

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 and 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" 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, and more. Students in Grades 11/12 will use this time to design and work on their Capstone Projects (a graduation requirement)



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.

Grade 8 and 9 Program Information

Ballenas Secondary School Timetable

There are 4 blocks per day and each class is 80 minutes. Each Wednesday, students have a Flex block (see Flex information in this brochure) in the morning and Homeroom in the afternoon.

MONDAY DAY 1	TUESDAY DAY 2	WEDNESDAY DAY 3	THURSDAY DAY 4	FRIDAY DAY 5
8:38 - 10:00 A	8:38 - 10:00 B	8:38 - 9:45 FLEX	8:38 - 9:45 FLEX	8:38 - 10:00 B
10:06 - 11:27 B	10:06 - 11:27 A	9:51 - 10:48 A	10:06 - 11:27 B	10:06 - 11:27 A
		10:53 - 11:48 B		
11:37 - 12:12 LUNCH	11:37 - 12:12 LUNCH	11:48 - 12:38 LUNCH	11:37 - 12:12 LUNCH	11:37 - 12:12 LUNCH
12:17 - 1:00 C	12:17 - 1:00 D	12:38 - 1:28 C	12:17 - 1:00 C	12:17 - 1:00 D
1:44 - 3:06 D	1:44 - 3:06 C	1:31 - 3:06 D	1:44 - 3:06 D	1:44 - 3:06 C

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 and Careers. Additionally, the English cohort is required to take French 8.

Exploratory Courses

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



Programs of Choice

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

Clubs and Athletics

Joining clubs and activities at school is a great way to make new friends, develop new skills, and explore your passions. Whether you're into sports, music, art, leadership, or community service, there's something for everyone. Being involved and connected is important. With so many options to choose from, why not try something new? Find what excites you and make the most of your school experience!