Smiling International School

8th GRADE

CURRICULUM TOPICS

A.S.2026-2027

VISUAL ARTS

Unit	Topic	Main Points
1	(Recap) Art History and Cultural Evolution: • Introduction to world art history • Art periods and movements in recorded history	Understand the fundamental difference between an art period and an art movement.
2	Evolution of artistic concepts and technologies	Reflect on the role of visual arts in society and the distinction between art and craft.
3	Modern Movements and the Avant-Garde Revolution: Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Impressionism, The 20th-century Avant-gardes: Expressionism, Abstract Art, Cubism, Futurism, Dada, and Surrealism	• Analyze how political, social, and industrial revolutions sparked the birth of modern art. • Understand how avant-garde movements challenged traditional rules of representation and beauty. • Master the specialized critical vocabulary required to analyze and interpret abstract and non-traditional masterpieces.
4	Visual Grammar • Elements of art (line, shape/form, space, value, color, texture) • Principles of design (contrast, balance, emphasis, proportion, harmony, unity) • Studio safety, tools, and art materials.	• Master the visual alphabet (the elements) and composition rules (the principles). • Learn to safely and effectively handle tools and materials in the art studio
5	Introduction to the Portfolio and the Process Journal	Maintain and structure the Process Journal to document personal experimentation and reflection.
6	History and fundamentals of drawing	Develop observation skills ('learning to see') and the representation of form.

7	From Drawing to Painting: Portraiture and Color • Portrait drawing techniques and facial proportions • History, themes and subjects of painting • Transition from drawing into painting • Color theory and painting techniques	Draw a realistic, front-view portrait using proportional guidelines. • Understand how to successfully translate a pencil drawing into a painted artwork. • Explore the expressive use of color and apply various painting techniques, following the creative stages from concept to canvas.
8	Three-Dimensional Design	• Introduction to three-dimensional art and its history • Spatial form, volume, and balance in sculpture • Practical 3D methods

CHINESE

Unit	Topic	Main Points
0	**Introduction to the course and general review**	- Introduction to the course and new students - Introduction to HSK 1 and 2 exams - Summer homework delivery and check
1	进步 **2**, **UNIT 1** **假期** **Holidays**	Communication and vocabulary - Talking about the weather and using different time frames - Talking about different countries and languages - Talking about where you like to go on holiday - Talking about different means of transport - Using past time markers to talk about where you went on holiday - How Chinese people spend their holidays - Sustainable development of transport in China Grammar - The interrogative pronoun 怎么样

		- Adjectives (attributive function vs. adjectival predicate) - Seasons and seasonal weather - Places you go on holiday - Prepositions 跟/和。。。（一起） - Means of transport and the interrogative pronoun 怎么 - The prepositions 坐 and 骑 - 了 particle after VERBS
2	进步 **2, UNIT 2** **我** **All about me**	Communication and vocabulary - Describing people's appearance - Describing your room - Talking about clothes and colours - Talking about your daily routine - The world of fast fashion industries: case studies Grammar - Physical description using adjectives - House related vocabulary - House and room's description - Existential sentences (structure with 有 and structure with 在) - Localizers/relative place words - New measure words - Colors - Clothes - Structure 是。。。的 - Daily routine
3	进步 **2, UNIT 3** 你家在哪儿？ **Where do you live?**	Communication and vocabulary - Talking about places in a town - Learning to use relative place words - Using future time phrases to talk about weekend plans - Describing your house using comparisons - Talking about jobs and what you would like to do in the future - Everyday life in China and most common jobs - China's heating policies to face and manage pollution Grammar - Places in a town - Learning to use relative place words and directions

		- Talking about your address - Modal verbs (auxiliaries) 想 vs 要 - 要 to talk about future plans - 上，这，下 + measure word + time - Comparative of majority (比) - Talking about jobs and what you'd like to do in the future (当)
4	进步 **2, UNIT 4** 买东西 **Shopping**	Communication and vocabulary - Buying fruit and vegetables - Talking about buying clothes - Using the present continuous - Talking about online shopping - Shopping in China and how customers' habits have changed after the pandemic - Sustainable shopping in China - Chinese traditional clothing Grammar - Fruits and vegetables related vocabulary - Chinese currency (how to count money) - How to ask for the price of an item - Weights and units of measure - The polite form 请 - The adverb 还 - The structure 太。。了 - Measure words 件，条，双 - The prefix 最 - The phrase 虽然。。。，但是。。。 - Adverbs 在/正在 for the present continuous - The preposition 给 - The interrogative pronoun 为什么
5	进步 **2, UNIT 5** 在中国旅行 **Travel in China**	Communication and vocabulary - Learning to give directions - Talking about visiting Beijing - Understanding tourist information - Buying souvenirs

		Grammar - The interrogative pronoun **什么时候** - The particle 过 - The interjection **喂** to answer on the phone - **没** as negative form for verbs referring to past actions - **以前** vs **以后** - The phrase 因为。。。，所以。。。 - The use of（一）点儿 - The use of 得（complemento di grado）
Links with Citizenship		
Culture and folk traditions		- Chinese festivals - Chinese history and cultural habits - Chinese first-tier cities and China's economic and technological development - Chinese communities in the world (唐人街) - Interdisciplinary project Chinese-TD/science: creation of a tube map of one of China's metropolis with sustainability report - Interdisciplinary project Chinese-History: Propaganda posters during the Maoist Era - Interdisciplinary project Chinese-Art: Ai Weiwei 艾未未
SPEAKING AND READING		- TV series in Chinese - Books (materials will be provided by the teacher) - HSK 1 or 2 Exam Preparation

ENGLISH

Unit	Topic	Main Points
	Language	
1	**My community** **Celebrations** **Friends**	- present and future tenses - state verbs - comparisons
2	**Adventure and travel** **Where you live**	- adverb formations - past tenses - word building: suffixes and prefixes
3	**Performance** **Music, film and theatre**	- linking words - the passive
4	**Sport and health**	- modal verbs

		- prepositions
5	**Achievements Careers and Education**	- conditionals (1st, 2nd and 3rd)
6*	**Our planet Environment Wildlife**	- countable and uncountable nouns - articles - *so* and *such* (*a/an*) - *too* and *enough*
7	**Buying and selling people and feelings**	- verbs and expressions followed by *to* + infinitive or -*ing* form - reported speech
8	**Technology & Science**	- relative clauses
		Writing
9	**Mechanics and Structure**	- punctuation & capitalization - paragraph organisation (clauses vs phrases) - linking and transition words/phrases
10	**Essay**	- expository VS argumentative - understanding the question - paragraphing - linking words and phrases - coherence & cohesion - persuading the reader - using a range of vocabulary
11	**Story**	- sequencing - using a range of past tenses - adjectives & adverbs
12	**Review**	- organising paragraphs - recommending and suggesting - using linking words and phrases
13	**Email and Letter**	- formal VS informal language - addressing questions and issues - giving advice, making suggestions and persuading - beginnings and endings - giving information using linking words and phrases
14	**Article**	- keeping the reader's attention - describing and linking

Literature		
All the topics below will be investigated through both literary and non-literary texts such as novels, speeches, advertisements, magazine covers and photographs.		
15*	**Gender inequality**	- Masculinity - Femininity - Beauty VS Ethics - Gender bias - Fixed social roles
16*	**Class inequality**	- Social rigidity - Social hypocrisy - Slavery - Double standards - Crime and stereotypes
17*	**Race inequality**	- Colonialism - Racism - Immigration
	Novel studies	
18	***A Christmas Carol*** **by Charles Dickens**	- historical and social context - Charles Dickens' life and career - themes of time, family, traditions, greed, generosity, forgiveness, education, poverty and class inequalities - exploring symbols in the novel - gothic elements of the novel
19	***The Great Gatsby*** **by F.S. Fitzgerald**	- historical and social context - the Roaring Twenties - F.S. Fitzgerald's life and career - social class and women in The GG - exploring symbols in the novel - The American Dream
	Influential Speeches	
Emma Watson		-* *Gender Equality*
Martin Luther King		-*I have a dream* advocating for equality
King George VI		-*In this grave hour* declaring war
Barack Obama		- * *Moorehouse Commencement Address*
Malala Yousafzai		- * *Nobel Peace Prize acceptance Speech*
*Linked with citizenship		

GEO-HISTORY

Unit	Topic	Main Points
INTRO	**XVIII century: key historical events**	- The French Revolution - Napoleon Bonaparte and the French Empire
1	**XIX century: the Restoration and the Italian Risorgimento**	- The Vienna Congress - Revolutions in Europe; review of European countries - The Italian Risorgimento; review of Italy
2	**XIX century: changes in economy and society**	- Changes in world population; demographic indicators; Industrialization and the Industrial Revolutions; urbanization - The birth of Socialism
3	**The world between the XIX and XX century**	- Imperialism; Africa and map projections; time zones; some African countries; India - Italian situation: Historical Right, Historical Left and Giolitti; migrations; Libya - The Belle Epoque
4	**The Great War**	- Tensions and alliances between states before the war - Beginning and most important events of the war - The Treaty of Versailles
5	**Post-War Period and the Age of Totalitarianism**	- The world after WW1; the economic crisis; the economic indicators; the American Continent; Brazil; fall of Empires, Turkey; - The Russian Revolution, Lenin, Stalin; Russia - Italy and the Fascist party; Ethiopia - The Great Depression; the USA - Germany and the Nazi Party - The Spanish Civil War
6	**The Second World War**	- Hitler's expansion plans - The first two years of the war, Operation Barbarossa - Japan, the USA and the Final Solution; China and Japan - The end of the war
7	**World after WWII**	- The Nuremberg Trial - The birth of the UN; main institutions; Israeli-Palestinian conflict - The birth of the Italian Republic
8	**The Cold War**	- Causes, Space Race, Moon Landing; motions of the Earth - Cuban Missile Crisis; Vietnam War
Links with Citizenship		
Italian Constitution and law		- Cultural reasons for Imperialism
Italian Constitution and law		- UN structure and main institutions
Italian Constitution and law		- Context in which the Constitution was born and its structure; flag; national anthem

GYM

Unit	Topic	Main Points
1	Self awareness and analysis	- Beep test (20 meter run) - 10 minute run - 5 continuous jumps (m) - Upper body lifts (crunches) - Push ups - Mobility (Clock tests) - Squat (mobility and strength) - Lower back extension - Shoulder mobility - Reaction test - Throwing and Catching
2	Rhythm in Movement	- Dance warm-up - Bouncing balls in rhythm - Rope skipping - Jumping in rhythm in groups through circles - Counting steps before a kick or jump
3	Spatial Awareness and Cinesthetics	- Line tag - Walk - Run - Sprint - Stop - Don't Touch - Copy-cat - Copy-cat in groups (images) - Nose finger touches - Space invaders - Moving in couples
4	Ball skill-sets	- Dribbling basketballs - Dribbling footballs - Bager, Setting and Serving Volleyballs - Throwing and catching tennis balls - Bowling balls - Throwing dodgeballs - Hitting badminton birdies with racquets - Striking a ball with a baseball bat
5	Developing general fitness	- Sit ups - Push ups - Plank - Squat - Lunges - Pull ups - Tricep Push ups - Star jumps - Burpees

Links with Citizenship	
Health and Wellness Education	-mental health is as important as physical health
	-a way to manage stress: mindfulness

ICT

Unit	Topic	Main Points
1	Advanced Spreadsheets with Excel	- Advanced use of spreadsheets - Formulas and functions - Relative and absolute cell references - Organising and analysing data - Creating charts and visual dashboards
2	Introduction to Physical Computing	- From software to the physical world - What is a microcontroller? - Introduction to Arduino - Computers vs microcontrollers - How code can control electronic components
3	Principles of Electronics	- Basic principles of electricity - Voltage, current and resistance - Basic electrical circuits - Electronic components and their functions - Safe experimentation with circuits using Tinkercad
4	Electric Circuits with Tinkercad	- Building and simulating electrical circuits - Inputs and outputs - LEDs, resistors, buttons and motors - Testing circuits virtually before building them
5	Ohm's Law	- The relationship between voltage, current and resistance - The formula V = I × R - Solving simple electrical problems - Understanding the importance of correct electrical values
6	Understanding the Arduino Board	- The main parts of an Arduino board - Digital and analogue pins - Input and output pins - Power connections - Connecting electronic components safely
7	Programming a Traffic Light	- Programming LEDs with Arduino - Digital outputs and timing

		- Creating a traffic light in Tinkercad Circuits - Moving from simulation to a real Arduino project
8	Programming with Arduino	- The structure of an Arduino sketch - Writing and uploading programs - Variables, conditions and repetition - Connecting programming instructions with physical actions
9	From Theory to Practice: Working Safely	- Basic electrical safety - Planning a circuit before connecting it - Testing and troubleshooting - Identifying errors in circuits and programs - Moving safely from simulation to physical projects
10	Controlling a Motor with a Button	- Digital inputs and outputs - Using a button as an input device - Controlling a motor safely - Developing a complete Arduino project - Testing and improving a working prototype
11	Introduction to 3D Printing	- What is 3D printing? - Introduction to additive manufacturing - From a digital model to a physical object - Common printing materials - Possibilities and limitations of 3D printing
12	3D Modelling with SketchUp	- Creating three-dimensional models - Dimensions and scale - Faces, edges and volumes - Designing objects for the real world - Introduction to printable 3D models
13	Preparing a Model for 3D Printing	- Checking dimensions and scale - Identifying potential printing problems - Understanding the requirements of a printable model - Preparing and exporting a model for 3D printing
14	3D Printing Challenge	- Designing a functional object - Modelling and printing a spinning top - Testing which design performs best - Reproducing a familiar object as a miniature model, such as an IKEA bookcase - Design, print, test and improve
15	Introduction to 3D Scanning	- What is 3D scanning? - Introduction to photogrammetry

		- Capturing an object from multiple angles - Transforming photographs into a 3D model - Introduction to RealityScan
16	From Real Object to Digital Twin	- Planning a 3D scanning session - Photographing an object correctly - Identifying missing or problematic images - Creating and analysing a digital 3D model - Comparing the digital model with the original object
	Preparation of the Final Year Tesina	-research, insights and new tools for the preparation of the final exam paper

ITALIANO

Unit	Topic	Main Points
	Morfologia	
1	La preposizione semplice	-struttura
2	Il soggetto	- il soggetto espresso, partitivo, sottinteso o mancante del tutto - concordanza con il predicato -la posizione del soggetto
3	Il predicato	-il predicato verbale - il predicato nominale, la copula e il nome del predicato - il predicato sottinteso
4	Gli elementi di espansione della proposizione	-l'attributo -l'apposizione -I complementi diretti, indiretti e avverbiali
5	Il complemento oggetto	-funzione del complemento oggetto -posizione del complemento oggetto -complemento oggetto interno -complemento oggetto partitivo
6	I complementi indiretti (1°gruppo)	-complemento di: specificazione, denominazione, partitivo, termine, agente, causa efficiente
7	I complementi indiretti (2° gruppo)	-complemento di: causa, fine o scopo, mezzo o strumento, modo o maniera, compagnia, unione
8	I complementi indiretti (3° gruppo)	-complementi di: luogo, origine o provenienza,
	Antologia	
1	Il testo descrittivo	-la struttura e i tipi di descrizione - scopi comunicativi - tecniche della descrizione

2	Il romanzo storico e sociale	-le caratteristiche del genere - struttura, personaggi, luoghi e tempo -i grandi autori del romanzo storico e sociale
3	Il romanzo realistico sociale	-Caratteristiche del genere - il romanzo realistico in europa e in Italia
4	Il testo argomentativo	-il testo argomentativo: ragionare e convincere -gli elementi del testo argomentativo -le caratteristiche sintattiche e linguistiche del testo argomentativo.
5	Il testo poetico	-le figure retoriche di posizione e di significato - interpretare un testo poetico - analisi e commento ad un testo poetico
		Letteratura
1	Il seicento	- caratteristiche del barocco
2	Il settecento	- Il teatro e la commedia dell'arte - Cesare Beccaria - Carlo Goldoni e la riforma del teatro, vita e opere - Giuseppe Parini, vita e opere
3	L' Ottocento	- Il Romanticismo - Alessandro Manzoni, vita e opere - Ugo Foscolo, vita e opere - Giacomo Leopardi, vita e opere
4	Il Verismo, Naturalismo e realismo	- Giovanni Verga, vita e opere - confronti con letteratura francese, inglese e russa
5	La psicologia nella letteratura del 900	- Luigi Pirandello, vita e opere - Italo Svevo, vita e opere
5	Il futurismo	- Filippo Tommasi Marinetti e il manifesto
6	Gli autori della guerra	- Giuseppe Ungaretti, vita e opere - Eugenio Montale, vita e opere - Umberto Saba, vita e opere

MATHEMATICS

Unit	Topic	Main Points

ALGEBRA		
1	Relative Numbers	- set R - graphical and characteristic representation of relative rational numbers - fundamental operations in Q - powers of numbers and square roots in Z and Q - expressions with relative rational numbers
2	Algebraic calculus	- literal expressions - monomials and operations with them - polynomials and operations with them - powers of numbers and notable products - literal expressions and problems
3	Equations	- identity and equations - equivalence and its principles - resolution of a first-grade equation - determinate, indeterminate and impossible equations
4	Statistical Investigation	- absolute, relative and percentage frequency - calculation of statistical indexes: mode, mean and median - data representation: ideograms, histograms, pie-charts, and cartesian diagrams
GEOMETRY		
5	Circumference and Circle	- the circumference and its parts - the length of the circumference and of the arc - the circle and its parts - the area of the circle nad of the the circular sector - circumference, points, and lines - inscribed and central angles in a circumference
6	Objects and Figures in Space	- the solids - how to represent 3D objects - Solid nets - the volume and the capacity
7	Polyhedrons	- the polyhedrons and their elements - the prism - the parallelepiped and the cube - the pyramid - surface area and volume of polyhedrons
8	Solids of Revolution	- the solids of revolution and their elements - the cylinder - the cone - the sphere - surface area and volume of the solids of revolution

MUSIC

Unit	Topic	Main Points
1	Treble and bass clef	-Notes on the treble and bass clef applied to different music instruments
2	Music theory	-Intervals -Note duration -Major or minor scales -Major, minor, augmented and diminished chords
3	'900 music history	-Blues -Jazz -Rock and roll -Propaganda and music -Psychedelic music -Soul and R'n'B -Beatles -Punk music -1980's -Rap and hip hop -1990's -E.D.M. -2000's -2010's -Contemporary and Trap
4	Electronic Instruments	-Electronic music -Eurodance -Experimentation and the future of VST's and electronic instruments
5	Music Today	-A look at contemporary artists and new musical genres
6	Science and music	-Evolution of recording and music reproduction devices
7	Music and English language	-Music journalism and criticism -Radio project

TECHNICAL DRAWING AND TECHNOLOGY

Unit	**Topic**	Main Points
1	**Climate Change & Ecology**	-what is climate change -what is ecology -global points of view
2	**Energy**	-definition -classification
3	**Fossil Fuels and**	-definition

	Renewable Sources	-classification
4	**Electricity**	-description
5	**Light and Colours**	-definition -practical activities
6	**Making Solids with Cardboard**	-practical activities
7	**Orthogonal and Axonometric Projections**	-practical activities

SCIENCE

Unit	Topic	Main Points
1	**The Solar System**	-The solar system -The sun and the planets -Other celestial bodies: a particular focus on the Moon -The motions of the planets and Kepler's laws
2	**The Universe: Stars and Galaxies**	-The universe and the Big Bang theory - The characteristics of stars - Star 's life and death - The galaxies
3	**The Earth and its structure**	-The different layers of the Earth -The continental drift -The tectonics plate and Wegener's theory
4	**Volcanoes and Earthquakes**	- Volcanoes and their eruptions -The earthquakes and seismic activity -The distribution and origin of volcanoes and earthquakes
5	**Simple Machines: the levers**	-different types of levers: first, second and third -structure, formulas and their applications
6	**Renewable and Non-Renewable Energy Sources**	-What is energy -Energy sources: renewable and non-renewable -The nuclear reactions -Society and environment -The energy of the future
7	**Electricity and Magnetism**	- atoms, electrons and electricity - electrical forces - the current flow and the circuits - electrical resistance and Ohm's laws - magnetic forces and electromagnetism
8	**The Nervous System**	-organisation of the nervous system -neurons and transmission of signals -the central and peripheral nervous system -drugs and their effects on human body

9	**The Endocrine Systems**	- organisation of the endocrine system - endocrine glands and their functions
10	**Genetics**	-Molecular biology -the DNA structure -Mendel's law - Exercises using Punnet square
Laboratory Activity		
The "Mad Scientist" Hour		We added one extra science hour every week just for laboratory work! Don't worry, it's 100% safe and fully supervised (goggles are our favorite fashion accessory). Here, students get their hands dirty with real experiments, proving that science isn't just a textbook—it's the actual magic happening in the world around us.

SPANISH

Unit	Topic	Main points
7	**¿CÓMO ME QUEDA?** **Talking about clothes; shopping**	-communication: describing what someone is wearing, communicating in a shop, making comparisons; talking about actions in progress. -vocabulary: clothes -grammar: review of the present tense of regular and irregular verbs; other irregular verbs; estar + gerundio. -culture: fashion
8	**SEGUID RECTO** **The city; giving directions**	-communication: asking for and giving directions, expressing obligation; describing one's neighbourhood -vocabulary: the city, shops, services. -grammar: expressions of obligation: tener que/hay que + infinitivo, affirmative Imperativo -culture: tourist itineraries in distinctive locations
9	**ME HE CAÍDO** **Health; the human body**	-communication: talking about health, giving advice, talking about the recent past. -vocabulary: the human body, health and illness. -grammar: regular and irregular pretérito perfecto -culture: healthy habits
	N.B.	The choice of the Vocabulary and Latin American Culture sections may vary in order to support students' tesina projects.
Links with Civic Education		

Responsible consumption and sustainability	· Fashion, consumption and environmental impact. · Environmental and social consequences of fast fashion. · Responsible consumer choices: reducing waste, reusing and buying second-hand.
Active citizenship and solidarity	· Volunteering as a form of participation and responsibility towards the community. · Different forms of volunteering: environmental, cultural, educational, sports-related, healthcare and social. · Small individual and collective actions that contribute to the common good.
The city and living together	● The city: places, services and finding one's way in an urban environment. ● Moving around and communicating responsibly in everyday spaces. ● The city as a space for everyday life and social interaction.
Health and well-being	● The human body and health. ● Healthy habits and self-care. ● Responsible behaviours for personal well-being.
Environment and the future – Agenda 2030	● Introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals. ● Environment, climate, biodiversity and responsible use of resources. ● Professions and innovations focused on sustainability.
Heritage, memory and cultural identity	● The cultural heritage of cities and Spanish-speaking countries. ● Picasso and Guernica as an example of art and historical memory. ● La Guerra civil española and el Franquismo as a historical and cultural context. ● Art as a form of expression and testimony.

PRODUCTIVE THINKING

Unit	Topic	Main Points
0	Introduction to Productive Thinking	- Classroom agreement - Rules of respectful discussion - Active listening - Difference between debating and arguing - Building a safe learning environment
1	Respect & Tolerance	- Dictionary definition of respect and tolerance - Empathy - Diversity - Respecting different opinions
2	Self-Esteem & Self-Awareness	- Self-esteem vs confidence - Growth mindset - Personal strengths - Reflection - Identity
3	Stereotypes & Prejudice	- Dictionary definitions - Cognitive biases - First impressions - Inclusion - Challenging stereotypes
4	Managing Emotions & Criticism	- Emotional awareness - Constructive criticism - Emotional regulation - Resilience
5	Conflict Resolution	- Fair Play - Mediation - Communication strategies - Accountability vs Dismissal

Links with Citizenship
Fundamental rights and civil liberties International law and human rights Digital citizenship and online ethics