

Elective Course Descriptions

2018-2019

Please see the individual grade course request sheet for more details on elective selection

[Grade 8 Course Selection Sheet](#)

[Grade 9 Course Selection Sheet](#)

Languages

(All students in Grade 8 must take Languages)

Languages

Learn the skills necessary for language acquisition and practice them while learning a language of your choice. This past year students studied German, Spanish, French, Mandarin, and American Sign Language. All grade 8 students must take this course.

Leadership

Leadership

This course is designed to introduce students to the idea of becoming a leader right here in our own community; study current trends in leadership as well as learn how to work together as a team to design projects. This course allows students to develop skills needed to plan, organize and run a special event of their own. Due to the nature of this course, students must be flexible and committed to informally volunteer time outside regular class time to ensure events happen according to deadlines.

Applied Design, Skills and Technology, ADST

(All students must select at least 1 choice from this category)

Coding

Coding is the understanding of Computational Thinking. The thought processes involved in formulating a problem and expressing its solution(s) in such a way that a computer—human or machine—can effectively carry out. Students will develop games and applications while learning to code.

Entrepreneurship and Marketing (Business)

Learn about Business through topics such as consumerism, economics, business law, and international business. Learning will consist of lessons, class discussions, readings, research projects, brief reports and presentations.

Cooking with Fire

Learn about foods focusing on understanding the history of cooking with fire, and exploring a variety of cooking techniques, tools and meals that can be prepared with fire. The course will include cooking proteins, vegetables, “tin dins”, sauces, etc.

Food Studies

Learning with emphasis on food safety. Explore challenging techniques of soups and sauces, pasta, salads, yeast breads and stir-frying. This course will cover nutrition and baking.

Computers and Communication Devices

This course introduces students to information and communication technology and builds a foundation of digital literacy skills necessary for success in a technologically driven society. Throughout the course, there is an emphasis on digital literacy, effective electronic research and communication skills, as well as current issues related to the impact of information and communication technology.

Maker Space

Discover a place in which people with shared interests in “Making”, can gather to work on projects while sharing ideas, equipment, and knowledge. Explore, 3D printing, learning design skills and pursue your interests.

Robotics

Explore technology that deals with the design, construction, operation, and application of robots. Robots are becoming a major part of today’s world. Learn how to design and build a robot for the purpose of completing a design challenge.

Woodwork

This course is a hands-on introduction to woodworking processes with an emphasis on learning through doing. Gain practical skills, learn design and develop problem-solving ability. This course will cover safe use of tools and machines, for the purpose of creating projects.

Drafting

Drafting is highly recommended for all students interested in working with computers and technology or going into engineering, architecture, industrial or interior design, advertising or the trades. This course provides an introduction to the fundamentals, standards and skills of CAD Drafting (Computer Aided Design).

Media Arts

Media Arts course is an introductory course to many different media possibilities. Students learn the basics of video production, animation, photography, music composition, and web page design. The course is largely practical and involves students doing hands-on activities and group projects in class as well as outside of class.

Arts Education

(All students must select at least 1 choice from this category)

Art

Art and Principles of Design are the main focus for this course. Students will explore a variety of artists, art processes and materials. Student artwork will reflect aesthetics, cultural and historical contexts. Willingness to get involved in the creative process is an important requirement in this course.

Visual Art

Visual art enables students to develop curiosity, interest and enjoyment in their own creativity and that of others. Images are central to the Visual Arts program. Students will perceive, respond, create and communicate through imagery. Students will respond to images and the way they reflect personal, social, cultural and historical contexts.

Drama

Learn the basics of drama and have the option of creating silent films, infomercials, improvised plays, masks, and one-act plays.

Music

Students will discover and explore introductory concepts used in music. No prior musical experience is needed, however, having training on an instrument or voice is helpful. Students will create music using a variety of instruments.

Photography

Advanced photo methods will be taught and encouraged, (proper lighting, macro etc.). Photos will be uploaded to a shared space where their peers can critique them. Students will have access to school cameras.

Dance

Throughout the course, students will learn the origins and history of dance, and explore and perform a range of dance styles.

Creative Writing

In Creative Writing, students cultivate their creative thinking and communication skills while writing. In this course, students follow their writing interests and passions. Opportunities to write in a variety of genres encourage students to experiment with new ideas, concepts and processes in their writing. Students will create and manage their own portfolios.

Destination Imagination

Destination Imagination educational experiences are project-based STEAM Challenges that apply the creative process to develop the core competencies. It is an educational experience that is fun, hands-on, and empowers student teams to take their learning to the next level. There are seven different Challenge types – Technical, Scientific, Engineering, Fine Arts, Improvisational, Service Learning and Early Learning. The Challenges are created to provide the student teams with the opportunity to stretch their creativity, learn to collaborate, practice critical thinking skills and learn to communicate both within their team and as they present their solution at a tournament.

Band

Band provides an opportunity to participate in instrumental ensemble. Band students will perform a number of concerts and community events during the year

Film Studies

Learn by studying different films and their directors. Watch the films in class and then learn the different techniques employed within. Develop and share opinions of the movies watched in class, and enrich your understanding of film through the study of the social, cultural, historical, and/or political contexts that influence their meaning and interpretation.

Other Electives

Athletics

Athletics is designed to teach students the skills needed to participate in competition sports such as volleyball, soccer, cross country, and basketball. Students learn team sports and sportsmanship skills.

Fitness

Learn the fundamentals of fitness, set a program for yourself, and then follow your program to achieve personal goals surrounding health, wellness, strength and endurance.

Gardening

Gardening will take you from the basics of plants and why they are important -- all the way to the production of fruit and vegetables. You will discover the necessity of having good soil, and how to correct the soil composition in your yard. Students will become more aware of the ecology of our world.

Inquiry

Inquiry is a self-paced, self-directed learning program that encourages students to ask a question and discover an answer to that question. Students will learn the foundations of inquiry along with strategies to support the skills needed to become self-directed learners.

Law

This course will introduce some key elements in our legal system and laws that pertain to them.

Mindfulness

Learn a variety of skills and strategies for helping with impulse control and calming yourself when feeling overwhelmed or anxious. The skills learned in this course are invaluable in all other areas of life.

Outdoor Education

Learn about shelter making, fire making, fishing, wild plant identification, orienteering, hiking, canoeing, and more

Outdoor Games

Learn about Field sports, such as Baseball, Soccer and Football

Peer Tutor

Please see counsellor for this course