



School of Modern Skills Curriculum Policy

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Introduction

Dubai School of Modern Skills is a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school. SMS provides for students; an education rooted in Islamic and UAE cultural values, while also preparing them to become global citizens. We offer an enhanced American Curriculum, providing our students with every opportunity to continue their studies at the University level.

Common Core State Standards

Our American curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards plus Advanced Placement courses at the upper levels of high school. Pedagogy follows best practice research, and its focus includes the following but is not limited to, teaching independent, critical thinking, close reading, and writing. Academically, we prepare students for rigorous university study.

Technology is integrated throughout our curriculum from KG1-12. Internet access is available throughout the campus, and we have a “Bring Your Own Device” program for students in all grades.

At SMS, our students learn to be kind, to lead, and to embrace new learning opportunities at every turn. Surrounded by teachers from around the world, they embrace and celebrate diversity, a diversity of approaches, ideas, languages, and attitudes, that fosters critical and expansive thinking and problem solving, preparing them to be lifelong learners and contributing global citizens.

The curriculum is inclusive and meets the needs of all groups of students. The school follows the Californian Common Core State Standards (CACCSS) for English, Math, Art, French, History, IT, PE, and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for Science.

The subjects of Arabic, Islamic, Moral, and Social Studies adhere to the relevant Ministry of Education (MOE) curricula.

| Subject | Standards |
|---------|---|
| Science | CA Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) |



| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Math | CA CCSS Mathematics |
| English | CA CCSS ELA in Literacy, Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects. |
| Humanities | CA CCSS ELA in Literacy, Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects. CA CCSS History-Social Science Content |
| Arabic | اللغة العربية: منهاج الوزارة 2017 |
| Islamic | التربية الإسلامية: معايير المنهج الوطني من رياض الأطفال وحتى الثاني عشر |
| Social Studies | التربية الوطنية والدراسات الاجتماعية: منهاج الوزارة 2017 |
| Moral Education | MoE Standards |
| French | CA World Language Standards (2019) |
| Art | CAArts Standards (2019) |
| PE | CA CCSS Physical Education Model Content Standards |
| IT | CA CCSS K-12 Computer Science Standards |



Rationale

In keeping with the school's mission, vision and values, the curriculum of SMS is designed to provide each student the opportunity to reach his/her maximum potential; develop intellectually, physically, socially and spiritually; grow as inquisitive, engaged and motivated learners and celebrate the values of respect, commitment, and inclusivity.

Our curriculum is relevant, and comprehensive, and promotes innovation and challenge. The themes of inquiry based learning and student-centered planning run throughout. It offers a diverse and full range of hands-on teaching methods and individualized instruction. It is highly effective in developing a balance of knowledge, skills, and understanding while fulfilling all the requirements of the American curriculum.

Planning

Each subject department develops comprehensive semester and annual plans which are periodically reviewed. Standards and relevant learning objectives are grouped into Units. The curriculum is reviewed each semester, which aids departments to track progress, address learning gaps and adapt and modify as required.

Heads of Departments are responsible for monitoring all aspects of curriculum implementation, adaptation, and modification.

Cross-Curricular

- All departments are required to make cross-curricular connections as part of their planning.
- PBL STReAM weeks enable departments to identify opportunities for cross-curricular learning.

Curriculum Structure

Lesson Planning - learning objectives, differentiated success criteria,

Unit Plan -

Semester Plan



Annual Plan

Subject standards

Resources

Textbooks (including ebooks)

Online learning platforms

G-Suite

Learning technologies

Related Policies

- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Feedback Policy

Co-Curricular

Beyond academics, our range of after-school activity activities (ASA) give students the opportunity to explore known interests, find new passions and equip them with the skills they need for the 21st century.

Kindergarten

KG1

Age: 4 years old

The formative year of KG1 (PreK) introduces children to learning in a caring, safe, supportive, and nurturing environment, where they are encouraged to explore, discover and make choices throughout their day. Play is at the center of the program and is considered a child's "work" as they expand their ability to work cooperatively while strengthening their social, emotional, physical, and cognitive abilities. The KG1 (PreK) program is designed to prepare children for the expectations of the Common Core curriculum while fostering each child's unique developmental needs.

Through carefully planned experiences students are introduced to:



- ❖ English (letters, sounds, speaking and listening)
- ❖ Math (numbers, shapes)
- ❖ Science (the world around us)
- ❖ Arabic
- ❖ Islamic
- ❖ Creative Expression (colors, drawing, painting, creating, PE skills)

KG2

Age: 5 years old

The KG2 year introduces children to the California Common Core curriculum and is considered the first year of formal education in the American system.

In mathematics,

- ❖ English (apply their letter/sound knowledge as they emerge as readers and writers.)
- ❖ Math (numeracy skills are developed through meaningful, hands-on experiences.)
- ❖ Science (the world around us and developing the skills of scientific inquiry)
- ❖ Arabic
- ❖ Islamic
- ❖ Creative Expression (Art and PE skills)

Instruction is personalized to meet each child's established learning goals. **Elementary School (Grades 1 - 5)**

Ages: 6 - 11 years old

Elementary School is more structured and text-based than Kindergarten. Students are transitioned into a higher level of learning at an appropriate pace while new levels of learning skills are developed.

Language Arts

Mathematics



Science

Social Studies

Arabic

Islamic Studies

Quran lesson.

Physical Education (PE)

Art

Information Technology

Students are continuously supported and parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's educational experience.

Middle School (Grades 6 - 8)

Ages: 11 -14 years old

By Middle School, students have formed a basis of understanding in core competencies and begin to seek opportunities of learning in areas of interest. Social and emotional development is supported alongside intellectual development as students are prepared for High School. In Middle School, the subjects offered are:

Language Arts

Mathematics

Science

Social Science

Arabic

Islamic Education

Physical Education (PE)

High School (Grades 9 - 12)

Ages: 15 - 18 years old

Designed to motivate and challenge all groups of students, the High School academic program at School of Modern Skills is driven by equity and the highest possible learning expectations for students. Our proficiency-based learning and graduation requirements ensure that all



students leave as highly literate and skilled graduates. Throughout high school, students have access to a wide range of learning experiences, including advanced courses. All students are required to demonstrate proficiency in English and Math through the international standardized tests of IELTS or TOEFL and SAT.

Highlights of the High School Academic Program

- Students take in-depth courses in English Language, Math, Science, Social Studies, Humanities, and Moral Education.
- SMS offers a wide range of curricular electives including AP courses that provide older students with very good opportunities to study subjects in which they are interested, can achieve success, and be prepared for their college and chosen career. The elective courses are in compliance with KHDA requirements stated for American-authorized schools.
- The elective courses are listed below.

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Grade 10 | Business Enterprise |
| | Public Speaking |
| | IT (Web Design and Programming) |
| Grade 11 | Chemistry 1.0 |
| | IT (Networking/C++) |
| | French |
| Grade 12 Elective 1 | Calculus |
| | Statistics |
| | AP Calculus |



| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Grade 12 Elective 2 | Biology |
| | Art |
| | French |
| | AP Biology |
| Grade 12 Elective 3 | Chemistry 2.0 |
| | United Nations |
| | PHE for Boys/Dramatic Arts for girls |
| | IT (C++) |
| Grade 12 Elective 4 | Economics |
| | Advanced Physics |
| | Earth Science |

- Ongoing school-community partnerships with local businesses and organizations to support the student's college and career readiness.