



Secondary Programme Syllabus

Secondary (Grades 7-9)

Ciboney Centre for Excellence Syllabus

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Our Secondary Programme: Focusing on the Middle Years

Adolescence describes the teenage years between 13 and 19 and can be considered the transitional stage from childhood to adulthood. Adolescence can be a time of both disorientation and discovery. This transitional period can bring up issues of independence and self-identity; many adolescents and their peers face tough choices regarding schoolwork, sexuality, and their social life. Peer groups, romantic interests and external appearance tend to naturally increase in importance for some time during a teen's journey toward adulthood.

At Ciboney we strive to develop and support the minds of our young students in such a way that encourages, stimulates, and inspires during the adolescent years. Our programme structures learning around hands-on activities within multiage settings, in order to maintain the natural interest and curiosity of our students during this critical time of brain development.

A Message from the Principal

Ciboney Centre for Excellence lives to educate the minds and hearts of the students that enter through our doors. Through the work of our dedicated teachers and staff, we are committed to the academic, emotional, and social development of students at this critical time in their lives.

Exceptional middle-level education is substantially different from both elementary and high school education. At the middle level, students are developing their interests and academic habits, as well as finding their way socially. Ciboney's wide variety of course options is specifically designed to allow students to explore and discover areas of interest they may want to pursue in high school and beyond.

At the same time, students need to be challenged through classes that expand their knowledge and skills so they will develop academic habits needed to carry them through high school and post-secondary education.

We also recognize the responsibility of providing our students with an environment which will socially and culturally prepare them to participate in a globally interconnected world. Experiences are structured so that students of both similar and different perspectives and cultures will learn together. These academic experiences may be as immediate as in a classroom, or as far reaching as across the globe using the tools of technology. Quite simply, the mixing of cultures happens today throughout the work world and certainly in advanced academic settings. For our students, a sense of intercultural awareness and appreciation will be critical to their success in a global society.

Our hope is for your child to leave Ciboney Centre for Excellence with a promising academic future and a string of wonderful memories of relationships with friends and a caring staff.

Reading through the course descriptions, you'll gain a clearer understanding of offerings at Ciboney.

Laura Fox
Principal

English

English 7 (1 year, core)

During this year, focus is placed on solidifying the concepts learned during Elementary Education. Using the writer's workshop as a format for the course, students will collaborate on interpreting, questioning, listening, and comprehending many different forms of writing, oral presentations, and literary works. Students will learn strategies for comprehension, vocabulary development and metacognition. At this level, students will begin to develop mastery of English grammar, conventions, and word usage by developing vocabulary that will enhance their own understanding of the texts they read, analyze and discuss with each other. Opportunities to experience the 4 types of writing (narrative, descriptive, comparative, process analysis) and how to communicate ideas in speaking and written form will be a focus of the writer's workshop along with writing letters, emails, poetry and differentiating between dialect and standard English.

English 8 (1 year, core)

At this level, students are beginning to experience analysis and interpretation of a variety of texts and information at a higher level. Using the writer's workshop as a format for the course, students will collaborate on interpreting, questioning, listening, and comprehending many different forms of writing, oral presentations, and literary works. Students will learn strategies for comprehension, vocabulary development and metacognition at a higher level. At this level, students will develop mastery of the English grammar, conventions, and word usage by developing vocabulary through context that will enhance their own understanding of the texts they read, analyze and discuss with each other. Opportunities to experience the 4 types of writing (narrative, descriptive, expository, and comparative) and how to communicate ideas in speaking and written form will be a focus of the writer's workshop along with writing letters, emails, poetry and differentiating between dialect and standard English.

English 9 (1 year, core)

In this course, students will continue to grow in their quest to become proficient readers and writers. During this year, concepts learned in previous years would be strengthened and applied across all areas of the English Language. Using the writer's workshop as a format for the course, students will have multiple opportunities to work collaboratively and individually selecting appropriate strategies for interpreting and analyzing a variety of meaningful texts.

Students will be able to speak, listen, interpret, and analyze using strategies they learn in class. Each student will gain proficiency in the 4 types of writing (narrative, descriptive, cause and effect, and persuasive) using peer groupings and Socratic style lessons. Students will also broaden their vocabulary skills and advance their repertoire of the English language. At this level, the amount of literature students read in and out of class is greater. Students will have many opportunities to show their proficiency in comprehension and understanding using a variety of assessment tools. Students will continue to differentiate between dialect and standard English.

Mathematics

Math 7 (1 year, core)

During this course, students will demonstrate an understanding of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of decimals, percents and integers to solve problems. They will also explore relationships between positive and negative numbers, fractions, and whole numbers. Students will have a variety of projects to learn real world applications for mathematics. Oral and written presentations of patterns and their equivalent linear relations will be expected as well. Students will be able to draw, interpret, and evaluate graphs as well as modelling preservation of equalities concretely, pictorially, and symbolically. They will learn how to differentiate between an equation and an expression, add and subtract simple algebraic expressions and solve simple linear equations. Geometric relationships will be explored as well as probabilities as ratios, fractions, and percents.

Math 8 (1 year, core)

During this course, students will review fractions and mixed numbers and will continue the exploration of algebra and geometry. Orders of operation with integers, square roots, analyzing algebraic expressions with different variables and linear equations will be the foundation of the course. Students will be introduced to the Pythagorean Theorem. They will be introduced to the surface area and volume formulas for prisms and cylinders along with 3-D objects. Students will also have the opportunity to analyze and critique ways in which data is presented through presentations and discussions. A focus will be placed on rates, proportions and ratios and their application in profit and loss. Students will also express the probability of independent events.

Math 9 (1 year, core)

At this level, Algebra becomes more advanced. Operations on powers with integral bases and whole number exponents will be explored along with rational numbers, patterns, variables, and relations. Students will demonstrate an understanding of polynomials, explain and illustrate strategies for solving linear equations and polynomials. They will explore, model, record, and explain the operations of polynomial expressions, concretely, pictorially, and symbolically. Technology is integrated into the course through scientific calculators, graphing and computers. Shape, space, and measurement will be taught along with surface area of three dimensional objects, and polygons. In this course, statistics and probability will be studied within the context of real world applications and the effects it has on society.

History & Humanities

History 7 (1 semester, core)

In this course, students will focus on five Ancient Civilizations (Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, Greece and Rome). They will explore various ways that ancient peoples exchanged goods and services and assess ways that technology innovations enabled ancient people to adapt and modify their environments, satisfy needs, increase exploration, and develop their cultures. They will then move into Pre-Columbian History to Emancipation, looking at civilization and humanity at that time. They will explore the African kingdoms, Amerindian migration and settlement, European exploration, Economic development of the Virgin Islands, and finally the Resistance and Emancipation. In both areas of focus, students will explore and apply critical thinking skills including comparing, classifying, inferring, imagining, verifying, using analogies, identifying relationships, summarizing and drawing conclusions about a range of events and issues that occurred in those times.

Social Studies & Geography 7 (1 semester, core)

In the Social Studies portion of the course, students will explore the concept of the Individual and Society, looking at the growth and development of the individual, and social issues they face or may do so. They will discuss different types of groups and institutions within the Virgin Islands, looking at social control and communication forms.

The geography and geology of the Virgin Islands will be covered in geography, learning about the composition of the islands, as well as all of the essential elements of maps and mapping skills. Students will develop a strong base in map reading, identifying places using longitude and latitude, applying map scales and referencing legends. They will conclude the unit with an in-depth look at weather and climate within the region.

History 8 (1 semester, core)

In this course, students will explore some of the major civilizations that existed between 500AD and 1600AD, specifically Medieval Europe, Ancient Mesoamerica, and India. They will look at the structures of the society, culture of the time, politics and the law, technological contributions, and the environment in which people lived. After that, they will move into further Caribbean history, looking at the period of Post-Emancipation of the Virgin Islands to present-day. Through research, field trips, and interviews, students will gain a greater look at the history of our people and how far we have come.

Social Studies and Geography 8 (1 semester, core)

On completion of the Social Studies section, students should be able to explain and correctly, concepts, use concepts and terms associated with the family; and describe the major functions of the family and factors responsible for family disintegration. Students will outline the characteristics of primary, secondary, formal, informal, peer, negative and positive groups, as well as social issues that occur such as abuse, poverty, and care of the aged and disabled. Students will differentiate among the types of government systems in the Commonwealth Caribbean; describe the structure of government; discuss the electorate systems in the Caribbean, examine the country's laws, rights and responsibilities of citizens, rights of a child and rights of women. Students will complete projects, using materials from their environment to create models representing the causes of pollution types and explaining the effects and solutions of them.

In Geography, students will have many opportunities to examine and locate the Caribbean territories and archipelagos on a map and their inhabitants, identify physical features, bodies of water, countries' capitals and discuss the significance of their national flags. In a unit on natural systems, students will explore the internal and external forces that exist and impact the earth's crust-hence natural disasters, such as volcanoes and earthquakes-and will also learn about the limestone environment. They will complete the course with a further look at maps, focusing on longitude and time, and 16 point compass directions.

History 9 (1 semester, core)

In this course, students will explore some of the major civilizations that existed in Europe and North America between 1500 and 1850, specifically Modern China, Islam, Europe, and Colonial America. They will look at the structures of the society, culture of the time, politics and the law, technological contributions, and the environment in which people lived. They will also learn about The Industrial Revolution, now also known as the First Industrial Revolution, which was the transition to new manufacturing processes in Europe and the United States, in the period from about 1760 to about 1830.

Social Studies and Geography 9 (1 semester, core)

In Social Studies, students will study the many forms of governments in our world today. A review of the BVI government will begin the semester along with in depth studies of the British Governmental system and the U.S. democratic governmental systems, inclusive of laws and types of courts. Students will dive into civil rights, civil liberties, and the political processes of world governments. Understanding foreign policies, economies, and political action is an integral part of the course. Students will have many opportunities to identify, interpret, and assess how governments work, and what effects they have on the people that are governed by them. Discussions on how governments use military interventions and/or peaceful change in their countries will be the basis of current issues in today's world.

In Geography, students will launch into Human Environment systems where they will take time to look at resources, economic activities, natural hazards, environmental degradation, and overfishing that affect populations worldwide. They will also strengthen mapping skills in the areas of grid bearings, measuring straight and curved distances, reducing and enlarging maps, and exploring cross sections of gradients and slopes.

Science

Science 7 (1 year, core)

Throughout this course, students will explore the overarching topics of Ecosystems, Basic Chemistry, and the physical wonders of the Earth's crust. During the unit on Ecosystems, students will explore the relationships that exist between species, as well as their physical environment. Through hands-on activities and projects they will understand the flow of energy in webs and chains, and the threats that exist within the various niches. Students will also investigate properties of matter, classify substances, and measure substances as an introduction to Chemistry. Students will complete the year by exploring the composition of the Earth's crust. An understanding of the workings of plate tectonics, as well as the phases of the rock cycle will be explored. With weekly experiments, students will practice the safe and proper use of laboratory equipment, units of measurement, and the scientific method. They will also employ their knowledge of physical phenomenon towards hands-on design projects and problem solving.

Science 8 (1 year, core)

In year 8 of Science, students will cover units in Cells and Systems, Optics, Fluids and Dynamics, and Water Systems of the Earth. Students will commence the year learning about cell structure, organelles and their functions. This will become the foundation for furthering studies into the human body systems (respiratory, circulatory, digestive, and excretory), as well as the primary components of the immune system. As they move into Optics, students will learn to decipher waves, light rays, and the electromagnetic spectrum, and evaluate recordings. They will also learn the anatomy of both the eye and ear, and the role they play in sensory perception. In Fluids and Dynamics students will learn to differentiate between physical and chemical changes, and various states of matter. They will calculate mass, volume, and density, and experiment with various substances, citing observable evidence. Concluding the year, students will explore the flow of water and its impacts both on the physical layout of the earth through weathering and erosion, as well as on the biological diversity of aquatic life forms. With weekly experiments, students will practice the safe and proper use of laboratory equipment, units of measurement, and the scientific method. They will also employ their knowledge of physical phenomenon towards hands-on design projects and problem solving.

Science 9 (1 year, core)

In this course students will be exploring the topics of Reproduction, Atoms, Elements and Compounds, Electricity, and finally Space Exploration. Students will commence the year investigating the cells and the nucleus, looking at the significance of genetics, specifically the processes of mitosis and meiosis. They will explore the concept of fertilization, both sexual and asexual in representative organisms. From there students will explore physical and chemical changes, along with properties and states of matter. They will learn some basic atomic theory whilst gaining exposure to the periodic table and the structures of compounds, atoms, and molecules. Electricity will be a hands-on unit where students model series and parallel circuits, and learn to calculate basic electrical properties such as voltage, current, resistance and power using Ohm's law. As they wrap up their year with Space Exploration, students will go into depth through research on the solar system, stars, and universe. They will demonstrate through projects the difference between rotations and revolutions, solar and lunar eclipses, and the importance of space travel. With weekly experiments, students will practice the safe and proper use of laboratory equipment, units of measurement, and the scientific method. They will also employ their knowledge of physical phenomenon towards hands-on design projects and problem solving.

Health & Career Education

Grades 7, 8, 9 (1 semester per year, core)

This course is designed to help students create health and career goals and apply decision making skills to attain and maintain a healthy lifestyle and mindset for their future. Students will begin the course by identifying their personal values, ethics, and qualities. They will learn about collaborations and working in teams focusing on leadership skills, peer pressure, conflict resolution, and interpersonal skills. Emphasis will be placed on time management and study skills and the importance of both at present and in the future. Students will also learn about community resources for health and fitness, and identify and define what healthy relationships are. The course will touch on substance misuse and prevention and sexual decision making. With older students in years 8 and 9, students will use their individual attributes to relate to career options. They will identify personal goals and the factors that influence their own success in life. Students will be introduced to completing a SWOT Analysis and their resume and cover letter. Becoming active members in a civil community will have students practicing assertive skills, employment skills, and sound decision making.

Physical Education

Grades 7, 8, 9 (each year, core)

In this course, students will do a variety of physical fitness activities. Students will learn how an active lifestyle will affect the quality of their lives and improve their health. The course teaches students about personal nutrition choices, and participation levels of fitness. Achieving target heart rates for individual students and creating goals in fitness will be a focus. Movement skills, coordination, fair play, leadership skills, and safety will all be paramount in a variety of enjoyable fitness activities. Students will be required to participate and pursue fitness in their daily lives outside of school. The hope is for each student to find their ideal level of fitness to keep their bodies physically, emotionally, and spiritually healthy.

Foreign Language

Spanish 7, 8, 9 (each year, core)

Currently, one additional language other than English is offered at Ciboney. Spanish is a course designed to introduce basic listening, speaking, reading and writing skills of the Spanish language. Students will study the language and culture of Spanish-speaking countries. This course is designed to guide the students toward functional communicative proficiency in Spanish. In this course, the goal is to advance students in the bilingual experience.

Fine Arts

Visual Arts (1 semester, elective)

In this exploratory class, students will focus on image development using the principles of design, a variety of materials, technologies and processes along with art history and modern art as a reference. Students will compare, contrast, create, critique, and make meaningful connections through the context of visual art in society.

Music (1 year, core)

In this exploratory class, students will learn the structures of music, elements of rhythm, and musical styles. Students will create, notate, and perform a variety of musical forms and styles. They will learn how to relate music to emotions and cultural aspects of society. Students will also learn the context of musical experience in life as the performer, participant, and audience. The elements of melody and elements of expression will allow for a deeper experience into the realm of music. All students will receive a school instrument (brass, woodwind, percussion, etc.) which they will work to develop playing on in the form of a school band.

Drama (1 semester, elective)

In this exploratory class, students will use exploration and imagination to experience collaborative drama. An appreciation for diversity and various perspectives among all cultures will be paramount to the success of the course. Students will use critical analyses to identify ways to advance dramatic action. Using the body, voice, role, and energy, students will practice using drama as a metaphor. Techniques, social and cultural roles, and dramatic skill will be experienced and performed.

Applied Skills

Business Education & Technology (1 semester, elective)

In this course, students will explore the many facets and skills needed for business and technology. Students will learn budgeting, financial responsibility through virtual experiences, and technology as a useful resource for home and business ventures. Exposure to business plan models, marketing strategies, communication essentials, and start-up versus running costs, will be explored through guest speakers, video conferences, and TedTalks. This course will be a hands-on culmination to a class “Dragon’s Den” where students will create a business that will market a particular good or service, enticing “investors” to support them in their venture.

Home Economics & Culinary Arts (1 semester, elective)

Like skills for creating a happy, healthy home will include such skills as proper cleaning using environmentally safe products, cooking and preparation of healthy meals, budgeting, and organization. Students will explore topics that encompasses home economics and culinary as a whole. They will examine the effects of heat on the different foods/ food groups and look at personal hygiene as it relates to food service. Students will investigate the factors that contribute to food spoilage and contamination and follow the hygienic practices followed during food preparation. On the other hand they will learn skills like chopping, kneading and whisking while preparing cakes, quick breads, fruits and vegetables and sweet and savoury doughs.

Clothing and Textiles, and Woodwork (1 semester, elective)

In this course, students will spend half of the semester in an introduction to basic sewing skills, whilst they spend the other half being introduced to woodwork tools and skills.

In the sewing section of the course, students will learn the basics of hand sewing including threading a needle, running stitch, backstitch, and overstitch. They will also learn about the various sewing tools and their functions. Through project-based activities, students will work with a variety of materials to create bookmarks, mini monsters, and other small items. Depending on the progress of the class, students may also be introduced to the sewing machine.

In woodwork class, students will first learn about basic shop tools with their functions, and safety precautions to take when using them. Skills such as precise measuring, using a square, drawing lines, and reading drawings will be learned. Students will use techniques such as cutting, screwing, hammering, sanding, and joining, to build basic small projects which enable them to develop skills with a hands-on approach.

Service Learning (1 semester, elective)

In this course, all students will have the opportunity to be an active part of their community in areas that interest them personally. Partnering with several local organizations within the community will allow our students to practice building self-esteem, character, team work, respect, compassion, and kindness. Students will learn how different groups of people are affected by their ability to function in a civilized community and what they can do to help. Students will be encouraged to develop new service learning ideas to always improve and lead compassionate lives within their community.

Tourism

Grades 7, 8, 9 (1 semester, elective)

As tourism is one of the main economic pillars of the British Virgin Islands, this course is designed to introduce and educate students to the BVI tourism product. Students will learn key terms in the field of tourism and learn about the history of BVI tourism. Through presentations, students will be introduced to the BVI Tourist Board and Film Commission and our tourism statistics over the years. Focus will be placed on the eight (8) sectors of tourism, tourism marketing, and the arrival and departure procedures and requirements for the British Virgin Islands in comparison to other Caribbean countries. Students will also be introduced to Sustainable Tourism. Taking a more in-depth look into our tourism product, students will complete a Day as a Tourist (FAM trip), a snapshot marketing project, and a tourism package for any country of their choice discussing the focus areas covered. The goal is for students to develop an understanding on the importance of tourism to the economy and the variety of aspects required for a sound tourism product.

Virgin Islands History

Grades 7, 8, 9 (1 semester, elective)

In this course, students will learn all aspects of Virgin Islands history including the pioneers, leaders, national parks and historical sites, and the nomenclature and history of each island, rock, and cay. Focus will be placed on the development of the nation over the years giving students the opportunity to compare the past to the present. Students will also learn about Virgin Islands law and legislation and its development over the years. This course will explore the aspects of agriculture and farming, including the way of living on each island in the territory. Students will be given the opportunity to hear from guest speakers and embark on historical field trips to enhance their learning experience.

Resources for Secondary Curriculum

English

Houghton Mifflin English

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Write Source

Houghton Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary

Language for Living by Cecil Gray

Novels:

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

I am David by Anne Holm

Monster by Walter Dean Myers

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin

Mathematics

McGraw-Hill Mathematics

Prentice Hall Middle School Mathematics

Mathematics a complete course by Raymond Toolsie

Prentice Hall Mathematics Course 2 and 3

History & Humanities

Holt McDougal World Geography

Kapit's The Geography Coloring Book

Early History of the British Virgin Islands Vernon W. Pickering

The Caribbean People Books 1, 2, 3

Amerindians to Africans 3rd Edition

Decolonization and Development 3rd Edition

Modules in Social Studies- Rampersaud Ramsawak & Ralph R. Umraw

Caribbean History for CXC study guide- Dr. Dane Morton-Gittens, Veta Dawson, Rita Pemberton & Karl Watson

Skills in Geography by V.A.Rahil

Explorers by Michael Gravois

Longman Caribbean School Atlas for Social Studies, Geography and History

Science

Science Explorer series - Pearson

Foreign Language

Que hay? Nelson Thornes

Dime 1, 2, 3 Allsopp

Basic Spanish- Dorothy Richmond

Health & Career Education

It's Perfectly Normal Robie H. Harris and Michael Emberley

Changing Bodies, Changing Lives Ruth Bell

Grading

Grading System

Numerical grades are given in all classes. The minimum passing grade is 60 and the maximum grade is 100.

A			B			C			D			F
+		-	+		-	+		-	+		-	
100-97	96-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	66-63	62-60	Below 60 percent
Excellent			Above Average			Satisfactory			Below Average			Failure
4 Points			3 Points			2 Points			1 Points			0 Points

Report Cards / Progress Reports

Progress Reports / Conferences will be conducted at the end of the 1st and 3rd quarters. Report cards will be issued at the end of each semester. Reports can be provided digitally, or in print. Please notify the school office of your preference at the beginning of the school year.

Academic Recognition

Honour Roll

To achieve honour roll, a student must earn an average grade of 85 in all subjects.

Distinguished Honour Roll

The student must earn an average grade of 93 or better in all subjects.

Supply List

The following items are required by all students for the upcoming academic year:

- ~ personal laptop computer
- ~ scientific calculator
- ~ No. 2 pencils
- ~ Ball-point pens
- ~ Highlighters
- ~ Pencil Sharpener
- ~ Coloured pencils
- ~ A ruler with English and metric measurements
- ~ Spiral bound or other notebooks
- ~ Loose-Leaf (college ruled)
- ~ Several three-ringed binders and dividers
- ~ A protractor
- ~ Index Cards (ruled and unruled)