



Ready  
FOR  
TOMORROW



## MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMME



International School  
of the Year 2023

SECONDARY  
IB CURRICULUM



## WELCOME TO GESS MIDDLE SCHOOL

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**At our school, student wellbeing is the foundation of everything we do.**

We combine strong academic support with a holistic approach that gives learners the freedom to explore their passions, build confidence, and strive for personal excellence.

The rapid growth and big changes in the middle school years can feel overwhelming. GESS prioritises student wellbeing as the foundation for academic success. With personalised support, coaching and mentoring built into the school day, we ensure students grow into confident, resilient individuals, well-prepared to succeed in school.

And to give students the freedom to explore all their interests and know their strengths better, we have a broader range of offerings than most schools. Whether it is competitive sports, an engineering academy, performing arts or self-directed sustainability projects, there are many outlets for students to explore and experiment both in the curriculum and beyond the classroom.

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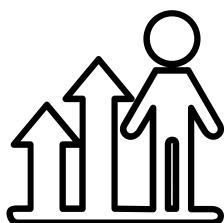
# IB-PROGRAMME

## SECONDARY SCHOOL

### GESS MIDDLE SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

#### Grades

Grades  
**6-8**



#### Curriculum

We teach the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) in Middle School.



#### Class Size

Max **24** Students Per Class

#### Language of Instruction

English  
**EN**

#### Languages

English

Main Language



Language Acquisition

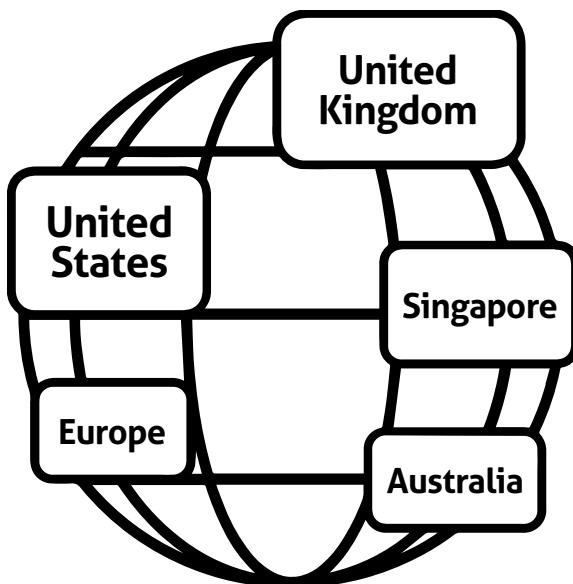


Mandarin, Spanish, French, German

Mother Tongues

Over 7 languages available

#### University Destinations of our Graduates



# WHY PARENTS AND STUDENTS CHOOSE THE GESS MIDDLE SCHOOL

## High-quality, personalised teaching that helps students achieve academic excellence

We focus on individual students - their strengths, what excites them, and how they learn best. With that in mind, we help students build strong academic foundations and key executive functioning skills. So that our students can be confident, independent thinkers and doers ready to succeed in high school and the real world.

## We care for the whole child - supporting emotional and mental wellbeing.

The growth and changes at this age can be challenging for your child, but they never have to face them alone. We make sure every student feels seen, heard and supported with the right resources. Teachers proactively check in on students' wellbeing during weekly advisory sessions and provide one-on-one mentoring and coaching to help students with executive functioning, social-emotional intelligence and resilience.

## Every student gets the freedom to explore their interests and find the right path for themselves

Students have a lot of choice in their learning and are exposed to many different areas, allowing them to pursue their interests and discover strengths. Both the Encore Programme, integrated in the curriculum, and BeyondClassrooms Programme, outside of the curriculum, offer opportunities in industry immersion, languages, arts, STEM, clubs, service learning and more. Students can test-drive new interests with the necessary support and resources.

**“** The GESS IB Curriculum has benefited me in ways that I'll always be thankful for. I've been a part of a curriculum that has pushed me to be a student of many subjects, and a better person and global citizen.”

**Yasmin**  
GESS Student

## Students Learn from Highly Qualified and Experienced Educators

GESS Middle School educators bring strong credentials, extensive experience teaching the IB curriculum in other top international schools, and a heart for helping students reach their personal best.



# STUDENT SUPPORT & LEARNING

## Success Starts With Students' Wellbeing

We believe it takes a supportive environment for students to do well academically. And we want every one of our students to feel safe and know they have a caring community they can always depend on. There are multiple touchpoints for students to get the help they need.



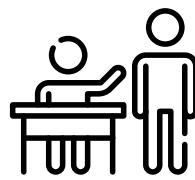
### Professional Counselling

We have a team of professional counsellors on campus who bring years of experience in psychology and counselling to the GESS community. Our counsellors are also familiar with the unique challenges that international students face. Be it personal struggles, conflicts with peers, academic stress, or other anxieties, our counsellors offer a warm and safe space for students to openly share and seek help.



### School-Family Partnership

We believe in the importance of partnering closely with families to support students. By communicating consistently with families, we gain better insights into students as individuals, their background, and home experiences, so our teachers can cater to that in school. By maintaining regular communication with families, we can ensure students get the right support at home for their learning.



### Homeroom Advisory Lessons

Middle schoolers go through rapid growth and developmental changes and we want to support them to deal with these changes healthily. During weekly advisory sessions, teachers meet with students in small group settings to check in on their emotional and mental wellbeing and ensure no student is overlooked. Additionally, social-emotional learning and community building exercises are also built into these sessions to help students regulate their own emotions and relationships better.



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

## Personalised Support for Academic Growth

Every student learns differently, and at GESS we embrace those differences. Through tailored support and extension opportunities, we help each learner build on their strengths, tackle challenges early, and make meaningful progress. Our goal is to ensure that every student receives the personalised guidance they need to thrive academically and beyond.



### Coaching and Mentoring

Teachers coach and mentor students to develop the executive functioning skills they need as they progress to high school. Students learn to plan more effectively, take manageable steps towards their academic and personal goals, and monitor their progress over time. Eventually, students are able to take ownership over their learning and handle projects, assignments, and exams with preparation and confidence to achieve better outcomes.



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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## Choices to Help Students Design Their Future Paths

Students are free to explore their interests, discover their strengths, and find the path that best suits them. Learning goes beyond the classroom, with real-world experiences that spark curiosity and build confidence, helping each student step into high school with purpose and direction.

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### DELIVERED WITHIN THE SCHOOL DAY

#### Encore Programme

This uniquely GESS programme goes beyond the standard MYP curriculum to allow our students to pursue their passions.

Based on interest, students are free to choose between foreign languages, creative and performing arts, design and technology, advanced sports and English. The classes are hands-on, immersive and project-based, encouraging students to be engaged and well-balanced learners.

#### Flex Programme

Based on learners' needs - be it whether they need support, more challenging work, exploration, or self-directed opportunities - educators design and deliver accordingly in the Flex Programme.

Learning extension: for students who are higher-skilled and would like to be challenged more.

Subject support: to support students with learning gaps in specific subjects.

Exploration: opportunities to explore different domains through clubs and societies e.g.

Yearbook, Coding, Mathematics, Science, Young Authors and more

Self-Directed: student-led projects in areas such as sustainability, service learning and more.

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### OUTSIDE OF THE TIMETABLE

#### Homework Club

Our dedicated subject teachers offer expert guidance and tutoring to our middle school students outside of the timetable hours. Students can attend homework club sessions to get support or extension in maths, English, science, humanities and more.



## BeyondClassrooms Programme

Our award-winning BeyondClassrooms approach allows students to actively connect their learning to the real world, and build a portfolio of practical experiences that give them a competitive edge when they graduate. By extending learning beyond the classroom - into industries, sports arenas, performance stages, communities, research labs, and more - we make limitless learning possible. This shapes students to be global citizens who are not just successful, but also impactful in the world.

### The many initiatives in the BeyondClassrooms Programme:

- Internships with leading global companies
- Industry expert talks
- Career counselling and guidance from industry leaders
- Junior Engineer Academy
- Competitive sports
- Over 100 after school co-curricular activities
- Vocal and Instrumental Programme
- Student-led Clubs and Societies

**Our Students Have Been:**

- Exploring the future of urban air mobility with a visit to Volocity exhibition by urban air mobility pioneer Volocopter
- Gaining insights into sustainability and safety management at Siemens' Advanced Manufacturing Transformation Centre
- Participating on the ground at Asia Pacific Conferences of German Business
- Exploring the applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) through expert sharing sessions at T-Systems Singapore

### We work with remarkable partners such as:

- **BMW** – manufacturer of luxury vehicles and motorcycles
- **Alba Berlin** – a professional basketball club based in Berlin
- **Evonik** – a speciality chemicals company
- **Danfoss** – engineering and sustainable innovation company
- **Invitrocue** – a bio-analytics solutions provider





## Junior Engineer Academy

Grade 8 and 9 students interested in engineering learn to build practical solutions for real-world problems as part of this two-year programme.

With a thematic focus on "Sustainable Urban Living Spaces" and "21st Century Living Spaces", students collaborate with industry and academic mentors from XentiQ, Bosch Singapore, Singapore Polytechnic, and more to design, develop and deploy their solutions.

**Ann**  
One of my favourite projects was programming sensors to track environmental data like the humidity, temperature and light of different locations. Moving forward, I'd like to focus more on improving our hydroponic system and exploring other sustainable technologies."

**Ann**  
Grade 8 GESS Student, Enrolled in Junior Engineer Academy

## Service Learning and Sustainability

Our fully developed Service Learning and Sustainability programme teaches students to become active changemakers who use their skills and abilities to meet community and environmental needs. Students are encouraged to be responsible citizens who pay attention to the local and wider community as well as the environment and think about how they can create impact through service.

We have dedicated Service Learning and Sustainability coordinators who identify and create a range of service opportunities so that every student can find an area where they feel confident in contributing meaningfully. Students are also invited to participate in initiatives independently outside of the academic programme.

GESS is accredited by The Alliance for Sustainable Schools in recognition of our efforts to educate students about the importance of sustainability.

Here are examples of Service Learning and Sustainability initiatives at GESS:

- Mangrove planting
- Beach cleanup
- Commemorating World Mental Health Day, Peace Day, Earth Day etc.
- Giving Tree - donation drive for Christmas
- Love in a Bouquet - engagement with individuals from TOUCH Centre for Independent Living
- Volunteering to organise festive celebrations for the community

## Service as Action Projects

Middle School students participate in 3 Service as Action activities every year, including 1 independent project. Service as Action teaches students to apply their knowledge and skills to contribute to society and the environment. Students examine current global and local issues and choose to respond to these through action. In the process, they also develop new skills such as planning, executing, and working collaboratively.



## School Trips and Enrichment Activities

Our school trips and enrichment activities challenge students to step out of their comfort zones and participate in experiences that foster character growth, promote intercultural understanding and encourage meaningful engagement with diverse communities, and the environment. These experiences provide additional physical and mental stimulation outside of academics.

Past school trips and enrichment activities have included:

- Bintan Outbound Activities Trip
- Tioman Island Watersports Trip
- Theatre Project in Malaysia
- Social Project in India and Cambodia
- Language Trips



## Over 100 Extra and Co-Curricular Programmes

There are over 100 after-school programmes across sports, leadership and global citizenship, performing arts, creative arts, and STEM. This range of programmes reflects the school's diversity of talents and ideas.

Here are examples of our popular after-school programmes:

- **Competitive team sports** whereby students participate in inter-school, regional, and international leagues and tournaments. Notable sports include football, basketball, and volleyball.
- **A world-class swim programme** with exceptional personalised coaching for competitive swimmers.
- **Vocal and Instrumental Programme** for students to learn from Singapore's finest professional musicians in a one-to-one setting.
- **Model United Nations**, where students roleplay as delegates in simulated local and international UN conferences and learn more about global diplomacy and foreign affairs.



# INTRODUCTION TO IB MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME

While many international schools offer the MYP curriculum, at GESS we bring it a level above with a unique offering called the Encore Programme. In the spirit of giving students with diverse interests the freedom to grow, we offer specialised subjects that let students dive deeper through hands-on learning. Students get full freedom to choose their Encore classes.

And there are no additional costs or additional time commitments required – these subjects are integrated into the school day.





## IB MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME SUBJECTS



### ENGLISH

There are three levels of instruction designed to support students at different levels of English language proficiency.

- **Language and Literature**  
For learners at native or near-native levels of English language proficiency.
- **Acquisition**  
For learners with intermediate plus level.
- **English as an Additional Language (EAL)**  
A specialised programme with intensive English support and teaching for students in grades 6 to 8.

#### Encore Options\*

- *Speaking & Debating*
- *Creative Writing*
- *Journalism*
- *GESS TV Production*



### MATHEMATICS

Middle school mathematics develops students' logical thinking, problem-solving skills, and real-world application of mathematical concepts.

A specialised Maths Extension programme in middle school grades is available to highly capable students.



### LANGUAGES

All students study at least one language with the option to study both an acquisition and mother tongue language.

- **Language acquisition courses**  
Mandarin, French, Spanish, German
- **Mother tongue courses**  
Dutch, Danish, German, Mandarin\*, French\*, Spanish\*, Portuguese\*, Swedish\*, Others#

\*Additional fees may apply.

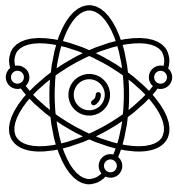
#Check with the Admissions Team about which other language options might be available



### INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES

This is a humanities and social science subject group that focuses on the exploration of human societies, cultures and their interactions with the global environment.

- Geography
- History
- Economics
- Business Studies



## SCIENCES

Science fosters inquiry, curiosity, and critical thinking as students explore all three sciences through hands-on experiments and interdisciplinary learning.

- **Biology**
- **Physics**
- **Chemistry**



## SPORTS

Sports classes have a focus on promoting physical and health education, incorporating creative movement, ball sports, swimming and more.

### Encore Options\*

- *Team Sports*
- *Individual Pursuits*



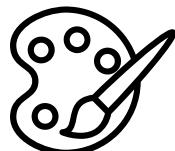
## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Students learn to work through the design cycle to investigate, design, create, and evaluate products.

### Encore Options\*

- *Programming and Robotics*
- *Engineering and Innovation*
- *Digital Design and Fabrication*

- *Master Makers: Advanced Workshop Skills*



## ARTS

All students study at least one specialist arts programme with options to study more.

### Music

- Full year music
- Popular music

### Theatre

- Theatre Arts

### Art

- Visual Arts

#### Encore Options\*

- *Wind Ensemble*
- *Winds and Strings*
- *Symphonic Collective*
- *The Vocal Project*

#### Encore Options\*

- *Elements of Theatre*
- *Exploring Theatre Techniques*
- *Theatre Production*

#### Encore Options\*

- *Aboriginal Dot Art & Doodling - Zentangle Drawings*
- *Portrait Drawing & Mask Design*
- *Impressionism & Optical Art*

For enquiries call the Admissions Hotline  
+65 6461 0881 or fill in our  
online enquiry form via [gess.edu.sg](http://gess.edu.sg)

Connect with us:    



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