



LEYSIN AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND



middle school  
program



# why choose LAS middle school?

## Fostering Education and Growth

LAS Middle School has been designed to provide a safe family environment in which children can learn, study, play, and thrive. To achieve this, the Middle School program provides students with activities both in and out of the classroom so they can make the most of the lessons and lifestyle LAS offers.

## Promoting Inclusivity and Confidence

Our Middle School students quickly become a community of close friends and flourishing young learners. The group is small meaning that everybody has a safe space in which they can be noticed and feel heard. A student's sense of self-assurance is encouraged through engagement in self-directed learning and academic goal setting—skills they will use throughout the entirety of their education.

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Average Class Size

20%

Of Classrooms Have  
Two Teachers

## Developing a Strong Academic Foundation

The goal of the Middle School is to give students a strong foundation upon which they can build their success in later grades. This is accomplished through the LAS values of academic challenge, balanced programming, community harmony, and international understanding.

## Building a Community

Students will interact mostly with other grade 7 and 8 students and Middle School faculty members. A boarding school lifestyle means that the friendships students make during school hours can continue to develop beyond the borders of their classrooms. Middle Schoolers will also interact with older students through their faculty families, sports, school-wide assemblies, and some excursions, helping to slowly integrate them into the larger student body.



## Strong Support Systems

The LAS faculty is a group of encouraging, experienced, and passionate educators who are constantly looking for ways to advance the Middle School program. Our faculty and staff strive to maintain and grow a strong academic program with the right balance of fun and scholastic challenge for young adolescents.

LAS teachers participate in extensive professional development programs and regularly attend workshops. This helps them to keep up-to-date on the most innovative and effective teaching methods practiced.

## Fall and Spring Term Weekday Schedule

- 07:30 - 07:45  
Breakfast Check-in
- 8:00 - 12:15  
Morning Classes
- 12:15 - 13:10  
Lunch
- 13:15 - 15:35  
Afternoon Classes
- 16:00 - 17:30  
Activities
- 17:00 - 18:30  
Dinner Check-in
- 19:15 - 21:00  
Study Hall/Gym Time
- 22:00  
Lights Out



# scholastic concepts

Middle School is all about building up a secure base from which students can confidently jump into their years of secondary school. In order to meet this need, our 7th and 8th grade programming is divided up into two segments—Academic Core and Academic Exploration. Academic Core lays the groundwork for essential skills and knowledge, while Academic Exploration is catered towards branching out and tapping into new interests and unexplored potential.

## academic core

Middle School classes take place throughout the day at the Savoy campus and students also participate in one hour of supervised study every evening. There are five year-long mandatory Core classes every Middle School student must take: English, Reading & Writing, Science, Math, and PE & Health.

  
**English**

  
**Reading & Writing**

  
**Science**

  
**Math**

  
**PE & Health**

## Extending Beyond the Basics

Academic Core classes combine content such as reading, writing, math, and science with soft skills like critical thinking and teamwork. Students use a process called Agile to make this possible, helping them to make their learning visible and internalize the notion that they are, to an extent, in charge of their own educational development.



**Maria, Mexico**  
**8TH GRADER**

"At LAS, they make learning interesting to make you want to learn more. They give you a lot of chances to learn from your mistakes until you understand the material."

## academic exploration

Academic Exploration courses take place over periods of 5 to 6 weeks. Course offerings change each year, but a consistently diverse selection helps to captivate every learner. Some class options could include:

  
**Computer Coding**

  
**Robot Gardening**

  
**Music Mixing**

  
**Project Innovation**

  
**Visual Art**

## Uncovering Interests and Talents

Academic Exploration, a passion-igniting program unique to the Middle School, is made up of a selection of transdisciplinary courses that are approached through daily studies. These courses provide students with new skills leading to stage presence, innovation, environmental awareness, and more.

## grading

Middle School students receive feedback on assignments and tests based on a rubric. A 4 is given for exemplary work, a 3 for satisfactory work, and a 2 for work that does not yet demonstrate the needed proficiency to go on; work that is judged to be a 2 needs to be redone by the student to show demonstrated additional learning at a 3 or 4 level.





# home away from home

From the close community to the cozy dorms, it's easy to feel right at home at LAS. Middle School students live in gender-separated dormitories with their classmates as well as some students chosen from the high school to help integrate them into the larger student body.



## Vermont Girls Dorm

- 4 faculty apartments
- 17 student rooms
- 1 ski room
- 2 student lounges (complete with kitchen, desks, ping pong table, and couches)



## Eden Boys Dorm

- 6 faculty apartments
- 22 student rooms
- 1 ski room
- 2 student lounges (complete with kitchen, big-screen TV, and ping pong table)
- BBQ area overlooking the mountains

## Encouraging Responsibility

Living at a boarding school eases students into important adolescent responsibilities such as laundering their own clothes, keeping their rooms and common spaces tidy, and being accountable for how and when they spend their pocket money. Taking on these tasks is a great step towards learning to be independent, responsible young adults.



Laundry



Clean Room



Budget



Being Timely



## Denis, Russia 7TH GRADER

"I like how you have to pack your own bags, take care of your own room, make your bed, and control your own budget.

Leysin is a small town but there are a lot of things to do. I always feel safe walking around, even at night."

# safety & supervision

## Residential Supervision

The LAS boarding school environment provides Middle School students with the opportunity to develop healthy lifestyle habits. These positive practices are achieved through a supervised residential life. Middle School dorm staff generate a safe, nurturing environment for students to come home to after school and are there to lend emotional and social support when needed. Our dorm staff are also trained in first aid and our health center is available for 24/7 care.

## Campus-Wide Supervision

Middle School students have extra levels of care outside of the classrooms and dorms: mandatory check-ins throughout the week; Monday through Thursday activities after school; mandatory Saturday excursions in Fall and Spring terms; and a supervised ski program during Winter term. These extra layers of supervision ensure that our youngest students are able to get out and enjoy everything that Switzerland has to offer, while doing so safely.





# lifestyle & fun

Mountain living brings with it a host of activities, events, and sports that our students can participate in. The LAS school year is divided into three terms—Fall term beginning in August, Winter term beginning in January, and Spring term beginning in March. Each season comes with a specific atmosphere that brings the campus to life in Leysin.



### FALL TERM

Faculty Family Weekend  
October Cultural Trips  
Friday Excursions



### WINTER TERM

Cowbell Games  
Ski & Snowboard Term  
International Week



### SPRING TERM

Spring Break  
Junior Prom  
May Cultural Trips

### Activities

Leysin is blessed with a climate that makes sports and activities accessible year round. Students must participate in four after-school activities each week during Fall and Spring terms. These activities help to promote creativity and healthy, active lifestyles, as well as provide students with opportunities for leadership, skill development, and community service.

After-school activities take place Monday through Thursday and once on weekends, between 16:00 and 18:30. Activities change from year to year based on interest, enrollment, and staffing, but in the past have included:

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Indoor/Outdoor Climbing | Mountaineering             |
| Jazz Band               | Theater Production         |
| Kickboxing/Martial Arts | Environmental Club         |
| Horseback Riding        | Model United Nations (MUN) |
| Swimming                | Maker Space                |

### Skiing and Snowboarding

Winter is the season all outdoor enthusiasts in Leysin eagerly await! From January to April, students will ski or snowboard every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon after their morning classes. Whether an absolute beginner or a seasoned pro, students can take lessons provided by the Swiss Ski School. Middle School students will also have an extra skiing session on Saturday and the option of free skiing on Sunday as well, if given parental permission.

### Faculty Families

LAS Faculty Families play a huge role in making the transition to boarding school life seem like a breeze! Students are assigned to a family with faculty parents and fellow peers at the beginning of the year and, in the weeks that follow, meet regularly for Wednesday evening meetings and activities, mandatory school events, and special dinners. Families function as an important social group and are a great resource in learning how to navigate the world of LAS.





### Friday Excursions

Every Friday during Fall and Spring terms, students take part in a supervised excursion with an academic focus. These trips, which often include workshops and lectures by guest speakers, allow our Middle School students to expand their interests and apply their learning to real-world contexts.

### Weekend Excursions

Middle School students additionally have the opportunity to immerse themselves in Swiss culture and lifestyle during weekend excursions. These trips, taking place in locations such as Montreux, Geneva, and Vevey, encourage students to fully embrace and explore their host country.

### Cultural Trips

Middle School students enjoy cultural trips as a class every Fall and Spring term. These excursions are an excellent way for students to build a culture of mutual respect within their class as well as to experience the local environment of the destination. The Fall cultural trip takes place within Switzerland while the Spring trip takes students to visit our neighbors in either Chamonix, France or the Forggensee lakeside in Southern Germany.



**Prinyaporn, Thailand**  
**8TH GRADER**

"I have been in Middle School for two years now. The cultural trips are always very fun. On the first day in Grindelwald we went up the telecabine, followed by mountain carting, and scooting. Something I have never done before."



## what's next?

The scholastic focus and practice of healthy lifestyle habits within the Middle School are designed to facilitate the transition to our Preparatory Years program (grades 9 and 10). From the core and explorative classes to the integrative student life, Middle School readies students to pursue their academic passions, further develop responsibility, and nurture their growing independence in the years to come.



**Learning  
by Doing**



**IB Preparation**



**University  
Counseling**



**Integrated  
ESL Program**





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