



Middle School Homeroom Course Descriptions

*Homeroom is a compulsory course and is required of all Middle School students
Tuesday and Thursday Afternoons 2:40-3:20 pm*

Grade Six Homeroom

The emphasis of the first semester Homeroom meetings for Grade Six students will be study skills. Instructional activities will provide an orientation to the academic skills necessary to achieve success in the Middle School. Emphasis is placed on organization, time management, self-assessment, goal-setting, critical thinking, test preparation, and the development of basic Information Technology skills such as keyboarding and fluency in the use of software applications such as Word Document, Excel Spreadsheet, and Power Point. Upon completion, students should be able to manage their learning experiences to successfully meet the educational goals of the Middle School. In addition to Study Skills, Grade Six Homeroom will also be used as a forum to learn more about the International Baccalaureate's Middle Years Programme (Learner Profile, Areas of Interaction, Subject Area Assessment Criteria) and to address themes in character education specific to the needs of the class as a whole.

Grade Seven Homeroom

The emphasis of Homeroom meetings for Grade Seven students will be study skills, research skills, keyboarding, and Information and Design Technology. In the area of study and research skills, students will continue to develop their skills in organization and goal-setting as well as improve upon their efficiency and accuracy in keyboarding. In the area of Information Technology, students will develop their skills in the use of such software applications as Word Document, Excel, and Power Point. In Design Technology, students will learn to use the Design Cycle to create products, formulate design briefs, follow plans, and evaluate and assess final products and solutions. In addition to these skills, Grade Seven Homeroom will also be used as a forum to learn more about the Middle Years Programme (Learner Profile, Areas of Interaction, Subject Area Assessment Criteria) and to address themes in character education specific to the needs of the class as a whole.

Grade Eight Homeroom

The emphasis of Homeroom meetings for Grade Eight students will be to develop skills in research as well build upon knowledge and skills in the areas of Information and Design Technology. In the area of research, students will develop their skills in using such resources as on-line data bases and libraries (Riverstone library and the Boise Public Library), finding and evaluating primary and secondary sources, and designing research questions and conducting quality research. In the area of Information Technology, students will build upon their skills in the use of such software applications as Word Document, Excel, and Power Point. In Design Technology, students will learn to use the Design Cycle to create products, formulate design briefs, follow plans, and evaluate and assess final products and solutions. In addition to these skills, Grade Eight Homeroom will also be used as a forum to learn more about the Middle Years Programme (Learner Profile, Areas of Interaction, Subject Area Assessment Criteria) and to address themes in character education specific to the needs of the class as a whole.

Grade Nine Homeroom

The emphasis of Homeroom meetings for Grade Nine students will be split between two semesters. In the first semester, emphasis will be on Speech, Health, and Nutrition. In Health and Nutrition, students will learn about health, nutrition, and essential elements of healthy living. Upon completion of the Health Unit, students will be introduced to elements of oratory in a unit that is designed to develop students' skills and confidence in public speaking. In the second semester, students will work collaboratively in planning, organizing, and developing the school's Yearbook in a technology course that combines both Information and Design Technology. In this course, students will learn how to use the Design cycle to create a design brief, follow plans, and evaluate and assess their final product. In addition, students will learn how to use various software applications to design and format the school's Yearbook as well learn how to take quality photographs using digital technology.