

*Shaping local leaders and global learners*

## Teaching & Learning @ VIS

Vision International School (VIS) uses standards-based instruction, assessment, evaluation and reporting. VIS teaches an American curriculum based on American Standards for various subjects such as the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), the American Reaches Out Standards (AERO), or the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Full curriculum documents can be found at <http://www.vis.qa/curriculum/> In addition, students study Arabic, Qatari History and Islamic Studies (Muslim students only) as prescribed by the Ministry of Education of Qatar. Non-Arabic students receive instruction in Arabic as an additional language.

### **Our Mission:**

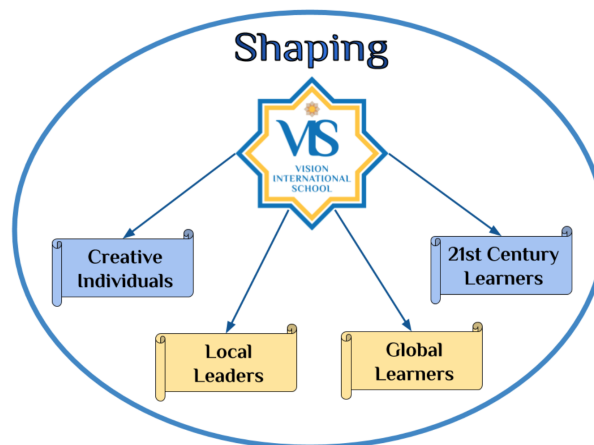
Vision International School is a gender-separate American-curriculum school committed to preparing students for the 21st century by providing an academic environment in which students learn how to collaboratively solve problems and learn independently. In addition, students learn to express themselves through the fine arts, athletics, and a wide range of activities and experiences designed to enrich their lives. We also seek to instill a sense of ethics, care and compassion for others.

### **Our Vision:**

*Shaping local leaders and global learners*

VIS aims to be a community that shapes local leaders and global learners by developing leadership skills, increasing global awareness, and by celebrating the culture and traditions of Qatar.

### **Our Expected Learning Results:**



**EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM: PreK, KG1, KG2, 1st Grade**

**ELEMENTARY: 2nd-6th**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL: 7th-8th**

**HIGH SCHOOL: 9th-12th**

The school day runs from 7:15 a.m. until 2:15 p.m., except for the Early Childhood Program (PK, K1 & K2), which begins at 7:15 a.m. and dismisses at 12:15 p.m.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM: PreK, KG1, KG2, 1st Grade

### PreK, KG1

The instructional basis of our ECE program is the Creative Curriculum, which identifies goals in the following four areas of child development.

- **Social:** To help children feel comfortable in school, trust their new environment, make friends, and feel they are a part of the group.
- **Emotional:** To help children experience pride and self-confidence, develop independence and self-control, and have a positive attitude toward life.
- **Cognitive:** To help children become confident learners by letting them try out their own ideas and experience success, and by helping them acquire learning skills, such as the ability to solve problems, ask questions, and use words to describe their ideas, observations, and feelings.
- **Physical:** To help children increase their large and small muscle skills and feel confident about what their bodies can do.

In addition to these four developmental areas, EC students receive specialized instruction in visual arts, music, and physical education on a rotating basis throughout the school year.

Our program for young learners is grounded in the importance of self-discovery through play. We provide numerous learning activities in a sequenced manner to allow students to discover their learning interests and strengths within a safe, flexible, and respectful learning environment. We focus on what students are able to do and what they enjoy within the learning process.

### KG2 & 1st Grade

Students in grades KG2 and 1st Grade have a 'homeroom' teacher, who is responsible for instruction in English language arts, mathematics, social studies and science.

The **English language arts** program is driven by the AERO Standards and is based on [Lucy Calkins' Reading and Writing Workshop](#) and is supplemented with Guided Reading and Literature Circle resources from Scholastics. The English Language Arts curriculum explores and builds on the basic components of the language: reading, writing, speaking/listening, and language foundations.

**Mathematics** is taught using Everyday Mathematics, a program produced by the Center for Elementary Mathematics and Science Education and the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project. Everyday Mathematics is a spiraling curriculum, meaning that it distributes learning over time; spiraling leads to better long-term mastery of facts, skills, and concepts.

**Science** instruction is supported through the use of Full Option Science System (FOSS) materials, which is an activity-based program designed to engage students in learning about the big ideas of science, as well as science and engineering practices as described in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

**Social studies** is taught using the AERO standards and a variety of resources. These are organized to teach students about the world around them in increasingly wider contexts, from 'Me and My Community,' the Arab world, and to the broader view of extended communities and regions.

## ELEMENTARY (GRADES 2 - 6)

Students in grades 1 to 6 have a 'homeroom' teacher, who is responsible for instruction in English language arts, mathematics, social studies and science.

The **English language arts** program is driven by the AERO standards and is based on [Lucy Calkins' Reading and Writing Workshop](#) and is supplemented with Guided Reading and Literature Circle resources from Scholastic.

**Mathematics** is taught using Everyday Mathematics, a program produced by the Center for Elementary Mathematics and Science Education and the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project. Everyday Mathematics is a spiraling curriculum, meaning that it distributes learning over time; spiraling leads to better long-term mastery of facts, skills, and concepts.

**Science** instruction is supported through the use of Full Option Science System (FOSS) materials, which is an activity-based program designed to engage students in learning about the big ideas of science, as well as science and engineering practices as described in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

**Social studies** is taught using the AERO standards and a variety of resources. These are organized to teach students about the world around them in increasingly wider contexts, from 'Me and My Community,' the Arab world, and to the broader view of extended communities and regions. The FOSS kits provide teachers with rich resources for teaching social studies.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES ON HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9 - 12)

All high school teachers are responsible for holding students to a high standard of English in their speaking and writing. We have a rich variety of resources for our students. Our library has over 27,000 books and plenty of novel sets and a full room of Scholastics levelled readers. Our science labs are state of the art, and students have access to sophisticated equipment to conduct a wide variety of hands-on experiments. High school students have the opportunity to take an Advanced Placement Class (AP), which is AP Psychology. Our counselors regularly visit classrooms and teach a Career Exploration and College and Career Planning to high school students.

In 2018/19, we are rolling out a Bring Your Own MacBook program in high school which will bring added value to teaching and learning @VIS.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 7-8) and HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9 - 12)

**English language arts** teachers seek to produce local leaders and global learners through the study of literature and informational text. Using the AERO English standards students are introduced to a rigorous curriculum focused on four strands: reading, writing, speaking/listening, and language foundations.

In **mathematics**, beginning in grade 6, we move from [Everyday Mathematics to Big Ideas Math](#) in middle school and Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and Precalculus in high school. The math curriculum encourages deep understanding of mathematical concepts by approaching the content in a variety of ways.

The VIS **science** department is dedicated to guiding students along their path to being informed global citizens who are well versed in the methods and ideas of science. Middle School and high school students use scientific reasoning and thinking skills to problem solve, communicate effectively, work collaboratively and use technology as a tool in working towards the goals of becoming lifelong learners and functioning in a global environment. The 4 High School science subjects taught are: Earth and Space Science, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

**Social Studies** is taught using the AERO Standards. In middle school, the focus is on Ancient History, Geography of Asia and Africa, and to study the Medieval World. High School Social Studies includes history, geography, sociology and AP psychology. It is the mission of the Department of Social Studies to develop capable citizens who are empowered with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to make informed and responsible decisions in a diverse and interdependent world. We help students develop critical thinking abilities; working to solve problems collaboratively as well as individually. We are preparing our students for the 21st century using current literature and technology.