

2024-25

Grade 9 Course Selection



Parkland Middle School

SD5

1/1/2024

Gr 9 Electives Course Descriptions 2024/2025 Parkland Middle School

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SUPPORTS

Numeracy Support 9

Numeracy Support gives students the opportunity to practice important Math skills such as mental math, multiplication/division facts, integer operations, proportions, and problem-solving strategies. Students will be part of a small class where they will be able to receive 1-on-1 or small-group instruction. This course is suitable for students of all levels of Math ability who are motivated to improve their accuracy and speed in core Math skills.

Literacy Support 9

This course is designed to give students extra support with the foundations of reading and writing. Students will receive individualized instruction through small group, station-based learning. This course focuses entirely on the fundamentals and is meant to give students the opportunity to slow down and review concepts they may be struggling to grasp such as comprehending text, writing about reading, writing strong and complete sentences, paragraph structure, and essay structure. Intertwined in this literacy program is the opportunity for students to engage in elective-themed activities of their choosing for a portion of most classes.

LANGUAGES

French 9

Suitable for beginners, or a continuation for students who have taken French 8. Develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Students will also be introduced to Francophone culture. This course is recommended for French 10 at MBSS. Students are encouraged to engage in spontaneous, or scripted, interactions using their growing vocabulary and sentence structures.

German 9

An introduction to effective communication in German. Suitable for beginners to start developing basic reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. This course will encourage students to engage in spontaneous or scripted interactions to grow their vocabulary and become confident to start conversations.

Spanish Language & Culture 9

An introduction to effective communication in Spanish. Students learn basic grammar and vocabulary, and the course includes the study of culture of the Spanish speaking countries of the world. This course encourages students to engage in spontaneous, or scripted, interactions using their growing vocabulary and sentence structures.

ARTS

Band 9

Students who take band will learn to play an instrument of their choice in a traditional concert band setting. Instruments are available through the school however; many students already have their own. Many students in their third year of band at PMS learn how to play a second, or in some cases, third instrument. In addition to performing at Key City Theatre throughout the school year, students will have opportunities to perform at local elementary schools and have the *option* to travel to perform outside of our community. Our band program offers many fundraisers to help offset the cost of our travel expenses.

Creative Writing 9

Writing is often regarded as a technical skill, maybe even a necessary evil, but Creative Writing 9 engages with writing from a different perspective: imagination, observation, self-expression, self-development, and self-exploration. Creative Writing 9 will help students develop a voice and

become more comfortable with writing. Any student with university aspirations will have to write essays – comfort with writing and having a voice is vital for doing so successfully. In this course, we'll look at different forms, skills, and approaches to writing creatively. Students will then work on writing projects that most interest them. These could include:

- screenplays (film scripts)
- poetry
- short stories
- group writing projects
- long-form fiction
- personal essays
- comics

This course is designed for students to have fun while writing, but it will also strengthen their writing skills and self-awareness. There will not be homework, and writers will be able to work at their own pace.

Drama 9

The objective of Drama 9 is for students to acquire knowledge of self and others through participation in, and reflection on dramatic experience. Students will develop competency in communication skills through participation in and exploration of various dramatic disciplines and will acquire an appreciation for drama and theatre as a process and art form. The course will include orientation, movement, improvisation, characterization, and small group presentations.

Photography 9

In Photography you'll learn both the creative and technical side of photography. We look to take your technical & creative skills to the next level using a DSLR camera for the majority of the course. There will be some use of point & shoot cameras, however, it is minimal. Some of the things we will cover include; getting acquainted with the essential controls and menus of your camera, configuring your camera for shooting, understanding how auto focus works, getting the right brightness in your photos, what makes a more interesting photo, understanding aperture and its creative effect on depth of field, understanding the creative effect of shutter speed, composition 'rules', tips and other advice which make for more interesting photos, as well as more in-depth compositional guidelines.

Visual Art 9

Art 9 continues to build upon earlier steps in art from grade seven and eight. Students will continue to develop and strengthen their understanding and use of compositional guidelines, by becoming familiar with and using the elements of art and principles of design. Students will be encouraged to select a preferred media and make a personal exploration using this media. Pencil, pencil crayon, charcoal, conte', pastel (oil and chalk), paint, clay or another media maybe used for a personal exploration.

Yoga 9

Following the Art curriculum, this course will combine physical movement and self-inquiry. Yoga, when done in a group, builds community and nurtures relationships with others. Yoga attunes a person to the present moment and fosters positive well-being. Examples of classes include flow, yin, mediation, yoga nidra, yoga philosophy, guest speakers and field trips.

ADST – Applied Design Skills and Technology

Digital Technology and Media Arts 9

This course will draw from the provincial curriculum options under the Applied, Designs, and Skills Technology curricula and Media Arts. It will include learning areas in coding and robotics (sphero and EV3 robots, Java script and python coding), computers and communication devices, keyboarding, media design including Flash animation, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Mix Craft, audio editing and creation. We also will explore a unit in film and video where we will explore techniques which enhance film production.

Food Studies 9

Food Studies 9 is an introductory course to the basic principles of food preparation, kitchen safety and sanitation, and the impact of food systems. Students are expected to complete theory projects and practical demonstrations of knowledge.

Topics include:

- **Pathogenic microbes**- prevention of food-borne illness.
- **Components of food preparation**- including use and adaptations of ingredients, techniques, and equipment.
- **Influences**- health, economic, and environmental factors that affect availability and choice of food in personal, local, and global contexts.
 - **Ethical concerns related to food systems.**
- **First Peoples traditional food use**- including ingredients, harvesting/gathering, storage, preparation, and preservation.

Leadership 9

L.E.A.D.S (leadership, empowerment, advocacy, development and stewardship)

This course will provide students with the opportunity to learn what leadership is, different types and styles of leadership, project management, volunteerism and ethical advocacy. Students will plan and implement projects within the school, town, and global community through advocacy and stewardship projects. Skills and topics we will investigate are:

- understanding self/ interpersonal relationships
- team building
- leadership styles
- organizational skills
- goal setting
- social justice and advocacy
- event organization (school, local, global)
- mediation/conflict resolution
- public speaking/debate
- Volunteerism/service to others

** Please be aware that there may be some time required outside of class (i.e., lunch or nutrition breaks) to implement project plans. **

Metalwork 9

Metalwork 9 is an opportunity for students to work with their previously gained skills to complete more complex projects and to a higher level of finish. Welding, forging, sheet metal work, milling on the metal lathes, casting along with a variety of other techniques will be taught. 5 mandatory projects will be completed as well as an opportunity to design and create projects of the student's choosing.

Outdoor Education 9

Outdoor Ed is an active, hands-on program. This is a continuation of the concepts and activities covered in grade eight. There will be added challenges and more difficult outings. Students will be provided with opportunities to develop skills that will enable them to play safely outside while enjoying the outdoors. We will focus on how to prepare for most outdoor experiences. Students will get to experience various outdoor activities such as cycling, climbing, fishing, ice fishing, skating, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, disc golf, tobogganing, etc. Also, they will learn survival techniques, which include first aid, orienteering, shelter building, and fire building.

Combined Outdoor Ed and PE 9

The aim of outdoor education/physical education is for students to discover hidden talents or develop passions, leadership potential, and play a role in the developing of community in the outdoors. Students will be heading into the wilderness to learn outdoor skills such as basic wilderness first aid, shelter building, fire-building, etc. while learning how to work in teams. Through a range of outdoor activities, such as hiking, biking, fishing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and environmental studies, students learn and develop self-reliance, teamwork, leadership, and responsibility. Given that this will be a linear class that combines with physical education, there is the potential for half day ski trips to the ski hill, overnight survival camping, plus day trips to destinations that we could not have achieved in the semestered courses.

Textiles Arts 9

This is an introductory course that provides students with the opportunity to learn how to use a sewing machine, crochet, loom-bead and embroider. Students make as many projects as they want to and are encouraged to challenge their creativity in demonstrating learned skills. This course fosters creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, time management, and fine motor skills.

Woodwork 9

Is an opportunity for students to really work with their previously gained skills to complete more complex projects and to a higher level of finish. All shop power and hand tools will be discussed and taught how to use in a safe and effective manner to complete 4 mandatory projects as well as ones of the student's own design.

Yearbook 9

The introductory yearbook course offers the student total involvement in the production of the school yearbook. Activities include advertising, layout planning, photography, copywriting, and proofing. Students work with layout and design of desktop publishing, digital imagery, and photo placement. The yearbook course requires students to take all of the photos used in the

yearbook. They are instructed in the use of cameras and encouraged to experiment with different techniques. The yearbook course runs in the second semester for interested grade 9 students. However, it would be advised that students take Digital Technology and Media Arts 9 or Photography in the first semester to prepare them with the necessary computer skills. The class will be responsible for all aspects of the production of the school yearbook.