



NOTRE DAME MARIST ACADEMY
MIDDLE DIVISION

What is the Middle Years Programme?

Notre Dame is an authorized International Baccalaureate World School, offering the Middle Years Programme to students in 6th through 10th grade. The MYP provides a curriculum framework that allows participants to develop the knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes they need to be effective in a world of increasing globalism. In the MYP, teachers collaborate to organize, design and implement a concept-driven curriculum over eight content areas. (See facing page.)

MYP Features

- Interdisciplinary learning, which helps students discover and cultivate relationships between knowledge areas and the real world
- Interactive learning, evidenced by problem-solving activities, hands-on experimentation, organized debates, analysis, investigation and reflection, done independently and collaboratively
- Service and action within the community through real-world experiences
- Focused and frequent criterion-referenced formative and summative assessments of student skills and knowledge

The MYP . . .

- holistically addresses students' intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being.
- provides students opportunities to develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need in order to manage complexity and take responsible action for the future.
- ensures breadth and depth of understanding through all eight content areas.
- fosters understanding of their own and other cultures through the study of two languages.
- helps prepare students for further education, the workplace, and a lifetime of learning.

The Learner Profile

The learner profile describes a list of attributes that promote academic rigor and the establishing of a personal value system leading to international-mindedness. The programme encourages students to become:





In the Middle

The middle division curriculum, designed and implemented through the collaborative work of Notre Dame Marist Academy teachers, focuses on active learning, interdisciplinary connections and community service.

As a student at the middle division, you will enjoy a curriculum that allows you to explore both traditional and contemporary subjects within the IB framework. A snapshot of the year-by-year class load follows:

GRADE 6

Science: Science and technology, weather and atmosphere, water cycle, ecosystems, and the rock cycle

Mathematics: Pre-Algebra 6 or Honors Algebra 6

Writing and Grammar: Traits of Writing, narrative and informational writing, and keyboarding

Reading Comprehension: Narrative and informational reading, word study, and comprehension

Language Acquisition: Living Spanish (one semester) / Introduction to Mandarin Chinese (one semester)

Individuals and Societies: Geography, the study of climate, environments, resources, and people of the world

Religion (Following Christ): God's divine and natural laws, and formation of conscience

Arts: Band or Chorus

Physical Education and Health

GRADE 7

Science: Animal and plant cells, heredity and genetics, and energy transfer

Mathematics: Algebra 7 or Honors Algebra 7

Writing and Grammar: Narrative writing, research and oral speaking skills, keyboarding, and grammar

Reading Comprehension: Literary genre exploration, reading skills, and word study

Language Acquisition: Continuing Living Spanish or Mandarin Chinese 1/2

Individuals and Societies: Geography, culture, and global perspective

Religion (Life of Grace): Revelation, grace, and the moral life

Arts: Band, Chorus, or Visual Arts

Physical Education and Health



GRADE 8

Science: Chemistry, energy, motion and forces, and waves

Mathematics: Algebra 8 or Honors Geometry

Language and Literature: Contemporary and classic literature, and writing across the curriculum

Language Acquisition: Continuing Living Spanish or Mandarin Chinese 3/4

Individuals and Societies: U.S. history, forming a new nation and republic, the Civil War, and the relationship between U.S. history and current events

Religion (History of the Catholic Church): Evolution of the Church, and what it means to be Catholic

Arts: Band, Chorus, or Visual Arts; Chorus, Makerspace, or Theater*

Physical Education and Health

** Every 8th-grade student must take one year of Band, Chorus, or Visual Art as well as a semester of Makerspace, Theater, or Chorus. (Students who take the yearlong Chorus course must take a semester of Makerspace or Theater.)*

Life in the Middle

Some students come to Notre Dame when they're 3 years old. Many more come later on, like you! No matter your age or your previous education, you can find good friends, helpful teachers and a welcome home here at NDMA. One day, just like Lucas, Ashley and Alaina, you can enjoy rounded and transformational educational experiences that will help you become a better Christian, citizen and scholar.

LUCAS ANDERSON (Grade 8)

"My favorite memory from my last year in the Middle Division was Irish Week. I really enjoyed all the games, activities and bonding with friends. I also liked Ms. Schmidt's U.S. History class. Learning



about American history, various presidents and their style of governing was cool. I think it prepared me for high school at NDP, where I am excited to study these concepts in greater detail.

"One of my other favorite things about 8th grade was the Community Project, which is part of the IB Middle Years Programme. I did my project at the Older Persons' Commission in Rochester Hills, where I volunteered to clean the facility. It was extremely rewarding because it made me feel good to give back to the community, and it motivated me to engage in more of these types of projects in the future. I believe that doing service like this will make me a better person."

ASHLEY LARIMER (Grade 7)

"I had a lot of fun in 7th grade. My friends and I made a lot of memories during Irish Week, Make It Matter Day, and on our year-end trip to Cedar Point. Over the summer I also had the chance



to go to Costa Rica with my Spanish class, and that was an amazing time. During school we did a lot of things that I enjoyed, like science experiments and other fun projects that taught us about the IB Design Cycle. My favorite lesson, though, was learning about the solar system and outer space because it was very interesting.

"This was my first year at NDMA. When I first switched schools I was a bit nervous, even though I did know a few people. But even if I hadn't known anyone, the transition

would have been easy because of how friendly the students and teachers are. The teachers and staff really help the students. They always make sure we are not too stressed, and they make learning easy and fun for every student."

ALAINA POLSINELLI (Grade 6)

"My favorite thing from last year was the 6th and 7th grade overnight trip. We started off at Ford Field, where we got a behind-the-scenes tour of all the clubs and suites, and even the locker rooms! Then we went to the Toledo Zoo, the Great Wolf Lodge, and Cedar Point. It was an amazing experience, and I can't wait to do it again next year.



"Even though I've been at NDMA for a while, moving to the Middle Division still was a transition. I would say it was pretty smooth, except for getting used to remembering the combinations for my regular locker and gym locker! As a student, I really liked the group project we did in Design class. (We had to create an amusement park on Minecraft, so the Cedar Point trip helped a lot.) I also loved Art. My teacher, Ms. Zajdel, is outstanding. And with a new art studio being part of the new wing of the school, I can't wait to see where the program goes!"



NOTRE DAME

Notre Dame Marist Academy—Middle Division (grades 6–8)

1300 Giddings Rd., Pontiac, MI 48340 | Admissions: 248-373-1061
ndpma.org