

# Flex Learning

Ballenas offers a Flex Learning block to all students on Wednesday morning. This unique offering provides Grade 8 and 9 students with the opportunity to seek additional teacher support, learn in open flexible learning spaces, or pursue their shared passions through the guidance and support of a teacher.

# Cohort/Homeroom Model

Students are more likely to succeed when they feel connected to their school. To build supportive relationships, we have created a school-wide "Homeroom" (senior students call this time CLC, or Career-Life Connections) Program. This time is intended to connect one group of students with a dedicated teacher. This weekly block includes whole school lessons, grade assemblies and presentations, teacher guidance, peer mentoring and support, and



# Circle of Courage

Ballenas has adopted the "Circle of Courage" as our underlying school philosophy. The Circle of Courage is grounded in four universal growth needs of all children: belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. Grade 8 and 9 students are encouraged to feel a sense of Belonging and Independence through our linear programming and cohort groupings.



# École Ballenas Secondary School



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<http://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/BSS>

# Grade 8/9 Program Information

# Nuw'illum, Bienvenue, Welcome To the Ballenas Learning Community



Today we live in a state of constant change. British Columbia's curriculum is modernized to respond to this demanding world and, at Ballenas, we agree that to prepare students for the future, the curriculum must be student-centred and flexible, with a focus on literacy and numeracy skills. Through our linear, cohort-structured Grade 8 and 9 Program, Ballenas provides space and time for students to develop their skills and explore their passions and interests. The deep understanding and application of knowledge is at the centre of this model, as opposed to the memory and recall of facts that previously shaped education. These critical skills are the foundation of B.C.'s education system, and are a key component of Ballenas' philosophy in developing educated citizens and supporting our students towards meaningful graduation.

## Grades 8 and 9 Program Information

### Ballenas Secondary School Timetable

There are 4 blocks per day, each class is 80 minutes. On Wednesdays, students have a Flex block (see back) in the morning, with the remaining classes 60 minutes long. Students meet in their Homerooms every Friday.

2022/2023 BELL SCHEDULE					
MONDAY DAY 1	TUESDAY DAY 2	WEDNESDAY DAY 1	THURSDAY DAY 2	FRIDAY	
				DAY 1	DAY 2
8:40-10:00 A	8:40-10:00 C	8:40-10:00 FLEXIBLE LEARNING	8:40-10:00 C	8:40-9:35 A	8:40-9:35 C
10:05-11:25 B	10:05-11:25 D	10:05-11:05 A 11:10-12:10 B	10:05-11:25 D	10:30-11:25 B	10:30-11:25 D
11:25-12:12 LUNCH	11:25-12:12 LUNCH	12:10-12:53 LUNCH	11:25-12:12 LUNCH	11:25-12:12 LUNCH	11:25-12:12 LUNCH
12:17-1:40 C	12:17-1:40 A	12:58-2:00 C	12:17-1:40 A	12:17-1:40 C	12:17-1:40 A
1:45-3:05 D	1:45-3:05 B	2:05-3:05 D	1:45-3:05 B	1:45-3:05 D	1:45-3:05 B

### Course Selection

Grade 8 and 9 students enroll in either the English or French Immersion Program. Both programs are linear and require students to take English/Social Studies, Math/Science, Physical Education and Health & Careers. Additionally, the English cohort is required to take French 8.

### Exploration Courses

Grade 8 students take exploratory courses each year. These are a combination of Applied Skills, Fine Arts, and Band, introducing them to a wide range of subject offerings. Grade 9 students are offered electives in Applied Skills, Fine Arts, Band, French and Spanish



### Programs of Choice

Ballenas offers three Programs of Choice. Grade 8 – 12 students may join our Ballenas Hockey Academy, and we also offer our Outdoor Pursuits Program of Choice to Grade 9 students.