

WESTSYDE SECONDARY SCHOOL

COURSE SELECTION BOOK

2017-2018

GRADE 8





WELCOME TO WESTSYDE SECONDARY SCHOOL

ADMINISTRATION:

Principal: Mr. Tom Dinsdale

Vice-Principal: Mr. Justin deVries

COUNSELLING:

Counsellor: Mrs. Betty Lapeyre (student's last name begins with A-K)

Counsellor: Ms. Carol McCauley (student's last name begins with L-Z)

Counselling Secretary: Ms. Gail McArthur

The best opportunities for a student's future are based on the successful completion of a strong, well-planned program in secondary school. Westsyde Secondary School offers a complete academic program with flexibility to meet your son/daughter's individual needs. However, the school cannot do it all; interest, involvement, support and guidance of parents have never been more important.

We hope you will begin your involvement by studying this handbook and emphasizing to your child the importance of his/her secondary school years. Working together, we can make certain that all students will meet their educational objectives.

EDUCATIONAL AND PERSONAL COUNSELLING

At Westsyde Secondary School students are assigned to one of our counsellors who are responsible for both male and female students. However, students may choose to see either counsellor. If students wish to see a Counsellor, they should drop by the Counselling Office either before school, noon hour or after school and make an appointment with Ms. McArthur, our secretary. We will treat all matters in an understanding and strictly confidential manner.

Some of the services we can provide include course planning, learning assistance referrals, peer support, organizational support and study skills.

Parents are welcome to consult with counsellors at anytime. Contact can be made either by phone or in person. Appointments can be made through Ms. McArthur, the Counselling Secretary, by calling 250-579-9271.

EXPECTATIONS



LEARNING

At Westsyde Secondary, we welcome our Grade 8's into a community of learners. We expect our Grade 8 students to be committed to their courses and to strive for success. The keys to success for all students at Westsyde Secondary are:

BEING on time

BEING prepared for class

BEING attentive and on task during class

BEING up to date with homework completion

BEING respectful and positive

BEING involved

REGISTRATION AND THE FIRST DAY

If students have attended Grade 7 at a school within our catchment area, they will already be registered when they arrive in September. On the first day of school, students are to report to their homeroom, where they will be given information relating to the rest of the day and will also receive their timetable. The opening time for the first day will be advertised in the newspapers and on signs posted in the school windows the Friday before school opens. Homeroom lists will also be posted on this day.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Please see the school website at www.wss.sd73.bc.ca for school hours, breaks and lunch time schedule. This information will be given to students on the first day of school. Every Wednesday, Westsyde Secondary offers Academic Intervention (see below) therefore there is an early dismissal. On the first day of school in homeroom, students will receive a blank timetable displaying the block rotation with block and break/lunch times, and the Academic Intervention time slotted for Wednesday afternoon.

ACADEMIC INTERVENTION

Academic Intervention (AI) at Westsyde Secondary is to support students who fall behind in their studies. Students who are struggling to meet course learning outcomes are referred to our AI coordinator, who then schedules students into AI to assist them in completing their outstanding work. Currently AI occurs Monday through Wednesday at lunch, and during afternoon Connections block on Wednesdays.

SCHOOL TIMETABLE

Students will take a total of eight full course equivalents each year. The first semester runs from the beginning of September to the end of January, and the second semester runs from early February to the end of June.

COURSE SELECTIONS

Students and parents are always welcome to contact one of the counsellors with concerns or questions they may have. Each student will be required to complete a Course Selection Sheet. They will take it home for approval by parent / guardian before final submissions. Should students change their plans after the final submission of the Course Selection Sheet, they should immediately inform the Counselling Office at Westsyde Secondary School. In the spring, the Counsellors will invite each of the Grade 7 classes to Westsyde Secondary School to tour through the school and answer questions about Grade 8.

HOW STUDENTS CHOOSE THEIR COURSES

In Grade 8, students are automatically registered in:

English 8	Science 8
Social Studies 8	Physical Education 8
Math 8 (semester) or Math 8 (yearlong)	French 8

Students will have two options to have elective courses incorporated into their timetable.

Option 1 or Option 2; please see the Grade 8 Course Selection Sheet.

Art 8	Textiles 8	Band 8
Drama 8	Metal 8	
Foods 8	Wood 8	
Inquiry 8		

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be in attendance, on time, and prepared to work at all classes. Parents are required to telephone the school if the student is going to be absent. All unexcused absences at WSS will have a Synervoice computerized callout to the student's home the day of the absence. Planning of a family holiday, which does not conflict with school attendance, is appreciated and expected. Where circumstances require a student to be absent for any reasons other than illness, please contact Administration prior to the date of absence. It is important to note that students are responsible for all work covered when they are absent. If a student must be away from a school, a Planned Absence Form must be completed and returned to Administration in the Main Office. Planned Absence Forms are available in the Main Office or online at www.wss.sd73.bc.ca.

EARLY DISMISSAL – SIGNING “IN” or “OUT”

Students are expected to “SIGN IN” at the office if they arrive at school after classes have started. Once students have arrived at school they must “SIGN OUT” if they are leaving before 2:55 pm. Before signing out, students must present a

parent permission note or a telephone call to the Main Office from the parent is required. If possible, please book all appointments outside of school hours or on non-instructional days.

REPORTING AND GRADING

Westsyde Secondary School issues four Report Cards a year. Both Achievement and Effort Honour Rolls are assessed. They are reported as follows:

LETTER GRADE	PERCENTAGE	EFFORT
A	86% to 100%	
B	73% to 85%	G = Good
C+	67% to 72%	S = Satisfactory
C	60% to 66%	N = Needs Improvement
C-	50% to 59%	RM = Requirements Met
F	0% to 49%	
I	In progress (see below)	

An "I" is assigned when a number of assignments or tests have yet to be completed. The student is given the assignments, as well as a timeline for completing them. Once the timeline has passed and/or the assignments have been completed, the "I" mark is changed to a percentage mark.

CHANGING OR DROPPING COURSES

Every student has a timetable and must follow it. Each student is given as much opportunity as possible to select a suitable course program. Once the final selection is made the student has a commitment and is expected to live up to it.

Only under very special circumstances may a student be permitted to change a course; such a change may ONLY be arranged by the student's counsellor and with the approval of the administration and the parents.



HOMEWORK

Home study is a valuable routine to establish. It is more than simply doing homework as it arises. Often times parents are at a disadvantage when asking their son/daughter whether they have homework and often receive the answer "No" to the question "Do you have any homework". A more effective way to approach home study is to set up a regular time, in consultation with your son/daughter, that is in place each day regardless of whether or not they have specific homework. They are expected to use the allotted time whether they have specific homework that day or not. Home study would involve specific homework completion, working on projects/long term assignments, preparing for upcoming tests and/or review. By committing to establishing a regular home study time and routine it reduces the inevitable conflict over whether there is specific homework on a particular day and helps to establish a more useful and long lasting routine built around home study.

PARENT-TEACHER STUDENT INTERVIEWS

Two formal parent/teacher/student interview sessions are scheduled each year. The purpose of these sessions is to provide parents and students an opportunity to discuss your son/daughter's progress. Parents are also encouraged to contact the teacher at any time during the school year.



LOCKERS

Students are assigned a "locker for life", during their time at Westsyde Secondary. The locker will be his/her responsibility until the student graduates or leaves Westsyde Secondary. Students cannot switch lockers without permission from administration. Students cannot share lockers (sharing lockers often leads to problems when conflict arises between students who share a locker). Students should never share their locker combination with anyone else. Even telling your "best friend" means a student no longer has control over who may come to know their combination. Lockers assigned to students are the property of Westsyde Secondary School. If



concerns arise regarding the contents of a locker school administration reserves the right to open and search lockers. Typical reasons for administration opening and searching a locker include odours coming from a locker suggesting the presence of decaying food items/drugs, assisting a parent in retrieving items from the locker when the student is ill at home, or in the course of investigating an incident such as a theft. It is strongly advised that students purchase a quality combination lock to secure their locker. Locks may be purchased from the school for \$10.00. It is important that parents and students know that the school is not responsible for items lost or stolen from lockers, although we will make every effort to recover lost or stolen items it is often very difficult to get the information necessary to recover such items. Items of great value (eg. iphones, money) should not be left in hall lockers or gym lockers. If a student must bring something of value to school it can be temporarily secured in the main office to ensure it is secure. Items should never be left unlocked in hall or gym lockers.

TEXTBOOK DEPOSIT

A learning resources deposit shall be collected from secondary students to be held against lost or damaged learning resources. The textbook deposit will be \$50 per student to a maximum of \$100 per family, which will be held by the school until the student graduates or withdraws from the school provided that the textbooks are returned in a suitable condition at the end of each semester or school year. If the textbooks are damaged or not returned at the end of the semester or school year, the school will not refund the original deposit and may charge an additional deposit of \$50 per student to a maximum of \$100 per family at the beginning of the following semester or school year.

TEXTBOOKS

Students must accept the responsibility of returning texts in good conditions at the end of the course. Students are charged for damaged or lost books. Please make sure that your name is placed in the book so that an attempt can be made to return it, if lost. If you lose a book, report it to the office. You will be charged for the original and a replacement will be issued; if the lost book is found, you will receive a refund.



P.A. ANNOUNCEMENTS – MESSAGES

P.A. announcements will be made only at specific times each day. It is important that they be listened to and heard by all students. We cannot interrupt classes with personal messages for students, although emergency messages will be considered. A school phone, outside the Counselling Office, is available for local calls, outside of class time. The office telephones are available to students only in case of emergencies or when on school business.

BASIC SUPPLIES

Students will be expected to supply the following:

- binder (with dividers and loose leaf paper)
- pens, pencils and erasers
- metric ruler
- geometry set and calculator
- access to a dictionary
- pencil crayons

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

School District No. 73 Policy mandates suspension from school for any student "using" or "in possession" of drugs or alcohol at school or at any school function.

DRESS CODE

Students are expected to be appropriately dressed and to comply with our dress code. If clothing is a distraction to learning or creates a hazard, the student will be asked to change. Shoes must be worn at all times.

LIBRARY

Our library promotes the development of lifelong learning, and is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for students to read, research or complete assignments. We have a fine library, which is operated as efficiently as possible. Your co-operation is required to ensure the prompt return of library books and materials.



COMPUTER USE AND INTERNET ACCESS

Westsyde Secondary School offers students the use of computers and access to the Internet. The computer labs and the library are open for student use before school, at lunch hour and after school. Internet access is available to all students with parental permission. An Internet Access Agreement must be signed by all students. Students who violate the agreement and acceptable use may have their privileges suspended or removed.



CELL PHONES, I-PODS, MP-3 PLAYERS

The WSS TECHNOLOGY POLICY is intended to address the **appropriate use** of all electronic devices during our regular school day. To that end, the following expectations must be adhered to with regards to proper and responsible technology use:

1. Cell phone use (both verbal and texting) is **not permitted** at WSS during instructional time unless it is at the discretion of the individual teacher for educationally related reasons. Failure to comply with this policy will result in the confiscation of the phone and it will be turned into the office for follow-up from our administration.
2. Cell phone use (both verbal and texting) will be **permitted** in the school during non-instructional time (before school/long break/lunch/after school).
3. The use of music devices such as IPOD's and MP3 players can only be used during class time **at the discretion of the individual teacher**. Failure to comply with this policy could result in the confiscation of the device and it will be turned into the office for follow-up from our administration.
4. The use of cameras and imaging devices are **not allowed at WSS at anytime during the school day** unless under the direct supervision of a teacher for educational reasons only. Such permission will also include appropriate waiver forms for student consent/release of images.
5. Students who consistently and/or repeatedly violate this policy may have their ability to bring their personal device to school suspended, revoked or be subject to special conditions surrounding their possession of the device at school. These measures are taken when a student consistently refuses to follow classroom rules and teacher direction in the classroom over the acceptable use of the device, or when a student has been found to use the device in an inappropriate manner. (eg. bullying and harassing texting behaviour, taking pictures or videos without permission and/or refusing to give their device to a teacher or administrator when requested)

Our goal at WSS is to **promote 'responsible use'** of all technology devices and we aim to support this goal through educating our students in both our classrooms (ethics of use) and through our PBS model-student code of conduct.

GYM STRIP

Shorts, t-shirt, socks and running shoes are required.

ATHLETICS

Westsyde's extra-curricular athletic program includes: track and field, curling, wrestling, soccer, basketball, volleyball, football, rugby and golf. Grade 8 students are encouraged to try out for the school teams. These offerings may be altered due to student interest and availability of coaching staff. Any athletic program involves volunteer students in a variety of roles such as managers, trainers, statisticians, scorekeepers and timers.



INTRAMURALS

Intramurals provide a variety of activities throughout the school year. Intramurals take place at lunch time and are open to all students. Students are encouraged to become involved early in the year. Listen to the school announcements to sign up.

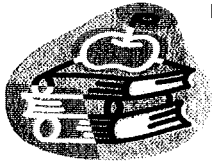


LEARNING ASSISTANCE

This program provides help to a broad range of students who are on the regular program of studies, but experience learning challenges. Students who need occasional help can drop by Room 8 at lunch, or after school. Students needing specific help may be timetabled into the LA room. Some of the services provided by LA include: assistance with academic courses; adapted learning materials; tutoring; word processing; organizational help; study skills; assignment tracking; test support and proof-reading. Parents are welcome to contact Mrs. Bernes for further information.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8 (EN 8)



English 8 builds and expands upon the core competencies of communication, thinking and personal and social responsibility learned throughout elementary school. Through an exploration of a variety of texts, including aboriginal texts, students will explore forms, function and genre in literature. Students will also explore ideas within texts, reflect on meaning, and to make connections to their own lives. In addition, students will continue to develop communication skills focussing thinking about and using the writing process in the creation of different paragraph forms as well as visual and oral communication.

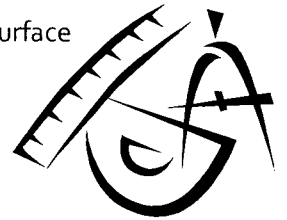
SOCIAL STUDIES 8 (SS 8)

Social Studies 8 is interested in contacts and conflicts between peoples and significant cultural, social, political, economic, and religious change around the world from the 7th Century to 1750. This course will include the Roman Empire, Empires of Asia, Meso-America, Middle Ages in Europe and the Middle East, Renaissance, Exploration, Reformation in Europe, and the Industrial Revolution. First Nations will be examined in the context of Pre-Contact, Colonization, and Conquest.



MATHEMATICS 8 (MA 8)

Topics include: fractions, integers, proportion, percent, logic, probability, pythagorean theorem, surface area, volume, algebra and financial literacy.



MATHEMATICS 8 - Yearlong (MA8 Y/L)

This course will be the same as Math 8. Students will have double the time to complete the course as the student will have this course every day for the whole year.

SCIENCE 8 (SC 8)



This course will cover the following topics: the cell, human body systems, optics, fluid dynamics and natural water systems. This course includes a lab component with an emphasis on safety.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8 (PE 8)

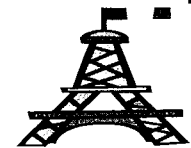
This program emphasizes basic skill development physical activity and an active health education. A variety of team and individual activities will focus on skill development, participation, co-operation, personal fitness and self-motivation. A doctor's note is imperative if a student is to be exempt from any area of the PE program. Gym strip is required i.e. shorts, T-shirt and runners. Sweat pants are suggested for fall and winter outdoor activities.



FRENCH 8 (FR 8)

French 8 is a required course as mandated by the BC Ministry of Education.

There is no pre-requisite. Westsyde language teachers are using AIM (Accelerative Integrated Methodology), a highly successful gesture-based approach to getting students using the language in a real way. Students learn through speaking, listening, drama (*Salut mon ami!*), rhymes and songs, as well as reading and writing involving lots of partner work.



ELECTIVE MOSIAC 8 ROTATION

Depending on which Option your student chooses for his/her course selection in Grade 8, our Elective Mosaic 8 Rotation is where a student will learn skills and complete projects. Depending upon enrolment numbers and availability of specific elective resources, the specific elective courses that make up the Elective Mosaic 8 Rotation may vary. The intent is to

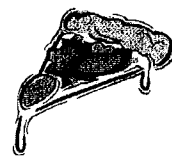
provide students with an opportunity to sample a variety of elective subjects so they may be better able to choose specific elective areas of interest as they move on to higher grades.

Please see the Course Selection sheet for more information.

COST: \$15.00

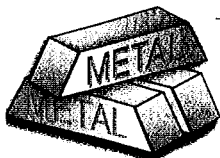
HOME ECONOMICS 8 (FOODS and TEXTILES)

Included are the basic techniques of food preparation, simple meal planning and basic nutrition, as well as an introduction to the operation of the sewing machine, basic sewing techniques and construction of a pair of boxer shorts. Students supply all materials for sewing.



TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 8 (METAL and WOOD)

This is an introduction into the various aspects of technology and the technology programs at Westsyde Secondary. It is designed to promote further study in the area of technology. Students will experience things like: building projects in woodwork, designing and drafting, using computers, computer animation, electronics and problem solving tasks.



ART 8

This is a course to serve as an introduction to Visual Art. The basic skill levels of drawing, painting and sculpture will be taught. Emphasis is upon developing a foundation for future learning of art skills and techniques. Sketchbook and basic materials are needed, as set by the teacher.



DRAMA 8

This is an exciting introduction course designed to expand student personal development in communication, creativity and self-confidence on and of the stage. With the instructor's direction, students will learn to work together to build plays and craft theatre scenes for classroom presentation. In this beginning course, students will explore and develop many theatre skills emphasizing on movement, character creation and performance. Be a part of one of the strongest acting programs in the city and take your first step onto our stage.

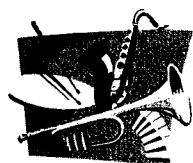


INQUIRY 8

What are you passionate about? What excites you? In this class you will get to be creative, research, learn, build, and create through exploring a topic or problem that you are interested in. In addition, you will learn to use design thinking to solve problems. We will reflect and publish our learning for others to see. This course will also give students a good foundation of skills that will help them throughout high school. They will learn some important skills such as: how to use the learning commons, essential WSS technology skills (GEDU Accounts, Google Classroom, iPads, ChromeBooks), research skills, evaluating sources, citations, and more.

BAND 8

Do you play an instrument or would you like to learn how to play an instrument? Would you like to perform with our program at special events, concerts and musicals? Join Band 8. Students in this course will learn how to play a band instrument of their choice (Guitar and Keyboard are not included as possible choices). Instruments may be rented from the school. No experience is necessary.



OFF TIMETABLE COURSES

LEADERSHIP

Any student in Grades 8-12 can select Leadership. This is a yearlong off the timetable course which runs during lunch hour on Thursday and for one hour after school on Tuesday.

Society needs well-trained, ethical leaders. Good leaders are found in all aspects and areas of life and serve as models for their accomplishments. Academic institutions seek them out. Commercial enterprises support the growth of new leaders within their corporations. Student leaders are acknowledged by their schools. It is with these realities in mind that we believe secondary school students should be given the opportunity to develop and discover leadership values, attitudes and skills. Leadership at Westsyde Secondary helps students develop personal skills and positive attitudes, both of which will give students the opportunity to make a difference in their personal lives, their school, their jobs, and their community.

In this course students will gain practical experience working on Leadership projects which range from in-school events, to community outreach, to service learning opportunities. Students work collaboratively on projects where they must work on self-improvement, self-assessment, communication, and teamwork in order to achieve their task. Credits will be given to this course in Grades 10-12.

CHOIR (VOCAL JAZZ)

*Choir (Vocal Jazz) at Westsyde Secondary is one of our Premiere Performance Groups. Many students enjoy being part of this exciting performing group. **Students need to be aware that rehearsals run year long twice every week at 7:00 am.***

This course is part of our dynamic Performing Arts Department so some extra rehearsals will come up throughout the year. Choir (Vocal Jazz) provide instruction in many commercial music areas including: Jazz, Bebop, Rock, R & B and the Blues. Students also study improvisation and soloing techniques. This class will be involved in performance

oriented training schedules, with a possibility of festival competition experience. Please note that students may need to miss some school for travel and tour reasons. Credits will be given for this course from Grades 10-12.

