

# WESTSYDE SECONDARY SCHOOL

COURSE SELECTION BOOK

2021-2022

GRADE 8





# WELCOME TO WESTSYDE SECONDARY SCHOOL

## ADMINISTRATION:

Principal: Mr. Chris Preymak

Vice-Principal: Mrs. Michelle Mattes

## COUNSELLING:

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

Counsellor: Mr. Matt Marra (student's last name begins with L-Z)

Counselling Secretary: Mrs. Stephanie Conroy

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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 student'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 is 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 the counselling secretary.

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 by calling the school at 250-579-9271.

# EXPECTATIONS

## LEARNING

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 OF SCHOOL

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 their timetable. Homerooms will be posted in the hallways. The opening time for the first day will be advertised in the newspaper.

## **THE SCHOOL DAY**

Please see the school website at <http://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. 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 "Connections" time slotted for Wednesday afternoon.

## **SCHOOL TIMETABLE**

Students will take a total of eight full course equivalents each year, four each semester. 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.

## **HOW STUDENTS CHOOSE THEIR COURSES**

In Grade 8, students are automatically registered in:

English 8

Math 8

Science 8

Social Studies 8

Physical Education 8

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.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to be in attendance, on time, and prepared to work at all classes. Parents are requested to telephone the school if the student is going to be absent. All unexcused absences at WSS will have a 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 the 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](http://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%	G = Good
B	73% to 85%	S = Satisfactory
C+	67% to 72%	N = Needs Improvement
C	60% to 66%	RM=Requirements Met
C-	50% to 59%	
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 completed, the "I" mark is changed to a percentage mark.

### **CRITERIA FOR ACADEMIC HONOUR ROLL Grades 8 and 9:**

1. Must be enrolled in THREE (3) curriculum based courses.
2. Must have at least 3 – A's; 1 – B If two Grade 8 mosaic courses are on the Report Card the lowest mosaic will not be included
3. **Not eligible** for Academic Honour Roll if a student failed a course and/or if there is an "I" on the Report Card.

### **CRITERIA FOR EFFORT HONOUR ROLL Grades 8**

1. Students must be enrolled in THREE (3) or more courses per semester.
2. MUST have "G" in ALL courses; EXCLUDED are Mosaic 8 and any on-line course.

### **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 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 their student's progress. Parents are also encouraged to contact the teacher at any time during the school year.

### **LOCKERS**

We are pleased to offer you the use of a school locker while enrolled at Westsyde Secondary School. With use of this locker the following guidelines apply:

- The locker assigned to you is for your use only. No one else's belongings can be kept in your locker.
- Lockers are assigned annually according to A-block in semester one.
- You are not permitted to switch lockers without direct administration approval.
- You can use a combination lock to keep your belongings safe, but the combination must be given to your homeroom teacher and will be kept in the office records.
- If you use a key-lock, an extra key must be kept in the office. If your key/combo is not recorded, then it may be necessary to cut off your lock to gain access to your locker.
- Lockers are the property of the school and student are given the privilege of using them. Please note that administration can access lockers at any time for a variety of reasons. Student consent is not required.
- The following items cannot be kept in your locker:
  - anything deemed by the school to be dangerous (such as anything that could be used as a weapon)
  - anything illegal (such as non-prescribed drugs, alcohol or stolen property).

If these items are found to be in your locker the school administration and/or RCMP will seize them and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

## **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.

## **COMPUTER USE AND INTERNET ACCESS**

WSS offers students the use of computers and access to the Internet. The library is 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.

## **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**

Westside 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 I Pod's and MP3 players can only be used during class time **at the discretion of the individual teacher**. Failure to comply with this policy will 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.

## 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, and rugby. 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.



## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

Westsyde Secondary School offers a wide range of school activities. We encourage as many students as possible to become involved in our school teams, intramurals at lunch hour and school clubs. 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.

## MATHEMATICS 8 (MA 8)

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



## SCIENCE 8 (SC 8)

This course will cover the following topics: the cell, the immune system, optics – properties & behaviours of light, electromagnetic spectrum, properties of waves, lenses/mirrors, human vision & optical instruments, kinetic molecular theory; earth science – plate tectonics, layers of the earth, earthquakes and volcanoes. This course includes a lab component with an emphasis on safety.

## 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.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8 (PE 8)

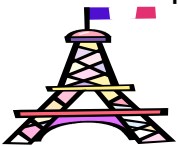
This program emphasizes basic skill development physical activity and an active health education. A variety of team and individual activities will focus on skill development, participation, co-operation, personal fitness and self-motivation. A doctor's note is imperative if a student is to be exempt 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 MOSAIC 8 ROTATION

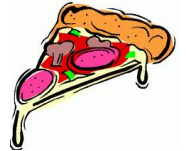
Depending on which Option your student chooses for his/her course selection in Grade 8, our Elective Mosaic 8 Rotation is where a student will learn skills and complete projects. Depending upon enrolment numbers and availability of specific elective resources, the specific elective courses that make 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, Chrome Books), research skills, evaluating sources, citations, and more.

## CAREER EDUCATION 8

The Career Education curriculum supports students in becoming successful, educated citizens by helping them learn how to effectively manage their life journey toward preferred future possibilities. This area of learning requires students to identify and develop their personal interests, passions, and competencies. Students reflect on learning experiences in school and community, build confidence through their contributions, and explore multiple career-life roles and choices. The curriculum fosters lifelong learning, beginning in Kindergarten and continuing through to graduation and beyond.





**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.

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**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 8: VOCAL JAZZ**

*Choir 8: 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 8: Vocal Jazz provides 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.