to be a LAAS Middle School graduate.

Grade 9 Program of Studies – Courses

Semester 1/Term 2	Semester 2/Term 1
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Journalism

Journalism encourages students to work together to develop the skills and tools necessary to create a school newspaper. Students have the opportunity to find and develop story ideas that pertain to their interests, including: Academics, Sports, Opinion, Movies and Music, International News, Fine Arts and more. Students study the history of journalism, the role it plays in modern society, journalistic ethics, and the use of satire and its relationship to the news. Essential skills – including opinion writing, persuasive language use, grammar and punctuation review, identification and evaluation of information sources, and proofreading and editing skills – are each expanded upon.

Speech/Debate

In Speech/Debate, students learn about and practice impromptu speeches with emphasis on verbal and nonverbal delivery skills (organization, projection, inflection, eye-contact, hand gestures). Students build a foundation for effective argumentation and advocacy (claim/warrant/evidence) by participating in debates and ultimately presenting a research-based persuasive speech on a class-wide controversy. The class consistently stresses critical listening skills and promotes an attitude of appreciative inquiry with exposure to diverse perspectives. Students acquire a set of transferrable argumentation and advocacy skills that they can use in a variety of experiences throughout the curriculum at LAAS and eliminate the fears associated with public speaking.

Grade 9 Program of Studies – Elective

19th and 20th Century History

Note: This course is provided for students who are exempt from preparation for the "Esame di Idoneità" and the "Esame di Stato di I livello."
This course is arranged to follow the pivotal world struggles which occurred between the rise of Napoleon and the arrival of the Internet Age, a momentous time of social, political and cultural upheaval. Timeliness and relevance of the items under study contribute to students' developing knowledge and understanding of the events of today. The course is provided in English.

Grade 9 Program of Studies – Optional Study

Flex Time

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