UWCSEA Dover offers a robust and challenging Middle School programme for students in Grades 6 to 8 (aged 11–14 years), connecting academic subjects with social development and opportunities for leadership.

The learning programme is structured to meet the varied intellectual and developmental needs of adolescents as they transition from Primary School and prepare for the High School years. The five elements of our programme include an academically rigorous curriculum, a Personal and Social Education (PSE) programme addressing the needs of adolescents, challenging expeditions though our extensive Outdoor Education programme and involvement in wider life of the College and Singapore community through extensive opportunities to be involved in Activities and Service programmes.

We encourage students to apply themselves fully in all that they do and offer guidance and support in a positive and caring environment. Our teachers act as role models for students, giving instruction in the lunchtime and after-school Activities programme, supporting service initiatives and participating fully in the outdoor education trips with their students.

The UWCSEA Dover Middle School caters for 770 students in Grades 6 to 8, and is committed to providing an educational programme that promotes international understanding, while making education relevant to the global needs of our time. We celebrate the variety of cultures at UWCSEA and encourage our community to explore and understand the traditions and backgrounds of others.

Our goal is to develop students who have the ability to lead effectively when the need arises but who can also adapt to various roles within a team to promote the successful completion of a project, activity or service task. The learning programme provides structured opportunities for students to develop these skills in a wide variety of settings.

At all levels of the school, the College provides exceptional opportunity for students to develop independence and leadership skills, and the Middle School is no exception. At the heart of our educational philosophy is the belief that we prepare students not just for university, but for life, and it is the skills and qualities students develop, as much as the knowledge and understanding they gain, that will define the quality of the life they live. For this reason, Middle School students are encouraged to extend themselves so that they experience failure as well as success, to understand that leadership can take many forms, to develop their critical thinking and communication skills and to grow in the belief that they can play a positive role in society.

**Middle School enrolment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Age of students*</th>
<th>Number of students</th>
<th>Number of classes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10-11 years</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>11-12 years</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>12-13 years</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>770</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students must be born on or between 1 September and 31 August. Refer to our age-grade boundary chart for the planned year of entry for guidance, or contact Admissions.
About the UWCSEA curriculum

UWCSEA’s curriculum is specifically designed to support your child in embracing challenge to shape a better world, and was developed following extensive research examining best educational practice across the world. Our educational leaders continue to refine our unique UWCSEA curriculum across all five elements of our learning programme—academics, activities, outdoor education, personal and social education and service.

The UWCSEA academic curriculum is a concept-based curriculum. This means that from K1 to Grade 12, each curriculum area (or subject) has standards, which identify the key concepts that underpin that curriculum area. These standards are applied at all grade levels and build naturally in complexity through the Primary, Middle and High Schools, culminating in the IB Diploma in Grades 11 and 12.

Because the standards are conceptual in nature, these ideas transfer across the world. This supports students who are coming from different countries and educational backgrounds. For example, while the content of the chosen text in English or the specific time period studied in History may vary, the concepts remain the same. Our PSE and Tutor programme provides transitional support for students as they join the College.

In turn, each standard has essential understandings that describe what a student should understand as a result of studying a particular content area. They are statements of understanding that are appropriate to a student’s developmental stage and build towards the standard.

Benchmarks are then attached to each essential understanding. The benchmarks describe what a student should know, understand or be able to do at each stage of their learning in each subject. These benchmarks are what our teachers assess to ensure that students are reaching the essential understandings and are working towards the standards.

The Primary and Middle School curriculum builds into the High School programmes. This means that from their first years of schooling, UWCSEA prepares students for each grade, culminating in the High School programmes we offer. In the High School, the standards, essential understandings and benchmarks specifically take into account the requirements of external examining bodies that set the (I)GCSE and IB examinations that students sit at the end of Grade 10 and Grade 12.

Here is an example of a K-12 standard from our English curriculum, together with some of the grade-specific essential understandings and benchmarks linked to this standard. This demonstrates how all students from the Infant School to the IB Diploma programme access this learning, but in an age-appropriate way:

**K1-Grade 12**

**Standard:** Writing expresses selfhood, creativity and intellect in a medium shaped by audience and purpose.

**Grade 1**

**Essential Understanding:** We create real or imagined experiences when writing stories by using characters and setting.

**Benchmark:** Develop the story through character, focusing on specific actions.

**Grade 7**

**Essential Understanding:** All parts of a text work together to shape meaning.

**Benchmark:** Write narratives, using time and plot deliberately in order to influence mood and focus attention on the important moments in a story.

**Grade 11 and 12 (IB Diploma)**

**Essential Understanding:** Writers manipulate structure to convey meaning effectively.

**Benchmark:** Sequence and sustain structure to strengthen and develop the logic and persuasive impact of a claim.
**Academics**

Students have a broad and balanced range of subjects, including the core subjects of English, Humanities, Mathematics and Science. In addition, courses in the Arts, languages, Physical Education (PE) and other exploratory subjects in areas such as design and technology ensure that students are able to develop across a range of subjects.

The students in Grade 6 spend part of their day in the Grade 6 designated classroom area, while Grades 7 and 8 students increasingly adopt a High School model, moving between rooms and teachers. Classes remain together for the majority of lessons, except Mathematics and Languages, and PE in Grades 7 and 8 where students are taught in single gender sets based on skill-level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Middle School subject offerings (refer to the curriculum guide on our website for detailed information)</th>
<th>Number of periods per week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade 6:</strong> English and Humanities (Geography and History), see note</td>
<td>Grade 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grades 7 and 8:</strong> English or English as an Additional Language (EAL)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grades 7 and 8:</strong> Humanities (Geography and History)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language other than English or Extra EAL or Study Skills</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Languages</td>
<td>Chinese; Dutch; French; German;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginner Languages</td>
<td>Chinese; French; Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Languages</td>
<td>Chinese; French; Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Language</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education (PE)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design &amp; Technology, includes modules on:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Product Design • Food Technology • Textile Technology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Electronics, Communications and Technology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Graphic Products • Engineering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Skills</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>40</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Grade 6, the unique UWCSEA-designed curriculum integrates English with the study of Humanities, where the English skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening are woven into the study of Geography and History, in addition to the study of literature texts in their own right.

**Languages other than English**

Students elect one Language other than English as part of their timetabled lessons. Students have access to a range of beginner, continuation and advanced language programmes. Some First Language classes are taught after school in small group classes at additional cost, and as an additional subject. Please see our Languages factsheet for more information.
Activities
UWCSEA’s comprehensive Activities programme presents our students with opportunities to try new things, discover new talents and further develop their passions, as well as make new friends through the sharing of common interests.

The diverse variety of activities includes many competitive and recreational sports, music, art in many forms, drama, service and curriculum-based or enrichment activities. The programme is offered in four ‘seasons’ each year, allowing students to try a number of new activities throughout the school year. Students who take the bus home are provided with an ‘activity bus’ to take them home after activities have concluded at no additional cost.

Arts
There are several instrumental and vocal ensembles for Middle School students, including Camerata and Concert Strings (Strings), The Band (woodwind, brass and percussion), Middle School Percussion Ensemble, Arioso (Middle School Choir), Intermediate Jazz Ensemble and Middle School Gamelan Ensemble. There are five concerts per year, as well as the main College concert, OPUS, which is held annually in Term 2 at the Esplanade Theatre. The instrumental teaching programme offers access to music lessons (individually, in pairs or in small groups) on a number of instruments at an additional cost (instrument hire is available).

Performance opportunities begin with the annual United Nations Evening in Term 1 and continue as students are invited to audition for drama and dance productions throughout the year. There are two auditioned Middle School productions each year—a theatre performance led by a teacher in the Drama and Theatre Department, and a dance production supported by our High School Dance Teacher.

Sports
The College enters teams in all competitions offered by the Athletic Conference of Singapore International Schools (ACSIS) as well as a number of other competitions in Singapore and the region. The representative sports available to Middle School students currently include: badminton, basketball, climbing, cricket (boys), cross country, golf, gymnastics, netball (girls), football, hockey, rugby (boys), sailing, softball, swimming, tennis, touch football (girls) and volleyball.

A number of additional recreational sports, such as fencing, are offered through the Activities programme so that students who want to participate, but perhaps not compete, have an opportunity to do so.

Leadership, Clubs and Special Interests
Students have ample opportunity to develop leadership skills through participation in Student Council, the Middle School GC Executive, Model United nations, debating and other leadership activities. In addition, some mother tongue language classes and subject-based ‘clinics’ are available for students who want to further focus on some curricular areas via the Activities programme.
Outdoor education

These challenging and fun expeditions provide invaluable learning experiences, and elements from these trips are drawn into the classroom across the academic curriculum. The trips are planned, managed and led by our experienced Outdoor Education staff. All students are expected to participate in these expeditions, which are at an additional cost.

An important component of every grade expedition is the idea of ‘team challenge’ activities, in which students are given challenges to overcome as a group. Developing a sense of the individual’s own responsibility to this group effort is a very important aim of the Outdoor Education programme.

- Grade 6 go on a five-day multi-activity expedition to Pulau Tioman in Malaysia
- Grade 7 visit Pulau Sibu for a kayaking trip after completing a one-star kayak training certificate in Singapore
- Grade 8 students spend two weeks in Chiang Mai, Thailand; one week undertaking adventure activities such as white-water rafting and caving, and the other completing curriculum-based field activities that are then integrated into lessons in Singapore for the rest of the academic year. These field studies cover topics linked directly to the academic curriculum, for example geography, science, mathematics and art

During the year, each class group also spends time tackling the College’s high ropes course under the guidance of qualified Outdoor Education staff. This activity is designed to enhance the students’ support for each other.

Optional trips

Middle School students have the opportunity to participate in optional expeditions during school holidays. These trips are grouped under the categories of:

- curriculum/enrichment, such as cultural and language trips to China and Spain for students of these languages
- adventure trips, such as the annual New Zealand, Southern Africa or Verbier (skiing) trips
- service trips, including a Grade 7 Vietnam trip and the Grade 8 History Housebuilding trip to build houses and learn about development issues in Cambodia

There are also opportunities through Round Square for students to attend conferences in the region and to participate in student exchanges.
Personal and social education

For Middle School students, this is a time of significant change in their intellectual, social and emotional development. It is a time of transition as students seek increased levels of independence and responsibility. Our dedicated Personal and Social Education (PSE) programme provides a supportive, safe and nurturing environment as our students move from a more self-contained Primary School model to the increased demands and expectations of their High School years. The PSE programme recognises the unique developmental needs of Middle School students and addresses them through a programme that is relevant, challenging, integrative and exploratory.

Our Middle School PSE team is led by the Principal and Vice Principal (Pastoral). There are two Heads of Grade per year level who work with tutors. The tutor is responsible for the overall welfare of their students with an overview of both academic progress and social and emotional needs.

The tutor meets with their tutor group for four, 25-minute sessions per week, and students also attend a weekly grade-level assembly where current topics are explored. Other ways in which students are supported by the PSE programme include guest speakers, special presentations, focus weeks and weekly Life Skills lessons.

Our PSE programme also includes strategies for effective learning such as organisation, self-management and reflection skills that are important for student success. The tutor assists students in their transition to Middle School routines and expectations, and also, as they prepare for High School, provides guidance with the subject selection process.

Professional guidance from the three College counsellors is also available for students and families. The Counsellors are also involved in delivering specific parts of the PSE programme where appropriate.

Technology

All Middle School students are issued with a laptop, the cost of which is included in tuition fees. Students are supported in the responsible use of technology through our extensive digital citizenship programme, which provides them with the skills and knowledge to become responsible, independent and organised digital citizens.

Teachers and tutors are supported by digital literacy coaches and a network of technology mentors in implementing effective uses of technology in their teaching and assignments.

A series of information evenings and workshops for parents ensure that good habits around technology are reinforced at home and parents are equipped to help students navigate the online world.

UWCSEA uses the Generation Safe tools to provide our teachers with professional development in the areas of prevention, detection, intervention and response to cyber incidents.
Service

Service is an essential component of the UWCSEA learning programme and is at the heart of our ethos. The Service programme provides opportunities for students to develop compassion and put their ideals into action, by giving them opportunities to take practical steps to help create a more caring society and conserve the environment.

Service requires whole-hearted commitment and we expect our students to approach every service activity and commitment with energy, and a willingness to try new things, to reflect on successes and failures and to always focus on the larger goal of shaping a better world.

College and Local Service

All students are required to participate in College or Local Service at some point during their Middle School years. These services vary widely but include:

- paired reading with children from local Primary Schools
- chat and games with elderly Singaporeans
- simple ball games with intellectually-disabled adults
- overseeing lunchtime play in our own Primary School
- gardening projects to enhance the environment on campus

Some Local Services are shared with the High School, whose students act as mentors for the Middle School students.

Global Concerns

All Middle School students become involved in global service through their curriculum e.g., a development unit in Grade 6 English/Humanities and Humanities units in Grades 7 and 8 focusing on Vietnam and Cambodia, and through fundraising or awareness-raising activities involving their grade. The grade-level projects linked with NGOs outside Singapore (which we call Global Concerns) in Middle School are:

- Grade 6 – Waterford Kamhlaba Service Support (Swaziland)
- Grade 7 – Blue Dragons Children’s Foundation (Vietnam)
- Grade 8 – Tabitha (Cambodia)

In order to participate on a number of the optional Service trips available to our students, they need to have committed for at least six months to the GC linked with that particular trip i.e. Tabitha, Blue Dragon or Waterford Kamhlaba Service Support.

In addition, students are encouraged to join one of several Global Concerns (GC) groups that have links with grassroots NGO’s in the region. These groups meet weekly, usually at lunchtimes, and provide students an opportunity to both learn and to take action to support their chosen GC.

For more information
Admissions Department
UWCSEA Dover
+65 6775 5344
admissionsdover@uwcsea.edu.sg
www.uwcsea.edu.sg/admissions