

QISS High School Curriculum Guide 2016 to 2017

QISS STUDENTS ARE

Passionate and active human beings who act with vitality and demonstrate a positive attitude, a strong sense of enthusiasm, and who play an active role in their communities;

Courageous individuals who act on their principles with integrity and honesty, and with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for others;

Sensitive communicators who express their ideas in multiple languages and take into consideration the values, traditions, and beliefs of others;

Intelligent, life-long learners who critically and creatively think and who effectively inquire about the world around them;

Compassionate global citizens who show empathy toward the needs and feelings of others and who have a personal commitment to community service.



QINGDAO #1 INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF SHANDONG (QISS)

QISS provides an English language-based, college-preparatory educational program to students of the expatriate community residing in Qingdao. The school is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The purpose of the school is to meet the educational needs of children of the expatriate community and to enable them to gain acceptance to the finest schools and universities throughout the world.

THE QISS MISSION

Provide a challenging academic program that develops the core character traits of vitality, courage, sensitivity, intelligence and compassion.



High School at QISS

GRADES 9-12

Students take core classes in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Students in grades 9 and 10 are also strongly encouraged to take Mandarin and Physical Education. Students complete their schedule by choosing from over 20 different electives.

AP at QISS

QISS offers on-site AP classes such as Calculus AB/BC, Chinese, Comparative Government, English Language and Composition, Human Geography, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Studio Art, Statistics, and World History.



- Situated on a state-of-the-art, purpose-built campus located in the eastern portion of Qingdao.
- QISS has small class sizes, an inspiring and supportive faculty and on-site AP classes in ten subject areas.
- The Upper School offers a wealth of enriching, after-school activities, including sports, student government, and MUN.

GRADES 9-12

The program is based on a rigorous and well-rounded curriculum that provides students the opportunity to experience a variety of age-appropriate courses related to language, science, mathematics, technology, physical education and the arts. Classes are taught using an inquiry-based approach that lends itself to inter-disciplinary projects and are assessed through performance-based authentic assessments or Key Assignments. The program is designed to prepare students for successful entrance into colleges and universities in North America, Europe, and

East Asia. Core classes in language arts, mathematics, the sciences, and social studies are based upon the U.S. Common Core, College Board, and Advanced Placement (AP) standards. The QISS core curriculum is augmented by a range of elective classes allowing students to concentrate their efforts on the AP, the Arts, Chinese, or digital publications. Students may also opt to pursue a wide sampling of electives from different disciplines.



The Common Core at QISS: Reading

READING SKILLS

Reading skills in the Upper School are tied to four specific skill sets: identifying and understanding key ideas and details, appreciating writing craft and structure, integrating background knowledge and ideas to fresh reading material, and being able to read from a range of different levels of literature and informational text.

READING SUB-SKILLS

Each reading skill is based on one or more sub-skills including: the ability to read closely and carefully, being able to pick out main ideas from a reading passage, distinguishing how people, events and ideas develop, interpreting language, analyzing text structure, evaluating the point-of-view of the writer, evaluating overall content, evaluating claims, comparing and contrasting different types of readings, and reading from texts of varying levels of complexity.



Common Core standards for reading literature and informational text

Key Ideas and Details

- Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
- Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Craft and Structure

- Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
- Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

- The curriculum at QISS follows U.S. Common Core standards for Language Arts, Mathematics, and Literacy in Social Studies, Science, and other technical subjects.
- Classes are taught using an inquiry-based approach with an emphasis on interdisciplinary projects and authentic assessments.

- Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
- Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

- Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.



The Common Core at QISS: Speaking, Listening, and Language

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Speaking and listening skills in the Upper School are tied to two specific skill sets – comprehension of expressions and collaboration with others, and presenting knowledge and ideas.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Language skills are based on three main skill sets: knowledge and utilization of standard grammar and spelling rules, general knowledge about how language functions, and the acquisition and everyday use of the English language.

COMMON CORE IN ALL CLASSES

English is the language of instruction and communication at QISS. As such, the standards pertaining to reading, speaking, listening, and language are common to all classes at QISS.



Common Core standards for speaking and listening

Comprehension and Collaboration

1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
3. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.
6. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

Common Core standards for language

Conventions of Standard English

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Knowledge of Language

3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.
5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
6. Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.



COMMON CORE MATHEMATICS

All mathematics courses at QISS involve the acquisition and constant practice of a number of basic numeracy skills. That is exactly what the Common Core for Mathematics provides. So whether a student is entering into our Grade 6 Math course or our AP Calculus course, these basic skills will be reinforced.

The Common Core at QISS: Mathematics



Common Core standards for number and quantity

1. The Real Number System
 - Extend the properties of exponents to rational exponents
 - Use properties of rational and irrational numbers.
2. Quantities
 - Reason quantitatively and use units to solve problems
3. The Complex Number System
 - Perform arithmetic operations with complex numbers
 - Represent complex numbers and their operations on the complex plane
 - Use complex numbers in polynomial identities and equations
4. Vector and Matrix Quantities
 - Represent and model with vector quantities
 - Perform operations on vectors
 - Perform operations on matrices and use matrices in applications.

Common Core standards for Algebra and functions

1. Seeing Structure in Expressions
 - Interpret the structure of expressions
 - Write expressions in equivalent forms to solve problems
2. Arithmetic with Polynomials and Rational Expressions
 - Perform arithmetic operations on polynomials
 - Understand the relationship between zeros and factors of polynomials
 - Use polynomial identities to solve problems
 - Rewrite rational expressions
3. Creating Equations
 - Create equations that describe numbers or relationships
4. Reasoning with Equations and Inequalities
 - Understand solving equations as a process of reasoning and explain the reasoning
 - Solve equations and inequalities in one variable and solve systems of equations
 - Represent and solve equations and inequalities graphically
5. Interpreting Functions
 - Understand the concept of a function and use function notation
 - Interpret functions that arise in applications in terms of the context
 - Analyze functions using different representations
6. Building Functions
 - Build a function that models a relationship between two quantities
 - Build new functions from existing functions
7. Linear, Quadratic, and Exponential Models
 - Construct and compare linear, quadratic, and exponential models and solve problems
 - Interpret expressions for functions in terms of the situation they model
8. Trigonometric Functions
 - Extend the domain of trigonometric functions using the unit circle
 - Model periodic phenomena with trigonometric functions
 - Prove and apply trigonometric identities



The Common Core at QISS: Mathematics

FOCUS ON SKILLS

The Common Core at QISS focuses on five basic sets of mathematical skills that run throughout at Upper School courses. They are: basic number and quantity skills, algebraic skills, skills involving the use and manipulation of functions, geometric skills, and skills relating to the use and application of statistics and probability.



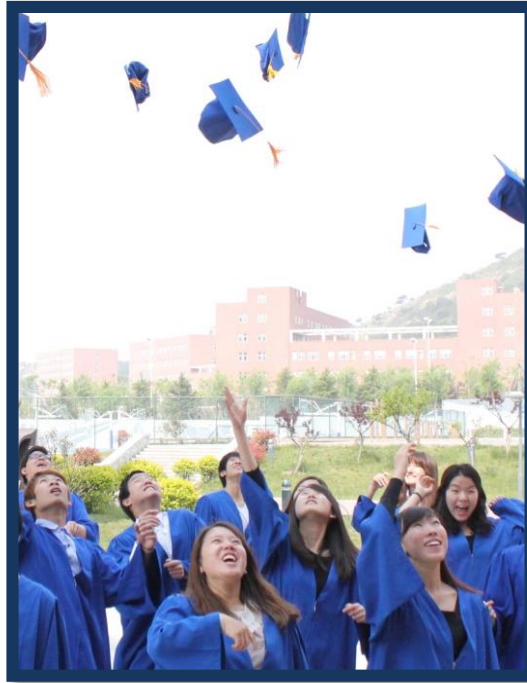
Common Core standards for statistics and probability

1. Interpreting Categorical and Quantitative Data
 - Summarize, represent, and interpret data on a single count or measurement variable
 - Summarize, represent, and interpret data on two categorical and quantitative variables
 - Interpret linear models
2. Making Inferences and Justifying Conclusions
 - Understand and evaluate random processes underlying statistical experiments
 - Make inferences and justify conclusions from sample surveys, experiments and observational studies
3. Conditional Probability and the Rules of Probability
 - Understand independence and conditional probability and use them to interpret data
 - Use the rules of probability to compute probabilities of compound events in a uniform probability model
4. Using Probability to Make Decisions
 - Calculate expected values and use them to solve problems
 - Use probability to evaluate outcomes of decisions

Common Core standards for Geometry

1. Congruence
 - Experiment with transformations in the plane
 - Understand congruence in terms of rigid motions
 - Prove geometric theorems
 - Make geometric constructions
2. Similarity, Right Triangles, and Trigonometry
 - Understand similarity in terms of similarity transformations
 - Prove theorems involving similarity
 - Define trigonometric ratios and solve problems involving right triangles
 - Apply trigonometry to general triangles
3. Circles
 - Understand and apply theorems about circles
 - Find arc lengths and areas of sectors of circles
4. Expressing Geometric Properties with Equations
 - Translate between the geometric description and the equation for a conic section
 - Use coordinates to prove simple geometric theorems algebraically
5. Geometric Measurement and Dimension
 - Explain volume formulas and use them to solve problems
 - Visualize relationships between two-dimensional and three-dimensional objects
6. Modeling with Geometry
 - Apply geometric concepts in modeling situations

High School Schedule and Graduation Requirements at QISS:



The High School Schedule

QISS has a 4x4, block schedule. High School students take eight classes per semester, and each class meets for 80 minutes every other day. Because their eight classes meet every other day, students only have four classes each day: their four “A-Day” classes that meet on every A-Day and their four “B-Day” classes that meet on every B-Day. This means that students can maximize their preparation and study time in the evenings with a good work-life balance, without being overloaded with homework.

Core Classes and Elective Classes

Every QISS High School student has four “core” classes each year: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. These core classes are augmented with four “elective” classes such as Chinese, Physical Education, the Arts, IT. Some AP classes are also offered as elective classes at QISS.

Graduation Requirements

QISS students must have 26 high school credits to graduate. In addition to this requirement, students may not have more than 1 study period per semester. The specific **minimum** credit requirements are as follows:

Language Arts	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Sciences	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Foreign Language	2 credits
Physical Education	2 credits
Fine Arts	2 credits

Students can graduate with a QISS Honors Diploma by earning 28 total credits with a minimum of 4 credits in each core subject and maintaining a 3.5 GPA.

A QISS Honors Diploma with Distinction requires 28 credits and a GPA of 3.8.

Grade 9 at QISS:



GRADE 9 CORE SEQUENCE AT QISS

Language Arts
Mathematics
Integrated Science
Early Modern World History
Chinese (suggested Elective)
PE (suggested Elective)
Elective
Elective

QISS LANGUAGE & PE REQUIREMENT

We require two years of high school study of a foreign language and two years of high school PE in order to graduate from QISS. Because of this requirement, we strongly suggest to 9th and 10th grade students that they take both Chinese (Beginning, Intermediate, or Advanced) and PE as part of their elective choices.

Other electives suitable for Grade 9 students are: AP Studio Art, Astronomy, Model United Nations (MUN), TOEFL Prep, ELL, Support, Ceramics, Chorus, HTML/CSS, Concert Band, Painting, Printmaking, Student Publications, Theater, and Yearbook.

Language Arts

This class is designed to help students develop mature skills as readers, writers and speakers of the English language. The course covers four broad thematic units that simultaneously expose the students to the fundamentals of academic and creative writing, speaking and listening. Students will be guided through the process of critically analyzing poems, short stories, and novels from a variety of authors and genres. They will learn to become conscious of the ways that an author's choices – the tone, diction, symbolism, characterization, and other literary techniques – work together to create meaning and effect. The student's own abilities to express their ideas creatively and concisely will also be a major focus of the course. Written assignments, including formal essays, news articles, letters, stories, and poems, will encourage students to reflect on the

Mathematics

Grade 9 Math is an integrated math program allowing students to study topics in algebra, geometry, number, discrete math, statistics & probability. Students will also learn how to apply mathematical theory to everyday living. The program builds the knowledge and skills necessary to understand and apply mathematics in upper grades.

Advisory

The first 30 minutes of every day are spent in **Advisory**. Each homeroom has one or more advisors that work closely with a small group of students, allowing them to get to know their group extremely well. During this time they work on their student portfolios, perform a weekly challenge that requires them to work as a team, practice reading comprehension strategies, and write and reflect on student life at QISS. Advisors will keep on top of their students' grades and act as an advocate for them in the school.

Integrated Science

Grade 9 Science is an **Integrated Science** program allowing students to study topics in biology, physics and chemistry. There is an emphasis on learning through laboratory work and understanding science in our daily lives. The topics we will explore this year are The Particle Nature of Matter, Electrostatic and Atomic Structure, Thermal Energy and Heat, Acids, Bases and Salts, and Electricity and Magnetism.

Early Modern World History

This course encourages students to develop a keen awareness of the past through giving students ample opportunities to explore, analyze and evaluate the rich tapestry that is the relatively recent historical record. In this particular history course, students begin their exploration with the European Renaissance and Reformation periods. While delving into the subject matter, students will analyze primary and secondary document to recognize global trends and patterns and to make connections among various world

Suitable Elective Options

Chinese (suggested), Physical Education (suggested), AP Studio Art, Astronomy, Model United Nations (MUN), ELL Support, TOEFL Prep, Ceramics, Chorus, HTML/CSS, Concert Band, Painting, Printmaking, Student Publications, Theater, and Yearbook.



GRADE 10 SEQUENCE AT QISS

Language Arts
Mathematics
Integrated Science
Modern World History
Chinese (suggested Elective)
PE (suggested Elective)
Elective
Elective

QISS LANGUAGE & PE REQUIREMENT

We require two years of high school study of a foreign language and two years of high school PE in order to graduate from QISS. Because of this requirement, we strongly suggest to 9th and 10th grade students that they take both Chinese (Beginning, Intermediate, or Advanced) and PE as part of their elective choices.

Other electives suitable for sophomore students are: AP Studio Art, AP Human Geography, AP World History, Model United Nations (MUN), TOEFL Prep, ELL, Support, Ceramics, Chorus, HTML/CSS, Concert Band, Painting, Physical Education, Printmaking, Student Publications, Theater, and Yearbook.

Grade 10 at QISS:



Language Arts

This course is intended to deepen students' understanding of the English language. The course covers four broad thematic units that simultaneously expose students to the fundamentals of communication while discussing themes of current and historical importance. Students will work towards becoming critical readers of literature. Poems, short stories, essays, articles, and novels from a variety of authors and genres will be closely studied, and the students will apply the skills of comprehension, interpretation, analysis, synthesis, and critical evaluation to the texts. The students' own abilities to express their ideas creatively and concisely in both writing and speaking will also be a major focus of the course. Written assignments, including formal essays, news articles, letters, stories, and poems, as well as ongoing informal writing will encourage students to reflect on the concepts and strategies of the authors we study and to apply these techniques to their own work.

Math 10

This course builds on what students previously learned in algebra. In the first semester the class focuses on understanding and applying linear and quadratic equations, inequalities and systems. Students will become familiar with the use of technology to aid in the process of solving complex mathematical problems. In the spring the class learns higher order functions and polynomials, including rational, exponential and logarithmic equations. Students will also receive an introduction to probability and trigonometry, both key areas entering Precalculus next year.

Advisory

The first 30 minutes of every day are spent in **Advisory**. Each homeroom has one or more advisors that work closely with a small group of students, allowing them to get to know their group extremely well. During this time they work on their student portfolios, perform a weekly challenge that requires them to work as a team, practice reading comprehension strategies, and write and reflect on student life at QISS. Advisors will keep on top of their students' grades and act as an advocate for them in the school.

Integrated Science

Grade 10 Science is an **Integrated Science** program allowing students to study topics in biology, physics and chemistry. There is an emphasis on learning through laboratory work and understanding science in our daily lives. The topics we will explore this year are Matter & Bonding, Genetics & Evolution, Chemical Reactions & Enzymes, and The Biochemistry of Nutrition.

Modern World History

This course encourages students to develop a keen awareness of the past through giving students ample opportunities to explore, analyze and evaluate the rich tapestry that is the relatively recent historical record. This particular course begins its' explorations with the industrial Revolution. While delving into the subject matter, students will learn to think historically, to read for historical understanding by analyzing primary and secondary documents, and to recognize global connections. Major units of study in this course include imperialism and neocolonialism, the World Wars, the Cold War, and the Post-Cold War era.

Suitable Elective Options

Chinese (suggested), Physical Education (suggested), AP Studio Art, AP Human Geography, AP World History, Astronomy, Model United Nations (MUN), ELL Support, TOEFL Prep, Ceramics, Chorus, HTML/CSS, Concert Band, Painting, Printmaking, Student Publications, Theater, and Yearbook.



Grade 11 at QISS:



GRADE 11 SEQUENCE AT QISS

Language Arts
Pre-Calculus
Chemistry
Asian Studies
Elective
Elective
Elective
Elective

Elective Options

The QISS 8-period schedule means a lot of elective options for Grade 11 students. Students earn more credits toward their graduation requirements and have the opportunity to choose from a very wide variety of courses.

Students may choose: AP Chinese, AP Economics, AP Language, AP Calculus, AP Human Geography, AP World History, AP Studio Art, Ceramics, Chinese (Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced), Chorus, HTML/CSS, Concert Band, ELL Support, Model United Nations (MUN), TOEFL Prep, Painting, Physical Education, Printmaking, Student Publications, Theater, and Yearbook

Language Arts

Language Arts – This course is designed to help students develop mature skills as readers, writers and speakers of the English language. The course covers four broad thematic units that simultaneously expose students to the fundamentals of academic and creative writing, speaking, and listening. Students will be guided through the process of critically analyzing poems, short stories, and novels from a variety of authors and genres. They will learn to become conscious of the ways that an author's choices – the tone, diction, symbolism, characterization, and other literary techniques – work together to create meaning and effect. The students' own abilities to express their ideas creatively and concisely will also be a major focus of the course. Written assignments, including formal essays, news articles, letters, stories, and poems, will encourage students to reflect on the concepts and strategies of the authors we study and to apply these techniques to their own work.

Pre-Calculus

This course uncovers the mathematical concepts and skills that are the foundations of calculus. In the process of preparing students for the AP Calculus course next year, particular emphasis will be placed on learning to approximate models of real-world situations and using these to predict outcomes. We will regularly look at problems from various points of view: verbal, algebraic, graphical and numerical. Graphing calculators will be used extensively as a tool to enhance the learning process. Major topics to be covered in the course include: 1) mathematical relationships, functions, and graphs; 2) trigonometry; 3) advanced functions and graphing; 4) discrete mathematics; and 5) exponential and logarithmic functions.

Advisory

The first 30 minutes of every day are spent in **Advisory**. Each homeroom has one or more advisors that work closely with a small group of students, allowing them to get to know their group extremely well. During this time they work on their student portfolios, perform a weekly challenge that requires them to work as a team, practice reading comprehension strategies, and write and reflect on student life at QISS. Advisors will keep on top of their students' grades and act as an advocate for them in the school.

Chemistry

This course will focus upon the major concepts in Chemistry. The science of Matter will be explored through lecture, demonstrations, readings and laboratory work. During the course, the student will learn how matter is categorized and how matter reacts. Students will also delve deeply in atomic and molecular theory, the causes of chemical reactions, and the properties and structure of matter. One of the objectives of the course is to encourage students to appreciate the development of chemistry which is an abstract science.

Asian Studies

In Asian Studies, students will explore the history and culture of various countries in Asia. Special focus will be placed on building an understanding of historical perspective and cause and effect, as well as developing skills in historical inquiry, analysis, and critical thinking. Students will understand the patterns of change and continuity, relationships between people and events through time, and various interpretations of these relationships, concepts of geography and demography and how they influence and are influenced by human history, and the environmental and cultural processes that shaped Asian societies from the earliest settlements until the present day. The main units of the course include: an introduction to Asia, the development of Asian societies, Asia and the West, Asia in conflict, Asia during the Cold War, and current issues in Asia.



Developing
Mindful Hearts

GRADE 12 SEQUENCE AT QISS

- Language Arts (AP option)
- AP Calculus or Statistics (AP option)
- Environmental Science (AP option)
- Comparative Government (AP option)
- Elective
- Elective
- Elective
- Elective

Elective Options

AP Chinese, AP Chemistry, AP Economics, AP English Language and Composition, AP Calculus AB/BC, AP Human Geography, AP World History, AP Studio Art, Ceramics, Chinese (Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced), Chorus, HTML/CSS, Concert Band, ELL Support, Model United Nations (MUN), TOEFL Prep, Painting, Physical Education, Printmaking, Student Publications, Theater, and Yearbook

Grade 12 at QISS:



Language Arts

This course is intended to reinforce the skills and understandings acquired during students' high school years and to prepare them for the demands of university level reading and writing. As seniors, the students will focus primarily on developing the highest levels of reading skills, aiming to develop their abilities to synthesize information and to critically evaluate information. Poems, short stories, essays, articles, and novels from a variety of authors and genres will be closely examined so that students may reflect on the nuances of textual meaning, the ways readers, writers, and texts themselves interact to create meaning and effect. As writers and speakers, the students will work on developing their abilities to express their ideas with denotative accuracy and connotative weight. Written assignments, including formal academic essays, news articles, letters, stories, and poems, will encourage students to reflect on the concepts and strategies of the authors we study and to apply these techniques to their own work.

AP Calculus AB & BC

This is an AP course, a rigorous and demanding college level course. We will work together to discover and develop an appreciation of calculus while preparing you to perform your best on the AP Calculus AB or BC examination. We will work to understand calculus physically, numerically, graphically, and verbally. You will be regularly assessed through homework, quizzes, and tests. Past AP multiple-choice and free-response questions will be included on these assessments. On these assessments, you will be required to justify your answers in well-written sentences. We will use a graphing calculator throughout the year, although there will be many problems you will need to solve without the use of a calculator.

Advisory

The first 30 minutes of every day are spent in **Advisory**. Each homeroom has one or more advisors that work closely with a small group of students, allowing them to get to know their group extremely well. During this time they work on their student portfolios, perform a weekly challenge that requires them to work as a team, practice reading comprehension strategies, and write and reflect on student life at QISS. Advisors will keep on top of their students' grades and act as an advocate for them in the school.

Statistics (AP option)

In this course students learn how to gather, analyze and interpret sample data. Students learn terminology, acquire mathematical skills and develop technological proficiencies. They will cover measures of center, spread and shape. They will learn how to calculate and apply probability to solving real-world problems. They will learn how to read, understand and present statistical data in the broader context of history or politics. This class is being taught using an AP curriculum and as such the students will have the opportunity to take the AP Statistics exam in the spring.

Environmental Science

During this class, we shall explore how living things interact in the environment and we shall analyze a number of different environmental problems. Environmental awareness and understanding of causes, effects, and solutions facing today's world will be promoted throughout the course. Students will be challenged with see the world through the lens of the Scientific Method. Major units of study in the course include: ecology, air and the atmosphere, water and the hydrosphere, land and ecosystems, and energy.

Comparative Government

This is a course designed to introduce students to the fundamental concepts used by political scientists to study the processes and outcomes of politics in a variety of country settings. The course aims to illustrate the rich diversity of political life, to show available institutional alternatives, to explain differences in processes and policy outcomes, and to communicate to students the importance of global political and economic changes.



QISS High School Elective Course Descriptions

AP Calculus* This course will cover both the AB and BC portions of the AP Calculus curriculum. This course is recommended for students that successfully completed Precalculus or students that have already completed AP Calculus AB. This is a challenging course that covers university level mathematics and is an excellent choice for students wishing to prepare themselves for university as well as adding another AP test to their résumés. This is a two semester course.

AP Chinese Language and Culture* This course consists of two essential aspects: Chinese language and Chinese culture. Because language and culture are so closely intertwined, culture is acquired in the process of learning a language, and language is learned when studying culture. As such, students should try to absorb as much Chinese culture as possible while learning the language. Developing students' awareness and appreciation of the elements of the culture of Chinese-speaking people is a pervasive theme throughout the AP Chinese Language and Culture course. Throughout the course, students also develop necessary knowledge of the Chinese language, including pronunciation, vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, grammatical structures, and written characters.

AP Economics*: This year-long elective will provide you with a thorough understanding of the principles of microeconomics (semester 1) and macroeconomics (semester 2). The microeconomics course focuses on basic economic theory, product markets, factor (resource) markets, and the role of government (studied in the context of efficiency and equity). The macroeconomics course focuses on measurement and analysis of national economies and the international economy. If you take this course, you are expected to take the AP Macro and AP Macro examinations at the end of the school year.

AP English Language and Composition*: The AP English Language and Composition course engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects, as well as the way genre conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. The purpose of this course is to enable students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers.

AP Human Geography*: The purpose of the AP Human Geography course is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students learn to employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. **This exam fulfills the global perspectives requirements for the AP International Diploma.**

AP Studio Art*: This class is designed for students to demonstrate mastery of a variety of artistic media. Students will prepare a portfolio that demonstrates individual strengths which will be evaluated by the AP College Board at the end of the course. Portfolios are classified into three categories; 2-D, 3-D & drawing.



QISS High School Elective Course Descriptions

AP World History*: This course content is structured around the investigation of five course themes and 19 key concepts in six different chronological periods, from approximately 8000 B.C.E. to the present. The main themes are Interaction between Humans and the Environment; Development and Interaction of Cultures; State-Building, Expansion, and Conflict; Creation, Expansion, and Interaction of Economic Systems; and Development and Transformation of Social Structures. **This exam fulfills the global perspectives requirements for the AP International Diploma.**

Astronomy: The goal of Astronomy class is for you to gain an appreciation of the oldest branch of science. We will be studying the constellations, the sun, stars, planets, comets, asteroids, and meteors. You will also learn about space travel and the possibility of life on other planets.

Ceramics: Ceramics is designed to give students a sophisticated understanding of the complexities of working with clay. Students will be able to create a vessel using a wide variety of techniques including basic hand building, wheel throwing, and surface design. We will examine the rich and varied history of ceramics as well as the exciting contemporary ceramics scene. Students will be actively involved in the process of glazing, firing, and other studio responsibilities. An emphasis will be placed on researching and planning in order to ensure a successful final piece that has special attention paid to both form and surface design. Students will actively participate in group critiques and self-evaluations. This course is designed to accommodate beginning to advanced students.

Chinese HSK, Advanced, Intermediate and Beginning*: The Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi, abbreviated as HSK, is the People's Republic of China's only standardized test of Standard Mandarin Chinese proficiency for non-native speakers. It is also known as the "Chinese Proficiency Test". Chinese Beginning and Intermediate are for the students whose Chinese level is low, but are interested in learning Chinese and understanding China and Chinese culture.

Chinese for Native Speakers*: This rigorous Chinese language course is designed for our students who speak Mandarin as their first language and will focus on advanced reading and writing skills.

Chorus: an ensemble for anyone who loves to sing. No prior experience necessary. We will learn classic choral works, world folk songs, and some contemporary favorites. Join us!

Concert Band/Wind Ensemble*: Calling all musicians! Can you play a wind instrument? Would you like to play in a concert band? This class is open to students who have at least one year experience playing a wind instrument (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, etc.) and is ideally suited for students who have come through the QISS Middle School Band Program. Possibilities also exist for one bass guitar player and a percussionist to be part of the ensemble. Music selection will occur once the instrumentation is determined.

ELL Support: This course is ideally suited for students new to an English language school. Students receive extra language support from Language Arts/ELL teachers while getting help on their coursework in various subjects.

HTML/CSS: The goal of this course is to introduce students to the content and skills to be able to create effective web pages using Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS). The course includes web page and web site design concepts and preparation of graphics for the web, with the primary focus on implementation of the design. This on-line course combines textbook readings, textbook assignments, Internet readings, and hands-on computer work. The course is intended for the beginning web page developer.



QISS High School Elective Courses

MUN: The Model United Nations (MUN) course is a unique, semester-long elective class. The purpose of QISS-MUN is to increase your knowledge about international issues, policy making and the activities of the United Nations. You will also gain valuable skills in public speaking, research and writing, negotiation and powers of persuasion, leadership, organization, and interpersonal communication. You will gain these skills through course assignments and, most importantly, by playing the role of United Nations delegates at MUN conferences. By taking this class, you will be expected to represent QISS as a MUN delegate at a local and/or a national Model UN conference.

Painting: This course is designed to assist students in developing skills in a variety of painting media such as watercolor, acrylic and oil paints. Students will be able to better communicate their own ideas and concepts in a successful composition by learning how to plan and execute a painting from concept to completion. Techniques such as application, color theory, and the principles of design will be taught in conjunction with the study of contemporary artists and art history. Students will actively participate in group critiques and self evaluations. This course is designed to accommodate beginning to advanced students.

Physical Education (PE): The Physical Education program provides each student with the opportunity to find success at their own level. Our curriculum provides students the opportunity to develop body awareness, explore movement, learn various games, improve sport-specific skills, and experience individual and team sports.

Printmaking: Students will discover the endless creative possibilities of printmaking during this course. We will examine the history and current state of printmaking as well as a variety of techniques such as carving, etching, monotypes & serigraphy. Students will be guided through the entire printmaking process, detailing every step. An emphasis will be placed on researching, planning, and composition in order to ensure a successful final print that demonstrates a sophisticated creative thought process. Students will actively participate in group critiques and self evaluations. This course is designed to accommodate beginning to advanced students.

Student News Publication: Students will explore various mediums of broadcasting information. They will work on gathering academic and entertaining content through the school and present it quarterly.

Theater Production: This semester-long class will take you through the steps to putting on a play. You will be performing, writing, directing, costuming, lighting, and learning about a production. The goal is to create a play from an already existing first act, and our creation of a second act. Culminating the semester will be the performance of this production. Interspersed in the class will be lessons on the theory and method of naturalist acting.

TOEFL Preparation: This course will focus on developing the vocabulary, reading comprehension, speaking, and writing skills necessary to succeed on the TOEFL examination. This class is one semester long and students will have the option to take it in the fall or in the spring (but not both). This course will culminate with a full length simulated and scored TOEFL exam.

Yearbook*: Yearbook is an intensive yearlong elective that is dedicated to documenting and publishing a year in the life of our school. It is a relaxed atmosphere where students learn valuable skills and software focused on design, photography, journalism, editing and publishing. In addition, this elective prepares you to manage yearlong projects, develop a professional work ethic and working with strict deadlines. This elective is for you if you: 1. Are creative and enjoy the creative process. 2. Have a working knowledge of Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and In-design. 3. Work well in groups and are driven to work independently. 4. Love to write and take pictures.

QISS Upper School Program at a Glance

Middle School Program

	English Language	Math	Social Studies	Science	Chinese	Physical Education	Specialist Classes	The Arts
Grade 6	Language Arts 6	Math 6	Geography	Integrated Science I	Chinese (Levels 1, 2, 3)	PE 6	Health, IT (integrated into other subjects)	Art, Theater Music
Grade 7	Language Arts 7	Math 7	Ancient Civilizations	Integrated Science II	Chinese (Levels 1, 2, 3)	PE 7	IT, Health (integrated into other subjects)	Art, Theater Music
Grade 8	Language Arts 8	Math 8	World History I	Integrated Science III	Chinese (Levels 1, 2, 3)	PE 8	IT, Health (integrated into other subjects)	Art, Theater Music

High School Program

	English Language	Math	Social Studies	Science	Electives (Students choose 4)
Grade 9	Language Arts 9	Math 9	World History II	Science 9	Students choose from among: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP Calculus AB/BC • AP Chinese • AP English Lang. & Comp. • AP Human Geography • AP Micro/macroeconomics • AP Studio Art • AP World History • Astronomy • Ceramics • Chinese HSK (Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced) • Chinese for Native Speakers • Chorus • Concert Band • ELL Support • HTML/CSS • Model United Nations (MUN) • Painting • Physical Education • Printmaking • Student News • Theatre Production • TOEFL Preparation • Yearbook
Grade 10	Language Arts 10	Advanced Algebra	Modern World History	Science 10	
Grade 11	Language Arts 11	Pre-Calculus	Asian Studies	Chemistry	
Grade 12	Language Arts	Statistics (AP option)	Comparative Government (AP option)	Environmental Science	