

# Curriculum

Cultural history is at the core of the Ross School curriculum, interwoven with all the other disciplines—English, mathematics, science, visual arts, performing arts, media studies and technology, world languages and literature, and physical education/wellness—in a rich tapestry.

Ross uses cultural history as a lens to examine all other domains. The curriculum becomes an ascending spiral of historical events plotted chronologically, from prehistory to the future, with the student educationally situated in the center of this expanding form. Such a pivoting vantage point allows multiple, simultaneous, and comparative views of the past and present. It also encourages students to consider local and national events—both past and present—in the context of world history.

While each domain offers its own rigorous curriculum, integration with other domains creates a dynamic choreography of learning. By experiencing, for example, the interrelationships among mathematics, art, and cultural history, students broaden their perspective and learn how to address situations using ideas from multiple disciplines. Students find the curriculum as a whole to be highly engaging and relevant. It provides them with the necessary knowledge and skills for the future.

## COURSE OF STUDY

Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Cultural History: World Empires and Universal Religions	Cultural History: The Climax of Hierarchical Civilizations	Cultural History: The Emergence of the Modern Perspective	Cultural History: Revolution and the Rise of the Individual	Cultural History: Global Economic Consolidation and Visionary Revolts	Cultural History: The Evolution of Consciousness; Globalization and the Dynamics of Cultural Transformation  Art History
Integrated English 7 and Writing Lab	Integrated English 8 and Writing Lab	Integrated English 9	Integrated English 10	Integrated English 11	Integrated English 12
Integrated Science 7	Integrated Science 8	Integrated Biology, Earth Science, and Physics (lab)	Integrated Chemistry, Environmental Science, and Physics (lab)	Integrated Biology, Ecology, and Physics (lab) OR Integrated Biology, Ecology, and Physics (advanced lab)	Evolution of the Cosmos, Life, Brain, and Mind (lab) OR Evolution of the Cosmos, Life, Brain, and Mind (advanced lab)
Integrated Mathematics 7	Integrated Mathematics 8	Mathematics*	Mathematics*	Mathematics*	Mathematics* (if required or elected)
World Languages**	World Languages**	World Languages**	World Languages**	World Languages**	World Languages**
Integrated Visual Arts 7	Integrated Visual Arts 8	Integrated Arts 9	Integrated Arts 10	Integrated Arts 11	Senior Project  College Test Prep
Wellness (may include inter-scholastic athletics)	Wellness (may include inter-scholastic athletics)	Wellness (at least one course per trimester)	Wellness (at least one course per trimester)	Wellness (at least one course per trimester)	Wellness (at least one course per trimester)
Elective course (one per trimester)	Elective course (one per trimester)	Elective courses (two per trimester)	Elective courses (two per trimester)	Elective courses (two per trimester)	Elective courses (two per trimester)

\* Students in grades 9–12 are placed in the mathematics course that best suits their academic needs. Twelfth grade students, or students in earlier grades who have completed a traditional course of study, may choose from several electives in mathematics. Three years of mathematics is required for all students. Students are strongly urged to take four years of mathematics.

\*\* Students in the Upper School take Mandarin Chinese as a primary language of study (unless it is their heritage language) and Spanish as a secondary language of study (unless it is their heritage language), and must successfully complete four years of study in one language.