

**VALLEYVIEW SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
**Welcomes You to Grade Eight**

Welcome to grade 8!

We are really looking forward to having you join us at Valleyview Secondary School in the fall! September 2025 will be the start of your five-year journey with us which I know will be both exciting and challenging for you. You will meet new friends; experience interesting electives and it is my hope that you will take some risks with your learning and embrace this adventure through the vast and open waters of secondary school!

To ensure you are prepared for grade 9 and beyond, you will enrol in 8 courses:

- English 8
- Math 8
- Science 8
- PE 8 (or Hockey Academy-full year)
- Social Studies 8
- Language 8 (French or Secwepemctsin 8) AND
- Elective rotation (2 courses)

Electives:

You will take 6 electives over the entire year -this will ensure that you are able to explore all that VSS offers in Applied Skills and Fine Arts

If you are taking advanced band, you will have band + 3 other electives

If you are in Hockey Academy you will have hockey+ 3 other electives

Choosing your secondary program each year is an interesting and important task that you and your parents share! If you need more information, you can find a complete version of the course website on our website: <http://vss.sd73.bc.ca> or contact the counselling office at the school at 250-372-5231.



Welcome Aboard!

Mr. Walt Kirschner - Principal

## **ALL GRADE EIGHT STUDENTS WILL REGISTER FOR THE FOLLOWING COURSES:**

### **ENGLISH 8**

In this course students will explore stories and texts as a way to understand ourselves, connect to others and the world. They will explore how language and text can be a source of joy and creativity. They will also explore how texts are socially, culturally, and historically constructed, and how different world perspectives shape our understanding of text. Most importantly, students will develop skills to questions that they hear, read and view so that they can become educated and engaged citizens.

### **MATHEMATICS 8**

Students will use the following skills: reasoning, analyzing, understanding, solving, communicating, representing, connecting, and reflecting to understand the following topics:

- Algebra
- Linear Relations
- Fractions
- Measurements
- Rates and Finances
- Roots and Probability Problem solving is integrated throughout the course.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 8**

This course covers from the 7th century to 1750. The big ideas are the following:

- Contact and conflict between peoples stimulated significant cultural, social and political change.
- Human and environmental factors shape changes in population and living standards.
- Exploration, expansion, and colonization had varying consequences for different groups.
- Changing ideas about the world created tension between people wanting to adopt new ideas and those wanting to preserve established traditions.

Students are expected to know the following:

- Social, political, and economic systems and structures, including those of at least one indigenous civilization.
- Scientific and technological innovations.
- Philosophical and cultural shifts.
- Interactions and exchanges of resources, ideas, arts, and culture between and among different civilizations.
- Exploration, expansion, and colonization.
- Changes in population and living standards.

### **SCIENCES**

Science and scientific literacy play a key role in educating citizens of today for the world tomorrow. Critical to succeeding in this endeavor are the core competencies that provide students with the ability to think critically, solve problems, and make ethical decisions; to communicate their questions, express opinions, and challenge ideas in a scientifically literate way; and to exercise an awareness of their role as an ecologically literate citizens, engaged and competent in meeting the responsibilities of caring for living things and the planet.

The Big Ideas for Science 8 are:

- Life processes are performed at the cellular level.
- The behaviour of matter can be explained by the kinetic molecular theory and atomic theory.
- Energy can be transferred as both a particle and a wave.
- The theory of plate tectonics is the unifying theory that explains Earth's geological processes.

Students will develop the following skills, strategies, and processes over time at an increasing level of complexity throughout the course:

- Questioning and predicting.
- Planning and conducting.
- Processing and analyzing data information.
- Evaluating.
- Applying and innovating.

### Communicating

Throughout the course, students will develop a deeper meaning of knowledge through inquiry-based learning. Students will be given multiple opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge in a variety of ways including tests, quizzes, assignments, labs, projects, and portfolios.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8**

In Grade 8 Physical Education, students will be involved in team sports, individual sports, and active health. Students are encouraged to wear regulation gym strips that consist of shorts and a T-shirt. For outdoor units students are encouraged to wear tracksuits during inclement weather.

OR

### **Valleyview Secondary School - HOCKEY CANADA SKILLS ACADEMY**

Valleyview Secondary School is very proud to be the home of our local Hockey Canada Skills Academy. Our academy provides both male/female hockey players of all levels an opportunity for elite level coaching/training for our student athletes while continuing with their regular academic course studies at VSS. The schedule for our student-athletes has each of them enrolled in 2 blocks of hockey academy (1 per semester) throughout the school year and receive on-ice instruction an average of 2.5 times per week (60 minutes each). Students are also scheduled into dry-land training/programs and classroom instruction following the Hockey Canada curriculum. Under the leadership of Head Coach Kyle Allan our academy is very fortunate to also have professional coaches and clinicians for coaching support/teaching staff. The academy is based out of Valleyview arena as our practice facility and the new Acceleration Fitness training center as our dry-land training facility. All participating students are enrolled at VSS and pay an annual academy fee to pay for all associated costs. If you are interested in our HCSA and would like to join the Zoom meeting to learn more about the program or the application process, please feel free to contact Ms. Karen Horsman, Counsellor at [khorsman@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:khorsman@sd73.bc.ca)

## **A SECOND LANGUAGE IS A MANDATORY COURSE FOR ALL GRADE EIGHT STUDENTS**

### **FRENCH 8**

Bienvenue a Francais 8! This course will cover a number of big ideas! We will explore listening and viewing with intent as it strengthens our understanding and acquisition of French. We will also have meaningful conversations about things that are important to us in French. We will use stories as a way to give us unique methods to interpret and share knowledge, thoughts, and feelings. We will explore Francophone creative works and culture as well as acquiring French to explore our own cultural identity from a new perspective. French 8 is a requirement to continue in French 9.

### **SECWEPEMCTSIN (SHUSWAP LANGUAGE) 8**

This course will be of special interest to those students who have taken Secwepemctsin in Grades 4 - 7 and want to complete their second language credit with Secwepemctsin. Students will not only learn and practise their oral language skills, but they will also learn about Shuswap culture and about Secwepemc communities and their histories and traditions. Students will enhance their Secwepemctsin vocabulary and sentence development, participate in conversations and begin to learn how to write Secwepemctsin.

**Note:** Second languages become an elective after grade 8. Some universities require that students have a second language to meet general admission requirements. Refer to university and other post secondary institution calendars for specifics.

## **MUSIC**

### **CHOIR**

This class meets in the early morning twice a week for the entire school year. Select this course if you would like to sing in choir outside of the regular timetable. No previous experience is needed to join the choir. Remember: If you can speak, you can sing! Students in this course will develop the basic elements of choral performance. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is required. Performances occur in the evenings and may take place away from the school. There is also the possibility of retreats and cultural and performing trips. This is an active group of students who have a lot of fun - Come on out and join the choir!

Techniques & Content Covered:

- Vocal production, tone, articulation.
- Elements of stage presence.
- Various styles of music from classical to contemporary and modern music.
- Music from many different cultures Introduction to music reading skills.
- Basic musicianship in an ensemble.

\*There is also an opportunity for a piano player to gain credit in this course if they act as an accompanist to the VSS Choir. Please see Miss Daniels for more information.

### **ADVANCED BAND 8**

During this course students will learn how to read music, how to play a band instrument and will develop their self-confidence and self-discipline. Throughout the semester there will be opportunities to both attend and perform in public concerts. Students must be prepared to practice regularly at home. There isn't an instrument rental fee for this course. Students who choose music as an option will then participate in one block of rotation electives.

## **GRADE 8 ELECTIVE COURSES**

**All Students will take an elective rotation which will include 6 electives. These electives may include:**

(Many electives have additional costs for materials)

### **GRADE 8 CAREER**

Career education is a compulsory course for all grade 8's and 9's. In this course, students will be reflecting on their preferences and skills to help identify the steps they need to take to achieve their career goals. They will explore the value of work in their Lives, communities; and society from diverse perspectives as well as working to achieve their learning goals. They will also learn to adapt to economic and labour market changes and look at how their career paths reflect on the personal, community, and educational choices they make. Grade 8 Career will be embedded into an elective course and taught by one of the elective teachers.

### **COMPUTER SKILLS 8**

As computer skills are necessary in this modern age this course is designed to teach basic keyboarding and word processing skills as well as provide students with an introduction to the computer networks used at Valleyview Secondary School. There are also units on 3D Printing, Computer Programming and Animation

### **WOODWORKS**

In Woodwork 8, students will be introduced to the tools needed to do the ten-step process in a safe and responsible way. The students will complete a measurement unit, safety unit, and receive lessons along the building process. There will be three projects in this class: Bear paw salad servers, Potpourri box, scroll saw practice Students who have completed their project early may have a choice of another project to complete.

### **TEXTILES 8**

In Textiles 8 students will learn basic sewing techniques and skills, and care and use of the sewing machine. They will learn to use patterns to create something to wear and enjoy.

### **METALWORKS**

Students will be introduced to the basic hand and machining processes of metalwork. Projects will include a balancing man, a door knocker, and a keychain.

### **ARTS**

This is a beginner's course designed to introduce each student to the fundamental skills in visual arts. Students will explore drawing, painting, sculpture, and Art History. Different mediums will be used including, but not limited to, sketching, ink, 3-dimensional, collage and colour theory. Sketchbook assignments will be used to develop skills and are an integral part of the course.

### **DRAMAS**

At the introductory level, this course utilizes games and group activities to experience all the basic skills needed for effective communication including trust, cooperation, and imagination. Drama is an approach to learning that helps us discover the meanings of human interactions at a deeper level. We use movement, voice, mime, role play, improvisation, and scripts as tools of personal expression and response.

## **BANDS**

In the band rotation at Valleyview, students are taught to play a concert band instrument while learning to create, perform and respond to music. They get instruction from an instrumental music teacher while gaining the experience of playing and collaborating with an ensemble. Students will also learn to read music and will learn the fundamentals of basic music theory. A band instrument will be provided for the duration of the rotation.

## **FOODS**

This course introduces students to kitchen equipment, sanitation, nutrition & basic cooking skills. Students analyze how social factors impact personal food choice and how Peoples food use has changed overtime. Students will design, test & evaluate their food products using appropriate equipment and various cooking techniques. They will reflect on the effects of removing or substituting ingredients in terms of nutritional profile, food quality and taste. Students are expected to work cooperatively in groups, clean up and complete written assignments as part of the course.

***Counsellors and Administrators try their best to customize student timetables according to student requests. Although a student may have received a timetable, it should be considered as temporary. There are times when the school's master timetable needs to be updated resulting in the reconfiguration of student timetables.***