

Curriculum Explanation

Adventist schools started in 1853, nearly 180 years ago. Now there are more than 7,500 schools, 85,000 teachers, and more than 1.5 million students around the world attending these schools.

CAIS's curriculum is based on the American Common Core curriculum, which has been modified and improved by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists Office of Education. These involved changing the curriculum to reflect the Seventh-day Adventist worldview. This worldview is based on Biblical principles that inform the philosophy, mission, and goals of our schools. Among these are the concepts of origins, sanctity of life, purpose for human existence, importance of living a life of service to humanity, and respect for God, others, and yourself. This is why our school has such high standards of morality and values which many parents give as the reason they send their children here.

Adventist Education is committed to using the best 21st-century educational practices, within our ability, to provide a high quality education with the goal of teaching each student according to their individual abilities, learning styles, and needs. The ultimate goal is to inspire students to become curious which will lead them to become lifelong learners.

Our school and curriculum are structured to produce graduates who have integrity in all parts of life, who are adaptable to changing circumstances, resilient when they fail, able to think analytically and critically, and innovators who are able to find new solutions. Why? So they will be ready to become the leaders of tomorrow: leaders who will continually learn new ways to be leaders.

Standardized Testing

As research in education advances, curricula must change. CAIS's curriculum is constantly undergoing modification to ensure that we are offering and using the best practices possible. One assessment tool we have in our school program is the MAP examination. MAP stands for Measurement of Academic Progress. The results of the examination show the student's progress over time as well as how each one compares to different regional groups of students who have already taken the test. The data also allows the school to see the strengths and weaknesses of the courses being taught. We are then able to focus on the individual needs of each student to help them recover from lapses in their learning progression. MAP is given three times annually: at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year.

Individual Curriculum Areas

Each grade level has developmentally appropriate levels of the following courses.

Morality – Morality classes are the foundation of our school. The Biblical concepts taught in morality classes are the most-often stated reasons parents send their children to our school: "high moral standards and values," "the way the teachers treat the students with respect," "the cleanliness of the campus and classrooms," and similar comments. CAIS teachers

believe that they have a higher standard of moral responsibility than only human reasoning. We believe that God sets standards for lasting human relationships and success in life. To expand on what was stated earlier, these standards involve: truthfulness, trustworthiness, integrity, service to mankind, faithfulness to others, respect for God, others, and oneself, and all other positive characteristics that build meaningful relationships between humans. God does this through the Bible which includes examples from history. This belief forms the basis for our morality classes. Students are taught the principles, but are free to make their own decisions about who or what they will make a priority in their lives. They are encouraged to incorporate the principles into their character, though, for a more meaningful life.

Language Arts – This subject includes English, reading (phonics), writing, and spelling. The language arts are seen as being fundamental to the student's educational and life success since they form the basis for all effective communication.

English – English is the language used in all classes except for Khmer class. Most of our teachers are bilingual in both Khmer and English, but the curriculum is taught in English. Students who graduate from CAIS usually have no difficulty going to universities where the main language is English since they learn to read, write, speak, and communicate in this language.

Khmer – A person's language is the foundation of their identity within their culture. It is important that each student acquire the ability to read, write, and speak effectively in their own language. Our Khmer program is under constant review to ensure that we offer the best learning opportunities available to our students. Since our major medium of instruction is in English, we are not able to achieve the same standards of fluency the student would get from a school whose entire curriculum is taught in Khmer.

International Students – Khmer is required of all students, but is taught as an introductory level foreign language to the students who are not Cambodian nationals.

Math – Our curriculum extends from the simple understanding of counting taught in Kindergarten to pre-calculus in the 12th grade. Students are taught to find the joy and fun of learning math concepts and using it in their lives. High school math classes are algebra 1, algebra 2, geometry, and pre-calculus. Students who leave CAIS early miss the math classes which are necessary for success in many courses of study in the universities.

Science – This subject is built on a foundation of inquiry and wonderment about the world around us and is based on the Biblical belief of Intelligent Design. Each level is adjusted to the abilities of the students and rigor increases as they progress through the years. We have brand new science books and curriculum for K-8 and high school Biology classes this coming year. These give the students opportunities to explore, record data, hypothesize problems and solutions, and to reflect on the natural world around them. High school science classes include one year each of physical science, biology, chemistry, and physics. These courses provide the knowledge necessary for success in university science courses. Each topic is self-contained and is taught for only one year.

Social Studies/History – This curriculum is designed to help the students learn about the impact humans have on the world around them. It includes the study of how world geography, climate, politics, social structure, and culture interact with each other to create the world in which we live. History is taught through the morality classes as well as the World

History class. The emphasis is on learning how Earth's history is connected and mistakes are often repeated when people do not learn the tough lessons already learned by those who have gone before.

Fine Arts – “Through the development of music literacy, and participation in singing, playing instruments, and listening activities, a student’s emotional and physical well-being is enhanced.” ([Source](#)) The student is given opportunities to share their skills through public performances and other activities. Research shows that knowledge, skills, and practice using music is a vital part of a well-rounded education. It has even been shown to help struggling students do better academically because of the self-discipline it develops in the student. Music is not the only expression of the fine arts at CAIS, though. Students explore photography, graphic design, drawing, and other forms of the visual arts as well.

Technology – Technology is taught from grades 2-11. The focus of the curriculum is to develop the student’s ability to properly use technology as a tool for them to use in learning and not letting technology control them. Early grades focus on learning proper keyboarding skills with emphasis, first on accuracy, and then on speed as well as how to use appropriate learning resources on the internet. Later grades learn how to do basic programming, website building, word processing, presentations, spreadsheets, and other skills which are meant to expose them to possible careers they could choose in STEM careers.

Physical Education – The main focus of PE classes at CAIS is mostly on creating students who are lifelong learners in the area of physical activity. Students develop their physical skills and knowledge of the skills and rules of sports but are taught to play for the fun of spending time getting exercise versus playing just so they can win. Competition is not the main focus of the program since students who are not as developed physically often tend to quit trying when they lose frequently. Physical activity is important to good health, both mentally and physically. Personal abilities are emphasized but students are encouraged to constantly improve their skills by striving to improve their own records.

Finance Courses – Starting in 2023, CAIS is requiring different high school levels to take Personal Finance and Introduction to Accounting. These courses are designed to equip the students with the ability to make sound financial decisions, create and follow a budget, and other financial activities they will face during their lives. The accounting course is meant to help students to understand the accounting aspects of a business.

Clay Bedford said ***“You can teach a student a lesson for a day, but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives.”*** That is one of the top goals of CAIS’s academic program: to create lifelong learners with integrity.

Resources:

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) about Adventist Education and the Seventh-day Adventist church.