



High School Course Offerings

KAIS International School

2022-2023

English

English at KAIS International School is taught through five key disciplines, two of which focus on reading (Reading Comprehension & Literature), two of which focus on writing (Academic Writing & Creative Writing), and one that focuses on building vocabulary.

Our high school English program illustrates a major component of our educational philosophy at KAIS: students will more willingly strive towards their potential when given the opportunity to express themselves and become engaged in the material. Creative Writing, for example, is designed to engage students in the act of writing and expression, which opens our students to the idea that they are “writers.” Students who consider themselves writers and take pride in their work are more apt to learning the “nuts and bolts” of writing (i.e. grammar, punctuation, spelling, syntax, etc.), which is a major focus in Academic Writing.

Our approach to the two reading disciplines embodies a similar philosophy. Literature is designed to feel more like a group of friends in a book club, with the hopes of changing student perception reading for our reluctant readers and reinforcing the love of reading in our avid readers. Students

who enjoy reading are more apt to master the “nuts and bolts” of engaging with various texts, which is the central focus of Reading Comprehension.

For the 2021-2022 school year, we are beginning our rollout of the Pre-AP program for English. This year, all 9th grade students will take Pre-AP English 1. Next year, 10th grade students will take Pre-AP English 2.

English 9

Texts take center stage in Pre-AP English 1, inspiring and preparing all students for close, critical reading and analytical writing. As writers, students focus first on crafting complex sentences, build-ing this foundational skill; they then move on to producing well-organized paragraphs and, as the year progresses, more sophisti-cated, longer-form analyses. The three focus areas - reading closely, valuing evidence, and noticing language choices - are covered over four genre-specific units - short stories and visual texts; poetry and drama; essays and arguments; and novels. The main objective of the literature portion of this course is to get young learners to engage in the act of reading and discussing novels, short stories, and poetry. For students wanting a greater challenge, we have an honors literature program. In the end, young adults who learn to love to read are able to improve the quality and range of their internal thoughts and ability to express those thoughts in the world around them.

English 10

Our 10th grade students read six grade-appropriate novels; complete reading comprehension exercises that focus on societal structures and current events; expand their vocabulary by focusing on the spelling, parts of speech, definitions and syntax of increasingly more difficult words; review the fundamental elements of simple sentence structures and learn more complex structures; and create works in various genres of writing including poetry, memoir, comparative essay, and research papers.

Literature 9 & 10

These courses are designed to enhance student reading capabilities while exposing them to a range of challenging and grade-appropriate texts. A major goal of this class is to ignite and foster a love of reading and discussing the intricacies of the written word. We will cover short stories, novels, and literary nonfiction together in this course. Students are expected to keep up with the reading assignments, ask questions in a timely manner when you need support or clarification, and come to class ready to delve deeper into the reading material through writing, discussion, and various forms of assessments.

Advanced Placement (AP) Language & Composition

This introductory college-level course is available for select 11th and 12th graders, who will read and carefully analyze a broad and challenging range of nonfiction prose selections, deepening their awareness of rhetoric and how language works. Through close reading and frequent writing, students will develop their ability to work with language and text with a greater awareness of purpose and strategy, while strengthening their composition skills. As students advance in their writing, they will refine their written work and confer with peers. They will also critically reflect on their written work, producing multiple drafts of selected assignments as part of the writing process. Students learn to use deductive reasoning (moving from the general to the particular) and inductive reasoning (moving from the particular to the specific) in their writing. To accomplish this, students will be exposed to a wide range of literary sources that will serve as models, examples, and touchstones. They will read expository, analytical, personal, imaginative, and argumentative texts from a variety of authors and historical contexts, in the form of essays, letters, speeches, poems, and drama. Additionally, students will incorporate the study of visual rhetoric, examining media such as graphs, charts, infographics, photographs, films, advertisements, comic strips, and music videos.

Language and Composition is also offered as a non-AP course.

AP Literature & Composition

This course teaches beginning-college writing through the fundamentals of rhetorical theory. We will talk essentially every day about vital aspect of writing, including invention and the rhetorical appeals, disposition, structure, and style. This class is a workshop, not a rhetoric manual — a place where students will test certain kinds of writing and attempt to recover their own recollections as part of larger cultural experiences that eventually become a people's "history." The kinds of writings in this course are varied but include writing to understand, writing to explain, and writing to evaluate. The essence of scholarship is the combination of these three approaches to writing. In the course of these workshops, students will evaluate their conscious choice of diction and the appropriate use of words, their ability to create varied and effective syntactic structures, their capacity for coherence and logical organization, their ability to balance generalizations with specific and illustrative details, and, overall, their ability to combine rhetorical processes into an effective whole. What is expected most of all from our class is hard work on the part of the individual writer and careful reading and discussion on the part of the class.

Literature and Composition is also offered as a non-AP course.

Mathematics

The emphasis of mathematics instruction at KAIS is placed on developing effective problem-solving skills and good study habits. Real life applications are frequently explored. Students also present their solutions to their peers on a regular basis. Motivated students are invited to participate in honors and Advanced Placement courses. In rare cases, the exceptional student is allowed to progress at his/her own pace and explore those mathematics topics that most spark the student's imagination.

Algebra I

This course serves to reinforce the basic arithmetic and algebraic manipulation skills learned in middle school. Students are gradually introduced to more difficult topics, including linear and quadratic functions, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, graphing, and probability.

Geometry

Geometry is perhaps the most unconventional mathematics course at KAIS. Rather than focusing on problem sets and frequent test and quizzes, Geometry teaches students how to be good math students. Reading and taking notes is an integral part of the course. Another major area of focus is the logical proof. All homework assignments involve multi-step word problems that require students to make connections between Algebra, Geometry, logic, and reading comprehension.

Algebra II

Topics covered in this advanced Algebra course include conic sections, functions and transformations, quadratic functions, rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, sequences and series, complex numbers and the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra.

Pre-Calculus

In this course, students review the many functions introduced in previous algebra courses, and survey a variety of topics that prepare students for the study of higher-level science and mathematics. Students study vectors and their applications in anticipation of Physics; asymptotes, limits and continuity in anticipation of Calculus; and matrices and mathematical induction in anticipation of Linear Algebra. Students also spend a semester exploring trigonometric functions, graphs, identities and their applications.

AP Statistics

AP Statistics is perhaps one of the most useful classes a student can take in high school. News reports regularly cite statistical studies. Political decisions affecting millions of people are often based on statistics. In this course, students learn the methods used to arrive at those conclusions, and the tools needed to test claims. Students focus both on the mechanics of statistical analysis and applications to real world settings, such as pharmaceutical experiments and quality control. The course draws on both current events and

knowledge of mathematical concepts discussed in previous classes.

Prerequisite: Algebra II

AP Calculus AB/BC

In Calculus, all of the parts from one's mathematics past come together to form both a conceptual and practical whole. Everything students have learned, from elementary operations to Pre-Calculus, are combined to help students understand everyday phenomena, such as the math behind a car whizzing by, how long it takes to drain the bath tub, and why carrying that heavy box up the stairs is so tiring. This course is divided into two parts, differentiation and integral calculus. There are certainly many new formulas and concepts to memorize and understand. However, the emphasis is always on understanding, as the many topics within Calculus are related and build upon each other.

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus

Science

Physics (grade 9)

Physics is the study of the physical world and the rules that govern it. Objects as small as electrons and as large as planets interact with each other in seemingly strange and random ways. It is the objective of Physics to shed light on these interactions and illuminate how the universe works as a whole. Both in the text and class, the focus is on grasping the underlying concepts and applying this knowledge to mathematical and practical problems. To the extent that advanced mathematics (e.g. Calculus) is required in the course, the basic concepts will be covered during this course.

Chemistry (grade 10)

Often called the “core science,” Chemistry is the study of the elements and the ways in which they interact. It is a fascinating science and one that affects everyone daily in many ways. Chemistry is dictated by logical ideas and concepts that string together in a way that is easy to comprehend. It is far less mathematical and formula based than physics and requires less memorization than Biology. Chemistry at KAIS is approached from a laboratory perspective. This means that concepts and ideas are illustrated through activities where students can “touch, hear, and smell” the science of Chemistry. Students follow up these lab activities with projects, discussions, lectures, and occasional tests to reinforce understanding of the material.

Biology (grade 11)

Biology is the study of living things and their environment. The course provides opportunities for students to develop scientific processing skills, laboratory techniques, and an understanding of the fundamental principles of living organisms. Students explore cell structure and function, genetics and heredity, evolution and classification, diversity of living organisms and their ecological roles, and are introduced to animal structure and function.

Social Studies

Arcs in History (grade 9)

This course aims, through an inquiry-based approach, to help students gain a deeper understanding of how selected features of human society have developed over time. Each unit focuses on a different idea that students learn about in a variety of ways. Basic readings ground student knowledge and serve as a springboard for activities, discussions, and projects that encourage further exploration. These assignments demand that students conduct in-depth research, think critically about the information they gather, and be able to communicate that information effectively to the rest of the class. For example, in the first unit the following inquiries will guide us: What are nation-states, where did they come from, and how did they become the dominant organizing principle for human societies? Readings distilled from the book *Imagined Communities* by Benedict Anderson underpin our reckoning with these questions as we dig deeper by looking at case studies, examining primary sources, and engaging in our own educated speculations about the future of the nation-state.

Global Issues (grade 10)

In Social Studies we consider systems of power and organization that are used on countrywide scales. One important such system is that of the West. What is the West? What is Western Civilization? What are its origins and what are its impacts on different areas in today's world? During the first semester of this course, students seek in-depth answers to

these and other related questions through lectures, projects, and other activities. In the second semester, students examine one conflict from each of the major geographical regions. As they learn about the causes of each conflict and wrestle with its possible resolutions, students will document their progress on their own website. Major objectives students will focus on include: source evaluation, research skills, presentation skills, consensus building, source documentation, and information synthesis/condensation.

Government (grade 11, fall semester)

Performing a detailed analysis of one government provides a foundation for evaluating governments more broadly. With this thought in mind, the aim of this class is to use the American system of government as a case study to help students understand the role of government in society more generally, and as a launch pad for a comparative study of governments all around the world. We also study the United Nations and its role in global affairs and introduce students to the world of model UN clubs and conferences.

Economics (grade 11, spring semester)

It is a commonly accepted fact that individuals and nations strive to produce wealth, but how is the production of wealth best achieved, and how should the wealth that is produced be managed? In Economics, students answer these essential questions by exploring the following topics through lectures, problem sets, discussions, and activities: basic economic concepts, measurements of economic performance,

national income price determination, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international trade and finance.

FLEX

The FLEX Program gives students more options for AP classes than would otherwise be available at a small school like ours. Grade 12 students are permitted to choose courses in history/social sciences and laboratory science and are provided with all of the instruction and resources they require - textbooks, practice materials, and AP Classroom - along with time for independent study.

Electives

3D Printing

Over the summer, KAIS HS acquired three 3D printers. Although ancient by today's standards, they provide plenty of opportunity for students to learn about design, engineering, and hardware management. The goals of the course are elegant in their simplicity – 1) figure out how to operate each printer and 2) design and print things.

Architectural Design

Architecture is where art & design meet engineering & society. Students will explore these ideas by designing a new school campus. Although simply stated, this challenging task will require students to gather input from all stakeholders and then apply their artistic skill, engineering savvy, and people knowledge to design and build a scale model of what may become our new campus.

Digital Media Blitz

In this class, students get the opportunity to write, direct, produce, and edit their own short films. Because students will be coming to this class with varying levels of proficiency in video production, flexibility is key. Novices will be provided with the basic equipment and given instruction in techniques for using iMovie, while experienced YouTubers will be allowed to spread their wings and hone their skills using their own tools and equipment. Together, students will explore ways to

generate and refine ideas, and then manifest those ideas in video format.

Introduction to Investing

In addition to learning about stocks, mutual funds, and electronically traded funds, students will put their knowledge to the test in a simulated stock market challenge. Students will also learn about the typical economic indicators and the role of the US Federal Reserve.

Italian Cooking & Culture

"A casa de Fabio" is the ideal class for students who want to learn how to cook a simple and tasty meal and impress their family, friends and future college roommates. In addition to learning general cooking skills, students will gain an appreciation for Italian culture & music.

Music Performance

Students learn valuable communication and group management skills in the context of a performing band. Though music theory and technique are addressed, the main focus of the class is how to play music as a band, selecting songs the students choose. The final project will be a live performance of one or more songs. On several occasions, the class will visit a professional music studio to practice. All levels of musical proficiency are welcome.

Leadership

This course has been designed to introduce students to the concept of leadership, from the personalities and attributes of great leaders to the methodologies and theories used to inspire and guide individuals and groups to success. This will be achieved mainly through instruction, discussion, hands-on activities, and reflection. The objective of this class is for students to develop and become comfortable with using their skills from four spheres of leadership: Self-awareness, Group Process, Communication, and Human Relations. When applied to daily life, these skills help to create a pattern of success and achievement. Students will have the opportunity to put into practice the skills gained from this class through involvement within the KAIS community and the greater Tokyo community. Students will be expected to seek opportunities to volunteer and will be asked to complete a set amount of hours by the end of the school year.

Photography

Some think it's simple, and really it is. However, there is a lot more to photography than just clicking the shutter button and hoping for the best. This class will help students "up their game" and capture those memorable moments in a way that makes people go "Oh wow!"

Water Color

This class covers the basics of creating art with water color. Students learn color theory and explore fun techniques of water-color painting – wash, wet-on-wet, dry brush, lifting.

By the end of the course, students will have a portfolio that shows the progress they made as growing artists.

Yearbook

This class is responsible for creating the school yearbook. Students explore their creative side through layout design, photography, and editing while also exploring their industrious side by working within tight timeframes and deadlines. As this creative studies class is student-driven, it is an exercise in collaboration.

Foreign Language

Japanese

The Japanese program at KAIS is split into two main tracks. The track for native speakers (Japanese Liberal Arts) focuses on improving literary fluency and introducing students to high-level academic Japanese used in university classes and publications. The themes of ancient history, modern history, cultural studies, and Japanese Literature are studied in a four-year rotation. Japanese Foundations equips new arrivals to Japan, or those with developing Japanese skills, with the ability to function in Japanese society smoothly and enjoy interacting with a new culture. In addition to regular kanji and vocabulary quizzes, students in both tracks participate in discussion sessions—often based on Japanese cinema or cultural documentaries—and complete projects that explore cross-cultural currents. The classroom experience is enhanced by the annual all-school trip where students are exposed to the various regions and traditions of Japan.

Kinetics & Wellness

Fitness & Nutrition

This class aims to provide students with the academic and practical knowledge needed to achieve and maintain a desired level of fitness. Students learn about the fundamentals of health and fitness and the proper technique for essential exercises. Students engage in constantly varied, high intensity, functional movements that develop their physical skills. Students have the opportunity to apply these skills in a variety of sports, including cross-country, basketball, volleyball, and futsal. Throughout the course, significant emphasis is placed on cooperation, teamwork, and good sportsmanship. In the nutrition component of the course, students examine the culture and patterns that exist around food and discover why the question of “how we eat” is just as important as “what we eat.” Students investigate government involvement in the current food climate, explore different arguments in the sustainable food debate, and investigate the connection between food and bodily imbalance.

Yoga

In many ways, yoga embodies the environment we strive to create at KAIS and the values we wish to impart on our students. Students do not merely go through the motions of the poses, but instead focus on controlled physical movements, connectedness, controlled breathing, and meditation. Students are sometimes called upon to complete projects related to the study of yoga. It has been a core part of our offering since the

founding of KAIS, and we are proud to be one of the few schools in Tokyo offering the course.

Social Awareness

Social Awareness is designed to assist students in the development of their social and emotional intelligence and to bring awareness to the ways in which mental health impacts the lives of high school students. This course is differentiated by grade and each grade level will explore different themes. The 9th grade will explore topics around transitioning to high school and belonging. The 10th Grade will explore topics related to well-being and creating healthy habits in all areas of life. The 11th Grade will focus on engagement and preparing for life after high school. The 12th Grade focuses on developing leadership skills and making a meaningful impact on the school environment before they graduate and move on to the next phase of their lives.