

Grade 8 & 9 Options Descriptions

Grade 8 & 9 - options will be offered based on the most popular courses. Students might not get their first choice, but will be placed in something that they are interested in. Places will be decided based on first-come, first-served, but will also include reference to past behaviour and options choices (for example, someone who has never taken Foods will be prioritized, but a student with a history of safety issues might not be ready for the course).

- Mandatory: Planning for High School and University 8 & 9
- Leadership 8 & 9
- Debate 8 & 9
- Foods 8 & 9
- Drama 8 & 9
- Film Studies 8 & 9
- Medical Careers 9
- Psychology 9
- Art 8 & 9
- Photography 8 & 9
- STEM Engineering 8 & 9
- Coding 8 & 9
- Business 8 & 9
- Preparing for Legal Careers 9
- Sports Skills Training 8 & 9

PLANNING FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY	NO FEE
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All students will be enrolled in this option and will spend 2 months doing career exploration activities including surveys about their strengths and interests, research into job options, researching the path through post-secondary to careers, and setting personal goals for junior high and high school. Students will begin their MyBlueprint portfolio to gain an understanding of the requirements to enter grade 10, graduate with a diploma, and gain entrance into university.

LEADERSHIP	NO FEE
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This program is designed to allow students to develop their personal leadership style. Students will choose an area of the school, the community, or the wider world in which to create lasting positive change. All students in the leadership program will be involved in putting on many key activities in the school. These include: lunchtime activities, volunteer projects, school improvement, school spirit activities, staff and student recognition, and other student driven initiatives. This course will also explore different styles of leadership, and how famous leaders have modeled them. They will also be required to complete a minimum of 10 volunteer hours.

DEBATE: ALERT	NO FEE unless attend competitions
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Think fast. Speak clearly. Make your point—and make it *powerful*. In one of the top-rated speech and debate programs in Edmonton (30 medals and counting!), you'll learn how to research, plan, and deliver presentations that truly land. Whether you're standing at a podium or jumping into a fast-paced debate, this class helps you build confidence and sharpen your voice. We start with writing and presenting pieces for speech tournaments and move on to learning the basics of debate, just in time for competition season! *Heads up*: We tackle real topics—sometimes controversial ones—so be ready to think deeply and engage respectfully. While competitions aren't required, you'll have time in class to prep if you want to join our winning team.

DRAMA	NO FEE unless go to competitions
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Drama fosters teamwork, creativity, and confidence as students explore acting, movement, speech, and other dramatic disciplines. Through improv, classroom dynamic-building exercises, and performances, they'll develop stage presence, communication, and collaboration. This supportive environment allows students of all experience levels to grow at their own pace, express themselves, and build trust with their peers. Those interested will also have the opportunity to prepare for competitions and performances if they wish. This class is optimal for students to build self confidence, and improve their ability to work together. Join us to discover talents, take risks, and shine—on and off the stage!

FILM STUDIES: ALERT	NO FEE
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This course is your chance to dive deeper into the stories you see on screen. In Film Studies, you'll explore how filmmakers use images, music, and storytelling to share ideas and emotions—and you'll sharpen your own thinking by analyzing what you watch. You'll build skills like: Making predictions and reading between the lines; spotting themes, symbols, and big ideas; and understanding different perspectives and messages. This course is all about learning how to *view* with purpose while enjoying awesome films. You'll choose personal interests to explore through movies, all while strengthening your English Language Arts skills.

 **Content note:** We'll be watching PG and PG-13 films like *E.T.*, *Pleasantville*, *Super 8*, *The Goonies*, or *Batman Returns*. Some may include mild violence or references to relationships.

ART	NO FEE
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Ready to make art that *actually* feels cool? In this option, you'll dive into hands-on projects like graffiti-inspired artwork, carving, sketching, painting, and more. You'll get to experiment with different tools and materials while learning how to express your ideas in unique and creative ways. You'll also explore the world of other artists—from street art legends to classic creators—and see how art tells stories, makes people think, and brings ideas to life. Whether you're into bold colors, sharp lines, or hands-on sculpting, this class is all about discovering your style and having fun while doing it.

FIBRE ARTS: Crochet	NO FEE
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Want to learn a creative skill that's relaxing *and* meaningful? In this hands-on option, you'll learn the basics of crocheting—from casting on and off to mastering simple stitches and reading patterns. You will: explore different types of yarn and how to care for your creations, follow a beginner-friendly pattern to complete your own project, and use your skills to make something special to donate to a local charity. No experience needed—just bring your patience, creativity, and a willingness to try something new. By the end, you'll not only know how to crochet—you'll have made something that helps someone else.

MUSIC	\$50 extra fee
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Whether you're already into music or just curious, this class is your chance to explore, create, and enjoy music in a whole new way. You'll try out different instruments, experiment with beats and rhythms, and learn how music is made—from pop and rock to classical and global

sounds. You don't need any musical experience to join—just an interest in sound, creativity, and having a good time. Whether you're making music with friends or learning how your favourite songs are built, this class is all about finding your sound and having fun with it.

PHOTOGRAPHY	NO FEE
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Students develop essential skills in camera use with a focus on basic composition, set-up and an examination of exposure. Students operate a camera to capture images and produce final display proofs using basic photo editing software. Students use photographic prints or digital images to communicate a message or tell a story. Students will use both DSLR cameras and their cell phones (if they have one) to take pictures for the yearbook and school advertisements.

STEM ENGINEERING	NO FEE
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21st Century Learners need 4 skills to be successful in pursuing their passions - critical thinking, creative problem solving, communicating effectively and collaborating with others. Through the use of the Engineering Design Process we'll explore and develop each of these skills. Come and make connections with peers, take action to attempt to solve a variety of puzzles and building challenges and hold onto hope even through adversity. The grade 9 course will culminate in putting together all the skills at an Escape Room experience where you'll need to think outside of the box and depend on your team for success. Are you up to the challenge?

COMPUTER SCIENCE DISCOVERIES	NO FEE
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CS Discoveries is an introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. In the Interactive Animations and Games unit, students create programmatic images, animations, interactive art, and games. Starting off with simple, primitive shapes and building up to more sophisticated sprite-based games, students become familiar with the programming concepts and the design process computer scientists use daily. They then learn how these simpler constructs can be combined to create more complex programs. In the final project, students develop a personalized, interactive program.

FOODS: ALERT	\$50 extra fee
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Students learn safe and sanitary food handling procedures, equipment care, comprehension of recipes and the importance of efficient work habits. Students focus on basic measuring techniques, preparation methods, role of ingredients and the proper use of equipment for baked goods. Students learn the importance of healthy eating habits by making nutritious, as well as delicious, snacks. Students learn about nutrients, what foods they are found in, how such foods affect performance and future health as they participate in healthy food preparation. ALERT: students must be able to handle all animal products using gloves and not have air-borne allergies. Students may have the opportunity to sample food, but this is not a snack program and students may not be able to eat all the products they make if they have food restrictions. Recipes will be nut-free.

BUSINESS	NO FEE
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Students will develop an understanding of the functions of business. The main focus will be on entrepreneurship but other subjects covered include: macro and micro economics,

inventions, personal finance, accounting, marketing, information and communication technology, online and “tech” businesses, human resources, production, and the importance of ethics and social responsibility among others. Students identify characteristics and skills demonstrated by entrepreneurs, research a variety of entrepreneurs, and analyze their own entrepreneurial strengths and skills. Through community involvement, students develop an understanding of how opportunities are identified and ventures created.

SPORTS SKILLS TRAINING: Soccer and Basketball (Term 1)	NO FEE
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This option is designed for students to build confidence and competence through focused drills and skill development. Students will break down the basic movements of the game—such as footwork, passing, ball handling, and shooting—to better understand the physics behind movement, balance, and force. Each class will include structured drills that develop both individual technique and an awareness of team strategy. Leadership is built through peer coaching, goal setting, and reflection. Please note: this course will be drill-focused with emphasis on strategy, targeted training methods and sports-specific conditioning and students will NOT be playing full games. This course is ideal for all skill levels and genders and does not require any previous sports experience.

SPORTS SKILLS TRAINING: Basketball, Football, Softball (Term 2)	NO FEE
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This option is designed for students to build confidence and competence through focused drills and skill development. Students will break down the basic movements of the game—such as throwing, catching, and passing—to better understand the physics behind movement, balance, and force. Each class will include structured drills that develop both individual technique and an awareness of team strategy. Leadership is built through peer coaching, goal setting, and reflection. Please note: this course will be drill-focused with emphasis on targeted training methods and on strategy, sports-specific conditioning and students will NOT be playing full games. This course is ideal for all skill levels and genders and does not require any previous sports experience.

GRADE 9 ONLY: MEDICAL CAREERS (ALERT)	\$10 extra fee
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This course will explore the inner workings of the human body and focus on anatomical and medical terminology. This course will provide students the opportunity to expand their vocabulary, learn about the body's levels of organization, and how the levels interact. Students will develop a foundation for future pursuits in health related fields (ALERT: will include reference to reproductive organs and functions).

GRADE 9 ONLY: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY (ALERT)	NO FEE
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Students will begin an examination of how mammals learn, think, feel, and behave. It will offer you a chance to learn what psychology is and what psychologists do. Students will begin an examination of the brain and the areas responsible for emotions and thinking. A specific area of focus will be resiliency strategies for topics that affect teens, such as anxiety and peer relationships. Students will be encouraged to use the course as a springboard for their Science Fair projects, and will have the opportunity to speak to university researchers about experimental design. (ALERT: will discuss subjects that cause anxiety, such as relationships)

GRADE 9 ONLY: PREPARING FOR LEGAL CAREERS (ALERT)	NO FEE
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Students will learn about their rights and responsibilities under Canadian Law and research case studies to see how the law is applied and to debate how they think cases should have been dealt with. Students will take part in a mock trial (ALERT - will include references to

violence). Students will learn about the many different careers available in law and how to plan their high school and university pathway.

Information for Grade 10-12

High School Diploma Requirements:

- 15 credits English (must have 30-1 or 30-2)
- 15 credits Social Studies (must have 30-1 or 30-2)
- 10 credits Mathematics (must have 20 level)
- 10 credits Science (must have 20 level)
- 6 credits of Phys Ed 10 and Calm 10
- 10 credits of Options
- 10 credits of any 30-level courses (other than English or Socials)
- Additional 24 credits from grade 10-12

University of Alberta Entrance Courses: average of these 5 subjects:

- Bachelor of Engineering: English 30, Math 30, Math 31, Physics 30, Chem 30
- Bachelor of Science: English 30; Math 30; only need 2 sciences, but some majors require 3; extra course from any group A/B/or C
- Bachelor of Arts: English 30; choose 4 courses (one can be Art or Drama)

Group A (Humanities)	Group B (Fine Arts)	Group C (Maths/Sciences)
Social Studies 30-1 Microeconomics/Macroeconomics 30 (must be presented together) 30-level Language other than English Aboriginal Studies 30	Art 30 Drama 30 Art 31 Applied Graphic Arts 35 Communication Technology Advanced Level-Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Dance 35 Music 30 Music 35 Musical Theatre 35 Performing Arts 35 A, B, or C	Biology 30 Chemistry 30 Mathematics 30-1 Mathematics 30-2 (see Note 3) Mathematics 31 (calculus) Physics 30 Science 30 Computing Science (CSE) Advanced Level-Career and Technology Studies (CTS)