



# The National Curriculum of Korea: Focusing on the 2009 Revised Curriculum

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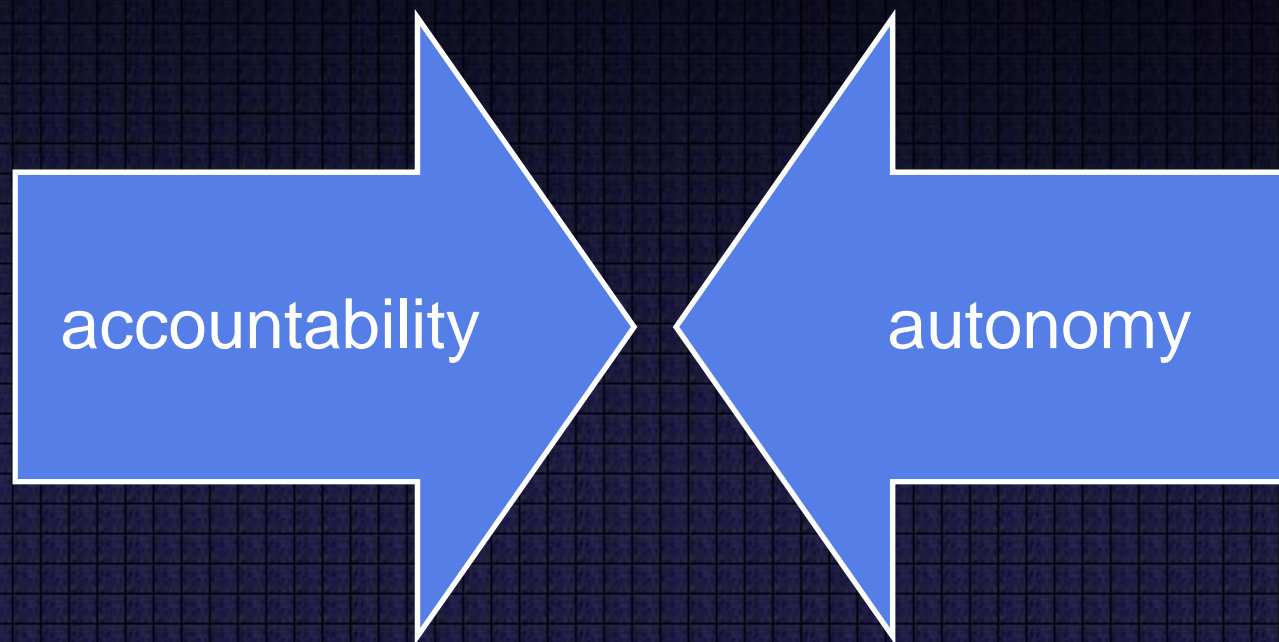
Korea Institute for Curriculum and Evaluation



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# I. The Basic Information of the National Curriculum Development in Korea

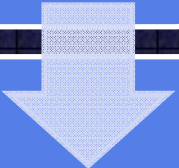


## ■ The history of the national curriculum development

### the Advent of Modern Curriculum Era

- since 1894
  - Elementary School, Teachers College, Foreign Language School, etc.
- 

### the Japanese Colonial Era

- 1910 - 1945
- 

### after the Restoration of Independence(1945.8.15)

- Since 1946
- Kindergarten, Elementary School, Middle School, High school
- From early 1990's : Autonomy of provinces and schools /Globalization



## ▪ The level of the curriculum development

### National curriculum

- By the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

- ### Arrangement and implementation guidelines
- By Local Education Administration

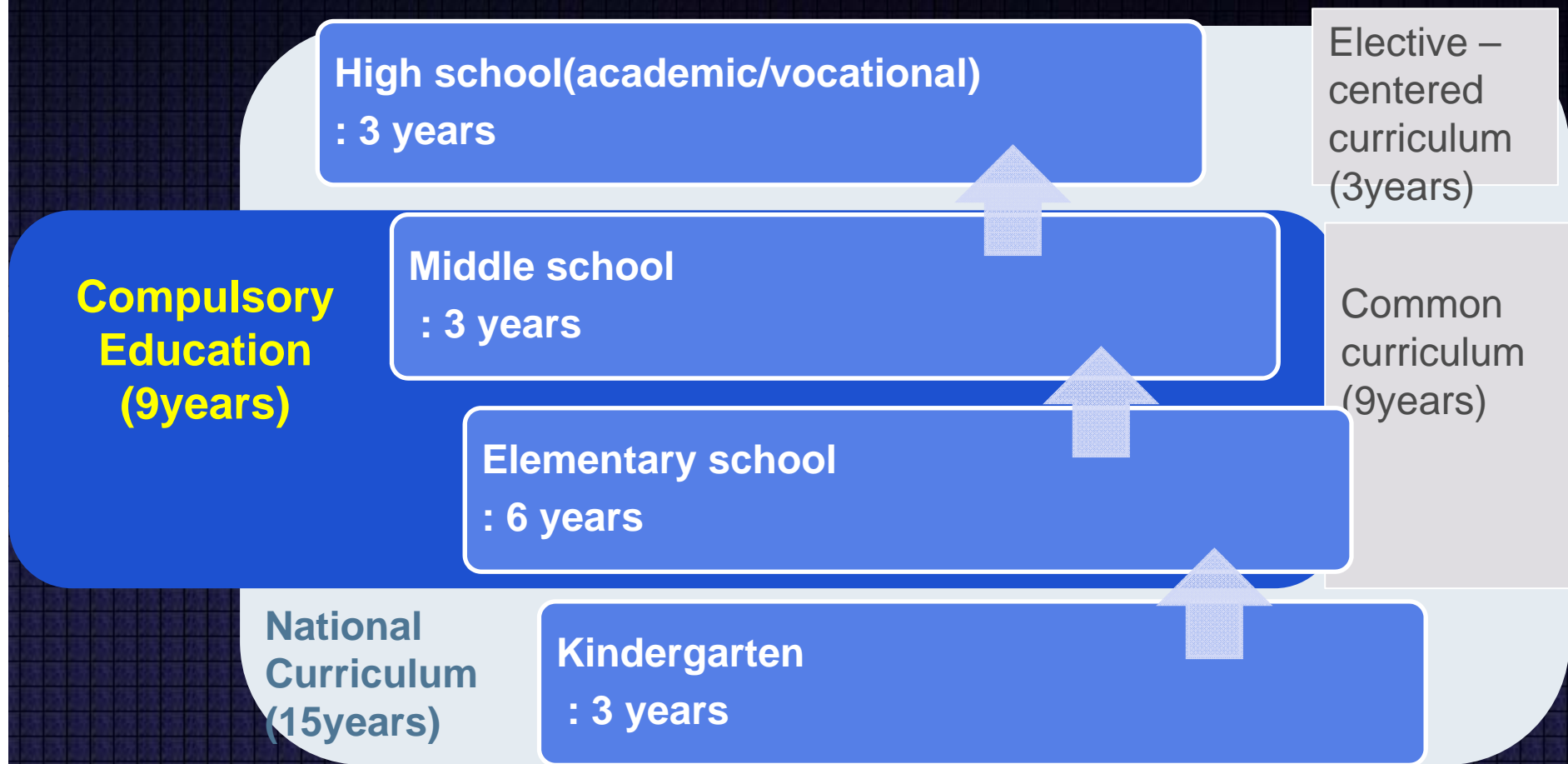
### School –based curriculum



## ■ Textbook system

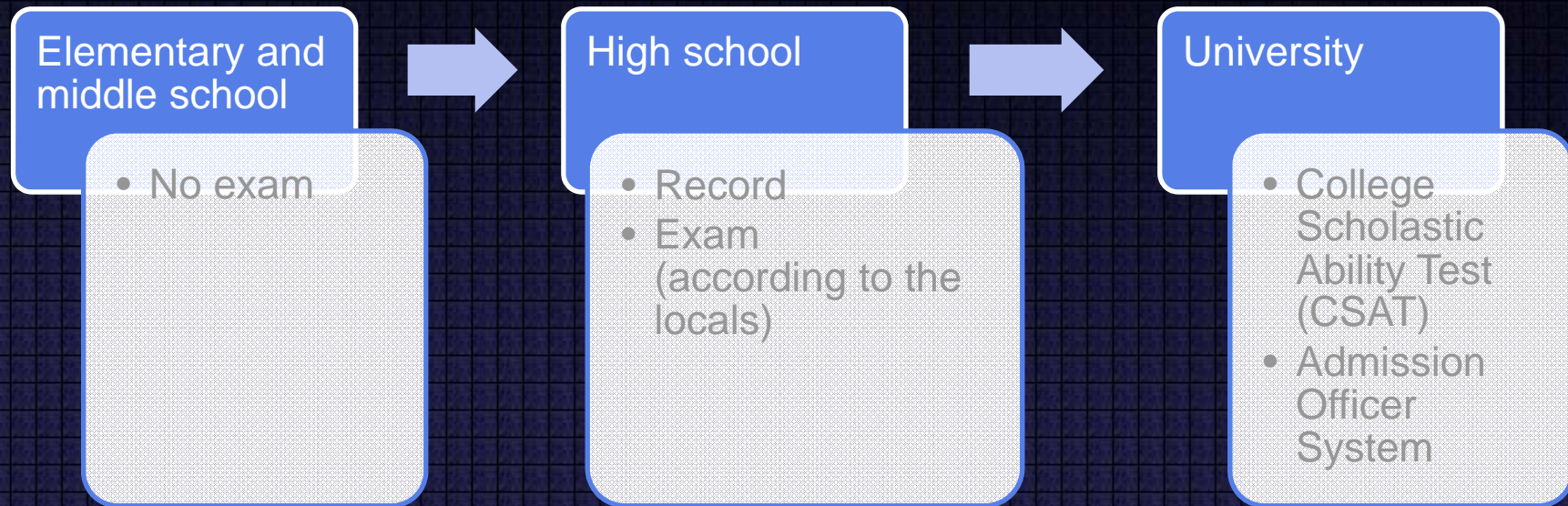
	초등학교	중등학교
<b>Government – Designated Books</b> (the Ministry of Education holds a copyright)	Korean, Social studies, Moral education, Math, Science	Korean history
<b>Authorized Books</b> (by the Ministry of Education)	Other subjects	Korean, Social studies, Moral education, Math, Science, English
<b>Approved Books</b> (by the locals and principals of a school)	(extra-curricular activities)	Other subjects (extra-curricular activities)

# ■ The Education System in Korea





## ■ Entrance exam



## Tests and Subject for CSAT

Korean Language

Mathematics  
(Select 1)

Math A : Math I + Math II + + (Select 1 out of 3 area-specific subjects: Calculus, Probability & Statistics, & Discrete Mathematics)

Math B : Math I

Foreign Language (English)

Social Studies  
/Sciences  
/Vocational Education  
(Select 1)

Social Studies : Up to 4 out of 11 subjects can be selected: Ethics (Ethics and Thought + Traditional Ethics), Korean History, Korean Modern & Contemporary History, World History, Politics, Economics, Society & Culture, Law and Society, Korean Geography, Economic Geography and World Geography.

Sciences : Up to 4 out of 8 subjects can be selected: Physics I, Chemistry I, Biology I, Earth Science I, Physics II, Chemistry II, Biology II and Earth Science II.


Vocational Education

Foreign Languages/ Chinese Characters and Classics : 1 subject can be selected among German I, French I, Spanish I, Chinese I, Japanese I, Russian I, Arabic I, and Chinese Characters and Classics.



- **Subjects  
in the National Assessment of Educational  
Achievement**

	Test for Whole Students
Middle School (year 3)	Korean Math English
High School (Year 2)	Korean Math English



## ■ Teacher Selection System for public school

Teacher's license

- the university of Education : elementary school
- The college of education in the university : middle and high school
- Teacher training course in the university : middle and high school

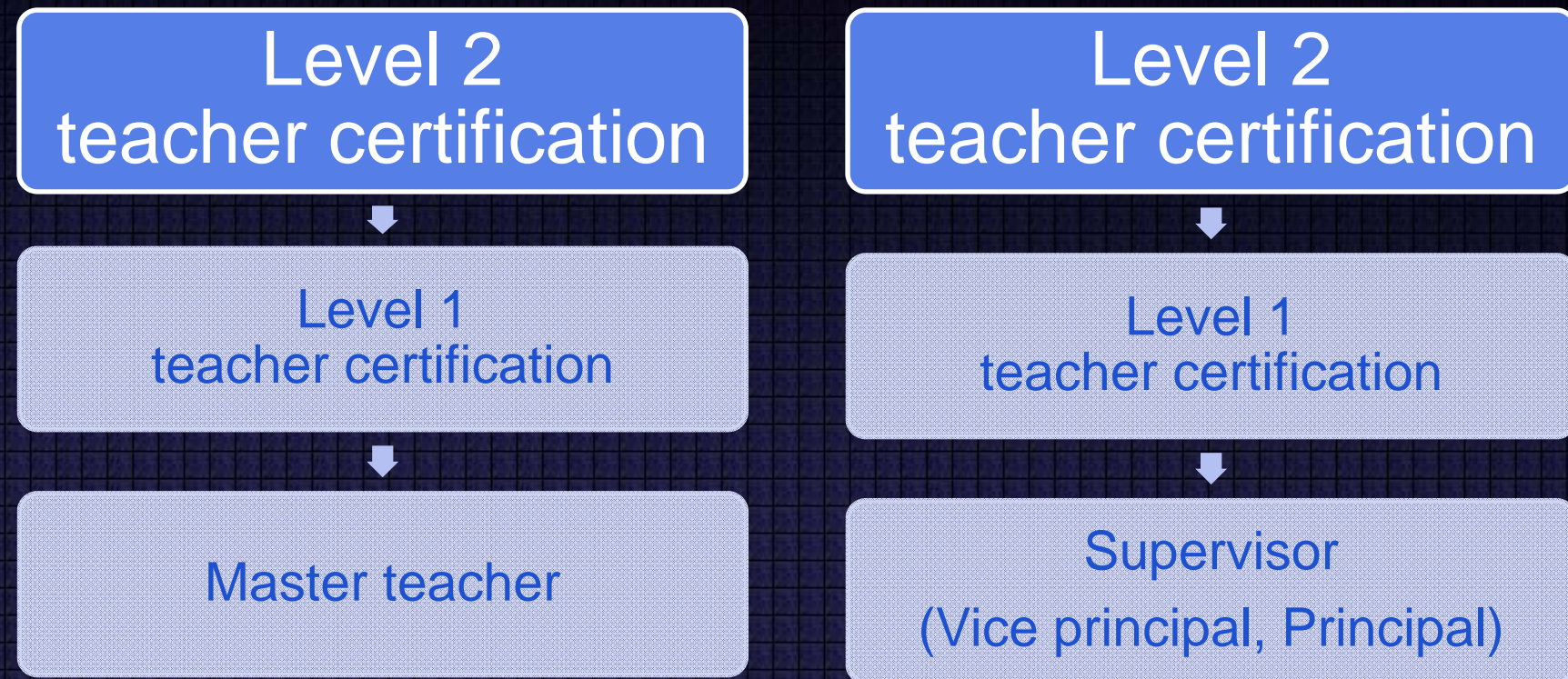
1<sup>st</sup> Exam

- Essay writing about the education
- Curriculum

2<sup>nd</sup> Exam

- interview
- Making lesson plan
- Practical teaching skill test, etc

## ■ Teacher 's promotion system





- **The organization of the curriculum document**

The general  
guidelines of national  
curriculum

Subject  
curriculum  
(7 subject clusters)

Extra-  
curriculum  
(Creative  
experiential  
activities)



## **II. General Directions of the 2009 Revised Curriculum**



# ■ Preparing students for Globalization

Teaching subjects  
by using creative teaching method

Expanding extra-curricular activities  
(called 'creative experiential activities')

'Cultivation of  
Creativity  
and  
Good Character  
for the Global society'





## ■ Student-Centered Curriculum



**To reduce the number of subjects per semester to eight or lower(except arts and physical education)** to relieve the student's learning loads in the middle school and high school



**To expand high school students' freedom of elective subjects** tailored to their interests and aptitudes



## ■ School-Based Curriculum

1

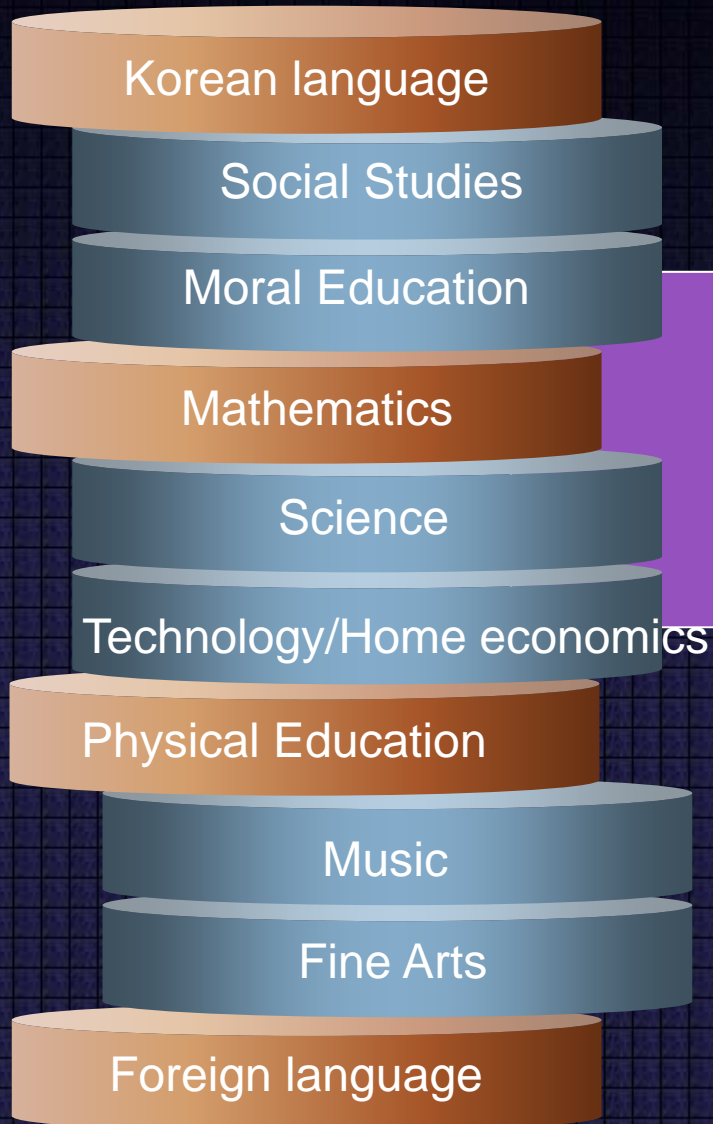
School autonomy for its own curriculum is indispensable for the **realization of student-centered curriculum.**

2

The class hours are allocated for 2 or 3 grades together (**grades cluster**) or 2 or 3 subjects together (**subjects cluster**), which can make it possible for each school to **organize school curriculum flexibly.**

3

**The class hours** given for grade clusters and subject clusters **can increase or decrease by 20%** at the discretion of elementary and middle schools.



## ■ **subject clusters**



## grade-clusters

Elementary school  
1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> year

3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> year

5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> year

Middle school  
1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> year

High school  
1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> year

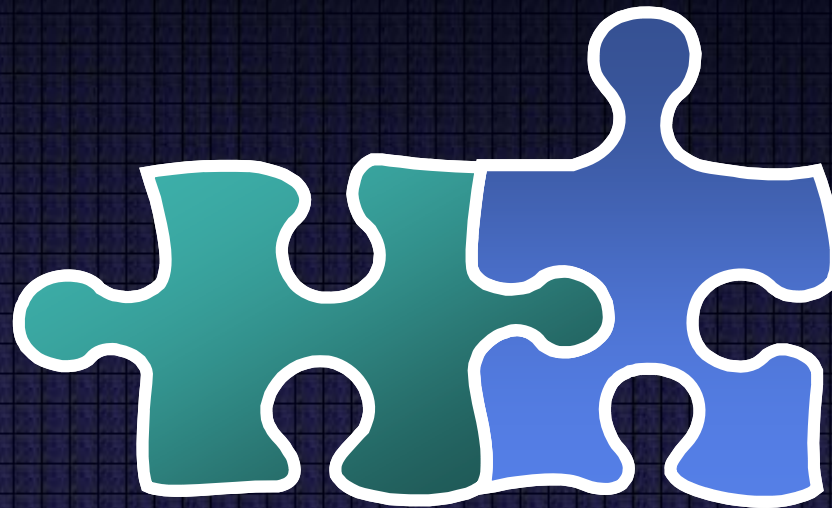


### **III. Characteristics of the 2009 Revised Curriculum at School Level**



## ■ Principles of Curriculum Design

creative  
individuals



that take consideration  
of and share with others

## ■ The vision for the educated person

### The vision for the Educated Person

One who pioneers the development of individuality and career on top of a holistic development

One who shows creativity with new thinking and challenges based on basic capabilities

One who leads a dignified life based on understanding cultural knowledge and pluralistic values

One who participates in community development possessing the spirit of consideration and sharing, as a citizen communicating with the world.



# ■ Elementary School

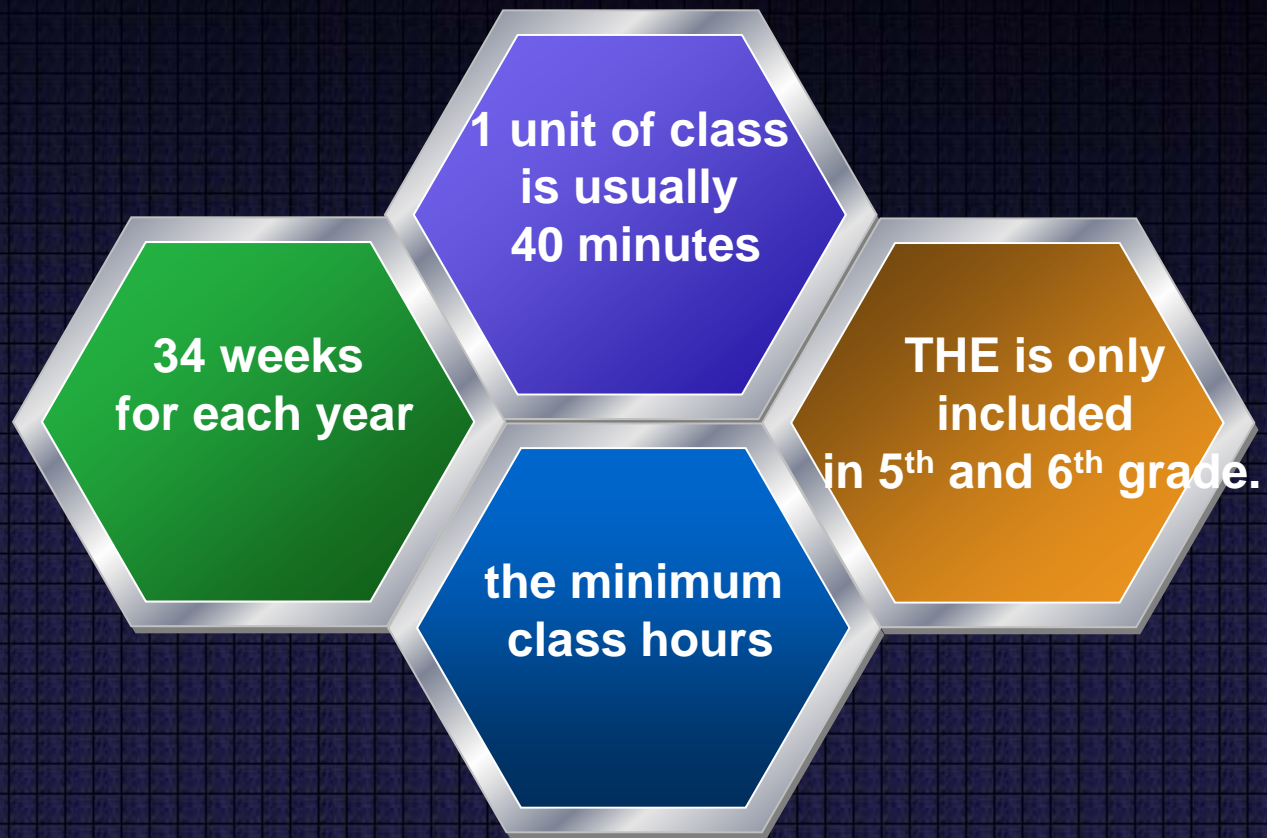
Classification		1st & 2nd grades	3rd & 4th grades	5th & 6th grades
Subject clusters	Korean Language	Korean Language 448	408	408
	Social Studies/ Moral Education		272	272
	Mathematics	Mathematics 448	272	272
	Science/THE *	Disciplined Life 128	204	340
	Physical Education		204	204
	Arts (Music/Fine Art)	Intelligent Life 192	272	272
	English	Pleasant Life 192	136	204
	Creative Experiential Activities	272	204	204
Total number of class hours		1,680	1,972	2,176

\* THE means Technology and Home economics





- How to read the elementary school timetable





- Basic plans for Elementary School Curriculum Organization and Implementation

**Adjustment programs**

The school can autonomously organize and implement **adjustment programs for 1st graders** that are newly attending the school, using units of creative experiential learning activities for adjustment education.

**ICT,  
Health education,  
Chinese Characters**

**ICT Education, Health Education, and Chinese Characters and Classics Education** are conducted through systematic guidance by using the related subject (cluster) and creative experimental activities.



## ■ Middle School

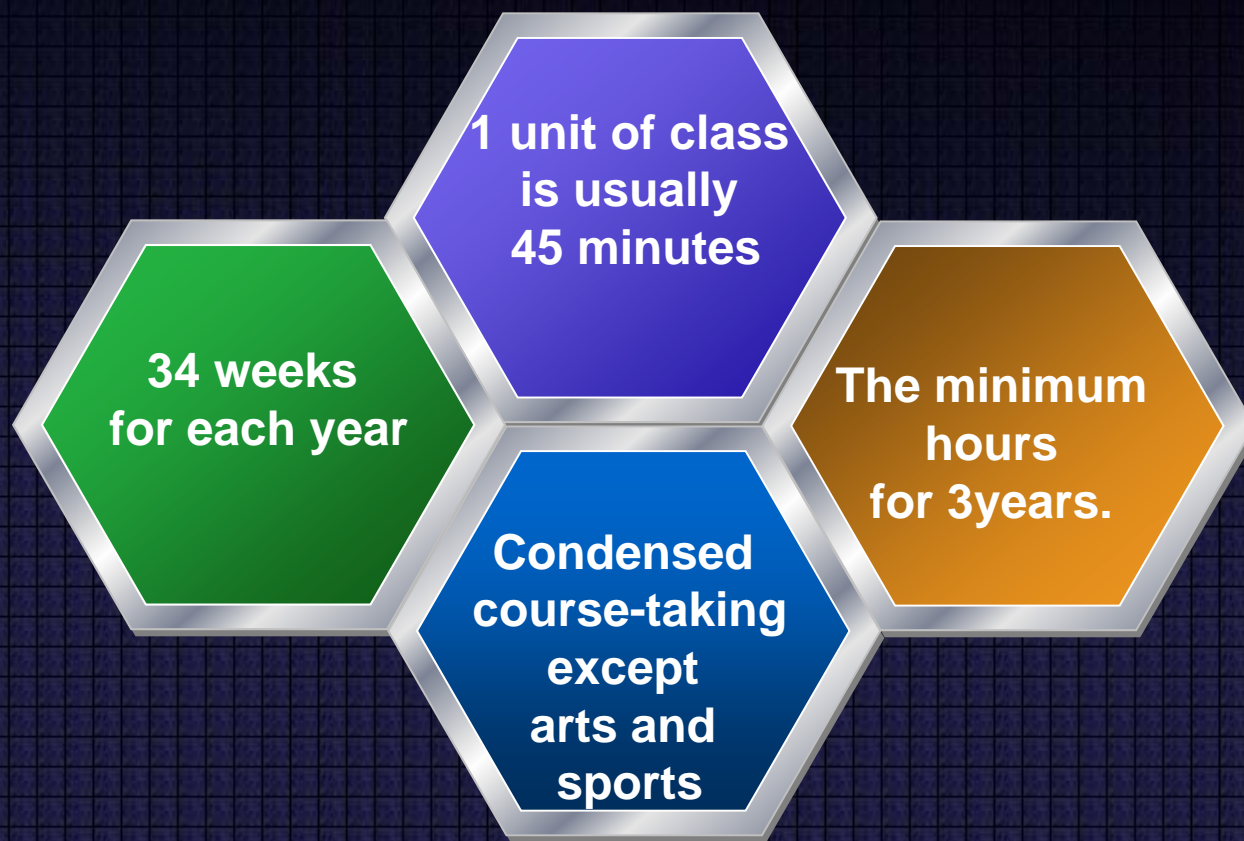
Classification		Grades 7 to 9
Subject clusters	Korean Language	442
	Social Studies (including History/Moral Education)	510
	Mathematics	374
	Science/THE	646
	Physical Education	272
	Arts (Music/Fine Art)	272
	English	340
	Elective Subjects*	204
Creative experiential activities		306
Total number of class hours		3,366

one unit of classroom hour is 45 minutes

\* Chinese characters and Classics, ICT, Environment, Foreign languages, Health, Career education

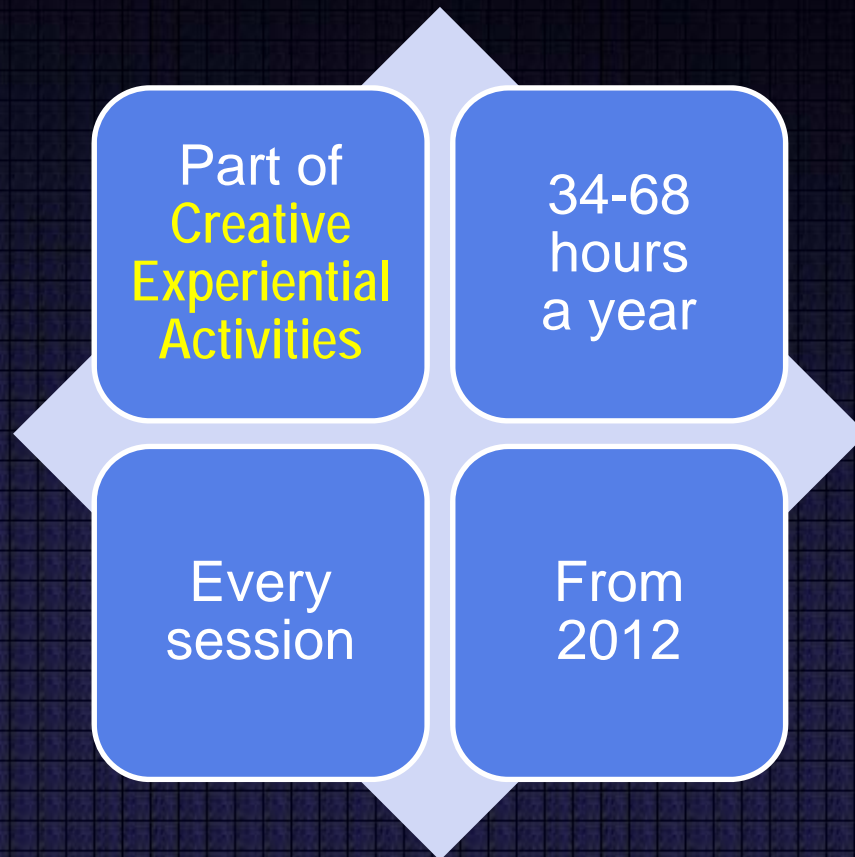


- How to read the middle school timetable





- the School **Sports Clubs** in middle school



## ■ High School

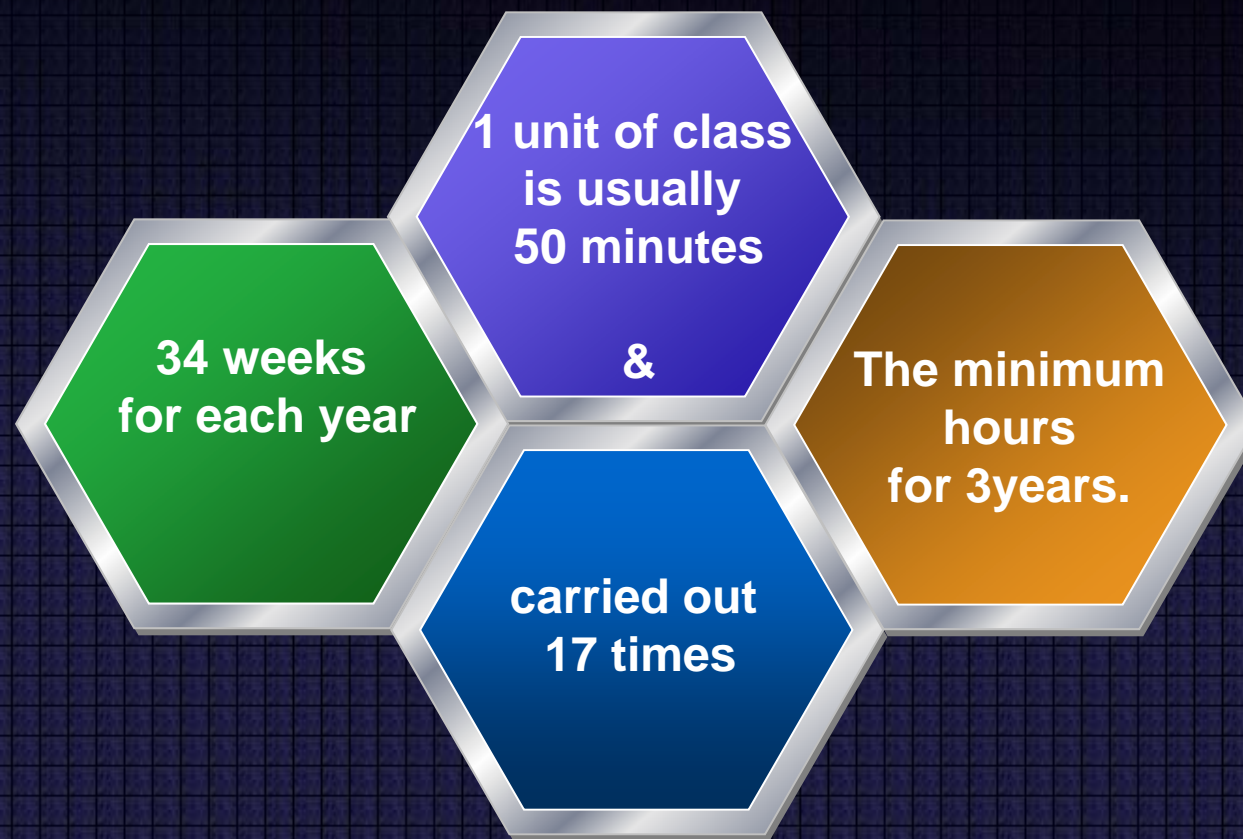
	Subject Fields	Subject clusters	Minimum required units	School Autonomous Course	
Subject	Basic	Korean Language	10	Organized by schools according to the student's aptitude and career	
		English	10		
		Mathematics	10		
	Inquiry	Social Studies (including History/ Moral Education)	10		
		Science	10		
	PE/Arts	Physical Education	10		
		Arts (Music/Fine Art)	10(5)		
	Life/ Liberal Arts	Technology·Home economics/ 2nd Foreign Language/ Chinese Characters and Classics/ Liberal Arts	16(12)		
	Total		86 (77)		94(103)
	Creative experiential activities				24
Total number of units			204		

\* one unit of classroom hour is 50 minutes, carried out 17 times.

# ■ High School for specialized and industry demand

	Subject Fields	Subject clusters	Minimum required units	School Autonomous Course
Subject	Basic	Korean Language	25	<i>Organized by schools according to the student's aptitude and career &amp; industry demand</i>
		English		
		Mathematics		
	Inquiry	Social Studies (including History/ Moral Education)	15	
		Science		
	PE/Arts	Physical Education	10	
		Arts (Music/Fine Art)	5	
	Life/ Liberal Arts	Technology·Home economics/ 2nd Foreign Language/ Chinese Characters and Classics/ Liberal Arts	10	
	Specialized subjects	Agriculture, Industry, Commerce, Fishery & Marine Transportation Department, Home Economics and Vocational Education	86	
	Total		151	
Creative experiential activities			24	
Total number of units			204	

- How to read the high school timetable







## Creative Experiential Activities

(from the elementary school to the high school)

Areas	Characteristics
Autonomous Activities	The school offers student-initiated activities, and students take an active part in diverse activities.
Club Activities	Students voluntarily participate in group activities to develop cooperative skills and broaden their interests and specialties.
Voluntary Services	Students practice activities involving caring and sharing for neighbors and the community and help to preserve the natural environment.
Career Activities	Students search for and design their careers through self-development activities fit to their interests, specialties, and aptitudes.



## **IV. General Directions of the 2015 Revised Curriculum**

It will be implemented in 2017



## ■ Competencies

### General competencies

- self management
- Information processing
- creative thinking
- esthetic sensibility
- communication
- community

### Competencies of the Subject matter

- skills for learning and practicing the subject matter



# Thank You !

If you want to find more information about Korean Curriculum, visit this site!

<http://www.ncic.re.kr/english.index.do>