



Course Selection Guide Grades 8-9

2026-2027

“Home of the Islanders”

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Our school provides learning opportunities to enable students and staff to achieve personal excellence and pursue their passions in an inclusive, supportive, and respectful environment. We educate students by teaching skills and modeling attitudes needed to become successful lifelong learners and responsible, school, and global citizens. Our school honours dignity, purpose, and options for all.

MISSION STATEMENT



Notre école offre des opportunités d'apprentissage permettant aux élèves et aux enseignants d'atteindre leur plein potentiel et de poursuivre leurs passions et leur apprentissage à long terme dans un milieu intégrer, positif et respectueux. Notre enseignement inclut l'acquisition des connaissances ainsi que le modèle des comportements nécessaires au développement d'individus respectueux, responsables et attentionnés, aussi bien sur le plan scolaire que social. Notre école fait honneur à la dignité, aux choix et aux buts de tous et toutes.

Ms. R. Bartlett
Principal

Ms. E. Kemp
Vice-Principal

Mr. A. Halsall
Vice-Principal

Mr. J. Hasenauer
Vice-Principal

Please Note: At the time of printing, the information in this course calendar is believed to be correct. Changes that occur after printing will be communicated during course selection time and throughout the year as necessary.

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Grade 8 and 9 Course Planning

Each Grade 8 and 9 student is required to take the following courses:

English 8 Program	English 9 Program	French Immersion 8 Program	French Immersion 9 Program
English 8	English 9	English 8	English 9
Socials Studies 8	Social Studies 9	Sciences humaines 8	Sciences humaines 9
Math 8	Math 9	Mathématiques 8	Mathématiques 9
Science 8	Science 9	Sciences naturelles 8	Sciences naturelles 9
Physical & Health Education 8	Physical and Health Education 9	Physical & Health Education 8	Physical and Health Education 9
A Language 8	Elective 9	Français Langue 8	Français Langue 9
Elective 8	Elective 9	Elective 8	Elective 9
Elective 8	Elective 9	Elective 8	Elective 9
Career Education 8	Career Education 9	Career Education 9	Career Education 9



Elective Courses Grade 8

Electives	Languages
Concert Band 8	French 8
Elective Rotation 8	Hul'q'umi'num 8

Elective Courses Grade 9

Applied Skills Programs	Visual and Performing Arts Programs	Language Programs
Drafting 9	Concert Band 9	French 9
Mechanics 9	Jazz Ensemble 9	Spanish 9
Textiles 9	Music Mix 9	Hul'q'umi'num 9
Foods and Nutrition 9	Beginner Band 9	Note: Students are encouraged to take a second language as an elective to keep as many post-secondary choices open as possible
Information Technology 9	Dance 9	
Metalwork 9	Drama 9	
Woodworking 9	Art Studio 9	
Pottery 9	Musical Theatre 9	
Specialized Electives	Art Studio 9	
Wilderness 9		
Flag Football 9		

Special Programs

Application Required – See NDSS Website

Hockey Academy	Lacrosse Academy	Soccer Academy	Beach Volleyball
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SPORTS ACADEMIES

NLPS Beach Volleyball Academy, NLPS Soccer Academy, NLPS Hockey Academy, NLPS Lacrosse Academy.

All four sports academies located at NDSS are Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools Academies and follow the district guidelines for programs of choice. Students wishing to join an academy need to follow the district process. ***Academies are distinct from the typical courses offered at NDSS and are not selected during course selection.*** Please note the following process:

Sports Academy Courses

Academies are distinct from other NDSS programming and spaces are allocated by lottery system at the district level:

<https://www.sd68.bc.ca/programs/secondary-academies/>

Returning Academy Students

Currently enrolled Academy students must re-commit to their program by March 1, 2026 if they wish to continue in that sport next school year. Two items must be completed to re-secure a spot; a deposit payment of half of the 2026/2027 Academy Fees must be paid by March 1, 2026 in addition to completing the 'intent to return form' which can be found on the NDSS website. The remaining half of the 2026/2027 Academy fees are due by June 1, 2026. Payments are made through the on-line cashless system and completed forms emailed to: academiesndss@sd68.bc.ca

Prospective Academy Students

By March 1, 2026 any students interested in applying to an NDSS Sports Academy for the 2026/2027 school year can follow the process outlined on the district website: <https://www.sd68.bc.ca/programs/secondary-academies/>

ELECTIVE ROTATION 8

Grade 8 students will be enrolled in two elective packages that span the entire year. The students will sample a variety of electives rotating through the courses described below. Each elective package will contain 6 courses that last approximately 15 days.

Student will have 3 options:

#1 Elective package 1 + Elective Package 2

#2 Beginner or Advanced Band + Elective package 2

#3 Elective Package 1 + Lacrosse Academy

Elective Package 1 in Semester 1

Elective Package 2 in Semester 2

Band in Semester 1

Lacrosse Academy in Semester 2

The 13 Electives in the package are listed below, you are not guaranteed exact options as the rotation schedule has already been set. You will enroll in 6 or 12 depending on above choice.

VISUAL ARTS 8 (MVA—08)

MEDIA ARTS (Photo and Film) (MADMA08)

POTTERY 8 (MVA-08SCT)

DRAMA 8 (MDR-08)

DANCE 8 (MDNC-08)

COMPUTER SKILLS 8 (MADCC08)

METALWORK 8 (MADM-08)

TEXTILES 8 (MADT-08)

WOODWORK 8 (MADW-08)

POWER TECH 8 (MADPT-08)

DRAFTING 8 (MADD-08)

SURVIVAL SKILLS 8 (XHL-08)

DIVERSITY 8 (MAE-08DVT)

MUSIC

BEGINNING BAND 8 (XBA-08)

Join a group music class where you'll learn and perform Jazz, Classical, Rock, and Contemporary on instruments like flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, bass, piano, and basic percussion. Experienced players can try a new instrument such as French horn, oboe, bassoon, or tuba. Students will perform in concerts and music festivals.

INTERMEDIATE BAND 8 (XBA-08)

Play music in a group setting while building your skills on instruments like flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, bass, and percussion. Designed for experienced players with two years of practice, this course focuses on group performance.

BEGINNING BAND 9 (XBA-09BBS)

Make music in a group setting while learning instruments like flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, bass, and percussion. Experienced players can try a new instrument such as French horn, oboe, bassoon, or tuba. Students will perform in concerts and music festivals.

MUSIC MIX 9 (MMU--09--S)

Music Mix 9 is a combination course of Piano/Guitar/Bass 9, String Ensemble 9, or Vocal Techniques 9. Each independent course variant will be determined by the student and teacher upon enrolling in the Music Mix block. Students will work on music of interest as well as assigned music from the instructor.

CONCERT BAND 9 (XBA--09CBS)

Build on skills from Music 8 and 9 while performing in concerts, festivals, and travel opportunities. In second semester, students may join the musical theatre pit band.

JAZZ BAND 9 (XBA--09JES)

Play jazz charts and learn improvisation in a performance-based ensemble. This class may run in or outside of the timetable depending on enrollment, with multiple concerts and festivals throughout the year.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS 9

VISUAL ARTS 9: ARTS STUDIO (MVA-09-S)

Explore 2D art through drawing and painting while experimenting with different mediums and design elements. This course helps you develop a strong foundation and discover your artistic potential—no prior experience required.

VISUAL ARTS 9: POTTERY (MVA-09-PTS)

Students will experience hand building, wheel throwing, glazing, embellishing, and firing techniques. Both functional and sculptural ware will be explored.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILM PRODUCTION 9 (Media Arts) (XPHOTO-09-S)

Students will be introduced to Photography and Film Production and will have opportunities to explore and create in both focus areas. This is a fun and challenging course with local field trips and hands-on projects.

DRAMA 9 (MDR-09-S)

Students will be introduced to a variety of dramatic forms and techniques while building confidence and community.

DANCE 9 (MDNC-09-S)

Students will be introduced to a variety of dance forms and can expect to improve in strength, flexibility, stamina, and coordination in addition to building confidence.

MUSICAL THEATRE 9 (MMU-09MTS)

Students will be given opportunities to develop their singing, dancing and acting skills OR those required to design and build elements related to production. The main focus will be on the musical production's readiness for public performances and students will be expected to participate in some rehearsals and performances outside of class time.



GRADE 8 LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

All students must take a second language course in Grade 8 unless alternate arrangements have been made with the School-Based Team. See your counsellor with any questions.

CORE FRENCH 8 (MFR-08-S)

Students develop their French reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills while exploring Francophone culture. A variety of interactive activities and projects help build a strong foundation for future French-language learning.

HUL'Q'UMI'NUM 8 (MHULQ-08-S)

The aim of this First Nation language course is to develop some basic comprehension of the Hul'q'umi'num Coast Salish language and culture. It is expected that students will acquire basic communication skills in the Hul'q'umi'num language, develop cultural sensitivity, and acquire additional concepts about language and culture. All students are encouraged to enroll in this Coast Salish language course.

Note: Hul'q'umi'num is accepted as a second language.



GRADE 9 LANGUAGE ELECTIVE COURSES

A second language in grade 11 or 12 might be required for entrance to some university programs. Please check admission requirements for any program that interests you.

CORE FRENCH 9 (MFR-09-S)

Students strengthen their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in French through new grammar, vocabulary, and engaging thematic activities. The course also deepens cultural understanding and supports students pursuing post-secondary pathways where bilingualism is an asset. This course builds on skills developed in French 8, but no previous French skills are required.

HUL'Q'UMI'NUM 9 (MHULQ09-S)

The aim of this First Nation language course is to develop some basic comprehension of the Hul'q'umi'num Coast Salish language and culture. It is expected that students will acquire basic communication skills in the Hul'q'umi'num language, develop cultural sensitivity, and acquire additional concepts about language and culture. All students are encouraged to enroll in this Coast Salish language course.

SPANISH 9 (MSP-09-S)

This course offers a strong four-skill learning approach. Listening, speaking, reading and writing are presented through a series of lessons and activities which are written in a conversational manner to aid oral proficiency and communicative competency. Vocabulary is presented thematically and emphasizes practical topics. At the same time, varied cultural materials help students to appreciate Spanish-speaking peoples throughout the world.

APPLIED SKILLS PROGRAMS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY 9 (MADIT09-S)

Information Technology 9 introduces students to Information Technology, Digital Media Studies, Animation concepts, and Keyboarding through a variety of guided projects. Students build on foundational computer skills while beginning to explore creative and technical applications. This course supports students preparing to move into Media Design, Web Development, or Programming at the Grade 10 level.

DRAFTING 9 (MADD-09-S)

Students will be taught the basics of the world's most powerful Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) program. They will complete drawing with an emphasis on two-dimension. The student's final project will also involve the basics in architectural design. Areas of technical drawing will be covered, with emphasis on drafting skills and techniques with instruments. Autocad Design 9 is a suggested pre-requisite for Drafting & Design 10.

POWER TECHNOLOGY 9 (MADPT09-S)

Power Mechanics 9 is designed for students who want to learn about engines, how they work, how to repair them, and how to keep them running smoothly. Students taking PM will learn how small engine mechanics is related to Auto Mechanics and will gain a basic understanding of the automobile engine, automobile systems and related tools and machines. Students will complete a series of four-stroke engine worksheets to disassemble a school engine, learn how the parts work, then reassemble and run the engine. Students will have approximately 40% classroom theory work and 60% hands-on shop time to work on the school engines. After successful rebuilding and running of the engine, students may work on projects of their own choice such as lawnmower engines, motorcycles, or outboard motors. Students are expected to arrive on time, ready to work and prepared to learn. If time permits, other projects may include flight plans, bridge building, CO2 cars, and solid fuel rockets. Power Mechanics 9/10 is recommended before taking Auto Mechanics 11/12.

METALWORK 9 (MADM-09-S)

An introductory course designed for the first-time student who is interested in using metal as a creative medium. Students will create projects from a variety of metals and will be instructed in the usage of both hand and power tools. Reading plans, laying out work, and simple measurements in both metric and imperial will be taught. Projects involving basic sheet metal techniques, MIG & Arc welding, fabrication, and forging will be explored.

WOODWORK 9 (MADW-09-S)

This introductory course in woodworking allows students to develop skills in the use of most woodworking tools and machines. Safety awareness and good work habits will be stressed. Students will be assigned several basic projects and will also have the opportunity to design and build their own projects.

ROBOTICS 9 (MADER-09-S)

Robotics is a project-oriented course focusing on design and problem solving through student-centered learning. Focusing on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), students will research and design engineering structures, vehicles, robots, and machines. Coding, micro-controllers, logic, and sensors will be used to overcome challenges. Iterative design techniques, prototyping, testing, and manufacturing will be explored, as well as considering real-life constraints such as proposals, budgets, and group dynamics. Students will use math and physics concepts and build solutions.

FOOD STUDIES 9 (MADFS09-S)

The theoretical aspects of this course emphasize safety and sanitary practices, development of consumer skills, and nutrition knowledge. Students will learn how to use and adapt ingredients, techniques, and equipment. As well, students will learn about First Nations traditional food use. The practical aspects cover all of the basic techniques required to plan for and produce a variety of balanced and nutritious meals and snacks. Food preparation can include breakfasts, lunches, dinners, pastries, and pizza.

TEXTILES 9 (MADT-09-S)

Students will build on the skills that they learned in Grade 8 textiles. After a refresher of basic sewing techniques, they will put their skills into practice on a variety of sewing projects, learning strategies for using and modifying simple patterns and studying natural and manufactured fibers. As well, students will learn about social factors that influence textile choice and the impact of these choices while studying the role of textiles in our local communities. As they advance, students will choose their own projects and design a textile item using the elements of design. This will be a fun, hands-on class, where students can put their creativity into action and create useable textile items for themselves.

SPECIALIZED ELECTIVE COURSES

WEST COAST WILDERNESS STUDIES (XHL-09-S)

A beginning course brings learning to life and connects students to the natural world around them. Students will develop confidence within themselves and gain practical knowledge of their surrounding environment here on Vancouver Island. A goal of this course is to equip students with life and safety skills that would allow them to become lifelong users of the outdoors. The course will include a variety of outdoor topics including fishing, animal identification and regulations, water safety, geocaching, orienteering, survival and many more. Students will participate in a variety of “out of the classroom” trips over the course of the semester. Families should be prepared to pay a fee of up to \$200 for this course to cover certificates, non-consumable items and various out of class trips.

FLAG FOOTBALL (MPHE-09FBS)

This course promotes an inclusive sport that has community involvement post-high school and is growing globally for many demographics with its induction coming into the 2028 Olympics. It is a non-contact alternative where students can build cross-sport and cross curricular skills through a team sport without a high risk of injury. The course will include cross sport training, theory/strategy of the sport, job-opportunities, fitness, conditioning and nutrition, but with a focus on flag football. Students will train in all positions and learn the fundamental/advanced skills based on their desires and initial skill level/experience in the sport. The sport is inclusive for all skills levels and genders, offers community within and post high school, and has practical applications to other sports and professions.



NDSS ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

The Athletics Department at NDSS provides students with a variety of sports and activities. The emphasis of our athletic program is participation rather than extreme competitiveness. We encourage all students to get involved with as many activities as they feel they can handle without sacrificing their schoolwork. NDSS is lucky to have many different activities in which students may participate, and it is also complemented by a high quality, dedicated coaching staff. A few of the sports and activities that have been offered at NDSS include:

- Football/Rugby
- Volleyball/Basketball
- Track/Cross-country
- Soccer
- Swimming
- SAGA
- Student Council
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Environmental Club
- Homework Club
- Dance Team
- Fishing Club
- Weight Training
- Yearbook
- Photography
- Model UN
- Cheer Team
- Ethics Team
- Chess Club
- Drama/Musical Theatre
- Robotics

Contact the school if you require further information about our clubs or activities:

Phone: 250-740-2000

Fax: 250-740-2020

Email: info.nd@sd68.bc.ca