



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

CONTENTS

How to Use this Booklet	4
Middle School Learning Services	4

Course Descriptions & Transitions

Grade 7	5
Core Curriculum Courses	5
Elective Courses	8
Grade 8	10
Core Curriculum Courses	10
Elective Courses	13
Grade 9	15
Core Curriculum Courses	15
Elective Courses	18

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 Mr. Thielmann, Director of Academics and Curriculum, at tthielmann@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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS

Students in middle school at Fraser Academy get their first experience with semestered classes, where a full course is completed in half the school year. This is part of building independence, and preparing students for senior school, and ultimately post-secondary. However, we also run our mathematics and english classes all year, giving them twice as long as our semestered classes. This provides the time for students to hone their skills in these two key areas, and work on remediating any skills so that students are well prepared for their transition into senior school.

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

Mathematics 7 enables students to develop fundamental skills in order to become mathematically literate. Students continue to focus on developing their ability to reason and analyze problems, apply multiple strategies for understanding

and solving problems, communicate and represent their mathematical thinking, make connections between concepts, their personal interests, and First People's worldview and perspectives while also reflecting on their own mathematical thinking and experiences. Concepts taught include extending their computational fluency, applying operations with integers and decimals, understanding the relationships between decimals, fractions, ratios, and percents, Cartesian coordinates, graphing, and discrete linear relations, solving two-step equations, determining circumference and area of circles, volume of rectangular prisms and cylinders, creating circle graphs, identifying and drawing tessellations, exploring probability through games, and further develop their understanding of financial literacy by applying financial percentage.

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

Applied Design, Skills & Technology 7

Important Note: This course replaces the previous applied skills electives in Grade 7. All grade 7 students will take this course.

This course is a practical, hands-on, and experiential survey course which develops students' abilities to apply design thinking principles to a variety of arenas, while acquiring useful hands-on skills for their life. This course enables students to explore a variety of subjects, enabling them to explore each area and get a taste for what each holds for them. Students in this course will apply design principles to four different areas: technology education, digital media, food studies, and entrepreneurship & marketing. In technology education, students will develop a set of skills with hand tools, power tools, drafting and design. There will be a strong emphasis on shop safety and appropriate precautionary measures associated with power tools. In digital media, students will develop computer skills, digital literacy and digital media skills, including an emphasis on making informed decisions on technology use. In food studies, students enhance their nutritional and food processing skills, including food preparation, healthy eating, and kitchen safety & sanitation. In entrepreneurship & marketing, students will develop the entrepreneurial skills of designing and making products & services and marketing them.

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

Mathematics 8 enables students to develop fundamental skills in order to become mathematically literate. Students continue to focus on developing their ability to reason and analyze problems, apply multiple strategies for understanding and solving problems, communicate and represent their mathematical thinking, make connections between concepts, their personal interests, and First People's worldview and perspectives

while also reflecting on their own mathematical thinking and experiences. Skills taught include exposure to perfect squares, cubes, square roots, and cube roots, further develop their understanding of decimal and fractional percent, applying order of operations with fractions. In addition, they will further develop and expand their understanding of linear relations, two-step equations, geometry by solving surface area and volume of regular solids, triangles, and the right prisms and cylinders, applying the Pythagorean theorem, and exploring construction, views, and nets of 3D objects. Students will also calculate and interpret basic statistics, probabilities, and expand their understanding of financial literacy by focusing on "best buys."

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, including but not limited to feudal Europe, the Age of Exploration, and the impacts of colonialism on First Nations and indigenous populations. 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.



ELECTIVE COURSES

Applied Design, Skills & Technology 8

Important Note: This course replaces the previous applied skills electives in Grade 8. All grade 8 students will take this course.

This course is a practical, hands-on, and experiential course which continues to develop students' abilities to apply design thinking principles to a variety of arenas, while acquiring useful hands-on skills for their life. Students will continue to explore a variety of subjects in order to gain experience, and a deeper understanding of each arena. Students in this course will apply design principles to four different areas: technology education, digital media, food studies, and entrepreneurship & marketing. In technology education, students will continue to develop a set of skills with hand tools, power tools, drafting and design. There will continue to be a strong emphasis on shop safety and appropriate precautionary measures associated with power tools. In digital media, students will further develop computer skills, digital literacy and digital media skills, including an emphasis on making informed decisions on technology use. In food studies, students further enhance their nutritional and food processing skills, including food preparation, healthy eating, and kitchen safety & sanitation. In entrepreneurship & marketing, students will develop the entrepreneurial skills of designing and making products & services and marketing them.

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.

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.

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



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

Mathematics 9 enables students to develop fundamental skills in order to become mathematically literate. Students continue to focus on developing their ability to reason and analyze problems, apply multiple strategies for understanding and solving problems, communicate and represent their mathematical thinking, make connections between concepts, their personal interests, and First People's worldview and perspectives while also reflecting on their own mathematical thinking and experiences. Students build a strong foundation in the areas of exponents, exponent laws, and rational numbers. Solve operations with polynomials of degree less than or equal to 2, two-variable linear equations using graphing, interpolation, and extrapolation, multi-step one-variable linear equations, spatial proportional reasoning, further expansion of applied statistics in society, and financial literacy focusing on simple budgets and transactions.



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 from the 18th to early 20th century. 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

Entrepreneurship and Marketing 9

A practical, activity-based course providing an opportunity for students to explore the nature and role of marketing and entrepreneurship in local and global contexts. Students will be encouraged to learn:

- risks and benefits of entrepreneurship
- marketing strategies using the 4 Ps: product, price, promotion, and placement
- the role of online technologies in expanding access to goods and services
- how to use design thinking to create entrepreneurial ventures

Students will continue to build leadership skills such as clear communication, collaboration and innovation.

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, computational thinking, 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.

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.



Textiles 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.

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, robotics, 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.





fraseracademy.ca

T: 604 736 5575 | F: 604 736 5578 | E: info@fraseracademy.ca

2294 West 10th Ave, Vancouver, BC V6K 2H8

Monday to Thursday 7.30am to 4pm & Friday 7.30am to 3.30pm