

## **Academic**

### **1. What time does school start?**

Students are encouraged to report to school at 7.15am for silent reading and assembly will be at 7.30am. Lessons start at 7.45am. A child is late for school if he/she is not within the school gates by 7.30am.

### **2. What time does school end?**

From Mondays to Thursdays, school usually ends by 2.45 pm latest for lower secondary classes and 3.15pm latest for (upper secondary classes) on some days. On Fridays, school ends by 12.45pm. This is dependent on the Time-Table generated for 2024.

### **3. How are students integrated into the classes in the new FSBB scheme?**

There are a number of activities lined up for the Sec 1 students during the first semester. The Sec 1 Orientation camp, led by the Sec 4 students will help the Sec 1 feel welcome into their new phase of education. A needs survey is conducted, and Form Teachers (FTs) will have an overview on the needs and issues any student is facing. A sociogram will be conducted in at the end of Term 1 where FTs will have knowledge of any neglected students in the class. Throughout the year, FTs also conduct one-to-one conference session with students to find out more about their life and issues that they may be facing.

### **4. How many spaces are allocated to students who are non-affiliated to GM?**

20% of the spaces are reserved for the non-affiliated in the various posting groups.

### **5. What is the percentage of students who are non-affiliated entering GM in the last 3 years?**

Percentages of students who are non-affiliated [students not from GMS(P)] change from year to year. It is approximately:

Express: 50% – 55%

Normal (Academic): 25% - 30%

Normal (Technical): 20% - 25%

### **6. If my child's AL just meet/miss the cut off, should we still apply to GM?**

This depends on demand and supply, and varies year-on-year. You could consider putting GM as the top 1-2 choices (and hope for the best) and the last 2 choices should preferably be schools that your child is very likely to get in.

## 7. What are the subjects offered in your school?

Lower Secondary	Upper Secondary
G2 & G3	
<b>Examinable Subjects:</b> English Language Mother Tongue Mathematics Science History Geography Literature Art Food and Consumer Education Design and Technology  <b>Non-Examinable Subjects:</b> Character and Citizenship Education Physical Education Music	<b>Compulsory Subjects:</b> English Language Mother Tongue Mathematics <sup>1</sup> Humanities <sup>2</sup> Science <sup>3</sup>  Design & Technology, Exercise & Sports Science, Art, Nutrition and Food Science, and Principles of Accounts are offered based on students' interests and school resources.  <sup>1</sup> All students take Elementary Mathematics. Additional Mathematics is offered to students with interest and aptitude  <sup>2</sup> Humanities (Social Studies + Elective Geography/ History/ Literature) Core Humanities (Geography/ History /Literature)  <sup>3</sup> Either Pure Sciences or Combined Sciences – <i>Pure Sciences: Chemistry / Biology / Physics</i> – <i>Combined Sciences: Science (Chemistry, Physics) / Science (Chemistry, Biology)</i>  <b>Non-Examinable Subjects:</b> Character and Citizenship Education Physical Education
G1	
<b>Examinable Subjects:</b> English Language Basic Mother Tongue Mathematics Science Food and Consumer Education Design and Technology Art  <b>Non-Examinable Subjects:</b> G1 Humanities Character and Citizenship Education Physical Education Music	<b>Compulsory Subjects:</b> English Language Basic Mother Tongue Mathematics Science Nutrition and Food Science, Elements of Business Studies, Design & Technology are offered based on students' interests and school resources.  <b>Non-Examinable Subjects:</b> G1 Humanities Character and Citizenship Education Physical Education

**8. What are the eligibility criteria for Subject-Based Banding (SBB)?**

Sec 1 students posted to the G1 and G2 courses may be offered English/ Mathematics/ Science/ Mother Tongue Language at a higher level, based on their PSLE AL score for each subject. Students can choose to accept or reject the offer.

PSLE eligibility criteria for offering higher level subjects:

PSLE subjects offered under SBB (Sec)	PSLE subject level	PSLE AL Score for the specific subject	Option to take the Secondary 1 subject at
English Language	Standard	AL 5 or better	G2/G3
Mathematics		AL 6	G2
Science			
Mother Tongue Language	Foundation	AL A	G2

Eligible students will receive SBB Offer Letters stating that they qualify for SBB in the subject area via PG. Parents/guardians are reminded to give consent via PG by 27 December 2023 (Wednesday).

GMS(S) currently offers SBB for English, Mother Tongues, Mathematics and Science in Secondary 1.

**9. How can my child progress to a higher stream (lateral transfer)?**

Under Full Subject Based Banding (FSBB), all students will generally progress to the next year of learning. With the removal of course labels, there will be one common academic criterion used to identify students who can/should adjust their curricular load.

Students' curricular load for the following year can be adjusted based on the school's holistic considerations of what is educationally meaningful for each student, including offering individual subjects at a more or less demanding subject level and adjusting the total number of subjects offered.

**10. How often are students assessed and what is the weighting?**

	CT1	CT2	CT3	EOY
Weighting	15%	15%	15%	55%
When	Term 1 Wk 7	Term 2 Wk 7	Term 3 Wk 7	Term 4 Wk 3

**11. Is GMS(S) affiliated to ACJC?**

Yes. There will be 2 affiliation bonus points if students apply to ACJC with their O-Level results.

**12. Does GMS(S) offer Higher Mother Tongue (HMT)?**

Yes. We offer Higher Chinese within curriculum time. Students offering HMT in Malay and Tamil Language do so at external venues.

**13. Will my child be automatically offered Higher Chinese Language (HCL) in secondary school if my child has studied Higher Chinese Language in primary school?**

All students eligible to study HCL will have received an offer letter from MOE together with their PSLE results. Parents/guardians are reminded to give consent via PG by 29 December 2023.

**14. Does GMS(S) offer Syllabus B for Chinese Language?**

We offer Syllabus B for Chinese Language in Sec 4 only. Other levels will be offered at the MOE CLB centres. However, CLB will not be offered from year 2027 onwards.

**15. Does GMS(S) offer any special Art/Music programme (AEP/MEP)?**

GMS(S) does not offer Art Elective Programme (AEP) and Music Elective Programme (MEP) within the school.

Students can apply to undergo a centralised selection exercise in January 2024 to offer the programme at the following AEP and MEP Centres:

Programme	Centre
<b>AEP</b>	National Junior College
<b>MEP</b>	Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) Dunman High School

More information on AEP and MEP can be found on the following websites:

AEP: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/education-in-sg/our-programmes/aep-sec>

MEP: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/education-in-sg/our-programmes/mep-sec>

**16. What are the achievement levels required to enter GMS(S)?**

The achievement levels (AL) may change from year to year.

Score range for 2023 Secondary 1

	Normal (T) / G1	Normal (A) / G2	Express / G3
<b>PSLE AL range (Affiliated school)</b>	25 - 28	21 - 25	9 - 21
<b>PSLE AL range (Non-affiliated schools)</b>	25 - 26	21 - 23	9 - 15

## **Co-curriculum**

### **1. What are the CCAs offered in GM?**

<b>Sports</b>	<b>Aesthetics</b>	<b>Uniformed Groups (UGs)</b>	<b>Clubs and Societies</b>
Athletics	Chinese Dance (Girls only)	Boys' Brigade	Board Games Club
Badminton	Choir	Girls' Brigade	Media@GM
Basketball (Boys only)	Concert Band	Girl Guides	Media Resource (MR)
Football (Boys only)	EL Drama	NPCC (Boys only)	
Netball (Girls only)			
Table Tennis			
Volleyball (Boys only)			

### **2. How often are CCA sessions held?**

Every CCA has a different schedule. Please refer to our website (<https://geylangmethodistsec.moe.edu.sg/ccas-schedule/>) for more details.

### **3. Can my child join more than one CCA?**

Students are recommended to join only one CCA in the best interest of their well-being. If students wish to join more than one CCA, this will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### **4. Can my child take up an external CCA?**

Secondary school students may pursue their interests and participate in external activities, but not in-lieu of a school-based CCA except for Singapore National Youth Orchestra and Singapore Youth Chinese Orchestra.

### **5. Is there a selection process for sports CCA?**

All Sec 1 students will attend trials for selected Sports and all the Aesthetics CCAs.

### **6. What are the leadership opportunities for my child?**

There are many platforms offered in GM – class committee, CCA committee, House Committee (HC), Student Council (SC), GEMS Leaders (aka orientation group leaders), and Peer Ambassadors. Students can volunteer for the class committee positions to gain leadership exposure. As for HC, SC, and Peer Ambassadors, there is a selection process that takes place later in the year. CCA leaders and GEMS Leaders are selected when they are in Sec 3. Students will not be able to join both HC and SC in the interest of their well-being.

## Others

### 1. What are the signature programmes in GMS(S)?

- **Learning for Life Programme (LLP)**

The school's **LLP**, Community and Youth Leadership focuses on developing students to be leaders of self and community. **VIA** is the key platform for them to take a stand on issues they are passionate about. Taking a multi-pronged approach, students are progressively equipped with leadership, effective communication, and critical inquiry skills through the various facets of their school experience.

- **Student Leadership:** All students will go through progressive leadership training that equip them with core leadership competencies and skills. The leadership trainings are tiered with varying rigor and intensity based on students' readiness and interest.
- **Effective communication:** Students at all levels are given opportunities to practise and hone their communication skills, across various modes, such as oral presentations, video presentations, emcee skills, writing proposals, speeches, making PowerPoint presentations etc. Such multi-modal opportunities not only develop 21CC skills in our students, but also allow our students to be future-ready in a world that requires effective communication across many platforms and situations.
- **Inquiry-Based Learning:** Students will have the opportunities to carry out investigations in the Humanities subjects (Geography, History and Upper Secondary Social Studies) to gain deeper understanding of both content and skills, to develop critical thinking skills, civic literacy and awareness of global issues, and to communicate their findings through various modes.

- **Applied Learning Programme**

The school's ALP is on Sustainability. It is a three-year progressive programme for Sec 1 to Sec 3 students which focuses on Urban Heat Island, Urban Agriculture and Food Security. In Sec 3, interested students will get to tackle real-life problems on Sustainability, working with industry partners / National Junior College to extend their scientific pursuits.

- **Student-Initiated Learning (STARS Programme)**

An enrichment program that aims to provide a platform for students to discover areas that they have interest in and to be self-driven to learn with guidance from teachers. Our Sec 1 and 2 students will choose an interest in one domain of the STARS and embark on a journey of self-discovery and development during HBL days. Our Sec 3 students will continue their area of interest in mastery.

Sports and Wellness (E.g. Exercise, Health, Mental Health, Food)

Technology and Innovation (E.g. STEM, Coding, Robotics, Game Design)

Aesthetics (E.g. Music, Arts, Dance, Drama, Design, Language, Culinary)

Reading and Writing (E.g. Books, Novels, Poems, Plays, Educational Magazines, Journals)

Sustainable Living (E.g. Care for Environment and Nature, Recycling)

This is achieved through a structured process of discovering of interests and career choices with MySkillsFuture, followed by opportunities for self-directed exploration and learning to develop their areas of interests. Students will end the year with the opportunity to learn from trainers who are experts in the various industries.

## **2. How does the school support children who have academic, social, or emotional difficulties? How about students with SEN?**

We have a team of staff to support children, ranging from Student Development Team, SEN Officer, and School Counsellors. The SEN Officer oversees the support for SEN students in the school, and we have teachers trained in Special Needs to also guide SEN students in the classrooms. There are also Peer Support Leaders (known as Peer Ambassadors) who are trained to befriend or help fellow students in every class (Sec 1 Peer Ambassadors will be recruited in Semester 1). Students who face social-emotional challenges (e.g. grief and loss, stress and cyberwellness) can also approach their Form Teachers or School Counsellors.

## **3. Does my child need to attend chapel services? Are school programmes faith-based?**

All students will participate in daily devotion and weekly Chapel. Our school holds daily devotion during assembly in the morning that is based on Christian values and sayings. There is also weekly Chapel by the level where one of the chaplains of the school will give a message to instruct and encourage students based on stories and principles from the Bible. Muslim students will attend Moral Studies lessons during Chapel period. Students who are interested can also participate in the Christian Fellowship held every week.

## **4. Can my child bring their mobile phone to school?**

Students are allowed to bring their mobile phones to school. However, they can only use it in designated areas such as the school canteen, outside staffroom, CMS foyer and General Office foyer before and after school. It is to be switched off before going back to class and kept in their locker during lesson times. Please contact school at 67455603 if you need to reach your child in case of an emergency.

## **5. Must my child still buy a PLD if we have a laptop at home?**

Under the National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP), all secondary school students will be equipped with a school-prescribed personal learning device (PLD). In GMS(S), our students are using a **Chromebook** as their PLD. The school will be purchasing this device for the students via MOE's bulk tender. Students are encouraged to use the device model prescribed by the school, as the uniformity of systems and software would ensure a smooth learning experience for everyone. The device purchased through the school will come with the necessary warranty and insurance as well. All Singaporean students can tap on their Edusave Account to reduce their out-of-pocket expenses when buying the PLD.

Students who do not wish to purchase the Chromebook because they already have their own Chromebook will have to check with the school to ascertain whether the specifications of their existing Chromebooks meet the schools' requirements. These existing Chromebooks must also be installed with a Device Management Application (DMA) software to manage the student's access and usage.

**6. I'm worried about my child's PLD usage and screen time. What is the school's policy on the use of such devices in school?**

There is no recommended screen time as it depends very much on the nature of the activity. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (2016), there is no one-size-fits-all approach to limiting the amount of screen time for teenagers. The academy recommends that screen time takes into consideration a child's developmental stage, how the technology is used, the quality of the content and design of the material. The school will design their learning programmes to ensure that the students' use of PLDs is balanced in relation to other activities and modes of learning.

All PLDs will be installed with DMA, which allows teachers to manage students' screen time if they so desire. Teachers will also continue to ensure that the amount of assignments set (both online and offline) is guided by the school's homework policy.

**7. Are there any overseas exchange programme?**

With the relaxing of Covid-19 measures, the school is considering the resumption of overseas exchange programme.

**8. Is there a Parent Support Group? What is the involvement like?**

There is an active Parent Support Group in GMS(S). They organize various activities like parent talks, tea party for parents etc. to support parents in transiting their child/ward into new learning environment.

**9. Are there vegetarian stalls in the canteen? How many Muslim stalls? What is the average food price of all stalls?**

We do not have a vegetarian stall. There is 1 Muslim stall which sells western food. The average food price of all stalls is about \$2.50.

**10. What is the disciplinary approach in GMS(S)?**

When a student has a disciplinary issue, we would use that as a teachable moment. Most of our students are teachable and response well to our correction. In our correction, we want our students to know where they have gone wrong and teach them what they can do to right the wrong. We will also teach them what they can do if they face similar situation again.

Our emphasis is not to catch them doing wrong so that we can discipline them. Our emphasis is how to raise them up as man and woman of good characters with sound moral compass.