



Middle School Course Guide
Grades 7-9

Dear Students currently in Grades 6, 7, and 8:

In consultation with your parents and the Fraser Academy staff, please choose your courses carefully for next year. It is important for you to make choices that will both allow you to pursue a wide range of opportunities and match your strengths and interests. Don't be afraid to try new things!

Always feel comfortable to ask questions when making your decisions. We want to assist you in making the best choices possible.

Most importantly, enjoy the process!

We look forward to working with you and your family next year. Sincerely,

Mrs. Steltman
Head of School

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

Students and parents should spend time reading through this book to understand which core and elective courses are available in the Middle School years. Core courses are mandatory curriculum that will provide a smooth transition to Senior School. Keep in mind that many elective classes build on curriculum year after year. Make sure you take the courses in the earlier years that will help your success in high school. Students and parents are welcome to reach out to the Fraser Academy staff with questions by email, phone or in-person.

Questions about specific course content and subject specific recommendations should be directed to Department Heads and teachers.

Questions regarding course load, timetable planning and other academic concerns should be directed to Ms. Brown, Middle School Program Coordinator, at bbrown@fraseracademy.ca or Ms. Kline, Assistant Head of Teaching & Learning, at ekline@fraseracademy.ca.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARNING SERVICES

Students meet with their Orton Gillingham Learning Specialist every other day for 70 minutes in either one-to-one or small group settings. Here, students gain an understanding of their unique learning styles and are guided to use their cognitive skills to improve mental processes such as working memory and auditory processing. Through direct instruction and guided mediation, students build core foundational skills by gaining knowledge of the structure and rules of language, developing writing skills, and engaging in discussion to explore various forms of literature. In addition, students work to improve executive function in areas of planning, prioritizing, organization, working memory, cognitive shifting, and self-awareness with a view to becoming fully independent learners who can advocate for their needs at school and in life.

GRADE 7

CORE CURRICULUM COURSES

English Language Arts 7

English Language Arts 7 provides students with opportunities for personal and intellectual growth through speaking, listening, reading, viewing, writing and representing. Students will develop their ability to comprehend and respond to oral and written language, to communicate ideas, information and feelings, to think critically and creatively, and to reflect on and articulate their thinking and learning. These outcomes are accomplished through examining a variety of literature, non-fiction, media and film and responding to these works visually, verbally and in writing. Emphasis is placed on developing comprehension strategies, grammar, sentence structure

and paragraph construction, culminating in composing basic essays. Students will be evaluated on a variety of assignments throughout the year.

Health and Career Education 7

Health and Career Education (HACE) 7 is a continuation of the Grade 2-6 Character Education program. The aim of this course is to provide students the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to make healthy and safe decisions and choices. Students will learn goal-setting strategies, learn the



importance of effective work habits, acquire skills to maintain healthy relationships, and learn about supports available to them in education, health, and safety issues. They will also become aware of the consequences their actions and decisions have on themselves and others. Students will explore career options, make connections to their own interests and strengths, and progress on the path to becoming successful, educated citizens. Throughout the year, there will be a variety of learning opportunities including lessons, speakers, and special presentations.

Mathematics 7

The Grade 7 mathematics program enables students to develop fundamental skills in order to become mathematically literate. Skills taught include adding and subtracting fractions and integers, performing operations with decimal numbers, relating fractions to decimals and percentages, identifying and representing linear patterns, solving single-step equations, determining perimeter and

area of 2-dimensional shapes, identifying and drawing tessellations, and playing simple probability games.

Science 7

Science 7 continues the development of the core competencies in science as students explore and inquire about the natural world. The topics of exploration for Science 7 are diversity and the theory of evolution, elements and compounds, electromagnetism, and the Earth and its climate. Students will learn to ask good questions about the topics of study, make predictions, design and perform experiments and investigations, analyze their results, and communicate their findings. This course is hands-on, preparing students for a life of discovery, testing scientific boundaries, and trying to figure out how things work. Through hands-on experiments and activities, thoughtful discussions, and in-depth investigations, students are better able to understand the world around them, and their role in it.

Social Studies 7

Social Studies 7 examines concepts and content relating to the ancient world, from the first civilizations up to the 7th century. Students will acquire and develop historical thinking skills (significance, evidence, continuity and change, cause and consequence, perspective-taking, ethical judgment) to examine the following “Big Ideas”:

- Geographic conditions shaped the emergence of civilizations.
- Religious and cultural practices that emerged during this period have endured and continue to influence people.
- Increasingly complex societies required new systems of laws and government.
- Economic specialization and trade networks can lead to conflict and cooperation between societies.

All Social Studies courses are designed to incorporate concept-based, competency-driven approaches to learning for students to develop the skills to think critically, to effectively communicate ideas and analyses, and to connect complex issues of the past and present with the primary goal of creating informed, active citizens.

Physical Education 7

The physical education program offers a selection of specific activities for this level and adheres to a progressive, researched philosophy of developing a life-long healthy lifestyle. Students at this level receive instruction in fundamental and traditional physical education activities.



ELECTIVE COURSES

Challenge 7

The challenge curriculum is designed as a self-motivated course to address the academic, creative, and developmental needs of students at Fraser Academy. There will be a strong emphasis placed on cooperative and collaborative learning using a problem based learning model, projects, and experiential learning. Students will also learn the structure of a formal debate, and they will work together in teams to develop arguments on a variety of controversial issues. Themes and topics include: anthropology and the development of cultures, racism, as well as ecosystems and the environment.

Home Economics: Food Studies 7

Note: Students may only take one Home Economics course per year in Grade 7.

The Home Economics Food Studies 7 is designed to enhance the nutritional and food processing skills of students. Themes and topics include, but are not limited to: food preparation foundations and techniques, nutrition and healthy eating, and social economic and cultural influences. Kitchen basics included are safety and sanitation as key principles in this course. In addition to kitchen basics, there is a strong focus with regards to healthy eating.

Home Economics: Textiles 7

Note: Students may only take one Home Economics course per year in Grade 7.

The textile arts curriculum is designed to address the scientific, technological, and artistic needs of students as they relate to communication through the use of textiles. Themes and topics include, but are not limited to: textile techniques, printing techniques, stitching and surface decoration on paper and fabric, 2D media development and design, and manufacturing.

Technology Education 7

The Technology Education 7 curriculum will address the hands on, creative, and critical thinking skills of the students. The aim is to teach a specific set of skills and techniques with hand tools, power tools, drafting, and design. Students will be challenged to execute these skills appropriately on their projects and assignments. There will be a strong emphasis on shop safety and the use of appropriate precautionary measures associated with power tools. Themes and topics include, but are not limited to: safety, tool identification, measurement, structures, energy and power, woodworking, and design.

Information Technology 7

The Information Technology curriculum is designed to address technological information, literacy and computer skills. Students will use and make informed decisions about technology. Thematic topics and tools include but are not limited to: keyboarding skills, file management, workflow, word processing, digital communication, internet research, and Adobe Creative Suite.

Drama 7

Drama 7 has an emphasis on embodying active learning based on interaction with peers. The students will explore imagination, dramatic skills, and reflect on the use of drama in past and present times. Students will be challenged to work in groups, individually, and as a class as they participate in drama activities. Students will also learn how drama and the arts contribute to society and study career opportunities in these areas.

Music 7

This course is intended to provide students with the opportunity to explore and express themselves through various styles of music. The students will explore structural elements of melody, rhythm, and harmony. A key component of the music program involves a final performance of pop and/or rock music at a seasonal concert. Some possible themes for this course may include: notation and tablature, string instruments, percussion instruments, keyboards, vocals, and creation of music.

Visual Arts 7

The visual arts are an essential form of communication in order to interact with our environment and create images that express understanding of the world. In Visual Arts 7 the students will have opportunities to perceive, create, and communicate through art. The students will also learn about visual conventions that form the “building blocks” of art. This course will provide experiences in the five visual expression areas: drawing, painting, ceramics, graphics, and sculpture.



GRADE 8

CORE CURRICULUM COURSES

English Language Arts 8

English Language Arts 8 builds on the key strands of the curriculum to provide students with opportunities for personal and intellectual growth through speaking, listening, reading, viewing, writing and representing. Students will develop their ability to comprehend and respond to oral and written language, to communicate ideas, information and feelings, to think critically and creatively, and to reflect on and articulate their thinking and learning. These outcomes are accomplished through examining a variety of literature, non-fiction, media and film and responding to these works visually, verbally and in writing. Emphasis is placed on higher level comprehension

strategies, grammar, sentence structure, expanded paragraph construction and developing essay writing skills. Students will be evaluated on a variety of assignments throughout the year.

Health and Career Education 8

Health and Career Education (HACE) 8 is intended to provide students with knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will assist them in making informed decisions related to their health, education, and future careers. Students are exposed to a wide array of topics including



education and careers, healthy living, healthy relationships, safety and injury prevention, and substance misuse prevention. They will work on critical thinking skills, ways to access further information and support, and explore their skills and passions. Throughout the year, there will be a variety of learning opportunities including lessons, speakers, and special presentations.

Mathematics 8

The Grade 8 mathematics program enables students to develop fundamental skills in order to become mathematically literate. Skills taught include multiplying and dividing fractions and integers, working with percentages, ratios, and rates, analyzing linear relations, solving multi-step equations, applying the Pythagorean Theorem, and calculating and interpreting basic statistics and probabilities.

Science 8

Science 8 continues the development of the core competencies in science as students explore and inquire about the natural world. The topics of exploration for Science 8 are life and the cells that make it, the Kinetic Molecular Theory and Atomic Theory, energy as a wave and particle, and Plate Tectonic Theory and geological processes. Students will deepen their ability to ask good questions about the topics of study, make predictions, design and perform experiments and investigations, analyze their results, and communicate their findings. This course is hands-on, preparing students for a life of discovery, testing scientific boundaries, and trying to figure out how things work. Through hands-on experiments and activities, thoughtful discussions, and in-depth investigations, students are better able to understand the world around them, and their role in it.

Social Studies 8

Social Studies 8 examines concepts and content relating to world civilizations from the 7th to 18th century. Students will continue to develop historical thinking skills (significance, evidence, continuity and change, cause and consequence, perspective-taking, ethical judgment) to examine the following "Big Ideas":

- Contacts and conflicts between peoples stimulated significant cultural, social, political change.
- Human and environmental factors shape changes in population and living standards.
- Exploration, expansion, and colonization had varying consequences for different groups.

- Changing ideas about the world created tension between people wanting to adopt new ideas and those wanting to preserve established traditions.

All Social Studies courses are designed to incorporate concept-based, competency-driven approaches to learning for students to develop the skills to think critically, to effectively communicate ideas and analyses, and to connect complex issues of the past and present with the primary goal of creating informed, active citizens.

Physical Education 8

Physical Education 8 offers a selection of specific activities for this level and adheres to

a well-developed and researched philosophy of developing a life-long healthy lifestyle. Students at this level receive instruction in the fundamental and traditional physical education activities.



ELECTIVE COURSES

Challenge 8

The challenge curriculum is designed as a self-motivated course to address the academic, creative, and developmental needs of students at Fraser Academy. The aim is to engage and extend these students to think beyond the concepts learned in the Grade 8 academic program. There will be a strong emphasis placed on cooperative and collaborative learning using a problem based learning model, projects, and experiential learning. Students will also learn the structure of a formal debate, and they will work together in teams to develop arguments on a variety of controversial issues. Themes and topics include: urban planning, poverty and social classes, as well as force and kinetic energy.

Home Economics: Food Studies 8

Note: Students may only take one Home Economics course per year in Grade 8.

Foods Studies 8 is an extension of the Grade 7 program. This course is designed to enhance the nutritional and food processing skills of students. Themes and topics include, but are not limited to: food preparation foundations and techniques, nutrition and healthy eating, and social economic and cultural influences. Kitchen basics included are safety and sanitation as key principles in this course. In addition to kitchen basics, there is a strong focus with regards to healthy eating.



Home Economics: Textiles 8

Note: Students may only take one Home Economics course per year in Grade 8.

The textiles curriculum is designed to address the scientific, technological, and artistic needs of students as they relate to communication through the use of textiles. Themes and topics include, but are not limited to: textile techniques, printing techniques, stitching and surface decoration on paper and fabric, 2D media development and design, and manufacturing.

Technology Education 8

The Technology Education 8 curriculum will address the hands on, creative, and critical thinking skills of the students. The aim is to further develop a specific set of skills and techniques with hand tools, power tools, drafting, measurement, and design. Students will be challenged to execute these skills appropriately and accurately on their projects and assignments. Shop safety continues to

be a strong component in this course along with appropriate precautionary measures associated with power tools. Themes and topics include, but are not limited to: safety, tool identification, measurement, structures, energy and power, woodworking, and design.

Information Technology 8

The Information Technology curriculum is designed to address technological information, literacy and computer skills. Students will use and make informed decisions about technology. Thematic topics and tools include but are not limited to: file management, workflow, word processing, Web 2.0 tools, digital communication, internet research, and Adobe Creative Suite.

Drama 8

Drama 8 is an extension of content covered in Drama 7. This course continues to have an emphasis on embodying active learning based on interaction with peers. The students

will explore imagination, dramatic skills, and reflect on the use of drama in past and present times. Students will be challenged to work in groups, individually, and as a class as they participate in drama activities. Students will also learn how drama and the arts contribute to society and study career opportunities in these areas.

Music 8

This course is intended to expand on the skills learned in Music 7. Students will have the opportunity to engage and express themselves through various styles of music. The students will explore structural elements of melody, rhythm, and harmony. A key component of the music program involves a final performance of pop and/or rock music at a seasonal concert. Some possible themes for this course include: notation and tablature, string instruments, percussion instruments, keyboards, vocals, and creation of music.

Visual Arts 8

The visual arts are an essential form of communication in order to interact with our environment and create images that express understanding of the world. In Visual Arts 8, the students will expand on concepts learnt in previous years. The students will learn about visual conventions that form the “building blocks” of art. This course will provide experiences in the five visual expression areas: drawing, painting, ceramics, graphics, and sculpture.



GRADE 9

CORE CURRICULUM COURSES

English Language Arts 9

English Language Arts 9 builds on the key strands of the curriculum to provide students with opportunities for personal and intellectual growth through speaking, listening, reading, viewing, writing and representing. Students will develop their ability to comprehend and respond to oral and written language, to communicate ideas, information and

feelings, to think critically and creatively, and to reflect on and articulate their thinking and learning. These outcomes are accomplished through examining a variety of literature, non-fiction, media and film and responding to these works visually, verbally and in writing. Emphasis is placed on developing inferential comprehension, writing compare and contrast essays and incorporating evidence and quotations.

Health and Career Education 9

Health and Career Education (HACE) 9 is a continuation of HACE 8 and lays a foundation for Planning 10 and the Graduation Program. It enables students to become informed decision makers and active participants in planning and taking responsibility for their lives. Students will further explore education and careers, healthy living, healthy relationships, safety and injury prevention, and substance misuse prevention. They will also consider how to make healthy decisions, use problem-solving strategies, and start to determine possible routes to their goals. Throughout the year, there will be a variety of learning opportunities including class lessons, speakers, and special presentations.



Mathematics 9

This course is designed to enable students to build a strong foundation in the areas of exponents, rational numbers, square roots, linear relations, basic algebra, polynomials, and geometry. In addition to these topics, the program places an emphasis on such skills as problem solving, communicating and reasoning mathematically, connecting and applying mathematical ideas and concepts in everyday life, and developing positive attitudes towards mathematics.

Science 9

Science 9 continues the development of the core competencies in science as students explore and inquire about the natural world. The topics of exploration for Science 9 are cellular reproduction, electron arrangement and the nature of chemicals, electricity and electrons, and the biosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and geosphere are interconnected. Students will refine their ability to ask good questions about the topics of study, make predictions, design and perform experiments and investigations, analyze their results, and communicate their findings. This course is hands-on, preparing students for a life of discovery, testing scientific boundaries, and trying to figure out how things work. Through hands-on experiments and activities, thoughtful discussions, and in-depth investigations, students are better able to understand the world around them, and their role in it.

Social Studies 9

Social Studies 9 examines concepts and content relating to the development of Canada as a nation during the 18th and 19th centuries. Students will further develop historical thinking skills (significance, evidence, continuity and change, cause and consequence, perspective-taking, ethical judgment) to examine the following “Big Ideas”:

- Emerging ideas and ideologies profoundly influence societies and events.
- The physical environment influences the nature of political, social, and economic change.
- Disparities in power alter the balance of relationships between individuals and between societies.
- Collective identity is constructed and can change over time.

All Social Studies courses are designed to incorporate concept-based, competency-driven approaches to learning for students to develop the skills to think critically, to effectively communicate ideas and analyses, and to connect complex issues of the past and present with the primary goal of creating informed, active citizens.

Physical Education 9

Physical Education 9 offers a selection of specific activities for this level is completed by the teacher and adheres to a progressive, researched philosophy of developing a life-long healthy lifestyle. Students at this level receive instruction in fundamental and traditional physical education activities.



ELECTIVE COURSES

Challenge 9

The challenge curriculum is designed to address the academic, creative, and developmental needs of students at Fraser Academy. The aim is to engage and extend these students to think beyond the concepts learned in Grade 9 academic courses. There will be a strong emphasis placed on cooperative and collaborative learning using a problem based learning model, projects, and experiential learning. Themes and topics include, but are not limited to: architecture and design, aboriginal rights and slavery, as well as genetics and cloning.

Digital Media 9

During this course students will explore potential careers in the digital arts as they learn the basics of computer graphics, web design, digital video, and 2D animation. Students will also look at media delivery systems and trends in technology and social media. Participants will produce several projects throughout the year which may include websites with original graphics, short videos (public service announcements, mock commercials, or dramatic productions) and animation.

Home Economics: Food Studies 9

Food Studies 9 continues to elaborate on skills taught in Grades 7 and 8. In this course,

students will continue food preparation techniques and nutrition with the goal of developing independence in the kitchen. A guiding principle of this course is to examine the function of ingredients, intermediate methods of cooking, and the ability to evaluate individual eating habits. Students are given the opportunity to share this with their families in a home cooking project that will have them prepare an entire evening's meal. The course culminates in the application of the acquired skills in a final entertainment unit that highlights savory, sweet and baked foods from around the world.

Textile Arts 9

Textile Arts 9 builds on skills developed in previous textile arts classes. Students will further develop their hand and machine construction techniques by producing and altering textile items. Students will have an opportunity to develop more complex skills such as inserting zippers, linings, darts, gathers, machine embroidery and a variety of hems and seam finishes. Students will focus on garment design using and altering commercial patterns for desired, fit, function and style. There is a strong emphasis on critical design skills as well as problem solving. Students will also continue to develop a keen awareness for environmental and ethical factors that influence textile choices and the impact that those choices have on local and global communities.

Leadership 9

This course offers the students an opportunity to develop leadership skills through a variety of in-school and real world experiences. This course focuses on group dynamics, communication, conflict resolution and decision-making. Through classroom activities in the Junior School, projects and personal reflection, students become motivated, values-based leaders. The class completes lessons from the book, Seven Habits of Successful Teens. The focus is on becoming a “leader of self”: self-reliant, in charge of their own choices, a leader with a plan and a purpose.

Robotics 9

Students will learn the science of Robotics using the latest Vex education kits and program. Students will also research how

robots are used in manufacturing, space exploration and medicine. The focus of this course is hands-on activities. Each student is exposed to a variety of problem solving challenges, designed to become familiarized with robot building materials and elementary computer programming. There is an emphasis on overcoming obstacles using engineering techniques and creative thinking.

Technology Education 9

The Technology Education 9 curriculum is intended to refine and enhance skills learnt in previous years. A strong emphasis remains with regards to developing a diverse set of skills that includes hand tools, power tools, drafting, measurement, design, and problem solving. Safety continues to be a critical component of this course and includes precautionary measures associated with the use of power tools. Themes and topics include,



but are not limited to: safety, tool identification, measurement, structures, energy and power, woodworking, and design.

Drama 9

Drama 9 continues to build on concepts discussed in previous years. Students will further refine imaginative skills, dramatic skills, and reflect on the use of drama in past and present times. An emphasis is placed on building trust and expressing thoughts and beliefs. Students will also continue to develop dramatic skills that include vocal expression and gesturing as they use drama to work as a metaphor for storytelling. Collaboration and group skills are integral throughout this course. Students will also explore how drama and the arts contribute to society and study career opportunities in these areas.

Photography 9

Photography 9 is an introduction to photography as an art medium. It introduces students to the process of developing their ideas and expressing them through photographic images. Photography students will learn to plan their 'shoots' and execute them in a mature and organized manner. The students will be expected to develop a portfolio of their images that will represent their growth throughout the semester.

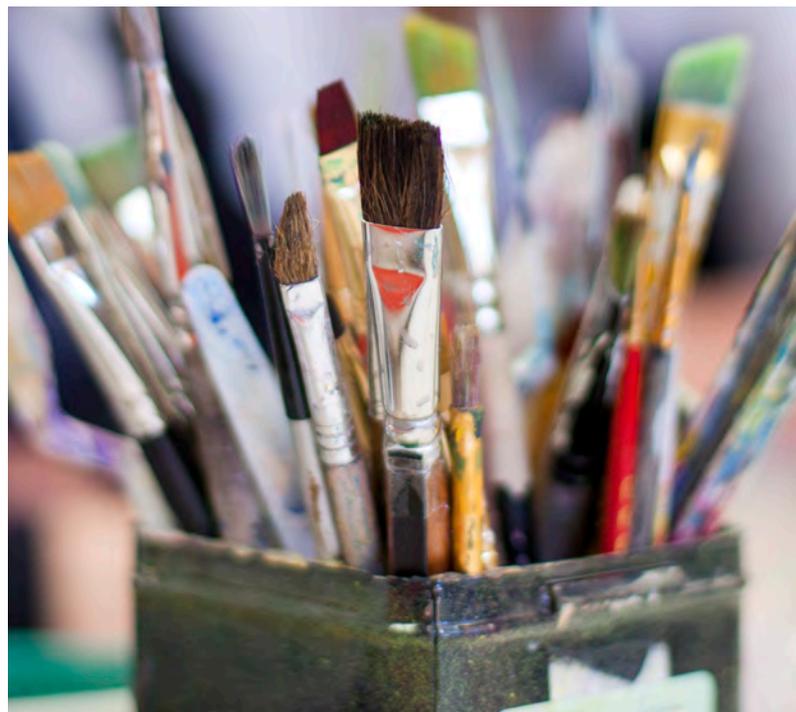
Music 9

This course is intended to be an extension of Music 7 and 8 and provide students with the ability to continue to engage with and express themselves through various styles of music.

The students will explore intermediate levels of structural elements in melody, rhythm, and harmony. A key component of the music program involves a final performance of pop and/or rock music at a seasonal concert. Some possible themes for this course may include: notation and tablature, string instruments, percussion instruments, keyboards, vocals, songwriting, and creation of music.

Visual Arts 9

Visual arts education provides opportunities for all students to perceive, respond to, create and communicate through images. This allows them to experience and apply the power, ideas, and emotions expressed in visual images throughout their lives. In Visual Arts 9, students will refine their artistic skills as they experience a variety of media through practical application of the elements and principles of design and their relationship to the development of imagery. Possible projects may include, but are not limited to: drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed-media, multi-media, ceramics, and printmaking.





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