

2019-20 Upper Campus Middle School (UCM) Academic Tracks

ICSAtlanta is excited to announce our new Middle School tracks, which will be rolled out beginning in the 2019-2020 school year. Students (starting in 6th grade) will choose one track and will continue on this track until they graduate 8th grade.

Fine Arts Track

The *Fine Arts Track* is designed primarily for middle school students who are new to second language (L2) learning or have not yet reached the proficiency necessary to enroll in an immersion class or 3rd language. Students in this track will study an L2 as part of their core studies. In addition, students in this track have the opportunity to choose 2 to 4 connection courses each school year. Connection courses are courses such as P.E., Art, Music/Choir, Drama, ASL, etc.

- This track is recommended for new ICSAtlanta students with minimal L2 experience and for students who are somewhat-motivated language learners with other strong interests.
- No prior L2 proficiency is necessary for this track.
- By 8th grade graduation, students can earn up to 2 high school credits in their L2.

Language Focus Track

The *Language Focus Track* is for middle school students who would like to focus primarily on language learning. Students in this track will take 1 leveled course in their L2 and 1 leveled course in a third language (L3). In addition, students in this track will choose 1 to 2 connection courses per school year. Connection courses are courses such as P.E., Art, Music/Choir, Drama, ASL, etc.

- The minimum requirement to choose this track is an intermediate-low proficiency level in at least 2 categories (spoken, reading, listening, and writing) in the L2, as determined by the STAMP SE assessment.
- This track is recommended for motivated language learners with other interests or new students already proficient in an L2 offered by ICSAtlanta.
- By 8th grade graduation, students can earn up to 3 high school credits in their L2 and up to 2 high school credits in their L3.

Immersion Track

The *Immersion Track* is for middle school students who would like the opportunity to dive deeper into their L2. Students in this track will continue in their leveled L2 class plus an additional course taught in the L2 (immersion course). In addition, students in this track will choose 1-2 connection courses per school year. Connection courses are courses such as P.E., Art, Music/Choir, Drama, ASL, etc.

- The minimum requirement to choose this track is an intermediate-low proficiency level in at least 2 categories (spoken, reading, listening, and writing) in the L2, as determined by the STAMP SE assessment.
- This track is recommended for rising dual language immersion (DLI) students who wish to continue in an immersion environment.
- By 8th grade graduation, students can earn up to 3 high school credits in their L2.

Immersion Plus Track

The *Immersion Plus Track* is for middle school students who would like the opportunity to dive deeper into their L2 and learn an L3. Students in this track will continue in their leveled L2 class, take an additional course taught in the L2 (immersion course), and take 1 leveled L3 course. Students in this track will not have any additional room in their schedules for additional Connections classes.

- The minimum requirement to choose this track is an intermediate-low proficiency level in at least 2 categories (spoken, reading, listening, and writing) in the L2, as determined by the STAMP SE assessment.
- This track is recommended for the very highly-motivated language learner.
- By 8th grade graduation, students can earn up to 3 high school credits in their L2 and up to 2 high school credits in their L3.

Middle School Immersion Courses

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDoE) has recently proposed middle school immersion courses designed for students entering their middle school years from K-5 DLI programs. These courses are currently under review, and if passed, ICSAtlanta will offer the following courses (available to the immersion and immersion plus track students) for the 2019-2020 school year:

- DLI History and Culture - 6th grade
- DLI Media Literacy - 7th grade
- DLI Literature - 8th grade

Language Proficiency Testing

In order to level our language classes and to determine if students have the prerequisite language proficiency levels necessary for certain UCM academic tracks, ICSAtlanta students will take the Stamp 4SE assessment at the end of 5th grade. Students are tested in school, free of cost to parents.

If proficiency testing is needed in an additional language (L3) to be placed in an intermediate or advanced class, students will have to complete the testing during the summer (June or July) testing sessions. The cost for this testing is approximately \$30 per language. If students do not complete this testing, they will be placed in a beginner level course for their L3 course.

Students who are newly entering ICSAtlanta in 6th grade and who wish to enroll in the *Language Focus*, *Immersion*, or *Immersion Plus* tracks will need to complete testing during one of the sessions offered in June or July. If students do not complete the testing, they will be enrolled in a beginner level L2 course and only be permitted to the Fine Arts Track. The cost for testing is approximately \$30 per language.