



Smithers Secondary School

Course Selection Handbook

2026-2027

CONTENTS

COURSE SELECTION INTRODUCTION.....	4
OVERARCHING COURSE & PROGRAM INFORMATION	5
Course Load.....	5
Course Cancellations, Course Conflicts & Limits on Course Enrollment.....	5
Course Changes.....	5
Course Credits from Other Sources.....	5
2023 BC GRADUATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW	6
2023 BC Graduation Program Specifics	6
Dogwood Graduation Planning	7
Graduation Honour Cords	7
Online Scholarship, Bursary & Award Information	7
Post-Secondary Information.....	7
ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS & COURSE DELIVERY	8
Online Learning - BVEC	8
Alternate Education - BVLC	8
SSS COUNSELLING SERVICES	9
Mental Health & Wellbeing.....	9
Transitioning to SSS	9
Course Selection & Course Planning	9
Support for School Related Challenges	9
Post-Graduation & Post-Secondary Planning	9
INDIGENOUS STUDENT SERVICES.....	10
SSS LEARNING CENTER SERVICES	11
GRADE 8 PROGRAM.....	12
Grade 8 School Fees	12
Grade 8 Program Course Overview	12
Grade 8 Required Course Descriptions.....	13
Grade 8 Elective Courses	14
GRADE 9 PROGRAM	16
Grade 9 Program Course Overview	16
Grade 9 Electives.....	16
Grade 9 Required Course Descriptions.....	16
Grade 9 Elective Courses	17

GRADES 10/11/12 COURSE INFORMATION	20
English	20
Social Studies.....	21
Mathematics	22
Sciences.....	23
Career Education 10 & 12	25
Languages/Cultural Studies	25
Physical Education	26
Arts Education	27
Theatre.....	28
Music.....	29
Culinary Arts.....	29
Information Technology (ADST).....	30
Digital Media Technology	31
ADST (Applied, Design, Skill & Technology)	31
Other SSS 10 – 12 Courses	32
TRADES-DUAL CREDIT (Grade 11/12).....	33
CMTN -Smithers Semester 2	33
CMTN -Terrace Sept-Ap.....	33
Automotive Technician Foundations (Sept–Apr)	33
Hairstylist Foundations (Sept–May)	33
Heavy Duty Mechanical Technician Foundations (Sept–May)	33
Professional Cook Level 1 (Sept–Apr)	34
Welding Foundations (Sept–Apr)	34
CMTN -Terrace	34
Electrical Foundations (Semester 2)	34
UNIVERSITY CREDIT (DUAL-CREDIT) OFFERINGS	35
Graphic Design (SFU Online)	35
Game Design and Development (SFU Online)	35
CMTN -Smithers	35

COURSE SELECTION INTRODUCTION

Welcome to course selection handbook for the 2026-2027 school year. This handbook provides students and parents with information about courses and programs available at Smithers Secondary School.

The selection of courses is an important part of the process leading to graduation and then to post-secondary education, training, and/or work. Furthermore, the decisions and choices students make during course selection determine which courses run at SSS in the next school year. That being said, courses will be also based on teacher availability and scheduling constraints.

At SSS, there are several course selection events, including a course selection information meeting for each grade and a school wide student course fair, that help students make informed decisions. In addition, our school counselling team is available to support students/families in their course selection decision making processes.

We strongly encourage students to discuss, research and explore their options with parents, guardians, teachers, and our school counselling team to ensure they are selecting the best choices for their academic and personal development.

SSS students with course-related questions can book times to talk with our school counselling team using our student-sign-up appointment sheets. These appointment sign-up sheets are set out each morning on the front/welcome desk in the SSS counselling office.

Parent/family questions regarding course selections are also always welcome; email is the best starting place.

Initial course planning contacts for the 2026-2027 school year are as follows:

Ms. Shirley White

Contact for students going into **Grade 8, Grade 9 & Grade 10**

Email: swhite@sd54.bc.ca

Ms. Karolina Bolton

Contact for students going into **Grade 11 & Grade 12**

Email: karolina.bolton@sd54.bc.ca

Once again... If you/your student would like to talk with our counselling team about course selections for 2026-2027, please reach out using one of the following options:

- Students can sign up for an in-person appointment using the sign-up sheets located on the front desk in the SSS counselling office.
- Students and families can email their school contact(s) directly.

OVERARCHING COURSE & PROGRAM INFORMATION

Course Load

A full-time course load for all students, Grade 8 through 12, is four 4-credit courses per semester. All students will be programmed full-time (four courses each semester) unless alternate arrangements have been made and approved by a team of parents, counsellors and administrators.

Course Cancellations, Course Conflicts & Limits on Course Enrollment

SSS is a small high school and courses may be cancelled due to low enrollment. When a course does not run, one of the alternate courses indicated on a student's course selection sheet will be substituted. If students do not provide alternate course options, an alternate course will simply be chosen for them. If course conflicts arise because of timetabling, an alternate course is substituted. Courses with low enrollments may be combined with levels of the same subject to make a course available. Circumstances may make it necessary to limit enrollment in some classes. Administration reserves the right to adjust student programs should this occur.

Course Changes

Course offerings and teacher assignments at SSS are based on course selections chosen by students during the course selection process. SSS is a small school; requests for courses and/or course changes are not automatic, cannot be guaranteed. In addition, course changes are strongly discouraged after the first two weeks of classes.

Course Credits from Other Sources

Sometimes a student completes courses or activities outside of the school day that correspond with course credits. We encourage students to talk with their school counsellor if they have completed or are interested in the following:

External Credits: Students can earn credits by completing courses or programs offered outside the BC school system if these courses are recognized and authorized by the Ministry of Education. Examples of organizations/programs that offer external credit programs for BC students are: The Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Program, The Royal Conservatory of Music Program, ICBC Driver Education, etc.

Independent Directed Study (IDS): A student can request to work with a willing Smithers Secondary School teacher to build an IDS course that focuses on a specific specialty area of a BC Ministry Education Course. For example, an IDS 12 Course in Textiles that focuses specifically on crocheting techniques and projects.

Work Experience 12: Students can work with either a current employer or a volunteer organization to obtain 120 hours of work experience. Agreement forms are required from both students and employers. Worksite visits from the SSS Work Experience Teacher are also required. Students will need to have a resume ready for their application for this course.

Tutoring 11 & 12: Student Tutors may work in a variety of different teaching spaces: PE, Trades, French, Robotics, Culinary Arts, Art and/or Academics.

Course Challenge: Students who have had extensive prior learning in certain subject areas can receive credit for BC courses after a challenge process determined by the school principal.

Post-Secondary Courses: Students may earn high school credits for many courses completed at a BC post-secondary institution, such as Coast Mountain College. This might include Trades Courses, Intro to Health Practices and/or First-Year University Transfer Courses.

Train in Trades Courses

Students can work with an employer who has a trades Red Seal ticket to obtain up to 480 hours of apprenticeship hours and up to 16 school credits.

2023 BC GRADUATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

2023 BC Graduation requirements are earned over a three-year period for most students beginning in Grade 10. Students must earn a minimum of 80 credits (20 courses):

- 52 credits are required (see below)
- 28 elective credits (7 courses)

Please note: Most courses at SSS are worth 4 credits

2023 BC Graduation Program Specifics

80 credits over Grade 10, 11, and 12 = 20 four-credit courses

52 Required Credits:

- English Language Arts 10 (4), English Language Arts 11 (4) and English Language Arts 12 (4)
- Social Studies 10 (4), and Social Studies 11 or 12 (4)
- Mathematics 10 (4), and Mathematics 11 (4)
- Science 10 (4), and Science 11 or 12 (4)
- Indigenous Focused Content Course(s) (4)
- Career Life Education 10 (4)
- Physical and Health Education 10 (4)
- Career Life Connections 12 (4)
- Arts Education 10, 11 or 12 and/or an Applied Design, Skills and Technologies 10, 11 or 12 (4)

28 Elective Credits:

An unlimited number of credits from board or independent school authority-authorized or post-secondary electives may count toward graduation. A minimum of 28 elective credits (grades 10 to 12) is required.

Grade 12 Level Requirement Specifics: A minimum of 16 credits (4 courses) from either ministry or board authority authorized (BAA) or post-secondary courses are required at the Grade 12 level.

Numeracy Assessment (Grade 10 GNA):

Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment is mandatory for all students in the Graduation Program (Grade 10 and up).

Literacy Assessments (Grade 10 GLA, Grade 12 GLA):

Grade 10 Literacy Assessment is mandatory for all students in the Graduation Program (Grade 10 and up).

Grade 12 Literacy Assessment is mandatory for all students in the Graduation Program (Grade 10 and up).

Dogwood Graduation Planning

Looking at your ideal high school plan can help you with your plan for meeting not only basic graduation requirements, but also specific postsecondary program and/or occupational requirements.

Checklist for Graduation:

- Minimum 80 credits (20 courses)
- Minimum four Grade 12 level courses
- Minimum one Arts Education or Applied Design, Skills and Technologies course
- Indigenous Focused Content Course(s)
- ❖ Numeracy Assessment 10
- ❖ Literacy Assessment 10
- ❖ Literacy Assessment 12
- ❖ Numeracy and Literacy Assessments must be taken once, and may be written up to three times.

Graduation Honour Cords

An SSS Graduation Honour Cord indicates the graduating student has achieved:

An “A” final class mark in Math 11, Science 11, English 11

An “A” final class mark in 4 SSS/BVEC Grade 12 Academics: English 12, Math 12, Science 12, Socials 12 or Language 12

Online Scholarship, Bursary & Award Information

Information concerning local scholarships and bursaries is communicated to all Grade 12 students via Grade 12 meetings and SSS morning announcements. In addition, our counselling team is available to answer questions relating to scholarships and bursaries. Students are also welcome to ask for help or support as they prepare their applications.

All information regarding scholarships and bursaries (local, provincial and national) is located on our school website under the “counselling” top tab followed by the “scholarships” side tab. We strongly encourage Grade 12 students, as well as parents/guardians, to use this online resource: <https://sss.sd54.bc.ca/scholarships/> The link to the online resource is also provided in March, April and May’s parent newsletters.

Post-Secondary Information

High school graduation does not guarantee acceptance into a post-secondary institution. Most post-secondary programs have specific entrance requirements. Post-Secondary requirements and grade point averages needed vary from university to university, from college to college, from program to program and from year to year.

[It is essential that all students and families check the course requirements for the post-secondary institution program in which they are interested.](#)

For students who plan to attend a post-secondary program, researching programs and entrance requirements should be part of course planning for Grades 10, 11 and 12. Your school counsellor is available to assist students with finding this information, but the ultimate responsibility regarding post-secondary programs is with the student/family.

Checklist for post-secondary:

- Minimum 80 credits (20 courses)
- Read and understand the required courses for students’ selected program(s). Many institutions have different requirements than the minimum required for graduation.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS & COURSE DELIVERY

Online Learning - **BVEC**

BVEC = Bulkley Valley Education Connection

SSS is offering a flexible learning program where students work through courses in a blended environment: Online with a required in-person component in the BVEC classroom. Attendance is mandatory with exceptions for students working at home. Students work with predetermined due dates and timelines. Special accommodation can be arranged.

Alternate Education - **BVLC**

BVLC = Bulkley Valley Learning Centre

Bulkley Valley Learning Centre (BVLC) is SD54's Alternate School program. BVLC offers students a pathway to graduation in an alternative learning environment. At BVLC, teachers and learners develop flexible individualized learning plans, and work towards graduation goals in a supportive, respectful environment.

BVLC learning is based on respect, responsibility and reasonable learning progress. Students, families and educators set attainable academic, social-emotional and attendance goals. Courses are individualized and have flexible timetables. The program is designed to have a higher teacher to student ratio, strong social/emotional support and easier access community service providers.

Students at BVLC range from grades 10 through 12. Students are referred to this program through an intake process initiated by SSS and families.

SSS COUNSELLING SERVICES

The SSS School Counselling Team supports students in a wide variety of areas including:

Mental Health & Wellbeing

- Providing mental health support, information and resources in classes and one-on-one.
- Supporting students during crises that arise at school
- Referring to and providing information about community agencies (community supports)

Transitioning to SSS

- Facilitating orientations to the school for Grade 7s and other new SSS students
- Supporting students who experience transition related challenges

Course Selection & Course Planning

- Providing information regarding courses offered
- Facilitating course exploration and information events for students and families
- Supporting the course selection process
- Graduation planning

Support for School Related Challenges

- Providing information about academic supports available to students
- Connecting students and families with academic support
- Engaging in problem-solving conversations about school challenges with students, other SSS staff and families

Post-Graduation & Post-Secondary Planning

- Providing information regarding post-secondary options and processes
- Supporting students who choose to apply for post-secondary programs and/or post-graduation training
- Communicating opportunities for local, provincial & national scholarship/bursaries/awards

Students who would like to access any of the counselling services outlined above are encouraged to make an appointment using the self-sign-up sheets located on the front desk in the SSS counselling office. Sign-up sheets are set out each morning. Students and families are also welcome to email our counselling team:

For more information about SSS counselling team services, go to <https://sss.sd54.bc.ca/counselling/>

Academic Advisor: Grades 11 & 12

Ms. Karolina Bolton

Email: karolina.boton@sd54.bc.ca

Academic Advisor & Wellness Coach: Grades 8, 9 & 10 & Grade 7 to 8 Transition Contact

Ms. Shirley White

Email: swhite@sd54.bc.ca

Prevention Worker: Grades 8-12

Ms. Inderjit Grewal

Email: inderjit.grewal@sd54.bc.ca

SSS Indigenous



Support Services

INDIGENOUS STUDENT SERVICES

At Smithers Secondary, our Indigenous Support Team provides support to all Indigenous students of SSS. The Indigenous Student Services team at SSS supports students and families by:

- Developing positive working relationships with students of all grades
- Providing a space for students to eat lunch or make lunch
- Providing cultural resources
- Supporting students with course changes and/or graduation requirements
- Supporting students' social and emotional needs
- Supporting students' academic needs in classrooms, small groups and one-on-one (when requested)
- Working with staff on attendance when needed, and contacts for home
- Providing a quiet workspace for students (with the teacher's permission) for coursework or homework
- Working in collaboration with classroom teachers on projects incorporating Indigenous culture
- Working with community programs to provide access to cultural lessons, crafts and/or certificate programs. Throughout the year program opportunities are advertised, and students sign up for these opportunities, in the Indigenous Support Room.
- Supporting families with their children's needs; homework, emotion concerns, report card info and any school needs
- Facilitating and improving home – school communications and understanding

Jody Garcia – Indigenous Support Worker (providing academic support in classrooms, in small groups of with individuals, family and community connections, providing cultural resources)

Travis Hebert – Indigenous Support Worker (providing academic support in classrooms, in small groups of with individuals, family and community connections, providing cultural resources)

Denise Lipscombe – Indigenous Support Teacher (scheduling, graduation needs, working in collaboration with classroom teachers)

We work as a team; please feel free to reach out to any one of us regarding any of the support outlined above.

SSS Phone: 250-847-2231

Email:

Jody Garcia jgarcia@sd54.bc.ca

Travis Hebert travis.hebert@sd54.bc.ca

Denise Lipscombe denise.lipscombe@sd54.bc.ca

SSS LEARNING CENTER SERVICES

SSS LEARNING CENTER SERVICES

The SSS Learning Centre is a multi-purpose space available for students needing academic support. The Learning Centre serves as a liaison between learner support teachers, classroom teachers and students, ensuring that students have the greatest opportunity for success. Students who have a Learning Centre block often are there to receive help on the courses they are currently enrolled in. Students are expected to be present during these blocks as attendance is taken.

SSS LEARNER SUPPORT SERVICES

The SSS Learning Support Services Department offers various services to assist students with learning needs.

SSS has inclusive programming designed to include all students. Support is provided in the regular classroom setting with options for alternative settings based on student needs. Ministry Identified Students are those assessed with specific, identified challenges. The development of an individualized educational program (IEP) is an integral part of their support in addition to the services and programming described above.

Students may be referred to additional support services for:

- Speech, language and hearing, physiotherapy
- Community-based learning activities
- Work experience; career counselling
- Community agency referral and consultation
- Independent living skills

Initial Learner Support Services Contacts for the 2026-2027 School Year:

Ms. Tisha Witt

Students going into Grade 8 and 9

Email: Tisha.witt@sd54.bc.ca

Ms. Cheryl Becker

Students going into Grades 10, 11, & 12

Email: cbecker@sd54.bc.ca

GRADE 8 PROGRAM

The transition to high school is an exciting one! We look forward to welcoming our new Grade 8 students through a series of transition events that take place each Spring. Grade 7 students attending one of SD54's elementary schools will receive registration forms in March. They are to be returned to their elementary school. Registration forms can be found at: <http://sssweb.sd54.bc.ca/index.php/registration-forms>

Grade 8 School Fees

When students start at SSS, the following fees are due in September:

- \$85 Textbook deposit
- \$10 School lock purchase
- \$5 Gryphon Spirit activity fee

Grade 8 Program Course Overview

Grade 8 students have a core program of required academics, and physical education.

- English Language Arts & Social Studies
- Math & Science
- Physical Education
- Language

Grade 8 students typically take ADST-Applied Design, Skills & Technology-elective courses. Grade 8 ADST elective courses are hands-on project-based classes that develop collaborative, problem solving skills across a broad range of subject areas. Projects focus areas for each Grade 8 ADST elective course are different.

Grade 8 Electives

(Choose in order of preference)

- ADST – *Art & Design in Action*
- ADST – *Explore, Design & Build*
- ADST – *Outdoor Pursuits*
- ADST – *Props, Effects and Costumes*
- ADST - *Textiles*
- Concert Band (Please note: For students who join Concert Band, practice is every other day and is combined with PE on the alternating day)
- Concert Choir
- Drama
- Guitar

Grade 8 Required Course Descriptions

English

Through the integration of reading, writing, oral communication, viewing and representing, all English courses are designed to develop students' skills and appreciation of literature and language. The activities and resources are selected to appeal to a range of interests and abilities.

Social Studies

In this introductory year to Social Studies at the secondary level, students are encouraged to develop serious work habits. The primary focus in this year is to develop adequate note taking skills and to maintain a notebook in a neat and organized manner. The course begins with geographic fundamentals: interpreting maps, weather and climate analysis, time and location information. The history section deals with Europe from the Middle Ages through the Renaissance and World Exploration. To contrast the Western European civilization, the course also looks at the Eastern Cultures of India, China and Japan of the same time period. An examination of the major world religions rounds out the main course content. Current events are also studied.

Mathematics

Mathematics is everywhere, from nature to your home, and numerous jobs. Students have different interests, needs and strengths, yet everyone needs to be comfortable and able to use mathematics in their daily lives. All students deserve the opportunity to understand the simple power and beauty of math. Mathematics 8 continues the development of the five strands of mathematics that enables them to compute fluently and solve a variety of problems. In Grade 8 Math the focus is on integers, rational numbers, surface area, percent, rate and ratio, linear equations and graphing, with problem solving throughout.

Science

This is a course which introduces students to the study of science in secondary school. Students learn about the cells and immunity, water and its impact on the earth, principals of matter and types of energy with a focus on visible light and how the human eye uses light. The students learn the skills of doing science: read, summarize, predict, classify. They also develop the skills needed to work in a laboratory: teamwork, measuring, recording etc.

Languages & Careers

Grade 8 students are enrolled in Languages 8 and Careers 8 in the same period/course.

Careers Information

Students cover a variety of topics such as personal development, connections to community and life and career planning. Students will explore diverse perspectives and look to understand how these perspectives contribute to our community and society. Students will engage in activities that enhance their ability to reflect on their preferences and skills set. Learning how to set achievable goals with perseverance and resilience will also form part of this course. **Careers 8 is a component of all Grade 8 Language Courses.**

French & Careers

This introductory course is designed for students who have little or no experience with the French language. It aims to provide students with the necessary skills to understand and engage in meaningful communication in a supportive and rich environment whilst learning about Francophone cultures. The course focuses on the development of listening and speaking through interpersonal communication, where students can manage uncomplicated communicative tasks in straightforward situations. They can express personal meaning by relying heavily on learned phrases (memorized language), as well as respond to simple, direct questions or requests for information. The skills of writing and reading are also integrated into the course to the extent that they foster the development of students' oral communication and cultural understanding.

FRAL & Careers

This course is designed for former French Immersion students who have experience with the French language. In the context of new culturally rich thematic units, the teacher supports students in continuing along the continuum of French language proficiency. More emphasis is on developing accuracy, mastery of more tenses and grammatical structures to communicate more effectively in different social situations, both in speaking and in writing. Students demonstrate an increasing ability to express their own ideas about some topics beyond themselves (current events/issues, matters of public and community interest) and to resolve problems they might encounter in their daily lives. Students who complete FRAL 8 and who wish to continue with the French language may enroll directly in French 10.

Witsuwit'en Language & Careers

In this introductory course to Witsuwit'en language, students will learn to introduce themselves and to use some basic phrases for communication. Vocabulary from a variety of topics such as colours, numbers, animals, foods, emotions, clothing and the weather will also be covered. Some cultural projects and activities fostering language appreciation will be integrated throughout the course.

Grade 8 Elective Courses

ADST - Art & Design in Action

(Creative & Visual Arts-Focused ADST)

This course focuses on creative expression and visual design through hands-on mixed-media projects. Students develop artistic skills while working with materials such as paper, plaster, wire, glass and simple circuits. Earning may include projects such as paper making, mosaic tile work, paper mache or plaster sculpture, wire art, stained glass, and LED circuit art. Students use the Design Thinking Process to explore ideas, experiment with materials, and create meaningful visual work from concept to completion.

This course is ideal for students who enjoy artmaking, creativity, and exploring different materials in a supportive, hands-on environment.

ADST – Explore, Design & Build

(Construction, Digital & Applied Design-Focused ADST)

This course focuses on applied design and practical skill development. Students learn how to plan, construct, and create both physical and digital projects using tools, technologies, and structures design processes. Learning may include woodworking projects, introductory web design, digital literacy, and entrepreneurship concepts. Students work through the Design Thinking Process to move ideas from concept to functional completion.

This course is ideal for students who enjoy building, problem solving, and working with tools and technology.

ADST – Outdoor Pursuits

This course is an experiential, hands-on course designed to strengthen students' confidence, teamwork, and practical problem-solving skills through outdoor and active learning. Students will explore a range of outdoor activities while developing foundational competencies in safety, leadership, environmental stewardship, and technical skill-building. Participating safely in outdoor activities requires clear communication, effective teamwork, and thoughtful collaboration. Throughout the course, students will practice these interpersonal skills while planning, engaging in, and reflecting on various outdoor experiences.

Students will engage in classroom learning and outdoor practice to build competency in areas such as hiking, navigation, outdoor cooking, first aid basics, team-based challenges, shelter concepts (modified for site/school safety), and seasonal recreation opportunities. Emphasis is placed on personal responsibility, environmental respect, and working together to achieve shared goals.

ADST - Props, Effects & Costumes

Have you ever wanted to design your own Halloween costume? Have you wondered how great tv shows and movies create the worlds on screen? If so, this course is for you! In this junior level course, students will have the chance to explore lighting, sound, and various design elements (costumes, makeup, props). Students will leave this course with the understanding, appreciation, and experience of the designer's role and their place in creating a world both on stage and off.

ADST – Textiles

In this introductory course, students will learn the fundamentals of hand and machine sewing to create a basic garment. Depending on time and resources, other textile arts will also be explored. This could include felting, cross-stitch/embroidery, crochet/knitting, weaving, beading, and other skills. Additional modules on fashion design, textile production and/or fabric dyeing, and printing may also be included.

Concert Band

Previous band or private lesson experience required, **or the permission of Mr. Daviel (Jordan.daviel@sd54.bc.ca)**. Concert band members will study instrument techniques and musical literacy and expression in an ensemble setting. Band members will have opportunities to perform at concerts and travel to a music festival in spring.

Concert Choir

Choir members will learn proper breathing and vocal techniques, varied musical performance styles, music literacy, and how to sing independent harmonies. The choir will headline its own concerts with opportunities for solo and small ensemble performances. The choir is well known for its annual winter concert.

Drama

Drama 8 is a semester long course which examines both creative drama and theatre skills. No previous drama experience is required. Focus will be on basic acting techniques including movement, developing vocal and physical skills as well as building theatre terminology. Students will have the opportunity in this course to work on original scene work, scripted scenes and improvisation skills.

Guitar

Guitar classes are available to any SSS students, and it is especially for those new to guitar. In this class, we will focus on essential guitar skills such as reading tablature and playing chords. We will also introduce students to drums, bass, and keyboard.

GRADE 9 PROGRAM

Grade 9 students have a core of required courses and for electives, students have several options.

Grade 9 ADST elective courses are hands-on project-based classes that develop collaborative, problem solving skills across a broad range of subject areas. Projects and focus areas for each Grade 9 ADST elective course are different.

Grade 9 Program Course Overview

- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Physical Health Education
- Science
- Math
- 3 Elective choices

Grade 9 Electives

- ADST – *Art & Design in Action*
- ADST – *Explore, Design & Build*
- ADST – *Outdoor Pursuits*
- ADST – *Props, Effects and Costumes*
- ADST – *Youth Explore Skills (Carpentry & Metals)*
- Concert Band
- Concert Choir
- Drama
- French
- French 10 (FRAL Students)
- Guitar
- Witsuwit'en Language
- Volleyball Academy 9 – extended day

Grade 9 Required Course Descriptions

English

In this course, students continue to develop the skills learned in Grade 8. This course requires a commitment to reading and responding to short stories, novels, poetry, and plays. It is expected students will apply their knowledge of the conventions of the language and use appropriate vocabulary.

Social Studies

The Social Studies 9 course has as its main themes, the development of nation building, democracy, and industrialization. The course focuses on changes that occurred in Europe such as the fight for democracy in England, the French Revolution, the rise of Napoleon, and the Industrial Revolution. The colonization and settlement of Canada is also studied.

Mathematics

The mathematics program is designed to provide all students with the opportunity to progress in achieving their intellectual and career goals. Students should explore course options, keeping their career objective in mind, and what courses they will need to fulfill their goals. It is also stressed that both parents and students maintain contact with the math teacher when concerns or questions arise regarding math placement. Student success in Foundations of Math and Pre-Calculus 10 requires a level of study at Proficient or Extending in Math 9.

Grade 8 - 9 courses deal with the development of the 5 basic strands in mathematics:

- Number and number operations
- Patterns and relations (algebra)
- Shape and space (measurement, geometry, and trigonometry)
- Statistics and probability
- Problem solving

Science

This course broadens the students' study of science. Students learn about the solar system and beyond, basic electricity, basic chemistry, reproduction, and what food is and how chemicals react with each other. Students also continue to develop the skills needed to work in the laboratory, safety, and lab write-ups.

Physical Health Education

P.E. students continue to develop and refine movement patterns and skill development in PE 8. Activity categories are identical to Grade 8. Students will be introduced to the rules, techniques and strategies of sport. Movement principles will be introduced. Continuing to improve physical fitness, physiological and anatomy systems will be emphasized.

Grade 9 Elective Courses

ADST - Art & Design in Action

(Creative & Visual Arts-Focused ADST)

This course focuses on creative expression and visual design through hands-on mixed-media projects. Students develop artistic skills while working with materials such as paper, plaster, wire, glad and simple circuits. Earning may include projects such as paper making, mosaic tile work, paper mache or plaster sculpture, wire art, stained glass, and LED circuit art. Students use the Design Thinking Process to explore ideas, experiment with materials, and create meaningful visual work from concept to completion.

This course is ideal for students who enjoy artmaking, creativity, and exploring different materials in a supportive, hands-on environment.

ADST – Explore, Design & Build

(Construction, Digital & Applied Design-Focused ADST)

This course focuses on applied design and practical skill development. Students learn how to plan, construct, and create both physical and digital projects using tools, technologies, and structures design processes. Learning may include woodworking projects, introductory web design, digital literacy, and entrepreneurship concepts. Students work through the Design Thinking Process to move ideas from concept to functional completion.

This course is ideal for students who enjoy building, problem solving, and working with tools and technology.

ADST – Outdoor Pursuits

This course is an experiential, hands-on course designed to strengthen students' confidence, teamwork, and practical problem-solving skills through outdoor and active learning. Students will explore a range of outdoor activities while developing foundational competencies in safety, leadership, environmental stewardship, and technical skill-building. Participating safely in outdoor activities requires clear communication, effective teamwork, and thoughtful collaboration. Throughout the course, students will practice these interpersonal skills while planning, engaging in, and reflecting on various outdoor experiences.

Students will engage in classroom learning and outdoor practice to build competency in areas such as hiking, navigation, outdoor cooking, first aid basics, team-based challenges, shelter concepts (modified for site/school safety), and seasonal recreation opportunities. Emphasis is placed on personal responsibility, environmental respect, and working together to achieve shared goals.

ADST - Props, Effects & Costumes

Have you ever wanted to design your own Halloween costume? Have you wondered how great tv shows and movies create the worlds on screen? If so, this course is for you! In this junior level course, students will have the chance to explore lighting, sound, and various design elements (costumes, makeup, props). Students will leave this course with the understanding, appreciation, and experience of the designer's role and their place in creating a world both on stage and off.

ADST – Textiles

In this introductory course, students will learn the fundamentals of hand and machine sewing to create a basic garment. Depending on time and resources, other textile arts will also be explored. This could include felting, cross-stitch/embroidery, crochet/knitting, weaving, beading, and other skills. Additional modules on fashion design, textile production and/or fabric dyeing, and printing may also be included.

ADST - Youth Explore Trades Skills (Carpentry & Metalwork Skills)

Youth Explore Trades Skills is an engaging program in which students use hands-on learning to acquire skills and knowledge related to the construction trades, and the manufacturing sector. Through exposure to core skills common to many trades, Youth Explore Trades Skills students will be able to better make informed high school courses and career choice options. In 2026-2027 this course will focus on carpentry and metalwork.

Concert Band

Previous band or private lesson experience required, or the permission of Mr. Daviel (jordan.daviel@sd54.bc.ca). Concert Band members will study instrument techniques and musical literacy and expression in an ensemble setting. Band members will have opportunities to perform at concerts and travel to a music festival in spring.

Concert Choir

Choir members will learn proper breathing and vocal techniques, varied musical performance styles, music literacy, and how to sing independent harmonies. The choir will headline its own concerts with opportunities for solo and small ensemble performances. The choir is well known for its annual formal winter concert.

Drama

Drama 9 is a semester long course which examines both creative drama and theatre skills. Drama 8 is not a prerequisite, and no previous drama experience is required. Focus will be on basic acting techniques including movement, developing vocal and physical skills as well as building theatre terminology. Students will also have the opportunity to work on scripted scenes and improvisation skills.

French 9

In the context of culturally rich thematic units, the teacher supports students along the continuum of French language proficiency. More emphasis is on developing accuracy, mastery of more tenses and grammatical structures to communicate more effectively in different social situations, both in speaking and in writing. Students demonstrate an increasing ability to express their own ideas about some topics beyond themselves (current events/issues, matters of public and community interest) and to resolve problems they might encounter in their daily lives.

Note: French 9-10-11-12 are available flexibly online if a student is unable to fit these classes into their timetable.

French 10

(Pre-requisite FRAL 8 or by teacher recommendation) Through culturally rich thematic units each year, students will progress along the continuum of French language proficiency. While this course focuses on interpersonal listening and speaking, both interpretive (listening, reading) and presentational (speaking, writing) communication are also formally developed and assessed. More emphasis is on developing accuracy, mastery of more tenses and grammatical structures to communicate more effectively in different social situations, both in speaking and in writing. Students demonstrate an increasing ability to express their own ideas about topics beyond themselves (current events/issues, matters of public and community interest) and to resolve problems they might encounter in daily life.

Note: French 9-10-11-12 are available to be offered flexibly online if a student is unable to fit these classes into their timetable.

Guitar

Guitar classes are available to any SSS students, and it is especially for those new to guitar. In this class, we will focus on essential guitar skills such as reading tablature and playing chords. We will also introduce students to drums, bass, and keyboard.

Witsuwit'en Language

In this introductory course to Witsuwit'en language, students will learn to introduce themselves and to use some basic phrases for communication. Vocabulary from a variety of topics such as colours, numbers, animals, foods, emotions, clothing and the weather will also be covered. Some cultural projects and activities fostering language appreciation will be integrated throughout the course.

Note: Grade 9 students choosing to take this course for a second time should be prepared to build on their learning from last year with vocabulary review to extend their learning and some self-directed projects

Volleyball Academy - Extended day

Smithers Secondary Volleyball Academy offers opportunities for Grade 9 and Grade 10 students to develop their volleyball skills in a structured training environment. This yearlong academy will focus on fundamental techniques through drills and gameplay. Athletes will learn and refine the skills of serving, passing, setting, attacking, and blocking while also working towards more advanced tactical skills like court awareness and defensive strategy. Beyond technical abilities, the academy will encourage athletes to cultivate their leadership, discipline, and sportsmanship in a supportive and growth-minded environment.

GRADES 10/11/12 COURSE INFORMATION

English

English First Peoples 10 – (EFP) Writing 10 & New Media 10

At SSS English First Peoples 10 is a combination of two 2 credit courses for all students.

EFP Writing 10 is a 2-credit course designed to develop written communication through a critical process of questioning and exploring. Students will read and study compositions by other writers as models for the development of their writing. Students have opportunities to individually and collaboratively study, create, and write original pieces, exploring audience and purpose. They also develop their craft through processes of drafting, reflecting, and revising.

EFP New Media 10 is a 2-credit course designed to reflect the changing role of technology in today's society and the increasing importance of digital media in communicating and exchanging ideas. Coursework provides students with a set of skills important for success in a digital world by allowing opportunities to demonstrate understanding and communicate ideas through a variety of digital and print media. New Media 10 includes tasks and texts designed to increase literacy within the study of new media.

Senior English 11

PREREQUISITE: STUDENTS MUST HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ENGLISH 10.

GRADE 11 STUDENTS MUST TAKE AT LEAST 1 OF THE FOLLOWING

Literary Studies 11

Literary Studies 11 focuses on reading, enjoying and reflecting on literature. Students in this course will engage in a range of literary works and consider the relevance and/or impacts of these written works. A wide variety of themes, time periods, authors and cultures will be explored. Alongside opportunities to read, reflect, and infer meaning, students will be required to create written work. Writing processes will include making notes, summarizing, literary analysis writing drafts, revising and editing.

New Media 11

New Media focuses on digital means of storytelling and communication including podcasts, film, visual art and oral stories. Students in this course will also explore the changing role of technology in today's society. Coursework provides students with a set of skills important for success in a digital world by allowing opportunities to demonstrate understanding through a variety of digital and print media. Writing processes will include making notes, summarizing, literary analysis, writing drafts, revising and editing.

Please note: At SSS, English 11 courses – Literary Studies 11 and New Media 11 – are combined with English Studies 12 courses. This means learning outcomes from the English 11 Option and the English Studies 12 curriculum are reflected in the course delivery. Grade 11 students are assessed according to Grade 11 performance standards; Grade 12 students are assessed according to Grade 12 performance standards.

Senior English Studies 12 – with a focus in LITERARY STUDIES or a focus in NEW MEDIA

PREREQUISITE: STUDENTS MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE PREVIOUS GRADE

English Studies 12 is a mandatory course which all students must pass in order to graduate. It draws together the learning experiences of 12 years of schooling. English Studies 12 continues to develop and enhance students' appreciation of literature and language. The activities and resources are increasingly more sophisticated and demanding. To excel in this course, students must be willing to commit themselves to meeting the demands of an imposing reading list and a high standard of critical and inferential reading and writing. Higher level achievement will also require a strong mastery of the conventions of language, appropriate vocabulary, and rhetorical strategies.

Please note: At SSS, English Studies 12 is combined with Language Art 11 courses (English 11). This means learning outcomes from the Language Arts 11 Option and the English Studies 12 curriculum are reflected in the course delivery. Grade 12 students are assessed according to Grade 12 performance standards; Grade 11 students are assessed according to Grade 11 performance standards.

Social Studies

Social Studies 10

Social Studies 10 focuses on the development of Canada as a nation between 1815 and 1914. The history and geography of Western Canada, emphasizing British Columbia are studied in detail. The economy of Canada and British Columbia and current events are other topics covered in SS10.

Social Studies 11 & 12 Intro Information

Students must choose 1 of the following courses to fulfil the Social Studies Grad Requirement.

All courses listed below are open to both grade 11 and grade 12 students.

Explorations in Social Studies 11 is recommended prior to taking grade 12 level courses.

Explorations in Social Studies 11

This course meets the Social Studies 11 credit requirement and is a grade 11 credit course. The Explorations in Social Studies offers 5 mini units which provide a sample of the other senior Social Studies courses (BC First Peoples, History, Human Geography, Law and Philosophy) which may help you decide if you want to take additional senior Social Studies credit. This is a great course to earn your social studies credit and have a chance to learn a little bit of the best of all the senior course options.

Genocide Studies 12

This course examines case studies of the international destruction of people and the eradication of their cultures and explores how these movements are not inevitable and can be interrupted and prevented. We will study the use of the term “genocide” to describe historical and contemporary atrocities, exploring the political, legal, social and cultural ramifications of the term and how it is used in politics and the media. The goal of this course is not that students become cynical or desensitized to the monstrous crimes people can commit; instead, the hope is that students will be aware informed, and part of the new generals that will say, “ Never again”.

Law Studies 12

Law 12 deals with the purpose and history of making law. Emphasis on historical information is placed on Canada, its constitution, and various government jurisdictions. The students will also learn about the present-day justice system. Process and substance of the law are taught. The principles that underlie the system of criminal law are also emphasized. Private law such as family, and contract, along with the law of torts is also part of the course. A broad understanding of the knowledge of law enables students to understand the rights, limits and obligations of their own lives inside the legal framework of Canada. It is a good course for those who want to know how Canada’s society functions within legal institutions.

Mathematics

The mathematics program is designed to provide all students with the opportunity to progress in achieving their intellectual, social, human and career goals. Students should explore course options, keeping their career objective in mind, and what courses they will need to fulfill their goals. It is also stressed that both parents and students maintain contact with the math teacher when concerns or questions arise regarding math placement.

Math 10

Workplace Mathematics 10

This pathway is designed to provide students with mathematical understanding and critical thinking skills identified for entry into most trades and for direct entry into the work force. It is not recommended that students switch from the Workplace Mathematics stream to either the Foundations or Pre-Calculus stream. It meets the math requirements for some trades' programs. Students are encouraged to check what math is required for specific programs they may be interested in.

Foundations of Mathematics & Pre-Calculus 10

(Semester & Yearlong options. Yearlong will be combined with CLE)

This pathway is designed to provide students with mathematical understanding and critical-thinking skills identified for post-secondary studies. It is recommended that most students, upon completion of Math 9, should enroll in this course. Student success in Foundations of Math and Pre-Calculus 10 requires a level of study at Proficient or Extending from Math 9. Foundations and Pre-Calculus Math 10 is a suitable prerequisite for all Math 11 options. Students with less than 70% in their mathematics course should consult with their teacher regarding placement for the following year. This course is also offered in a year-long format and will take place during both semesters, allowing for a slower pace of instruction and more time for questions and practice.

Math 11

Workplace Mathematics 11

This course is strongly recommended for students who are planning on entering the workforce directly after high school, or who are planning on pursuing a career in the trades industries. Topics covered may include reasoning, rates of change, measurement, and statistics. This course satisfies the Ministry of Education's mathematics graduation requirements. It meets the math requirements for some trades' programs. Students are encouraged to check what math is required for specific programs they may be interested in.

Pre-Calculus 11

(Semester & Yearlong options. Yearlong will be combined with English 11)

Recommendation: A final grade of 70% or higher in Foundations and Pre-Calculus Mathematics 10 is strongly recommended. Students with less than 70% should consult with their teacher before choosing this course.

This course is strongly recommended for students who are planning on pursuing post-secondary studies in math or sciences. Topics covered may include relations and functions, trigonometry, polynomial functions, and graphing. Students who successfully master the learning outcomes of this course may continue to Pre-Calculus 12 and Calculus 12. This course satisfies the Ministry of Education's mathematics graduation requirements.

The yearlong course will take place during both semesters, allowing for a slower pace of instruction and more time for questions and practice.

Foundations of Mathematics 11

Foundations of Mathematics 11 builds students' mathematical understanding through reasoning, problem solving, and real-world applications. The course explores similar shapes and proportional reasoning, logical thinking and proofs, graphical analysis of linear and quadratic functions, and systems of equations. Students also study optimization, learning how mathematics supports decision-making in situations involving maximums and minimums. In addition, the course develops skills in statistical analysis, helping students collect, interpret, and draw conclusions from data. Topics such as scale models, financial literacy including investments and loans, and applications of mathematics in everyday contexts further support students' ability to think critically and make informed decisions.

Math 12

Pre-Calculus 12

Pre-Calculus 12 is strongly recommended for any student planning on studying in fields related to science, engineering, mathematics or economics. This pathway is designed to provide students with mathematical understanding and critical-thinking skills identified for entry into post-secondary programs that require the study of theoretical calculus. Topics include algebra, measurement, relations and functions, trigonometry, and permutations, combinations and binomial theorem.

****Carefully check the prerequisites for the post-secondary program you wish to take.**

Calculus 12

Primary prerequisite for Calculus 12 is successful completion of Pre-Calculus 12 with a mark of 70% or higher.

Introduces students to the foundational ideas of limits, derivatives, and integrals, emphasizing how these concepts describe change and accumulation in mathematical and real-world contexts. Students explore limits as the basis of calculus, develop an understanding of instantaneous rates of change through differential calculus, and learn how integral calculus is used to determine products involving continuously changing quantities, such as area under a curve and volume of solids. The course builds skills in analyzing functions, applying differentiation and integration techniques, and solving contextual problems involving optimization, motion, and accumulation. Designed to prepare learners for post-secondary mathematics, Calculus 12 strengthens reasoning, modeling, and problem-solving abilities while deepening students' understanding of how derivatives and integrals are interconnected through the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus

Sciences

Science 10

This is the last of the general science courses in secondary school, which study all the major branches of science. In the course students study concepts of ecology, chemistry, motion and energy transfer in the atmosphere. Students also continue to develop the skills needed to work in the laboratory: measuring, recording, etc.

Science 11

Chemistry 11

Recommendation: Demonstrated strength in Chemistry section of Science 10

This is a course which most post-secondary schools require of science students. It builds on the ideas about matter learned in junior science classes. Students will study matter, chemical reactions, atomic theory, solution chemistry, and organic chemistry. Students will need a calculator and should have a good understanding of mathematics and simple algebra. Course work involves labs, assignments, quizzes, and tests. There is a final exam in this course.

Life Sciences 11

Life Sciences 11 (formerly Biology 11) is a hands-on course that covers the taxonomy, history and diversity of life on earth. Topics include cell biology, microbiology, botany, zoology, biodiversity, ecology and evolution. Students should complete Science 10 before taking this course.

Physics 11

Recommendation: Demonstrated strength in Physics section of Science 10

Physics 11 is an introductory course that focuses on how the basic concepts and theories of physics are applied in various technologies and are linked to everyday life. It is an extension of the physics units studied in junior sciences. Students use a combination of hands-on activities and projects to investigate topics such as motion, force, work, energy, light, sound and relativity. Students will need a calculator and should have a good understanding of mathematics and simple algebra. There is a final exam in this course.

Science for Citizens 11

This course is designed to meet graduation requirements and for direct entry into the workforce. Science for Citizens 11 explores the general role that science plays in our everyday lives and practical applications of science. Topics that will be covered may include household chemicals, life sciences (nutrition, allergies, First Aid, etc.) engineering, workplace chemicals (WHMIS) and safety, impacts of technology in the workplace, natural hazards and responses, and human impact on Earth's systems. This is a general study science class intended for students that are seeking to learn practical skills while meeting the grade 11 science requirement for graduation.

Science 12

Anatomy and Physiology 12 (Biology 12)

Recommendation: Grade 11 science or a minimum grade of a B in Science 10.

Anatomy and Physiology 12 is a challenging course that focuses on human biology. Anatomy and Physiology 12 looks at biological molecules, cell biology, DNA and protein synthesis and other cell processes. The second half of the course focuses on the anatomy and physiology of human body systems (digestive, circulatory, respiratory, nervous, excretory and reproductive) and the integration of these systems to maintain homeostasis. This course includes several labs and culminates in a fetal pig dissection. *Biology 11 or Chemistry 11 is highly recommended prior to taking Anatomy and Physiology 12. Recommended prerequisite: Biology 11 (60% or better).*

Chemistry 12

Recommendation: A minimum C+ in Chemistry 11.

This course continues some of the ideas learned in Chemistry 11. Students will study chemical reactions, their rates, and their energy changes. They will also study acid/base, redox, and precipitate reactions, and the nature of how each type of these reactions exist as a reversible dynamic equilibrium. Students will need a calculator. Course work involves labs, assignments, quizzes, and tests.

Physics 12

Recommendation: A minimum C+ in Physics 11 and Math 11

Physics 12 is an advanced course for those who are planning to study science, engineering or medicine at a post-secondary school. The units of study are two-dimensional kinetics (motion) and dynamics (forces), circular motion, gravitation, energy electric circuits and electromagnetism. The emphasis will be on developing problem-solving skills. Concepts will be reinforced through lab activities and demonstrations.

Career Education 10 & 12

Career Life Education 10

This course is a graduation requirement and presents the students with an opportunity to reflect on their skills and interests, exploration of career options, and development of education plans. There is a large focus on personal development through self-assessment and community connections.

Career Life Connections 12

This course is built on learning Career-Life Education and focuses on applying career-life management knowledge, skills, and strategies to the student's own personal life journey and planning for post-graduation. There is development in the following areas: personal career-life development, connections with community and career-life explorations beyond the classroom and future planning. There will be a customized focus on core competencies. Class activities will include reflection strategies, mentorship opportunities, and considering factors that shape identity and career-life choices, as well as personal strategies for sustaining well-being. This course also includes initial post-graduation and the Capstone Project.

Languages/Cultural Studies

French 10

Through culturally rich thematic units each year, students will continue to progress along the continuum of French language proficiency. While this course focuses on interpersonal listening and speaking, both interpretive (listening, reading) and presentational (speaking, writing) communication are also formally developed and assessed. More emphasis is on developing accuracy, mastery of more tenses and grammatical structures to communicate more effectively in different social situations, both in speaking and in writing. Students demonstrate an increasing ability to express their own ideas about some topics beyond themselves (current events/issues, matters of public and community interest) and to resolve problems they might encounter in their daily lives.

French 11

Through culturally rich thematic units each year, students will continue to progress along the continuum of French language proficiency. This course focuses on all three modes of communication: interpersonal listening and speaking; interpretive listening and reading; and presentational speaking and writing. Continued refinement of accuracy in all areas is the focus to communicate more effectively in different social situations. Students will be able to express their own ideas articulately as well as discuss some topics beyond themselves (current events/issues, matters of public and community interest), in increasingly more formal contexts.

French 12

In this continuation from French 11, students develop their language skills – speaking, listening, reading and writing in a wide variety of contexts through culturally rich thematic units. Emphasis is placed upon the correct use of grammar and syntax in speaking and writing French. Students are challenged to express their opinions through discussions. Investigations are based on a variety of authentic publications such as newspaper articles, official documents, literature, and films. Students in French 12 MAY also be offered the opportunity to write a DELF B1 level exam. This certification recognizes basic fluency in the French language and is valid internationally. Preparation for the exam is integrated into the coursework.

Please Note: *French 9, 10, 11, & 12 are available to be offered flexibly online if a student is unable to fit these classes into their timetable.*

Witsuwit'en Language and Culture (Indigenous Studies) 10/11/12 - Self Directed

Students wishing to further their studies in an Indigenous language or cultural practice may propose a self-directed study course based off of Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12 or an ADST 10-12 curriculum. Please see Ms.Lipscombe for more details.

Physical Education

Physical Education is unique in that it is the only curricular area of the secondary school program that addresses both the social and physical development of students. Consistent attendance, effort and approved PE attire will be required as active participation plays a major role in physical education.

Physical Education 10

The aim of the Physical & Health Education 10 curriculum is to enable all students to enhance their quality of life through active living. Through participation in and exposure to a wide variety of activities, students will further develop a healthy lifestyle. Students will also apply efficient movement skills to a variety of activities and begin to apply activity-specific skills towards a strategic advantage in many games and sports. PHE 10 or its equivalent is a graduation requirement. PHE 10 has four components: Physical Literacy, Healthy and Active Living, Social and Community Health, and Mental Well-being. Students will have opportunities to set goals, improve skills and fitness, exhibit leadership, and gain a greater understanding of the components of fitness and the impact that physical activity has on mental and social wellness.

Active Living 11 (PE 11)

This course fully explores the skills and strategies involved in a wide variety of indoor and outdoor pursuits. A co-ed program involving all activity categories as well as strength training, plyometrics with emphasis placed on sport training and life-long fitness skills. Participation and effort are emphasized as well as leadership, sportsmanship and a positive attitude towards self, others, and sport.

Active Living 12 (PE 12)

The focus of PE 12 is to provide students with a wide variety of recreational and physically active experiences. The intent is to teach the knowledge, the physical and social skills that students need to move on to an active, healthy lifestyle. A co-ed program involving all activity categories as well as strength training, plyometrics and emphasis placed on sport training and life-long fitness skills. Participation and effort are emphasized as well as leadership, sportsmanship and a positive attitude towards self, others, and sport.

Canadian Sports School 10/11/12

Delivered in partnership with School District 54, it offers student athletes and para-athletes on a high-performance pathway in grades 10- 12 an opportunity to balance their academic course load and dry-land strength and conditioning training in a structured, yet flexible environment. Offered in Smithers, dedicated student athletes on their high-performance pathway attend their regular classes for half the day and attend the Canadian Sport School – Smithers, at Smithers Secondary, in the other half to complete personalized strength and conditioning training and academic course work, including sport sciences, learning the habits of a high-performance athlete, with the supervision of trained specialists and qualified teachers.

All CSS-Smithers student-athletes receive approved credits for their time spent during the Sport School block to ensure graduation requirements stay on track (16 credits). This helps relieve the academic workload for those athletes that travel for big portions of the school year. For the rest of the athletes, this provides time during the day to augment training during school time in order to dedicate time after school for practice/games, homework and adequate rest. Students wishing to participate in the CSS-Smithers are required to complete the application process. Applications can be found on the Smithers Secondary School website.

Volleyball Academy Peer Tutoring 11/12

Smithers Secondary Volleyball Academy offers opportunities for Grade 9 and Grade 10 students to develop their volleyball skills in a structured training environment. This yearlong academy will focus on fundamental techniques through drills and gameplay. Athletes will learn and refine the skills of serving, passing, setting, attacking, and blocking while also working towards more advanced tactical skills like court awareness and defensive strategy.

*Grade 11 and 12 students can apply for a Peer Tutoring Role in this Volleyball Academy. Grade 11/12 Peer Tutors will be working to develop their leadership and coaching skills while supporting the academy.

Arts Education

Visual Arts

Art Studio 10

This course opens the student up to a working studio environment. Students may choose to continue in a materials-exploration program with teacher-delivered projects or develop their own focus or specialization with regards to mediums, themes or concepts. We continue to increase individual confidence in creativity through skill-development and expression. Students can be advanced or beginner level. Topics in historical and contemporary art development will also be discussed and explored.

Art Studio 11

This course builds upon the experience of immersion in a working studio environment. Students may choose to continue in a materials-exploration program with teacher-delivered projects or develop their own focus or specialization with regards to medium including drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking etc. Students continue to increase individual confidence in creativity through skill-development and expression and introduce advanced techniques. Accountability expectations increase. Students can be advanced or beginner level. Topics in historical and contemporary art development will also be discussed and explored.

Art Studio 12

This course expands further upon the experience of immersion in a working studio environment. Students may choose to continue in a materials-exploration program with teacher-delivered projects or develop their own medium focus or specialization (drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, installation) or through select themes or subject matter. Advanced techniques and processes are available. We continue to increase individual maturity and confidence in creativity through skill-development and expression and prepare the student for continued art practice beyond high school. Accountability expectations increase. Students can be advanced or beginner level. Topics in historical and contemporary art development will also be discussed and explored.

Creative Construct and Design 10/11/12

An adaptation of the standard Carpentry course, this course offers a creative fusion of art and trade, of expression and building, seeking to explore the intersections of creative design and practical applications. With an emphasis on, but not limited to, 3-D hands-on wood-based projects, it will help to cultivate the mindset required to expand design ideas into a pathway for personal inquiry and self-direction as well. Working with the parameters of physical materials, we will broaden the approach for fantastically creative conceptual design. Clay and pottery are another featured medium.

Photography 11, open to Gr. 10

Photography 11 is an introduction to digital photography and a primer in visual literacy. You will learn how to use a camera as an artistic tool, how to use manual settings to achieve effects, and how to apply time-tested composition and design principles to produce dynamic, compelling images!

Digital editing with Photoshop is a major component of this course. You'll learn how to perform basic image corrections as well as more advanced and creative techniques including restoring old photographs, creating 3-D images, photo collages, and "truth-altered" scenes.

Photography 12

Photo 12 allows students to pursue topics of interest to them in depth. In consultation with the instructor, students establish their own learning goals. Past courses have included specializations in select genres (fashion, landscape, wildlife, portraiture, sports, etc.) post-secondary portfolio preparation, and significant skill development in Adobe Photoshop. Students who select this course should be self-motivated and open to exploring photo career possibilities. Time and project management skills are emphasized in this course.

Theatre

Drama 10/11/12

This course uses drama skills to improve scene work and develop a deeper understanding of character and ensemble work. Although previous experience is not a prerequisite, it is desirable. Students in this course will work on enhancing their vocal and physical skills as well as:

- character motivation and objectives
- interpreting scripts
- original scene work
- staging scripted scenes
- monologues
- improvisation
- theatrical styles and theatre terminology
- method and acting techniques

Directing & Script Writing 10/11/12

Students choosing this course will be introduced to various scriptwriting and directing techniques to produce their own original work. Students will be expected to create and produce one comedy scene, as well as one short (15-20 minute) original play. Student plays will be produced as part of our class work (both as a radio play workshop and a staged production) and have the option to be presented at the 2027 Northwest Drama Zones, performing in Smithers. Students will also have the option to submit their work as part of the BC Provincial Youthwright competition.

Theatre Company 10/11/12

Pre-Req: One class of Drama Grade 8-12

The goal of Theatre Company 10-12 is for the collective to perform a two-act play, performed in Smithers. Productions may be taking various forms (comedy, musical, classical, etc.) While the primary role of the student is in being on stage, students will also gain insight into the production process and may be asked to participate in various capacities to assist in the creation of their production.

Students who are interest in the technical aspects of theatre (light, sound, costumes, etc.) are encouraged to enroll in Theatre Design 10-12.

Theatre Design 10/11/12

In this course, students will gain an understanding of onstage storytelling. Students will have opportunities to focus on fashion/costume design, makeup, set design, or sound/light as part of their work. Students will also explore how these elements contribute to the creation of a story on stage.

Music

Concert Choir 10/11/12

Choir members will learn proper breathing and vocal techniques, varied musical performance styles, music literacy, and how to sing independent harmonies. The choir will headline its own concerts with opportunities for solo and small ensemble performances. The choir is well known for its annual formal winter concert.

Guitar 10/11/12

Guitar classes are available to any SSS students, and it is especially for those new to guitar. In this class, we will focus on essential guitar skills such as reading tablature and playing chords. We will also introduce students to drums, bass, and keyboard.

Jazz Band 10/11/12

Previous band or private lesson experience required. Band members will perform difficult music with an emphasis on improvisation. The Senior Jazz Band will have the opportunity to headline its own dance concert. By participating in both Concert and Jazz bands, students are provided the opportunity to play a second instrument if they wish. Drummers, bassists, guitarists, and pianists not enrolled in Concert Band but wanting to join Jazz Band should email Mr. Daviel at jordan.daviel@sd54.bc.ca to arrange an audition.

Concert Band 10/11/12

Previous band or private lesson experience required. Band members will be challenged with difficult music in varied styles. Ensemble focus will move from basic techniques to nuanced and detailed techniques of control and expression. Band members will have opportunities to perform at concerts and travel to a music festival in spring.

Culinary Arts

Culinary Arts 10

This course covers safety and sanitation, kitchen tools, measurement techniques, comparison of ingredients, preparation of healthy dishes and meals, methods of cooking, nutrition and healthy eating, social, economic, and cultural influences, as well as career opportunities. Classes are run based on mutual respect, teamwork, trust, and responsibility. The course is made up of both lab work and theory. Course evaluation is based on written assignments, tests, and practical work.

Culinary Arts 11

This course covers safety and sanitation, kitchen basics, food preparation techniques, nutrition and healthy eating, social, economic, and cultural influences, as well as career opportunities. Classes are run based on mutual respect, teamwork, trust, and responsibility. The course is made up of both lab work and theory. Course evaluation is based on written assignments, tests, and practical work.

Culinary Arts 12

In this course students will continue to expand their knowledge of safety and sanitation, a wide variety of food preparation techniques and equipment, adapting and creating recipes, preparation of healthy meals on a budget, nutrition and healthy eating, social, economic, and cultural influences, as well as career opportunities and prerequisites. Classes are run based on mutual respect, teamwork, trust, and responsibility. The course is made up of both lab work and theory. Course evaluation is based on written assignments, tests, and practical work.

Information Technology (ADST)

Computer Studies 10

Students will earn credit for Computer Studies 10, with a strong focus on an Introduction to Computer Programming. Some topics include computational thinking, algorithm design, variables, scriptwriting vs. compiling programs, data storage, and program structure. Other topics include hardware/software maintenance, computer security, networking, and operating system use.

Recommendation: This course requires mathematical-type thinking; it is recommended that students be at the Math 9 “Applying” level.

Computer Programming 11

Recommendation: Successful completion of Foundations and Pre-Calculus Math 10

This course introduces students to the fundamental topics of Computer Programming through projects. Some topics include program design, code structures, inline commenting, pre-built libraries, and test cases. The course will use Python and/or C#, but the concepts can be applied to any language. Students will create both text-based programs and simple 2D games.

Computer Programming: 12

Recommendation: Completion of Computer Programming 11, or experience with its content and strength in mathematics.

This course teaches students more advanced concepts of Computer Programming and will also be based on programming projects. Some topics include program design, advanced programming structures (functions, methods, classes), documentation, collaboration tools, interface design, debugging, error handling, and pre-built data structures. The course will use Python and/or C#, but the concepts can be applied to any language. Students will create both text-based programs and 2D games.

Modern Technologies 10/11/12

This ADST course explores how modern technologies shape the way we live, learn and work. Students investigate core technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and automation while examining the role of media, information systems, and digital platforms in society. Through inquiry, discussion and hands on exploration, students analyze how technology is designed, how it influences behaviour and decision-making, and what responsibilities come with its use. This course is best suited for students who are curious about technology, enjoy problem solving, and like learning by designing and experimenting with technology to understand how modern systems work.

Digital Media Technology

Media Design 10

Media Design 10 is an introduction to digital design and media literacy. Students will explore 2D Graphics, 3D Graphics, Audio Design, Stop- Motion Video, Flash Animation, and Web Design. Come and explore your digital creativity!

Media Design 11

Media Design 11 is an exploration of digital design and media literacy. Students will explore 2D Graphics, 3D Graphics, Audio Design, Stop-Motion Video, Flash Animation, and Web Design. Come and explore your digital creativity!

Media Design 12

This course is a directed study on Media Design topics negotiated by students and instructors. In consultation with the instructor, students establish their own learning goals. Past courses have included advanced flash-based web design, animation, digital photography, computer illustration and video production. Students who select this course should be self-motivated and open to exploring Digital Arts career possibilities. Time and project management skills are emphasized.

ADST (Applied, Design, Skill & Technology)

ADST – Stained Glass & Silversmithing 10/11/12

This senior-level course emphasizes design thinking, craftsmanship, and material exploration. Students develop foundational skills in silversmithing, stained glass, and woodworking, learning how materials behave, and how processes influence design. Through guided practice and independent projects, students will combine multiple disciplines into thoughtfully designed, functional, and artistic creations, building confidence in planning, prototyping, and refining their work.

ADST - Metalwork, Woodwork & Power Mechanics 10/11/12

Metalwork Component

The metal work component is designed for students of all experience levels to develop skills in metalworking, machining, and fabrication. Using a hands-on approach, students will learn safe operation of tools and equipment, including welding, cutting, forging, and precision machining. Beginners will build foundational skills through guided projects, while experienced students can take on more complex, self-directed work. The course covers essential metalworking techniques such as arc and gas welding, lathe work, milling, sheet metal and bench fitting. With a strong emphasis on safety, creativity, and craftsmanship, students will design and construct high-quality projects, preparing them for further study or careers in metal fabrication and manufacturing.

Woodwork Component

This component welcomes students of all experience levels to explore the art and skill of woodworking. Using a well-equipped shop, students will develop hands-on proficiency with both hand and machine tools while emphasizing safety, problem-solving, and creative design. Beginners will build foundational skills through guided projects, while experienced students can take on more advanced, self-directed work such as furniture making. The course covers essential woodworking techniques, including cutting, shaping, joining, and finishing, using tools like saws, lathes, planers, and sanders. With a focus on craftsmanship and innovation, students will design and construct high-quality projects, enhancing their technical abilities and creative thinking.

Power Mechanics Component

In this hands-on **introduction**, students will learn some basics of power mechanics, adapting to the experience and interests of the class. Students will explore the operation, maintenance, and repair of small engines and mechanical systems, gaining practical skills in tool use, diagnostics, and troubleshooting. Core topics include engine theory, fuel and ignition systems, drivetrain components, and mechanical safety procedures. A key component of the course is

the required tear-down and rebuild of a Briggs & Stratton 950 Series engine, allowing students to develop a deep understanding of engine function and mechanical precision. Depending on the class composition, additional projects may include more advanced repairs and modifications. With an emphasis on problem-solving and safe workshop practices, this course provides a strong foundation for further studies in automotive and mechanical trades.

Other SSS 10 – 12 Courses

Junior Fire Crew 12

This dual credit Program is offered by the BC Wildfire Service. Students receive training in Forest Fire Fighting core level modules from Industry experts. There are additional certificates that are required if students choose to apply for one of the 4 positions that are available annually at the local Telkwa Base. Students are encouraged to apply independently once the training is completed. Depending on the year and the grants available, students may be required to pay for their First Aid, WHMIS and Bear Aware Certificates. These certificates are not required to receive high school credit (4) for the JFC training modules. The certificates are only required if the student wants to meet the requirements when applying for the 4 Summer positions.

Interdisciplinary Studies 10/11/12

Interdisciplinary Studies is a combination of academic courses required for graduation. This is an immersive course and fills 3 to 6 blocks in students' 8 block schedule. Interdisciplinary Studies combine the skills required for different subjects and disciplines and learn to solve problems, make decisions, create personal meaning and present findings belong the scope of a single subject or discipline. In addition to specific course content, students examine their own learning styles, related their inquiries and research to real life situations, and investigate career opportunities in new disciplines. Students also have many opportunities to go on a field trip and to work with the same group of peers throughout the year.

TRADES-DUAL CREDIT (Grade 11/12)

CMTN -Smithers Semester 2

Carpentry Foundations

Carpentry Foundations introduce students to the core competencies required in the construction and building trades. Students develop practical skills related to hand and power tools, construction safety, measurement, blueprint reading, and basic framing techniques. Delivered in partnership with Coast Mountain College in Terrace, this program supports students who are considering a future in carpentry, construction, or related trades. The course emphasizes workplace expectations, technical skill development, and industry awareness.

This course is best suited for students who are motivated, reliable, and comfortable working in hands-on, practical learning environments. Admission to this program requires completion of a School District 54 Career Programs application and a successful interview prior to acceptance.

CMTN -Terrace Sept-Apr

Automotive Technician Foundations (Sept–Apr)

Automotive Technician Foundations introduce students to the fundamentals of automotive systems, maintenance, and repair. Students explore shop safety, tools, diagnostic processes, and basic mechanical systems while developing an understanding of industry standards and career pathways in the automotive trades. Delivered in partnership with Coast Mountain College in Terrace, this course supports students considering further post-secondary training or apprenticeship opportunities in automotive service and repair.

This course is best suited to students who enjoy mechanical problem-solving, hands-on work, and learning how complex systems function in a shop-based setting. Admission to this program requires completion of a School District 54 Career Programs application and a successful interview prior to acceptance.

Hairstylist Foundations (Sept–May)

Hairstylist Foundations introduces students to the skills, knowledge, and professional expectations of the hairstyling industry. Students explore basic cutting, styling, client service, sanitation, and safety practices within a salon environment. Offered through Coast Mountain College in Terrace, this program supports students interested in cosmetology and personal service careers. The program emphasizes professionalism, communication skills, and industry readiness alongside technical skill development.

This course is well suited to students who enjoy creative, people-focused work and who are prepared for the responsibilities and structure of a post-secondary learning environment. Admission to this program requires completion of a School District 54 Career Programs application and a successful interview prior to acceptance.

Heavy Duty Mechanical Technician Foundations (Sept–May)

This full-year program introduces students to the fundamentals of heavy-duty equipment maintenance and repair. Students explore mechanical systems, shop safety, tools, and diagnostic processes used in industries such as transportation, construction, and resource development. Delivered in Terrace through Coast Mountain College, this program is designed for students who are interested in working with large equipment and mechanical systems. The extended September–May schedule reflects the depth and pace of the program and mirrors post-secondary training expectations.

This course is best suited for students who are committed, hands-on learners, and who are considering careers in mechanical or industrial trade. Admission to this program requires completion of a School District 54 Career Programs application and a successful interview prior to acceptance.

Professional Cook Level 1 (Sept–Apr)

Professional Cook Level 1 introduces students to the fundamentals of the culinary arts, including kitchen safety, food preparation techniques, basic cooking methods, and professional kitchen operations. Students develop an understanding of industry expectations, teamwork, and time management within a commercial food service environment. Offered through Coast Mountain College in Terrace, this program supports students interested in culinary, hospitality, or food service careers and provides a foundation for further training in the professional cooking field.

This course is well suited to students who enjoy working in fast-paced environments, are interested in food and hospitality, and are prepared for the structure and expectations of a professional kitchen. Admission to this program requires completion of a School District 54 Career Programs application and a successful interview prior to acceptance

Welding Foundations (Sept–Apr)

Welding Foundations introduces students to the core skills and knowledge required for entry into welding and metal fabrication trades. Students explore shop safety, tools and equipment, materials, and foundational welding processes while developing an understanding of industry standards and workplace expectations. Delivered in partnership with Coast Mountain College in Terrace, the course supports students who are interested in pursuing welding, fabrication, or related industrial trades through further post-secondary training or apprenticeship pathways.

This course is best suited to students who enjoy hands-on, precision-based work, are comfortable following safety procedures, and are interested in developing practical skills in a shop environment. Admission to this program requires completion of a School District 54 Career Programs application and a successful interview prior to acceptance

CMTN -Terrace

Electrical Foundations (Semester 2)

Electrical Foundations provide students with an introduction to the electrical trade, including basic electrical theory, safety practices, tools, and industry standards. Students gain experience with fundamental electrical systems and components while learning about workplace expectations and career pathways in the electrical field. Offered in partnership with Coast Mountain College in Terrace, this course is intended for students who are interested in pursuing electrical apprenticeship training or further post-secondary education in the trades.

Students considering this program should demonstrate strong attendance, a willingness to follow safety procedures, and an interest in technical problem-solving. Admission to this program requires completion of a School District 54 Career Programs application and a successful interview prior to acceptance

UNIVERSITY CREDIT (DUAL-CREDIT) OFFERINGS

Graphic Design (SFU Online)

This dual credit course introduces students to the foundations of graphic design, including visual communication, design principles, digital media tools, and creative problem-solving. Delivered in partnership with the School of Interactive Arts and Technology (SIAT), Simon Fraser University, the course emphasizes design thinking, visual literacy, and professional workflows used in creative industries. Students develop foundational skills that support further study in design, media, or creative technologies.

This course is best suited to students who are creative, detail-oriented, and interested in visual communication, digital tools, and design-based careers. Admission to this program requires completion of a School District 54 Career Programs application.

Game Design and Development (SFU Online)

This dual credit course introduces students to the core concepts behind game design and development, including interactive systems, player experience, basic development processes, and collaborative project work. Offered through SIAT at Simon Fraser University, the course emphasizes creative thinking, problem-solving, and an understanding of how games are designed and built across digital platforms.

This course is well suited to students who are interested in games, interactive media, technology, and creative collaboration, and who are prepared for project-based learning. Admission to this program requires completion of a School District 54 Career Programs application.

CMTN -Smithers

Business Communications

Business Communication focuses on developing effective written, verbal, and digital communication skills used in professional and organizational settings. Offered in partnership with Coast Mountain College in Smithers, this dual credit course emphasizes clarity, professionalism, collaboration, and workplace expectations and supports students exploring business, entrepreneurship, or management-related pathways.

This course is well suited to students who are organized, self-directed, and interested in building transferable communication skills for the workplace. Admission to this program requires completion of a School District 54 Career Programs application

Business Computers

Business Computers introduces students to the use of computer applications commonly used in business and office environments, with a focus on productivity, data management, and professional document creation. Delivered through Coast Mountain College in Smithers, the course supports students pursuing business, administrative, or technology-related pathways while emphasizing efficiency, accuracy, and responsible use of digital tools.

This course is appropriate for students who are comfortable working with technology and interested in developing practical, job-ready digital skills. Admission to this program requires completion of a School District 54 Career Programs application

Financial Accounting I

Financial Accounting I introduces students to the fundamentals of accounting, including recording financial transactions, preparing basic financial statements, and understanding how financial information is used in business decision-making. Offered in partnership with Coast Mountain College in Smithers, this dual credit course provides a strong foundation for students considering further studies in business, accounting, or finance.

This course is best suited to students who are detail-oriented, organized, and comfortable working with numbers and structured processes. Admission to this program requires completion of a School District 54 Career Programs application.

Introduction to Management

Introduction to Management explores the role of management within organizations, including planning, organizing, leading, and decision-making. Students examine how organizations function, and how effective leadership and management practices support workplace success.

This course is well suited to students who are interested in leadership, teamwork, and understanding how organizations operate. Admission to this program requires completion of a School District 54 Career Programs application.

Microeconomics

This dual credit course introduces students to fundamental economic concepts related to individual and business decision-making, including supply and demand, markets, consumer behavior, and resource allocation. Delivered in partnership with Coast Mountain College in Smithers, the course helps students develop an understanding of how economic forces influence everyday choices and business activity.

This course is best suited to students who enjoy analyzing real-world issues, working with concepts and models, and thinking critically about how decisions are made. Admission to this program requires completion of a School District 54 Career Programs application.