

"THINK ABOUT IT"

Common questions asked when going into Grade 9



Grade 9 Required Courses that I must complete:

- English 9
- Science 9
- Social Studies 9
- PE 9
- Math 9
- Career Life Education

What are the key elements to success in grade 9?

- Use class time to complete work and hand in all assignments on time. Those who waste class time, do not submit work &/or have poor attendance struggle to be successful.
- Research shows that those involved in a school activity (e.g. music, athletics, leadership, yearbook, etc.) are more successful in school.
- Parent Involvement

Are there different ways to complete PE 9?

- NO! Students who wish to take elective physical education classes specializing in hockey must still complete a regular PE 9 course. This is due to the fact that the specialized PE elective courses do not meet a number of learning outcomes required for PE 9. Please note that district programs have fees attached to them so any registration for these must be made thru an application process and consultation with your parent(s).
- Hockey Program – is co-ed and open to all hockey players

What does it mean to have a “balanced” timetable?

- Every effort is made to schedule courses so a student has two core academic courses in each term (ex. Science & English in Semester 1; Socials & Math in Semester 2)
- In some instances, this cannot be accommodated due to timetable restrictions.
- Physical Education, along with electives such as Second Languages and Fine Arts & Applied Skills, are added to balance the academic load.
- A student may get alternate course selections although every effort is made to try and accommodate at least two first choice electives.
- We DO NOT recommend students taking 4 academic courses in one semester.

Must I have a second language in order to graduate?

- A second language is an elective and not a graduation requirement.
- We encourage students to continue with a second language. We offer French up thru grade 12 level. Other languages may be taken on-line thru NIDES once a student enters grade 10.
 - Only UBC-Vancouver and SFU require a second language 11 for direct entry into post-secondary from high school
 - We recommend completing a second language up thru grade 11 to keep ALL post-secondary options open
- If unsure, speak with your teacher to get more details about the different paths and their recommendation!

TIDES 9:

- TIDES is a program for students who want their education to be cross-curricular and connected to themes such as sustainability, outdoor connection and core competency development. All academic subjects and exploratory classes are taught in a single classroom with the same 25-27 students. Students who apply for this program should be interested in inquiry and project-based learning opportunities. If you are interested, please get an application from the counselling office

If I am in Band 9, do I have a timetable different from other students?

- The timetable for band students is essentially the same as other students with the exception of PE 9. Band 9 and PE 9 are taken concurrently.
- Both courses are linear which means they are in the same block, on alternate days, for the entire year. It is important for students to commit to the band program. If a student withdraws halfway through the year, the student will be required to complete a regular PE 9 class the following semester.
- Some music courses are outside of the timetable (e.g. Choir)

What is Career Life Education?

- Students are required to complete Career Life Education over grades 9 & 10 as part of their mandatory course requirements. This course is designed to help students:
 - Explore skills and passions, and determine possible routes to individual goals.
 - Refine one's understanding of the links between personal development and career decisions.
 - Further develop and refine career possibilities.
 - Discover an appropriate and meaningful path as one transitions out of high school, whether it involves a direct path to further education or to a world of work.

What if I fail a core course during the school year?

- Students will be expected to repeat any core course that has not been successfully completed. These courses are required to move on to the next grade level.
- If a student fails a mandatory academic course, there are two options available:
 1. Repeat the course the next school year
 2. Attend Summer School for the month July (M-F; 8:30 - 12:30)
- Students will not be permitted to move into the next level of the course until the prerequisite course has been successfully completed.
- Failing a course can possibly jeopardize your ability to graduate on time and with your peers.

Who should I see if I run into difficulties with my classes?

- Students occasionally run into difficulties with classes due to the course being too difficult, too easy, or sometimes because of a conflict with others in the class. If you ever find yourself in this position, it is important to let someone know what is happening. Please notify one of the following people so that your problem will be resolved in a short period of time:

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|--|---------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Grade 9 Counsellor | Ms. T. Trevor-Smith | (ext. 71062) | ttrevorsmith@sd69.bc.ca |
| 2. Vice-Principal | Ms. H. Deering | (ext. 70055) | hdeering@sd69.bc.ca |
| 3. Vice-Principal | Ms. J. Lunny | (ext. 70060) | jlunny@sd69.bc.ca |
| 4. Youth Care Worker | Ms. L. Burton | (ext. 70453) | lburton@sd69.bc.ca |
| 5. First Nations Liaison | Ms. D. Phillips | (ext. 70261) | dphillips@sd69.bc.ca |
| 6. Course Teacher | | | |
| 7. Parent(s), who will notify one of the above people on your behalf | | | |

IMPORTANT NOTE: Plan your courses thoughtfully and wisely as course changes made after initial programming can be difficult to accommodate and will be at a minimum.