



Transition Manual

2023-2024 School Year

Transitioning to Grade 9 at FMHS

What information are you looking for?

[I want to know more about the grade 9 courses \(cores and options\).](#)

[I want a list of staff names and their email addresses.](#)

[I want to know more about the resources and supports available at FMHS.](#)

[I want to know more about extracurricular activities.](#)

[What is included in the transition process? What can I expect?](#)

[What does communication look like at the high school? What about school rules? What is PowerSchool? What is Google Classroom?](#)

[Who do I go to when I need help?](#)

[School Council and Blue and Gold Society](#)

[I want to know more about homework, studying, important study skills, late assignment submissions, helpful organization skills, use of technology, workload, and responsibilities for work.](#)

[What does assessment look like at FMHS?](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[In the words of previous grade 9 students - What to expect!](#)

Purpose of the Transition Manual

The purpose of this manual is to address frequently asked questions regarding the transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9 at Frank Maddock High School.

Information about FMHS

The Courses at Frank Maddock High School

Grade 9 courses include core subjects of Science, Math, Social Studies and English Language Arts. Other courses include Health, Physical Education and Options. Please see the appendix for the breakdown of information about courses for grade 9 students and parents. All programs of studies (the information that teachers are required to teach to students in courses) is developed by Alberta Education and available [here](#)

Courses

To view the entire [Frank Maddock High School Course Selection Guide](#), please access [this link](#) to see the overview of the high school programming offered at FMHS.

This section will provide a quick explanation of what each course entails in grade 9 as well as prerequisites for the university-preparatory programs for grade 10. We also have a number of options courses available for students. The delivery of these courses is based on availability of teachers and student requests.

- ★ **Language Arts 9** - Language Arts 9 is a required course for all Grade 9 students. In the last year of junior high English Language Arts, Grade 9 students examine ideas, experiences and information from points of view that differ from their own. Your teen will discuss how different people take away different meanings from the same material, understanding that each individual's knowledge and experience affect their way of interpreting information. Using different sources of information, your teen will continue to develop their own opinions and impressions on various topics.
Please note: A mark of 65% or greater in LA 9 is recommended & a mark of 50% or higher is required for continuing into English 10-1. A mark of 50% to 65% in LA 9 is recommended for continuing into English 10-2.

- ★ **Mathematics 9** - Mathematics 9 is a required course for all Grade 9 students. It is offered as a year-round course with one semester full time and the other semester on alternating days. Grade 9 Math students understand powers with integral bases and whole number exponents; compare and order fractions and decimals; add, subtract, multiply and divide positive and negative fractions and decimals; determine square roots of positive rational numbers that are perfect squares; estimate square roots of positive numbers that are non-perfect squares; interpolate or extrapolate from the graph of a linear relation to solve problems; add and subtract polynomials; multiply and divide a polynomial by a monomial; solve problems involving surface area of composite 3-D objects; understand similarity of polygons; understand line and rotation symmetry; and understand data collection techniques and biases.
Please note: A mark of 65% or greater in Math 9 is recommended & a mark of 50% or higher is required for continuing into Math 10C. A mark of 50% to 65% in Math 9 is recommended for continuing into Math 10-3.

- ★ **Science 9** - Science 9 is a required course for all Grade 9 students. It is a semester course, which means students will only complete the course in 1 semester. Students will begin to unravel the significance of DNA in genetics—including its role in determining traits like hair colour—and they'll identify the scientific and technological advancements that led to human exploration of the moon and beyond! They will be energized as they problem-solve and experiment with electricity and evaluate the benefits and impacts of energy use. Students will continue to develop as a scientist as they conduct and analyze chemical reactions and apply their understanding of chemistry to the world around them. **Please note:** A mark of 65% or greater in Sci 9 is recommended & a mark of 50% or higher is required for continuing into Science 10. A mark of 50% to 65% in Sci 9 is recommended for continuing into Science 14.

- ★ **Social Studies 9** - Social Studies 9 is a required course for all Grade 9 students. It is a semester course, which means students will only complete the course in 1 semester. Students will discover the important influences that government and economics have on our lives. They'll focus on the rights, roles and responsibilities of citizens in decision-making processes and in the Canadian justice system. Students will also explore issues related to immigration and consider the impact of economic decisions on the quality of life experienced in Canada and in the United States. **Please note:** A mark of 65% or greater in SS 9 is recommended & a mark of 50% or higher is required for continuing into Social 10-1. A mark of 50% to 65% in SS 9 is recommended for continuing into Social 10-2.

- ★ **Physical Education 9** - Students will participate in dance, games, gymnastics, individual physical activities and activities outside of school, such as aquatics and outdoor pursuits. Through active and safe participation, they will understand what an active lifestyle involves and how their physical and emotional health will benefit from physical activity. They will also discover how positive interactions, through fair play, leadership and teamwork, make physical activity more fun and productive. **Please note:** This is a required non-core class for all grade 9 students.

- ★ **Knowledge and Employability** - Knowledge and Employability courses are for students in Grades 8 to 12 who demonstrate reading, writing, mathematical and/or other levels of achievement two to three grade levels below their age-appropriate grade. Completion of grade 12 K&E courses results in a certificate of achievement, not a diploma. However, at Frank Maddock High School, our intention is to have as many students as possible to graduate with a diploma as possible. There are times when we recommend students to enrol in K&E 9 in order to provide students with the opportunity to learn the necessary skills to be successful in the trades-oriented high school diploma program. An enrolment into the K&E program may be a temporary programming option for students to gain the necessary skills to be successful in the diploma stream; in other cases, due to special education coding, some students may remain in the K&E program for the duration of their high school career. Please speak with the Student Support Facilitator or School Administration for more information about the K&E program.

Students enrolled in the K&E 9 program will complete their core subjects in the K & E class while having their options, health and physical education combined with other Grade 9 students.

OPTIONS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

This is a comprehensive list of all of the options that could be offered (depending on interest and teacher availability) in the 2023/24 school year. Students will fill out a google form with their interests so that we can ensure the most popular options are offered this upcoming year. Option selection forms will be filled out the first day of school.

- ★ **HEALTH 9 (required)** - Health and life skills involves learning about the habits, behaviours, interactions, and decisions related to healthy daily living and planning for the future. The aim of health is to enable students to make well informed, healthy choices and to develop behaviors that contribute to their well being and that of others. To achieve this aim, students require an understanding of self as the basis for healthy interactions with others and for career development and lifelong learning.
Please note: This is a required option class for all grade 9 students.

- ★ **ART 9** -using various techniques to create mark-making, assembling components together to create a vision and reacting to problems in composition building. Art history included.
Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed

- ★ **ART FOR WELLNESS** - Finding flow and creating for creating. What can we do to escape and shut down overthinking? Or do we just need to change gears for a moment or two? This class will delve into the symbolism of art history, looking at our dreams as inspiration, zen doodling, colouring.

- ★ **BOOK CLUB 9** - The intent of this option is to relax while listening/reading to a selected novel. There will NOT be comprehension questions or vocabulary. There MAY be colouring pages associated with the novel/theme. Discussion of the novel will occur throughout. As a lover of stories ourselves, this option is meant to foster a love of literature, while being less stressful, as it is not like doing a novel study in English. Join us and enjoy Coffee, Tea, or Hot Chocolate as we curl up with a good book.

- ★ **BUSINESS 9** - In this CTF challenge based course, students may be given the opportunity to begin to look at the world of business through the development of a business plan that would have them create a product or service. Students may be exposed to the working of business by looking at product and service development, planning advertising budgeting and promotions that would have them work toward selling the product or service in a marketplace.
Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed

- ★ **COMM TECH 9 (Communication Technology/Communication)** - Discover and develop skills using various forms of media, including animation, print, photography, and audio/visual. Includes specializations in web design, animation, photography, or video and film. This course can take on a more creative or technological approach, depending on the interests of the students and the instructor of the course.
Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed

- ★ **CONSTRUCTION 9** - Learn about skills, techniques, safe tool and equipment operating practices and procedures for use in cabinet making and residential construction. Students will learn based on previous skills however students who have not completed a previous class in construction may take the construction 9 class.
Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed

★ **COSMETOLOGY 9** - Learn about basic hair, skin, nail care services. Students gain knowledge and practical experience while working on mannequins and classmates. This class will give students foundational knowledge in cosmetology so they may make an informed decision about cosmetology in grades 10-12.

Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed

★ **CROCHETING 9** - Make crocheting your next hobby! Come learn how to create textiles by using a crochet hook and interlocking loops of yarn. More than just a stitch, it's a feeling! We guarantee you will be "hooked" after trying this option out. Also, a great stress reliever!

Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed

★ **DRAMA 9** - Drama 9 provides an introduction into the theatre arts for students to develop skills in a variety of areas of movement, teamwork, confidence building, and self-expression. We do a variety of activities such as games, skits, script creation, exposure to plays/movies and performances. Participation is a key component of drama class.

Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed

★ **FASHION/SEWING 9** - Students will learn basic sewing skills, learn about other types of textiles, they can explore various types of fabrics and ways to work with them, and learn how to embellish clothing with embroidery /beadwork.

Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed

★ **FILM STUDIES 9** - Film studies provide a general introduction to the art and history of cinema. The course will include the viewing of approximately 15-20 films. Selections will be chosen from a wide range of classics, foreign films, and the mainstream. The course objective is to foster the development of the student as a creator, historian, critic, and patron as they progress through the course.

★ **FOODS 9** - Learn about food production, food preparation, and meal planning. Understand nutrition and healthy food choices, food costs and economics, and safe food handling techniques. Participate in cooking, baking, and food presentation.

Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed

★ **FRENCH 9** - Learn basic communication skills in French, such as saying hello, introducing yourself, and asking how someone is doing. Also learn numbers, letters and basic French vocabularies, such as food and school supplies, as well as French culture and customs.

Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed

★ **GUITAR (Beginner) 9** - Are you a BRAND-NEW guitar player? Or do you know 3 chords or less? This is the class for you! You are going to learn all the basics that are important for beginner guitar players. This class not only includes chording, but beginner strumming too! Learn chords: A, C, D, D7, G7, mini F.

Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed

★ **LEADERSHIP 9** - Students will begin by studying the attributes and experiences of successful leaders, enhance self-awareness skills needed for developing a healthy leadership style, develop interpersonal skills which facilitate productive leadership, gain practical experience as a leader through the organization of school-based events plus provide voluntary service within their school community.

Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed

- ★ **MECHANICS 9** - Basic introduction to automobile mechanics and mechanical systems as a preliminary endeavor moving into High School Mechanics
Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed
- ★ **MUSIC APPRECIATION 9** - Students will learn communication, teamwork, and music appreciation in this course about music. Students will complete a variety of activities where they will learn what music is; what makes good music; the elements of music including sound, melody, harmony, rhythm, form, texture, expression; various genres of music including world music, western music, North American music; as well as listening to music and learning about various music artists and instruments. Students will not learn how to play music during this course; it is not part of a band program.
- ★ **OUTDOOR EDUCATION 9** - Are you interested in learning about the outdoors? Then this may be the class for you! In this option we will learn skills such as knot tying, shelter building, orienteering, fire building, outdoor games and more!
Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed
- ★ **PERSONAL FITNESS 9** - Students will optimize their own fitness levels in relation to sport and other activities. They will learn to develop a fitness program that includes activity, nutrition, and sports first aid.
Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed
- ★ **SCULPTURE 9** - Creating 4D images using recycled/found materials. Looking at structure and methods to create reliefs and in the round art workworks. Focus on cardboard.
Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed
- ★ **TABLE TOP GAMES 9** - Students will be given time to play different styles of board and card games. Come out and learn some new games, share some games you already know, and maybe play a new game against a friend!
- ★ **UNPLUGGED PLAY 9** - Let's find fun activities to do that don't involve technology. Playing some familiar games in the gym or on the field and then creating our own new games to keep us moving while "unplugged" is the goal!
- ★ **WATERCOLOR TECHNIQUES 9** - Exploring the basics of technique, mark making, color theory, and the technical side of watercolor
Please note: Fees are applicable to this option at a cost from \$10-\$70 depending on materials needed
- ★ **WORLD WAR II 9** - Attention history buffs! This option will dive deeper into the history of World War 2. Come find out what caused it, what happened, and the after effects that still impact us today!
- ★ **YEARBOOK 9** - Yearbook 9 will have students learn about Graphic Design, Lettering and Layout and Apply those skills to creating Yearbook Page Layouts.

The Teachers at Frank Maddock High School

| Teacher | Department | Email |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Bartling, Heather | Administration, Physical Education, Psychology | heather.bartling@wrsd.ca |
| Basaraba, Corine | Science | corine.basaraba@wrsd.ca |
| Baum, Kristine | English | kristine.baum@wrsd.ca |
| Colwell, Kerri | Art, Option 9, Painting | kerri.colwell@wrsd.ca |
| Curry, Darrel | English, Mathematics | darrel.curry@wrsd.ca |
| Fedorus, Tracy | Mathematics, Science | tracy.kallisfedorus@wrsd.ca |
| Halverson, Dean | CTS - Fabrication, Business, Communication Technology | dean.halverson@wrsd.ca |
| Halverson, Sue | CTS - Foods | susan.halverson@wrsd.ca |
| Heinrich, Christine | English, SSF | christine.heinrich@wrsd.ca |
| Highfield, Andrew | Social Studies | andrew.highfield@wrsd.ca |
| Hutchinson, Deanne | Science | deanne.hutchinson@wrsd.ca |
| Jollymore, Lara | Administration, Options | lara.jollymore@wrsd.ca |
| Moffitt, Kim | CTS - Cosmetology | kim.moffitt@wrsd.ca |
| Muir, Todd | Social Studies, Phys Ed, Options 9 | todd.muir@wrsd.ca |
| Nickle, Trevor | Mathematics | trevor.nickle@wrsd.ca |
| Peteron, Carolyn | Social Studies, English, Option 9 | carolyn.peterson@wrsd.ca |
| Rao, Bhavna | Grade 9, CALM, Guidance, SSF | bhavna.rao@wrsd.ca |
| Rauckman, Cory | CTS - Mechanics | cory.rauckman@wrsd.ca |
| Richholt, Timothy | Social Studies, Phys Ed | tim.richholt@wrsd.ca |
| Sommerfeld, Tara | English | tara.sommerfeld@wrsd.ca |
| Sommerfeld, Todd | Science, French | todd.sommerfeld@wrsd.ca |
| Southwick, Ben | Science, Physical Education | ben.southwick@wrsd.ca |
| Stepney, Deb | Mathematics | debbie.stepney@wrsd.ca |
| Stepney, Sean | CTS - Construction | sean.stepney@wrsd.ca |
| Wheeler, Mike | Mathematics, Options 9 | mike.wheeler@wrsd.ca |

The Support Staff at Frank Maddock High School

| Educational Assistants | Works with | Email |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Barker, Teresa | Grades 9-12 | teresa.barker@wrsd.ca |
| Bartlett, Michelle | Grades 9-12 | michelle.bartlett@wrsd.ca |
| Boxall, Jennifer | Grades 9-12 | jennifer.boxall@wrsd.ca |
| Dean, Leisa | Grades 9-12 | leisa.dean@wrsd.ca |
| Ferguson, Chelsey | Grades 9-12 | chelsey.ferguson@wrsd.ca |
| Gordon, Candice | Grades 9-12 | candace.gordon@wrsd.ca |
| Logan, Myrena | Grades 9-12 | myrena.logan@wrsd.ca |
| Martin, Tracy | Grades 9-12 | tracy.martin@wrsd.ca |
| Pischke, Paige | Grades 9-12 | paige.pischke@wrsd.ca |
| Richholt, Annette | Grades 9-12 | annette.richholt@wrsd.ca |
| Administrative Support | Position | Email |
| Barton, Pam | Learning Commons Facilitator | pam.barton@wrsd.ca |
| Hiebert, Trudy | Administrative Assistant | trudy.hiebert@wrsd.ca |
| Horn, Brandi | Self-Directed Learning Facilitator | brandi.horn@wrsd.ca |
| Rogers, Heather | Administrative Assistant | heather.rogers@wrsd.ca |
| Schoenthal, Tammy | School Business Coordinator | tammy.schoenthal@wrsd.ca |
| Schrader, Lenore | Family Wellness Worker | lenore.schrader@wrsd.ca |
| Viljoen-Hann, Tessa | Connection Coach | TBD |
| Janitorial | Shift | Email |
| McLeod, Raccine | Head Caretaker, 5:30am-2:30pm | raccine.mcleod@wrsd.ca |
| Ross, Darlene | Afternoon/Evening | darlene.ross@wrsd.ca |
| Catt, Arlene | Afternoon/Evening | arelene.catt@wrsd.ca |

What resources are available to me?

- **Administrative Support** - At FMHS, our little secret is our fantastic Administrative Assistants, Trudy Hiebert and Heather Rogers. They are extremely knowledgeable of all the comings and goings at FMHS. They are a wealth of information, know almost everything that is going on, and secretly run the show at FMHS. If you have a question, they almost always have the correct answer. They are great go-to people just to direct any and all questions. If they don't have the answer, they will find someone who does, or will involve the best people in the conversation. To contact the Administrative Assistants, please email trudy.hiebert@wrsd.ca or heather.rogers@wrsd.ca.

The school business coordinator manages all of the school finances. They are the contact for who to pay student fees, ask school fee questions, how to access school cash online, and to whom to direct any other finance questions. To contact the SBC at FMHS, please email tammy.schoenthal@wrsd.ca

The school administrators are also always available to answer questions. Please don't hesitate to contact the office at any time. We are here to help and to answer your questions! To contact the administration at FMHS email lara.jollymore@wrsd.ca or heather.bartling@wrsd.ca.

- **Family Wellness Worker** - The Family Wellness Worker (FWW) is a Wild Rose district position available to students and families to access support for non-academic needs. Personal support ranges from building skills or new strategies and behaviors to developing emotional regulation, while improving mental health. Students and families often need someone to talk to, someone who may assist them in identifying and coping with the many stressors of their daily life. Too often, dysfunction, addiction and financial pressures or other stressors may undermine success for our students. Peer pressure, exam pressure and identity pressure at times become overwhelming. The FWW position is here to be helpful to both the student and their family. Each student is unique and requires an individual approach. Information remains confidential. The FWW is often a registered social worker or someone with an education degree. This position is supervised by the district and not the school, to ensure that students have access to effective and neutral information and support as required. To contact the FWW at FMHS, please email lenore.schrader@wrsd.ca.
- **Student Support Services** - At FMHS, the Student Support Facilitator (SSF) works with students, parents and teachers to make sure that your experience at school is successful academically, socially and emotionally. The SSF uses a variety of assessment procedures to gather information necessary to determine appropriate interventions and programming for students with diverse learning needs. To contact the SSF at FMHS, please email bhavna.rao@wrsd.ca.

- **Academic Counselling** - Our academic counsellors will assist to clarify your career path by offering individual career conversations that help you explore your interests, identify your career goals and discover how to make the most of your program choice. You can also meet with a academic advisor to get help with exploring career options associated with your academic program, developing your career plan, polishing your cover letter and resume, and gaining expertise in the job search process. To contact the Academic Counsellors at FMHS, please email heather.bartling@wrsd.ca or bhavna.rao@wrsd.ca.
- **Staff** - you would be extremely surprised at how helpful all of our staff can be. All you have to do is ask. Our staff want to ensure the success of all our students, and we will engage in any conversations that are helpful for students and their parent(s)/guardian(s). Stop by the school, send an email, or make a phone call. We are always willing to help!

What extracurricular activities can I participate in? (Names for 2023-2024 need to be updated in the fall)

We have a number of extra-curricular programs available. Each year, there are some changes, but we offer Basketball, Football, Track and Field, Volleyball, Badminton, Golf, Curling, Cross Country Running, Cheer, Rugby, Drama Club, Students' Union, Graduation, Yearbook, Travel Club, and GSA. Listen for announcements, watch for posters and emails, and keep an eye out for various options.

Athletics - There are a variety of sports that students can participate in. Please see the athletic handbook for specific information about the various sports at our school, team expectations, seasons of play, etc. Check in with the Athletic Director for more information: heather.bartling@wrsd.ca

Drama Club - Our school hosts a number of drama productions each year. Mad Duck Theatre is open for our thespian warriors! If you are interested in acting, directing, costume and set design, sound and lighting, this club is for you! Check in with staff representative Mrs. McQueen for more information: melissa.mcqueen@wrsd.ca

Students' Union - Each year our student union leadership looks a little different. For 2021, we are holding elections for the executive. Our student's union is a student-led organization that organizes a number of events for the Maddock Warriors. We are always looking for students to help make FMHS the best school around! If you enjoy organizing events and celebration days and have an affinity for being involved, Students' Union is for you! Check in with staff representative Mrs. Horn for more information: brandi.horn@wrsd.ca

Yearbook - Every year, the students create an FMHS Yearbook emphasizing the school year. There is a lot of work required for the yearbook, including writing stories, taking pictures, creating layout, etc. Without the work of our students, our yearbook misses out on the first-hand experiences at Maddock. To assist in recording Maddock's history and memories,

join the yearbook committee. For more information, check in with staff representative Mrs. Myrrholm for more information: terryl.myrrholm@wrsd.ca

Travel Club - Every few years, our school goes on an international trip. Students participate in fundraising activities to raise money to pay for their own trip, and during spring break, experience the culture and history of a variety of locations. Each trip, our staff and students visit a new and exciting place somewhere across the globe. For information about our next trip to Spain & Portugal (Spring Break 2024), check in with staff representatives trevor.nickle@wrsd.ca or corine.basaraba@wrsd.ca

GSA - Frank Maddock High School's Gay-Straight Alliance is a student-led organization that connects LGBTQ+2 students and allied youth to create safe spaces in our school as well as to advocate for social change in regards to gender, sexuality and educational justice. The GSA meets at lunch one day per week. FMHS confirms that there is a GSA at our school, but we do not share the names of students who choose to participate in the weekly meetings and additional GSA activities. For more information, check in with staff representative Mr. Richholt for more information: tim.richholt@wrsd.ca

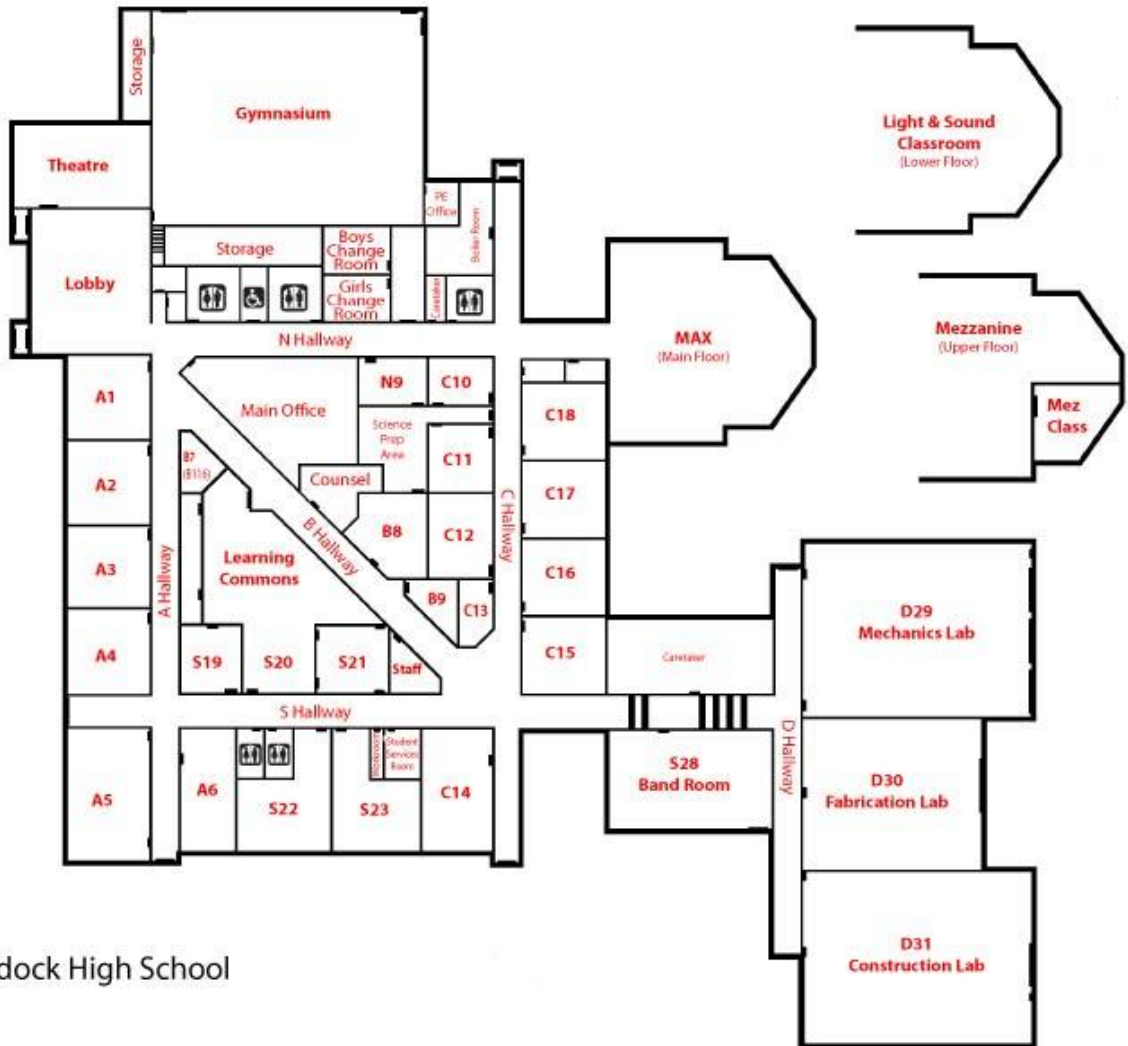
Graduation - To celebrate the great achievement of high school completion, the school hosts a graduation ceremony. This event is the formal convocation ceremony and is organized by the school staff to celebrate the graduation class, with assistance from the graduation class. The graduation class also organizes other celebration events, such as prom, the prom party, and the formal dinner. These additional celebration events are not coordinated by the school or FMHS staff, and are organized by the graduation class committee and the grad parents. This committee is for graduates only.

Our curricular and extracurricular activities are based on student requests and are supported by a school staff member. If students are interested in the development of new/different activities, please contact any staff member!

Lockers

Our school provides a locker and lock for each student. If you require special considerations for a locker, please contact the self-directed learning facilitator at brandi.horn@wrsd.ca. Students are assigned to lockers when they come in September within the first few weeks of school. Please note that students will be required to carry books in a backpack until their locker is assigned. Students can also be provided lockers in the gym for changing clothes. Students keep the same locker for the duration of their time at FMHS. As lockers are property of FMHS, all locks must be provided by FMHS. There are special combination locks available for students who require them, please see the office for more information.

School Map



Frank Maddock High School

Transition Process

What types of things will happen for students and parents to transition to FMHS?

- **Course Registration** - Students will be required to complete their course selection. In grade 9, this is limited to Options. All students are required to take the four core classes (English, Math, Science and Social Studies), Health, and Phys Ed. Students get to choose their options. For 2020-2021, students were able to experience introductions to five different options during the school year. Health was offered as the sixth option for each student. This process is separate from **school** registration. Course registration often happens in May.
- **Parent Meetings** - Each year, there are times when parents can meet with staff and school administration. These meetings often take place between May and June. We also may have meetings in September.
- **Student Meetings** - In the past, school administration have gone to HW Pickup and Drayton Christian School to talk to students and give an introduction to the school, have a question and answer period, and have general conversations about what high school is like. These meetings often take place between April and June.
- **Student School Tours** - We always try to have students come into FMHS when they are in grade 8. These tours often take place between April and June.
- **Documents** - We have a number of resources available for students and parents. First, this transition manual! We also have a [student handbook](#), [the school website](#), an athletic handbook, various social media ([facebook](#), [instagram](#), [twitter](#)) and other electronic resources on our school website.
- **School Registration** - Each parent enrolling their child at FMHS will be required to complete an FMHS registration package. Many of the documents (birth certificate, report cards, etc) follow the student in their electronic cumulative file, but every parent is required to complete the formal registration package and sign the various legal documents required for enrolment at FMHS. Documents can be received electronically or hard copy. This process is separate from **course** registration. Student registration for Frank Maddock High School can happen at any time throughout the year for students, but specifically for transitioning, students must be registered any time prior to the first day of school in September.
- **Orientation Day** - Our first day of school in September is a modified school day. It is partial orientation and partial classes. Students get a tour, meet the staff, meet the student's union, participate in fun activities, and also have a modified timetable to spend a bit of time in each class. Day two is a regularly scheduled day of school.

Communication

How does communication work in the high school? How do teachers communicate with parents? How should parents communicate with teachers?

There is a [home and school communication process](#) that we use at FMHS. For the most part, teachers will email or call home when they have concerns. If you do not hear from teachers, then that is good news. As students adjust to high school, the staff attempt to provide students the ability to take responsibility for their own actions. It is a safe place to learn this responsibility. We normally only call parents when the issue is larger than we feel a student can handle. When situations are more problematic or persistent, we will then contact parents to advise of concerns and to involve parents in finding solutions. If parents ever have questions, we suggest calling or emailing the school, we will get your answers as quick as possible.

Where do I get information about the school rules?

The [FMHS Student Handbook](#) is the go-to for all school policies, procedures and school rules. If this document doesn't have your answer, call the office; someone will know the answer to your question.

What is PowerSchool? How do I use it? Why should I use it?

PowerSchool is a great resource for parents when it comes to knowing what is going on with their child's school work. Parents and students are both provided their own login information into PowerSchool. This system records attendance and all marks for graded assignments. Whenever a student misses an assignment, or has a mark posted, parents can access that information immediately. It is great for keeping on top of work that students should be doing. At the beginning of the year, parents will all be emailed information about how to access and log-in to PowerSchool. If it isn't working properly, call the office, and we can walk you through the process. Sometimes technology doesn't always cooperate or passwords need to be reset.

I have started using PowerSchool Parent Portal and I have questions about what I am seeing!

If you are seeing things in PowerSchool that you have questions about, please contact the specific teacher directly. If it is a general Parent Portal question, the office may also be able to help.

What is Google Classroom? How do I use it? Can I access Google Classroom?

All teachers use Google Classroom. This is an online learning environment where teachers post all kinds of information, assignments, etc for students. Many times, students are provided the assignments in both paper and electronic format, to accommodate all learning needs. We are finding that the paperless distribution of assignments has been very beneficial for students, as it increases abilities to be organized and to not lose assignments.

Google classroom is specifically geared for students. While parents can receive email updates about work that is outstanding, parents cannot log into the google classroom. Students are able to log-in with parents so that they can see assignments in the google classroom.

Who do I go to for help?

It depends on what the topic is.

If your concerns are regarding particular subject areas/academic concerns, it is recommended to contact that teacher directly.

If your child is going to be absent from school, you can email heather.rogers@wrsd.ca or call the school.

If you have concerns about the school you can contact the administration at lara.jollymore@wrsd.ca or heather.bartling@wrsd.ca

Have concerns about PowerSchool? Contact trudy.hiebert@wrsd.ca

School Fee Questions? Contact tammy.schoenthal@wrsd.ca

Questions about special needs? Contact christine.heinrich@wrsd.ca

Questions about athletics? Contact heather.bartling@wrsd.ca

Need some non-academic support for your child or your family? Want information about how to deal with stress, anxiety, test-anxiety, conflict resolution? Contact lenore.schrader@wrsd.ca

Have diploma achievement or career questions, contact heather.bartling@wrsd.ca

General Inquiries? Just call the office 780-542-4401

Other ways to connect with FMHS:

School Website: <https://fmhigh.wrsd.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FrankMaddockHighSchool/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/frankmaddockhigh/?hl=en>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/frankmaddockhs?lang=en>

Phone: 780-542-4401

Mail: 4801 43 St, Drayton Valley, T7A 1P4

Staff Email: firstname.lastname@wrsd.ca

As a parent, how can I be more involved in decisions at the school?

School Council is the body that administration goes to for advisory purposes. School Council provides feedback, commentary, and advice to the principal on matters that the principal brings to parents. Parents can also bring forward questions and concerns for discussion at School Council as well. We recommend that if parents want to advise and provide direction on school policy, this is the place to go. Certainly, parents can always discuss issues directly with teachers and the administration; any policies that parents would like to provide suggestions should be done through the school council as the formal process. Just as a note of clarification: School Council is not a place to single out staff, students or parents. If you have concerns about specific people/scenarios, that should be a closed door conversation, not one at a School Council meeting. Surveys are also sent out via email to parents for feedback.

How do I help with fundraising for FMHS?

The Blue and Gold Society is the fundraising arm for Frank Maddock High School. The Blue and Gold Society meets the same night as School Council. Volunteers support through fundraising efforts and various events in the Drayton Valley community.

Study Skills, Organization, Responsibility

What do I need to do for each course?

- Each class is a little different. However, it is important to note that each class has a variety of assignments, projects, and homework.
- Students are expected to keep track of their own assignments, many of which are provided on the google classroom.
- When assignments are marked, the marks are placed in PowerSchool and both parents and students can see what is missing.
- Most classes have rewrite and late submission policies, but it is the responsibility of the student, not the parent, to keep up on missing assignments.
- Teachers are renowned for supporting students to get in their late/missing assignments, but it is sometimes helpful for parents to assist with that process.
- Students need to realize that while daily homework is not assigned, whenever work is not completed during class-time, it is their responsibility to finish it up during personal learning time or at home.
- When assignments are not complete, it is sometimes better to pass in what is complete, to get some marks, than to not pass in the assignment, forget for a long time, and maybe lose the assignment, only to have to start again.
- When a student has a question, ask a teacher. Teachers can't help if they don't know that students have questions. Email is another great way to ask questions; if a student is scared to ask in front of their friends, send an email, that way teachers will know someone needs some extra help.

- Don't throw out school work during the school year because students need their work to study from for exams!

What do I need for class?

Writing Stick, Paper, Binder, Textbook, sometimes a chromebook and charger. Bring all this stuff to all classes! In gym, students need gym strip (shorts and t-shirt, sneakers). Calculators are helpful in math (except on mental math days). Sometimes students need other things, but this is the daily requirement stuff. Make sure you see the [school supply list](#) and purchase the items required. Students can store extra supplies in their locker and get them when they are needed.

What happens if I don't submit my assignments on time?

It depends on the class. For most classes, the important thing is to pass in what is completed, even if one is not done. Many students make the mistake of not passing something in on a due date, and they end up with multiple missing assignments. Pass in what you have done, and get some marks; it is better than a zero. By the time students get to grade 9, there are fewer options to hand in rewrites. Don't be afraid to ask for help, or to pass something in not complete. Teachers can help students fix assignments as long as they aren't lost!

How do deadlines for assignments work?

Grade 9 is a little different from grade 8; students can't miss deadlines by a few days and still be able to pass things in without any problem; often in grade 9, teachers are providing answer keys within a day or two, and students cannot submit assignments when answers have already been provided to students. The real problem arises when students have too many missing assignments. Students can sometimes feel overwhelmed if they don't pass in what they have done on time. Things can pile up much faster in some classes compared to others. English and Mathematics classes normally have the most amount of work because there is a lot of content to cover and are full year courses. Students will also have some assignments that are for practice and ones that are for assessment. Practice assignments are those that you do to practice and become good at the skills. Assignments/Summative Assessments are the big things that must be passed in and have marks entered into PowerSchool.

Study Skills

Studying for school is one of those more difficult things to learn. In every class, teachers will provide websites and resources for students to look at to help and use with studying. A few things to remember:

- Take your own notes whenever a teacher is talking. Even if the teacher isn't writing on the board, you can still write down or type what the teacher is saying. This means that you can go back and have something to read again. When you write down stuff you hear, it sometimes makes it easier to remember
- When you go home each night, re-read your notes.

- Make study cards and study notes. Each day, review new topics and make cue cards, or you can write out new notes from your old notes, or write definitions. This repetition helps you to remember things.
- Homework: Do a little bit each night. It is easier to spend a few minutes every day working on assignments than having to do big chunks at home all at once.
- Use your personal learning time wisely. Turn off the games and music, and just do your work! More work done during personal learning time means less work that needs to be done at home.
- It is really hard to memorize if you are listening to music. When you study, a neat, well-lit quiet location is best. Be comfortable, but not too comfy; you don't want to fall asleep.
- Check out the internet, there are tonnes of resources and suggestions for how to study. If you struggle on multiple-choice, look at tips for that; if you struggle with reading test questions and knowing what to answer, look at tips for that.

Organization

FMHS does not provide an agenda to students, but that doesn't mean that students shouldn't have one. Students don't necessarily need a paper one, as they can type their assignments on their google calendar, or they can create a document if they wish. Some teachers provide lists with assignments with due dates that students can look at, and once it is due and students haven't passed it in, it shows up on PowerSchool. The hardest part is keeping up with all the assignments and when they are due, and a calendar helps with that.

Students should keep their locker clean so that they can find things easier. Use a backpack to travel back and forth to classes and keep the things that students need every class nearby, not in the locker. Keep a list of things that you need to take for each class in your locker so that you can check to make sure that you have everything.

Homework

While some classes may not assign a lot of daily "homework", there is ALWAYS work that students can be doing at home. Teachers do not assign work for students to do just at home. If there is an assignment required, teachers provide plenty of class time to get it done. If something is due, students have often been given time to get it done in class. If students don't have it done, because they need extra time, they missed a day, or they didn't use class/personal learning time wisely, then students will need to do it at home. If the assignment is missing, it is the student's job to get it done. A teacher will ask a few times, but the student must be responsible and make sure that they get it passed in on their own. Ask for help if you need it.....

You should spend a minimum of 20 minutes on homework per class per night.... So that means 80 minutes per evening. If you don't have work, you can read books, and do some of the things mentioned above in the study skills section. When you get into the higher grades, the amount of homework that you will have to do will increase. Getting into a routine in grade 9 will ensure a successful homework routine for senior high.

Responsibility for Your Work

It is the student's responsibility to get the work done. Students are often given time they need to have the assignments done in class. Take responsibility if you did not use your time wisely. If you lose your work, ask for another copy. Some teachers even have assignments online, so all students have to do is reprint it. Ask for help if you don't know how to do an assignment; teachers love helping when they know that students need it. Do as many assignments online as possible, because if you forget to pass it in, it isn't easy to lose it. Google drive saves all your documents, so nothing disappears. Sometimes if students forget to pass something in, it is really easy on a computer because they just have to add the file. If it is on paper, and the student loses the papers, that is when they have to start again. Teachers will do everything they can to help, but in High School, the job is for students to take responsibility for their own work. You need to make sure that you do your work, you pass it in, and you ask for help when you need it.

Technology

Technology is a great thing. Students can type any document, and google drive will always save it. It is nearly impossible to lose a google document - only a student can delete a document. For group work, students can share documents and all work on the same document at the same time. Students can easily add photos, hyperlink to the internet and easily edit and resubmit work. Students can use a school device or their own device. The only pitfall of technology is the continuous access to distracting items such as music, videos and games. Be responsible during class time and avoid those things on your technology. Please note that FMHS does its best to ensure that students have access to a chromebook, but we do not have enough chromebooks for the school to supply one to every student; it is a first come, first serve process. We encourage our grade 9 students to complete the online Google Apps for Education course during summer school - every student who successfully completes will get their own personal chromebook for free - yours forever!

Will all my work be on the computer? What if I prefer paper?

It depends on the class. Some classes have everything on the computer, some classes have both, and some classes are best done on paper (math can be very time consuming on a computer). When stuff is only on the computer, students can still print it and do it on paper. Sometimes, teachers already have it printed for students. We really like computers because it means less hard work getting lost.

When does work start in September?

The very first day! There is lots of work to be done, so be ready to work everyday! Even if there are a group of students going to a sporting event, classes will still be doing new work, so don't think that you don't have to come because it's track day and some students are gone. When a student misses work, it is the student's responsibility to catch up. Most assignments are posted in google classroom, so that isn't a problem, but if you missed some instructions on how to do something, ask to have it

taught to you, because you deserve the teaching too! You just may have to remind the teacher because sometimes they forget who was absent in the busy-ness of the day!

Is there a difference in workload between Grade 8 and Grade 9?

From what students say, yes. There seems to be a lot more work... and maybe not so much more work, but because students don't have the same teacher teaching a big chunk of classes, they can't remind students to work on Science when they are in English because they don't know that students are missing assignments. Your grade 8 teacher could remind you because they may have taught you both English and Social Studies. This is why it is so important for students to use their time wisely. The big difference seems to be responsibility. You will only spend 80 minutes a day with your science teacher in grade 9; in grade 8, you may have spent half the day with one teacher. Organization is another thing; because students move around between classes so much, students lose work time to transition between classes, so it is important to become good at moving from one class to another. See the "quotes from grade 9" section below, as there are comments from grade 9 students telling you what to expect.

Assessment

How does assessment change between the middle and high school?

The biggest thing is that there are a lot more assignments, and when they are assessed, students can see their grades immediately in PowerSchool. When students have missing assignments in high school, they will get a zero, and that shows up in PowerSchool, so students know that they still have to do it. Personal Learning Time is a great time to use to catch-up on assignments or to get ahead on the work that students are doing in class.

How do individual classes assess student learning?

Each classroom and teacher is a little different. For the most part, teachers use exams, tests, quizzes, assignments and projects in their classes for summative assessment. Each teacher is required to provide students and parents with a course outline at the beginning of the semester. This document explains how a teacher will be assessing students, what each category is worth, and additional information about classroom expectations, due date expectations, missing assignments, extra help and more. If you don't see this course outline when the course begins, or have questions about this, please contact your student's teacher directly.

What do timelines look like in the high school?

Once a due date is past, teachers don't really push that assignment as much as before it was due. Teachers do follow-up about missing assignments in general, but students really need to keep track of their own missing work. Test and Exam dates can change, but parents need to call if students are going to miss an exam; students also need to let a teacher know prior to the exam, to make

alternative arrangements. Sometimes students will have to write it earlier, sometimes after the rest of the class. If students are unable to meet a deadline, be responsible and go talk to the teacher before the deadline hits and you haven't submitted your assignment. Teachers are quite understanding, as long as you are proactive.

What happens when a student needs academic assistance?

Teachers do a lot to support students who need extra help. Teachers are available before and after school, and at lunch if students require extra help. However, it is important for the student to ask for the extra help if it is needed. Teachers will monitor student progress, and will call in students for extra time if needed, but if it is a student who is struggling and wants more support, either the student or the parent should be asking for extra help; if teachers don't know that students want an extra help session, they cannot make it happen. There are also tutoring options available, so please reach out to teachers to ask about those options; some are free, and some have fees. If after reaching out to a teacher, a student is still struggling academically, please contact the student support facilitator or school administrator for other school-based options. We have additional resources available should parents and students want to access them.

What is the difference between Y1, S1, S2?

In PowerSchool, the school year is broken up into different sections. S1 runs from September to January; S2 runs from January to June. Grade 9 Math, English and Physical Education are year-long courses; Y1 is a combination of work from the whole year. Science and Social Studies run for one semester only. Students will complete 6 different options per year, three during each semester.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why aren't there rewards?

Sometimes there are special things that happen, but it is true; there are much fewer rewards in grade 9 than in middle school. One of the main reasons is because as you become older, the expectations placed on students become greater. One of those things is that students should be taking responsibility for their own learning and recognizing that the reward for doing work and doing well is the achievement of gaining an education and learning, and being prepared for the future. Students who work hard achieve higher marks and gain stronger skills, which benefits students directly in their preparation for the future. A student's reward is a great education!

Where do I eat lunch?

We have a number of places where students can eat lunch. The Max is open every day for breakfast, snacks and lunch. Parents can purchase \$20 punch passes for their student on School Cash. There are spaces to eat there for all grades. The Learning Commons and other classrooms are also open daily where students can eat their lunch. Many students enjoy going downtown or eating outside when the weather is nice. There are tables in the foyer where people can eat their lunch. The most

important fact to remember is that students must be cleaning up after themselves. Teachers are here to teach, not to clean up your lunch areas.

I feel overwhelmed. What can I do?

Step 1 is letting your teachers and your parents know. When the adults in your life know, they are better able to help you. It is always good to talk to teachers so that they know what is going on. The more information that teachers have, the better it is. Also, the Family Wellness Worker is a great helper for dealing with stress, anxiety, and making the transition to high school. There are lots of people who can help, but the first step is telling an adult in the school.

How do I know what courses my student is in or who their teachers are?

The PowerSchool Parent Portal is the easiest way to see your child's schedule, teachers and marks. Within the app, there is a place where parents can see the timetable, the teachers, etc. If you need assistance with the parent portal, please contact trudy.hiebert@wrsd.ca If the parent portal isn't giving you the answers that you are looking for, contact school administration: lara.jollymore@wrsd.ca or heather.bartling@wrsd.ca.

What school fees are there for FMHS? How do I pay them?

Families will find that there are a lot more school fees in the high school when students enrol into options classes. Any course that requires a lot of student consumable materials will have a school fee associated with it. All extra-curricular programs and field trips will also have additional fees associated with them. The school fees for your grade 9 year have not yet been created, but here are the current [FMHS School Fees](#) for 2022-2023. Parents can come to school to pay for fees, students can come to the office to pay, or the online payment system of [School Cash](#) can be used.

What would you tell the incoming grade 9 students?

Quotes from previous Grade 9 students

"COME PREPARED AND READY TO WORK"

"They need to keep on track, do assignments before the due date, put school work before anything else, ask lots of questions, etc"

"The jump from 8th grade curriculum to 9th grade is HUGE. You really need to be prepared, focussed and put in the work if you want to do well because if you don't you will simply fail courses because they are extremely harder than 8th grade."

"Math hit me like a truck lol"

"There will be times where you're not comfortable with the people around you and you can always say no to things you don't want to do."

"To study lots because high school really matters"

"Know how to study. Classes move fast so keep up. Keep track of your own work, the teachers aren't going to do that for you (and they shouldn't have to)"

"You must use your time wisely and study lots"

"You need to study lots, pay attention in all classes, and be prepared for anything"

"Be patient and take your time with things, everything comes with time"

"You honestly mature and meet lots of new people and people who are interested in a variety of things."

"Don't crowd the hallways, it's annoying. Be on time and prepared when going to class. Teachers no longer babysit you, you have to put in the work and if you don't then your grades will slip drastically."







"Everyone should make sure that they have separate binders and the kind of binders with handles. It makes life easier."

"Even though you may want to keep your head down and avoid being looked at by older grades, don't be afraid to put yourself out there. Maybe you'll make friends that are in older grades which can be beneficial."

APPENDIX - Grade 9 Course Information



Wow! The last year of junior high! To prepare for high school, Grade 9 students are required to take six subjects: English Language Arts, Health and Life Skills, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science and Social Studies. They can choose from additional optional subjects to round out their curriculum.

|  ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS |  HEALTH AND LIFE SKILLS |  MATHEMATICS |  PHYSICAL EDUCATION |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p><i>I want to develop language and communication skills and experience success in ELA!</i> Grade 9 students examine ideas, experiences and information from points of view that differ from their own. They discuss how different people take away different meanings from the same material. Using different sources of information, they continue to develop their own opinions and impressions.</p> | <p><i>Who knew that my fun volunteering could help me get a job in the future!</i> Students understand how their choices today have a long-term effect. Who they choose to look up to and which group they choose to be a part of play a role.</p> | <p><i>Working with powers and polynomials.</i> Your teen will solve problems involving powers and apply the order of operations, including exponents. They will solve problems involving operations on positive and negative fractions and decimals, and understand square roots of positive numbers. They will model and solve problems using linear equations and linear inequalities in one variable. They will also be introduced to polynomials and solve problems involving circle geometry and scale diagrams.</p> | <p><i>What are the benefits of an active lifestyle?</i> Your teen will take part in various activities that will help them to lead a healthy, active lifestyle. They will grow to appreciate the importance of physical activity, while discovering essential life skills, such as cooperation, leadership, fair play and teamwork.</p> |
|  SCIENCE |  SOCIAL STUDIES | OPTIONAL SUBJECTS | |
| <p><i>Can you make sense of the periodic table?</i> Students in Grade 9 Science work safely with chemicals to explain, interpret and extend their understanding of chemical theory. They also design, test and evaluate electrical devices that transfer and transform energy, and they explore the role of genes and DNA in the diversity of life. Students study space exploration and how science and technology are related.</p> | <p><i>How do our government and economy work? How do they affect me?</i> Grade 9 Social Studies focuses on citizenship, identity and quality of life. Students will examine the relationships between Canada's political and legislative processes, and they'll examine the impact of these processes on governance, rights, citizenship and identity. Students will also explore issues of economics and their impact on quality of life, citizenship and identity in Canada and the United States.</p> | <p>ART CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATIONS (CTF) DRAMA ENVIRONMENTAL AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION ETHICS FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGES FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (FSL) INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES MUSIC</p> | |

GRADE 9 AT A GLANCE



LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION BY VISITING

**My Child's Learning: A Parent
Resource**

<http://www.mychildslearning.alberta.ca>



ASSESSMENT

Your teen's learning is assessed using a variety of tools and strategies within the classroom. Ask your teen's teachers what methods they are using. The different assessment methods tell you and your teen's teachers about your teen's strengths, the areas in which they might grow and how well your teen is doing throughout their courses. Your teen's teachers can then change or refine their teaching plans to ensure that learning activities better meet the needs of your teen.

In Grade 9, your teen will write Provincial Achievement Tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. These tests provide information about your teen's achievement compared with the achievement of students in the same grade from across the province. Teachers will often use Provincial Achievement Test results to reflect on how the courses have been taught and how to better assist student learning, and they may use this information to report on your teen's level of achievement. For more information about provincial assessment for Grade 9, contact the Provincial Assessment Sector at 780-427-0010 (toll-free within Alberta by first dialling 310-0000).

You play an integral role in your teen's education by providing the encouragement and support your teen needs to succeed.

RESOURCES

A variety of digital and print resources, developed by publishers, Alberta Education or Alberta teachers, are available to help students learn. Teachers may select, and bring into the classroom, numerous innovative and creative resources to create rich learning experiences for your child. Visit new LearnAlberta.ca (<https://new.learnalberta.ca/>) to learn more about the resources your child may encounter.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Early Middle Years, French Education and Indigenous Curriculum Sector

Telephone: 780-422-7996

E-mail: EDC.DivisionalStrategicSupports@gov.ab.ca

E-mail: FES-SEF@gov.ab.ca (Regarding FSL)