



International School of Kenya

Empowering students to create solutions for tomorrow's challenges

PO Box 14103 Nairobi 00800, Kenya
Tel: + 254-733-639-363
msmail@isk.ac.ke | www.isk.ac.ke

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROFILE

2018
2019

Director

David Henry

Middle School Principal

Alexa Schmid

Middle School Counselor

Nancy Remondi



Accredited fully by the Middle States Association of Schools in the United States and the Council of International Schools in Europe.

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

The International School of Kenya (ISK) is a non-profit, PreK- 12, coeducational, independent day school serving the expatriate and Kenyan communities in Nairobi. The school was started by the United States Embassy and the Canadian

High Commission in 1976 and is fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and the Council of International Schools. Approximately 34% of the school's 985 students are North Americans, and the

remainder represent over 65 other nationalities. The Middle school faculty is composed of 34 professional staff and 3 part time professionals; 100% with Bachelors and 77% with advanced degrees.



CALENDAR

ISK runs from mid-August through the beginning of June. The first semester begins in August and ends in December. The second semester begins in January and ends in June. There is a Winter break from mid-December until just after New Year's Day, a fall break, a spring break, and multiple long weekends throughout the year. The school day runs from 8:20 am – 3:20 pm (early release on Wednesdays at 1:25 pm). There are 36 weeks (180 days) in the school year.

STUDENT POPULATION

Middle school includes grades six, seven, & eight with students ranging in age from 11-14. Approximately 32% of the school's 985 students are North Americans, and the remainder represent over 60 other nationalities. At the middle school, US citizens comprise 32 percent of the student body, with the remainder representing 37 nationalities. The top six: United Kingdom, Kenya, India, Denmark, Canada and Germany.

CURRICULUM

ISK offers an academically rigorous curriculum, which follows the Common Core Standards for humanities and math and the NGSS standards for science. The middle school operates a rotating block schedule that includes 8 blocks, with 4 blocks meeting each day. Blocks are 80 minutes long, and each class will meet 2 or 3 times in the week.

The academic program is built around the following areas: English, Social Studies, Science, Math, Modern Language (French, Spanish or Swahili) and Physical Education. English Language Learners and Learning Support students generally receive these services during the modern language block, however the decision is made based on each individual child's needs.

Additionally, students take a variety of Creative Arts classes each year, including drama, music and art. Every student has the opportunity to take band or choir.

We also have a rich electives program for students to choose from in 7th and 8th

grades. The electives courses provide students opportunities to pursue a variety of creative endeavors, such as Young Authors, World Explorers, Engineering and Coding, ISK Iron Kid, Green Art, Photojournalism, Yearbook, and Design Tech. Please consult the Course Selection Guides for more detailed information about available electives.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The middle school serves a managed number of students representing a range of learning differences from mild to moderate needs, as well as the highly capable. The middle school also provides an English Language Learner (ELL) program for students whose first language is not English and whose English language skills limit full access to the regular curriculum. Approximately 7% of our middle school students are English Language Learners. Our Learning Support population is 15% of the middle school.

ADVISORY PROGRAM

Each student is assigned to an advisor who will meet with the students daily for 25 minutes. The Advisor's role is to give guidance to the student in all areas of the school. The advisor will act as a student advocate if academic or social issues arise. The goal of advisory time is to:

- **Create:** To nurture relationships, build a sense of fun and belonging, encourage risk-taking and develop a sense of community.
- **Communicate and Act:** To nurture empathy, social skills and self-awareness, as well as communication skills.
- **Learn and Solve:** To develop learning habits, such as organization, goal setting and responsible decision-making, flexible thinking, critical thinking and personal responsibility.





ISK takes a developmental approach in the advisory program, and there are grade level themes.

- **Grade 6:** Me (self-awareness)
- **Grade 7:** We (collaboration, empathy, social skills)
- **Grade 8:** Be (who we are contributes to something larger)

In addition to advisory, the whole middle school comes together every other week for an assembly. The purpose of assembly is for community building and to celebrate student learning.

INTER-CULTURAL TRIPS

Our Inter-Cultural Trips provide experiences that deliberately require students to challenge themselves, reinforcing ISK's Educational Aims through interdisciplinary learning and character development, including personal responsibility, in an African context. Each grade level in the middle school participates in a week-long Inter-Cultural trip in a different part of Kenya. This year, our trips are to the following areas:

Grade 6: Ol Pejeta **Grade 7:** Ngare Ndare **Grade 8:** Maasai Mara

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assessment is the continuous process of gathering, analysing and interpreting evidence so students and teachers can make informed decisions that enhance student learning. At ISK, the key principles of effective assessment are that it:

- benefits students
- involves students
- is suited to the purpose
- is embedded in the school ethos
- is planned and communicated to the students
- supports teaching and learning goals
- is valid and fair

Student progress is reported in two areas:

1. Academic Achievement
2. Habits of Learning

GRADING SCALE

Students are provided with grades and feedback about their academic achievement and the habits of learning.

The Habits of Learning are: Collaboration, Engagement and Personal Responsibility. Students reflect, self-assess and the teacher provides feedback using the following scale:

- Below the Standard
- Approaching the Standard
- Meeting the Standard
- Exceeds the Standard

ISK is a Standards-Based Assessment, Grading and Reporting school. That means that the academic standards guide our instruction and assessments. When providing feedback on academic proficiency, we use the following scale, with 3 Meeting the Standard as the goal for our academically rigorous program.

PROFICIENCY SCALE		DESCRIPTION
4	Extending Beyond the Standard	Student demonstrates a consistent and thorough understanding and application of the required knowledge and skills in a manner that extends beyond and deepens within the grade level standard. This includes new, creative and original applications of the standards, and the ability to communicate that knowledge with others.
3	Meeting the Standard	Student demonstrates consistent and thorough understanding and application of the required knowledge and skills of the grade level standard.
2	Approaching the Standard	Student demonstrates a developing and/or inconsistent understanding of the required knowledge and skills of the grade level standard.
1	Beginning Toward the Standard (Insufficient Evidence)	The student demonstrates a beginning understanding of the required knowledge and skills of the grade level standard. This category can also indicate that the student has not yet provided any evidence of understanding.

* If a student receives a 1 or a 4, the teacher will provide a comment with supporting information.

** If a student continues to have 'Insufficient Evidence' by the end of the semester, it will turn to either a 'No Grade' or 'Incomplete'.

TRANSITIONS

Many ISK students transfer to and from a variety of schools around the world. The ISK MS Counselor Office supports parents and students in transitioning to and from other schools. If you have any questions, please contact the Middle School Office.



CASL AND ROUND SQUARE

CREATE, ACT, SERVE, LEARN

Over the year, students are required to complete the following:

1. **Create** - At least one creative activity.
2. **Act** - At least one action activity (this includes athletics).
3. **Serve** - At least one sustainable service project.
4. **Learn** - A reflection for each activity undertaken

Students can meet this requirement through involvement in our school programs. Alternatively, students can participate in activities outside of school, such as piano lessons, horseback riding, family service opportunities, etc. Our overall message to students is to get out and try something new!

Students are actively involved in our Service Learning Program, After School Activities Program, Athletics Program and Drama Program.

ROUND SQUARE

ISK is a **Round Square** school, and through participation in CASL, all middle school students are a part of Round Square. Our Middle School believes and promotes that all students can be leaders, and encourages students to find a way to get involved, use their student voice, and find something they are interested in to expand and grow their leadership. As a Round Square school, we provide opportunities for leadership and engagement through the six ideals: Internationalism, Democracy, Adventure, Service, Environment and Leadership. Below are some examples of how students can get involved.

INTERNATIONALISM

- Peace Day Planning Committee
- International Day Planning Committee

DEMOCRACY

- Leadership Round Table
- Model United Nations
- SPEAK Student Activist Club

ADVENTURE

- Social Planning Club
- Co-curricular activities, such as: Photography Club, Book Club, Robotics Club, Gizmos Gadgets & Goop Club, Dance, Taekwondo, Yoga, Upcycle Sewing

SERVICE

- Student Ambassadors
- A variety of service learning opportunities including projects related to a greenhouse, an animal rescue shelter, a dance program with a local community, a reading program with a local school, working with the Autism Support Center Kenya, and more

ENVIRONMENT

- Student Green Team

LEADERSHIP

- Student Leadership Seminars
- Student Assembly Leaders