**Middle School Program (Grades 6 - 8)**

The AISV Middle School curriculum is deigned to prepare students for the IB Diploma. The language of instruction is English and the curriculum is inquiry based with a scope and sequence for grades 6 – 8.

Students attend all classes with their grade level peers. The schedule is a block schedule. There are four blocks a day 90 minutes each. Core classes receive 225 minutes of instruction per week. The exception is English Language Arts, which receives 360 instructional minutes per week. Exceptions to course offerings are determined on a case by case basis, with on line options available at an additional cost.

Core subjects include:

* **Science**, which is based on the Next Generation Science Standards and includes an exploration of connections across the four domains of science including physical science, life science, earth and space science, and engineering design. <http://www.nextgenscience.org>
* **English Language Arts**, which is based on the US Common Core State Standards <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/WHST/6-8/> The curriculum is thematic based and there is a focus on reading from different genres.
* **Social Studies**, which is based on AERO standards:

Standard 1 (Time Continuity, and Change) Students will understand patterns of change and continuity, relationships between people and events through time, and various interpretations of these relationships.

Standard 2 (Connections and Conflict) Students will understand causes and effects of interaction among societies, including trade, systems of international exchange, war, and diplomacy.

Standard 3 (Geography) Students will understand the interactions and relationship between human societies and their physical environment.

Standard 4 (Culture) Students will understand cultural and intellectual developments and interactions among societies.

Standard 5 (Society and Identity) Students will understand social systems and structures and how these influence individual.

Standard 6 (Government) Students will understand why societies create and adopt systems of governance and how they address human needs, rights, responsibilities and citizenship.

Standard 7 (Production, Distribution, and Consumption) Students will understand fundamental economic principles and ways in which economies are shaped by geographic and human factors.

Standard 8 (Science, Technology, and Society) Students will understand how societies have influenced and been influenced by scientific developments and technological developments.

* **Math**, which is based on US Common Core State Standards and the curriculum includes modules in math including Ratios and proportional reasoning; early expressions and equations in grade 6, Ratios and proportional reasoning; arithmetic of rational numbers in grade 7, and linear algebra in grade 8. A link to the actual curriculum is here: (<https://www.engageny.org/resource/grades-6-8-mathematics-curriculum-map>)

 In addition to core academic subjects, AISV offers:

* French, German and Russian as a foreign language. The standards are European Commission standards for language acquisition (attached)
* Lithuanian language and culture (for non Lithuanian speakers)
* Mother Tongue Lithuanian class for native Lithuanian speakers. These classes align with the Lithuanian standards. <http://portalas.emokykla.lt/bup/Puslapiai/pagrindinis_ugdymas_kalbos_lietuviu_gimtoji_kalba_mokiniu_pasiekimai_ugdymo_gaires_turinio_apimtis_ir_vertinimas.aspx>
* Physical education, art and music, which follow MCREL standards. <http://www2.mcrel.org/compendium/browse.asp>
* Health, which is aligned to US health standards.
* Technology which is aligned to ITSE standards. www.**iste**.org/**standards**/**iste**-**standards**

Middle School students also participate in Advisory Periods, in which teachers focus on engaging students in a personal wellness curriculum. The focus is on helping students understand the IB Learner Profile traits, build a positive community, and address topics of importance for positive adolescent development.