

GPCHS Grade 9 Courses

Required Courses

English 9

English Language Arts is required for all Grade 9 students. This course runs for the entire school year. English 9 is built around five General Outcomes (Exploration, Responses to Texts, Information Management, Craft and Communication, and Community) and six strands (Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, Viewing, and Representing). Students will work to improve their oral and written communications, critical thinking, and appreciation of literature in its many forms (prose, drama, poetry, and media). Student performance in this class plays a large role in determining the range of English courses available in Grade 10. There will be a two-part Provincial Achievement Test (PAT) in this course, taking place in May and June.

Math 9

Math 9 is a required course for all grade 9 students and consists of the following topics:

- Number – Rational Numbers, Powers, Exponents, and Square Roots
- Patterns and Relations – Linear Relations, Linear Equations, Linear Inequalities, Polynomials
- Shape and Space – Similar Polygons, Measurement, Symmetry, Circle Geometry
- Statistics and Probability – Data Collection and Analysis, Probability

Physical Education 9

The aim of the Physical Education program is to enable individuals to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to lead an active, healthy lifestyle. The Physical Education program emphasizes active living with a focus on physical activity that is valued and integrated into daily life.

Active living through Physical Education:

- Creates a desire to participate.
- Focuses on lifetime activities promoting health-related fitness for life.
- Is about physical activity and the nature, form, frequency, and intensity of the activity are relative to each person's abilities, needs, aspirations, and environment.
- Places physical activity within a broader perspective of total fitness and well-being that encompasses the entire experience of

movement – physical, mental, emotional, and social dimensions.

- Is enhanced through opportunities to participate in such activities as intramural and interschool athletics and community-based sport and recreation activities.
- Is centered around learner needs; inclusive, individual, and varied.
- Is supported when opportunities for making choices are provided.
- Is supportive of the relevance of physical activity within the community.

Physical Education is a participation-based course that, therefore, requires daily effort and proper active wear and indoor shoes in order to be successful.

Science 9

Science 9 is a required course for all grade 9 students. Topics covered are Biological Diversity, Matter and Chemical Change, Environmental Chemistry, Electrical Principles and Technologies and Space Exploration.

Social Studies 9

Grade 9 focuses on citizenship, identity and quality of life and how they are impacted by political and legislative processes in Canada. The role of economic systems in Canada and the United States will also be examined.

Key course understandings:

- Students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of how Canada's political processes impact citizenship and identity to meet the needs of all Canadians.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of how economic decision making in Canada and the United States impacts quality of life, citizenship and identity.

Grade 9 Elective Courses

Academy Athletics 9 Learn to Train:

Course Fee: \$150

Academy Athletics is designed to meet the needs of athletes looking to develop their physical skills through a variety of sport experiences and an individualized approach to training. In the introductory component to the program, students are provided opportunities and instruction on learning how to build knowledge and physical literacy involved in training and fitness as an athlete. Students will be able to select Academy Athletics as a semester elective.

Art 9

Course Fee: \$45

Art 9 provides a brief survey and introduction to the fundamentals of art. Students will explore and create projects based on the key fundamentals. They will have the opportunity to use a variety of media including various drawing media, paint as well as clay. Assessment will focus on technical skills and originality.

Computer Studies 9

Course fee: \$20

All students will complete 1-3, they can then choose which elective they want to complete.

- 1. Essential Computer Skills
- 2. Digital Literacy
- 3. Keyboarding/Data Entry
- Computer Science (Elective)
- Google Apps (Elective)

***New Robotics 9**

Course fee: \$45

- Robotics (Elective)
- 3D Printing (Elective)
- Computer Technology (Elective)
- Electronics (Elective)

Construction and Design Technology 9

Course Fee: \$20

Here you will have the opportunity to learn how to operate both hand tools and power tools, safely. During this course you will work on a wide variety of projects ranging from a small toolbox to an actual longboard that you can ride. Construction 9 will allow you to investigate and gain knowledge, skills, and attitudes associated with the

construction trades. The course will also help to build self-reliance and independence and encourage creativity while helping you develop knowledge and skills useful across a wide range of career and leisure pursuits.

The objectives of our Construction Technology program are:

1. Developing safe work practices
2. Developing time management skills
3. Developing hand and power tool operation skills
4. Developing effective teamwork skills
5. Developing problem solving skills

Cosmetology 9

Course Fee: \$40

This course is created to give you an introduction to a variety of different aspects offered in cosmetology. Students will be learning long hair design and styling, learning about skin types and self-facials, makeup and eyebrow shaping, as well as manicures. This is a hands on and partner based class, you will be required to be a stylist and a client often. This course is not a prerequisite for any of the cosmetology courses taken at the high school level, this is strictly used as exploration and interest for students.

Digital Design 9

Course Fee: \$20

Digital Design 9 is your opportunity to get experience working with a variety of different digital media. You will create works of art using Adobe Photoshop, Google Draw and Adobe Animate. Some of the projects you will be working on are designing a chocolate bar wrapper, creating computer game characters, and animating vector-based projects.

Film Studies 9

Course fee: none

Film Studies 9 can be considered a part of the Language Arts curriculum, particularly meshing with visual language objectives. The course also studies written language -through creative writing in film scripts and personal reflection and analysis. The verbal component of film involves listening for meaning, discussion and critical expression. Viewing and discussing films will be the main activities in the course.

***NEW Improve 9**

Course Fee: None

This Grade 9 Introduction to Improvisation course is designed to spark creativity, build confidence, and prepare students for the exciting challenges of Improvisational Theatre 15 in high school. Through games, collaborative exercises, and short performance tasks, students will learn the basics of improvisational storytelling, character creation, and teamwork in a supportive and enjoyable environment.

Drama 9

Course Fee: \$40

Drama 9 is an introductory theatre course that aims to foster a positive self-concept in students by encouraging them to explore life through the assumption of roles and the acquisition of dramatic skills. Successful drama students will gain self confidence in situations where they present themselves publicly (job interviews and employment, class presentations, coaching, etc.). They will also grow through developing cooperative relationships with their peers. Students will participate in a variety of activities involving movement, speech, improvisation, acting and collective creation. Elements of theatre study such as terms, craft and history will also be investigated.

Environmental and Outdoor Education 9

Course Fee: \$40

This activity-based course provides opportunities for in-depth practical studies and experiences. This direct approach should appeal to all students, particularly those who learn best from physical involvement. Some of things that students should expect to learn would include, how to: use knives, build fires and emergency shelters, cook over a fire as well as learning about some current environmental topics. Students who sign up for EOE 9 should enjoy being active and be prepared to go outside in all types of weather. Day trips throughout the course provide great learning experiences, as well as providing an opportunity to showcase many of the skills that students have learned throughout the course.

***New Traditional Land Based Learning 9**

Course Fee: \$40

is an introductory course that immerses students in foundational Indigenous land-based knowledge and practices. Students will explore traditional methods of food gathering and preparation, learn basic environmental stewardship, develop introductory

wilderness survival skills, and build respectful relationships with Elders and Knowledge Keepers. The course emphasizes cultural awareness, safety, and hands-on experiences in an outdoor setting.

Fashion Studies 9

Course fee: \$80

In this course, students will learn basic sewing fundamentals including sewing machine operation, basic sewing techniques, seam construction, and the differences between textiles and their care. As learning progresses, students will use knit fabrics, specific sewing techniques and pattern reading, and fabric layout skills to create unique, attractive and serviceable garments including pajama pants, an apron, and a hoodie.

French 9 9Y

Course Fee: None

This French course will build upon concepts learned throughout your previous junior high-level courses but will aim to prepare you for the high school level French whilst introducing new and exciting learning opportunities.

Leadership 9

Course fee: None

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn some ways they can become successful leaders of themselves, within their social community and in the global community.

MUSIC

Course fee: None

We believe in a music program that:

- Allows learners to reach their full potential as music performers and appreciators
- Creates a community where all students feel included and valued
- Promotes critical thinking and problem-solving skills, both individually and collectively
- Helps students develop the tools and skills for personal improvement and growth in all areas of their lives.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of performances throughout the school year, such as seasonal concerts and regional music festivals. In the past, music students in band, choir, and orchestra have had the opportunity to travel provincially, nationally, and internationally. Previous destinations include New Orleans, Cuba, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Italy, Vancouver, Quebec City, Montreal, England, and Scotland.

Band 9

Prerequisite: None

Students in band will meet the goals of the music program through the study and performance of a wind or percussion instrument. Although experience on one of these instruments is encouraged, beginners are welcome to join the program. Students will be able to select Band 9 as a semester elective.

Choir 9

Prerequisite: None

Students in choir will meet the goals of the music program through the study and performance of the voice as an instrument. Previous vocal experience is not required, and all ability and skill levels are welcome.

Guitar 9

Prerequisite: None

Students in guitar will meet the goals of the music program through the study and performance of guitar. Previous experience with guitar is not required, and all abilities and skill levels are welcome.

Orchestra 9

Prerequisite: None

Students in orchestra will meet the goals of the music program through the study and performance of a string instrument. Although experience on a string instrument is encouraged, beginners are welcome to join the program. Students will be able to select Orchestra 9 as a semester elective.

Musical Theatre 9

Course fee: None

Are you a singer, actor or dancer looking for the perfect avenue to showcase your talent and passion for the fine arts? Have you ever wanted to create a musical of epic proportions? If this sounds perfect for you then let your voice be heard!

The course will be performance-based and will require dedication and hard work to present a successful final stage production (likely in a local theatre with public admission). This inspiring program will anchor confidence and work ethic which can add to success in all areas of your future!

Spanish 9

Course fee: None

Do you have a love of languages? Spanish 9 is an introductory Spanish course where students will be begun to learn about Spanish language and gain an appreciation in Spanish culture.

Positive Psychology 9

Prerequisite: None

Positive Psychology 9 combines the study of the mind with the study of the brain. Students will be introduced to the basic concepts of neuroscience and neuroplasticity, to gain a basic understanding of the brain's impact on learning and mental health. The course will incorporate the teaching and use of much evidence-based strategies that can improve student efficacy, self-regulation, executive function and positive attitude. There will be a focus on social emotional learning (SEL), mindfulness practices as well as test taking, study skills and memory strategies.

Total Body Fitness 9

Course Fee: \$20

Fitness provides students opportunities to further develop their physical fitness and provides an advantage to those who want to participate in competitive sports. Course work includes cardiovascular training, muscle fitness, flexibility training, fitness testing, fitness theory, and nutrition. A course fee is applied to this class. This is an activity-based course and requires daily participation and proper active wear in order to be successful.

Yoga 9

Course fee: None

This course offers students the opportunity to study yoga in a focused setting. It introduces safe basic postures (asanas), breathing techniques and relaxation methods of yoga. It also introduces the historical roots of yoga and provides an understanding of anatomy and physiology as it applies to this discipline.

***New 🎙️ Podcasting 9 – Create, Record, and Broadcast! 🎧**

Ever dream of hosting your own show? In Podcasting 9, you'll master storytelling, interviewing, and audio editing. Plan, write, and record episodes on any topic—sports, music, true crime—while working with a creative team. Experiment with voice acting and production techniques and walk away with a shareable podcast portfolio! 🚀 🎙️