



**ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE**  
HOME OF THE KNIGHTS SINCE 1960

# Course Programming Guide

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For Junior Students and their Parents

## INTRODUCTION

This Course Selection Handbook is intended for our junior students and their parents. When choosing courses, there are three factors which must be considered and are included in this handbook. They are as follows:

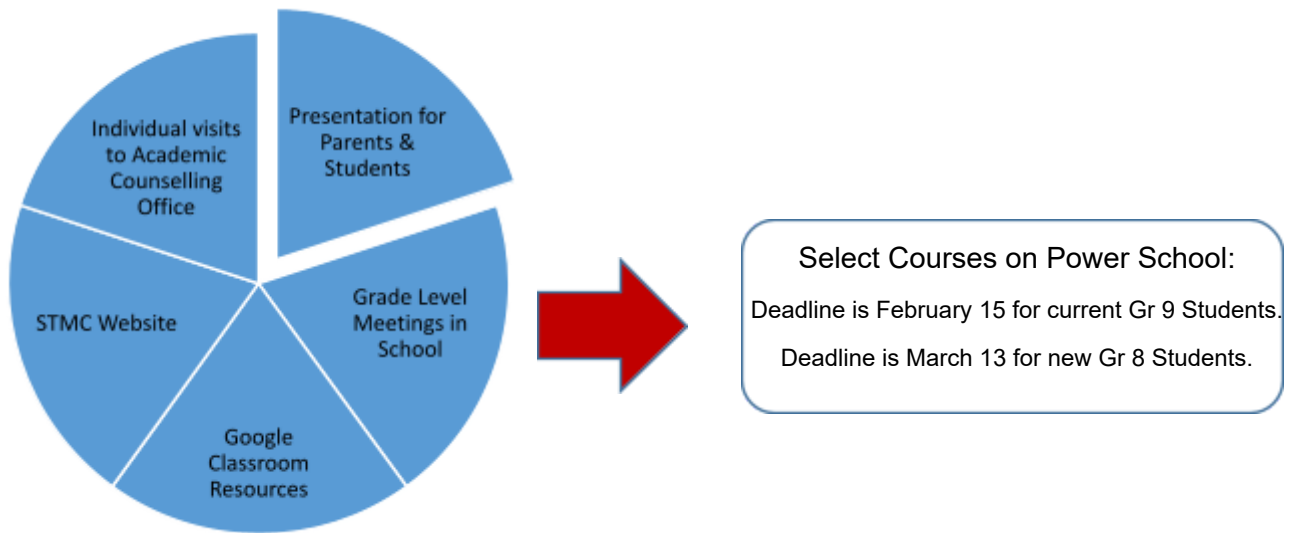
1. The **requirements for graduation** as outlined by the Ministry of Education
2. **STMC's own graduation requirements** and course offerings
3. The realities of the **student's academic strengths and abilities**. (I.e., their report card)

Information on B.C. graduation requirements can be found through the link below. Please note this document does not show the new graduation requirement that includes at least 4 credits of Indigenous focused coursework.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/support/graduation/graduation-policy-guide.pdf>

### COURSE SELECTION: THE PROCESS AT STMC

There are many supports in place to aid students and parents in the Course selection process at STMC. First, the Academic Counselors visit all of the grade 8 & 9 classes prior to course selection to review course options, course descriptions and the course selection process. In addition, parent information sessions are scheduled during the month of February to help guide students & parents through the process.



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## CONTACT INFORMATION for the Academic Counselors

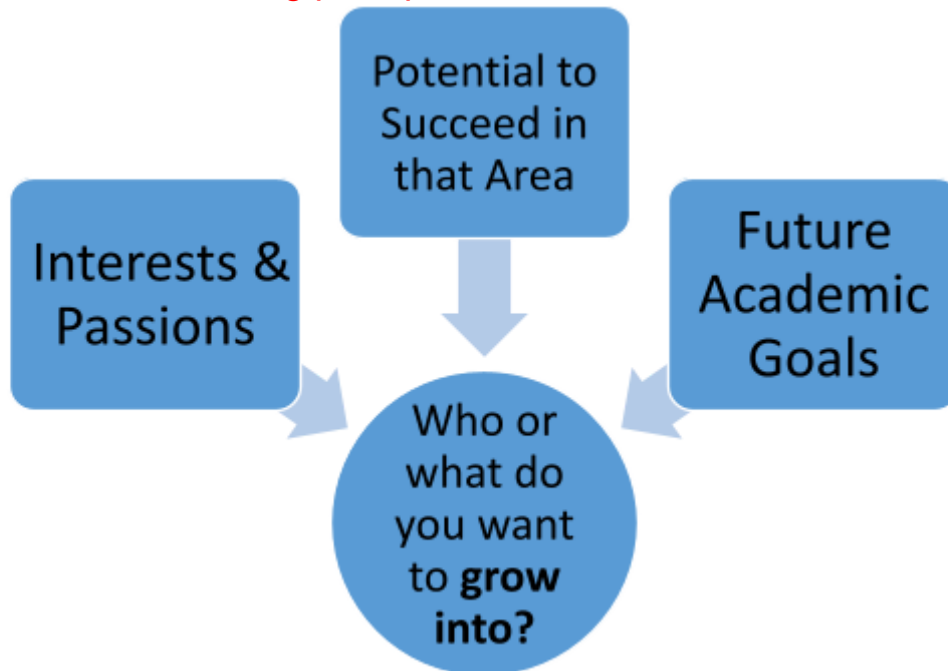
Counsellor	E-mail	Phone
Mr. Spanjers	<a href="mailto:john.spanjers@stmc.bc.ca">john.spanjers@stmc.bc.ca</a>	604-521-1801 Ext 2115
Mr. Bouwman	<a href="mailto:hank.bouwman@stmc.bc.ca">hank.bouwman@stmc.bc.ca</a>	604-521-1801 Ext 2119

### PLEASE NOTE:

Detailed descriptions for all courses offered can also be found on the **STMC Website under Programs/Academics/Departments.**

<https://stthomasmorecollegiate.ca/programs/academics/>

### Guiding principles in course selection



### Where to begin?

1. Following the course selection sessions in class, students are encouraged to discuss these options with their parents. Although course options are limited in junior grades, these courses will prepare students for additional course options in subsequent years.
2. Even though students may not be considering summer school or distance learning this year, this is often a question posed to the Academic Counselors. At STMC, students are encouraged to use the summer to develop 'non-academic' skills, enjoy a brain-break and spend time with family. Our STMC students easily meet the graduation requirements and are adequately prepared for post-secondary. **It is highly discouraged to take summer courses or distance learning courses. Additionally, STMC has an external courses policy which impacts which courses are available to students in the summer.** (see page 19 for further details)

# How to Select Courses on PowerSchool

## Course Request Guide

It is quick and easy to request your courses for the upcoming year at STMC with our online Class Registration System. Before starting this process, however, be sure you have decided on the courses you would like to take. Carefully consider your options and objectives for the upcoming school year, and consult with an Academic Counsellor if you have any questions or concerns.

### Requesting your courses:

1. Login to your STMC PowerSchool Web Portal at <https://ps.stmc.bc.ca/public/home.html>. Look for the 'Class Registration' link in the left column:



Welcome to the St. Thomas More Collegiate Class Registration System for 2020-2021 School Year

Please review your Course Selection Handbook prior to making selections on this page: [Review the STMC 2020-2021 Course Selection Page](#)


Note that Re-Registration for the 2020-21 School Year must be completed ONLINE by March 3rd, 2020.

Your online registration credentials: Student Number: **220000** Registration Code: **12345678**

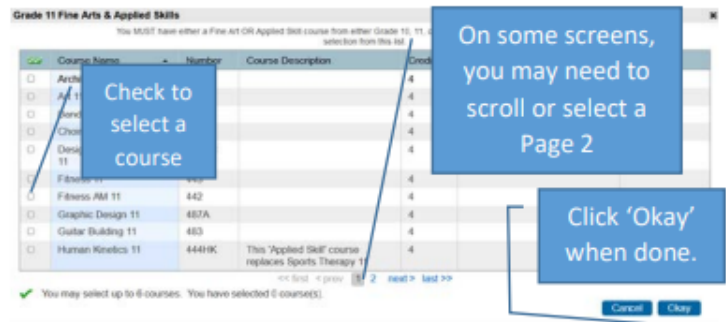
[Login To The STMC Registration Site](#)

Grade 11 Required Courses	Language 11	Mathematics 11	Library Studies 11	Physical Education 11
All Grade 11 students must take these courses	400 - 4 credits	401 - 4 credits	402 - 4 credits	403 - 4 credits
Number of requests to generate: 11				

2. The 'Class Registration' window will open with options that are customized for each Grade Level and Student. The 'Required Courses' on the top line will be automatically selected.

3. On all lines below the 'Required Courses' line, click the 'Pencil' icon  to open the selection options screen:

4. When you are finished selecting courses, be sure to click 'Submit' in the bottom right corner of the window:



5. Please contact the STMC IT Department if you have any problems accessing or using the Online Course Selection System.

## Grade 8

Grade 8 students will take the following required core courses and will select from the electives.

Grade 8	
<b>Required Courses</b>	
Career Education 8* ( <i>See below</i> )	Core French 8 **
English Language Arts 8	Mathematics 8
Physical & Health Education 8	Religion 8
Science 8	Social Studies 8
<b>Elective Courses (on schedule)</b>	
Information Technology 8 (ADST-IT) (1/3 year)	Drama 8 (1/3 year)
Materials Engineering 8 (1/3 year)	Visual Arts 8 (1/3 year)
Music: Choir 8	Music: Band 8
<b>Elective Courses (off schedule and by audition)</b>	
Music: Chamber Choir 8	Music: Vocal Jazz 8
Music: Jazz Band 8	

\**Career Education 8: This 4-credit course is a ministry graduation requirement. The course content will be covered through an integrated delivery model.*

\*\* *Students who have a language exemption in their IEP can be enrolled in Learning Strategies 8. This enrollment is done through the Learning Resources Centre (LRC) and cannot be selected through PowerSchool. Please contact Ms. McClary or Ms. Borthistle in the LRC for more information.*

## Elective Selections:

### Two Options:

#### 1. Select Music (Band) Or Music (Choir) for the full year

- Students who would like to participate in both, can meet with the teachers and rotate between the two classes. However, on PowerSchool, you must select one.

**OR**

#### 2. Select three out of the four remaining options: ADST-IT, Drama, Materials Engineering, and Visual Arts

- Students will spend one-third of the year in each of the three options
- Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that you will be placed in all of your first choice selections.

Chamber Choir, Vocal Jazz, and Jazz Band are off timetable courses (taught before or after school). Admission to these courses is by **audition ONLY**. Students **MUST** be enrolled already in the on-timetable full-year Band or Choir Elective. Please contact the Choir Director, Mr. Lui, or the Band Director, Ms. MacLellan, for more information about auditions.



# ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE

HOME OF THE KNIGHTS SINCE 1960

## Course Selection Sheet Grade 8 – 2023/2024

### Directions:

1. This is a worksheet only.
2. Please consult the [Course Selection](#) information posted on the website, including the Jr. Course Programming guide.
3. Please visit the [STMC Grades 8-12 Academics](#) pages to see full course descriptions.
4. Course selection should be entered online using PowerSchool. Parents and students should work together to select courses. Selections are considered to have parent approval.
5. Please see Mr. Bouwman or Mr. Spanjers if you have any course selection questions. See Mr. Olson if you are experiencing difficulties registering for courses using PowerSchool.
6. The **deadline** for course selections to be entered into PowerSchool is **Mar 13 for Gr. 8.**
7. **Note:** Students are admitted into accelerated mathematics courses through the Head of Department (HOD) as part of a formal review process. Please see the course descriptions on our STMC Academics pages of our school website. Teacher and Administration approval will be given *after* course selection is complete.

### A. Pre-selected courses:

- ✓ Career Education 8 (offered via an integrated delivery model)
- ✓ English Language Arts 8
- ✓ Core French 8\*\*
- ✓ Mathematics 8 / \*\*\*Mathematics 8/9
- ✓ Physical & Health Education 8
- ✓ Religion 8
- ✓ Science 8
- ✓ Social Studies 8

[\*\*Students with an IEP that require a Learning Strategies block are Language exempted]

### B. Select either 1 of the following Elective Courses:

**Band 8 and Choir 8 classes are FULL YEAR courses and cannot be taken along with other electives.**

- Band 8 (Full-Year Elective)
- Choir 8 (Full-Year Elective)

**OR**

### Select 3 of the following Elective Courses:

**The following classes are 1/3 Year Elective courses.**

- Materials Engineering 8 (1/3 Year Elective)
- Drama 8 (1/3 Year Elective)
- Visual Art 8 (1/3 Year Elective)
- ADST:IT 8 (1/3 Year Elective)

**Outside of Timetable Elective Courses – *These auditioned courses will run before OR after school.***

Admission to the following courses is by **audition** ONLY. Students MUST be enrolled already in the on-timetable full-year Band or Choir Elective.

- Chamber Choir 8
- Jazz Band 8
- Vocal Jazz 8

Please contact the Choir Director, Mr. Lui ([johnson.lui@stmc.bc.ca](mailto:johnson.lui@stmc.bc.ca)), or the Band Director, Ms. MacLellan ([christin.maclellan@stmc.bc.ca](mailto:christin.maclellan@stmc.bc.ca)) for more information about auditions for these programs.

**C. Admission into Accelerated Courses:**

**\*\*\*Mathematics 8/9** - Beginning September 2023, STMC will offer a new course, Mathematics 8/9. This course will have limited enrollment of 25-30 students, and it is intended for students who have consistently performed at the Extending level in Math 7 and would like to accelerate their high school math program. Mathematics 8/9 is designed to accelerate students through Mathematics 8 and Mathematics 9 in one year. At the end of the course, students will be prepared to enter Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-Calculus 10.

Incoming Grade 8 students may be granted admission into Mathematics 8/9 by earning a proficiency level of **Extending** on the *Mathematics 8/9 Enrollment Exam*. An **Extending** result looks beyond rote memorization and basic problem-solving to evidence of a deeper and sophisticated understanding. Please note there is NOT an enriched mathematics 8 program.

More information about the program can be found [here](#).

The Mathematics 8/9 Enrollment Exam is scheduled for Tuesday May 9, 2023 at 3pm. Please email Ms. Cameron, our Mathematics HOD ([erica.cameron@stmc.bc.ca](mailto:erica.cameron@stmc.bc.ca)), for exam information and registration details.

**Senior Level Core French** - Incoming Grade 8 students coming from French Immersion programs may be granted admission into a Senior Level French course using a combination of the following criteria:

1. Recommendation of Grade 7 French Immersion teacher
2. Grade 8 French Challenge Exam Final Mark

The French Challenge Exam is OPEN TO IMMERSION STUDENTS ONLY. It is scheduled for Thursday May 11, 2023 @ 3PM. Please email Ms. Ransom, our French HOD, ([karryn.ransom@stmc.bc.ca](mailto:karryn.ransom@stmc.bc.ca)), for exam information and registration details.

## Course Descriptions

### **Career Education 8**

A person's career is considered their "journey" through life, and the Career Education curriculum offers students the opportunity to pursue this journey in personally meaningful and goal-oriented ways. In this course, students will focus on goal-setting, career research and planning, local and global needs and opportunities, mentorship, volunteering, digital citizenship, and workplace safety.

[Career Education 8: BC Curriculum Document](#)

### **English Language Arts 8**

The emphasis in this course is on student enjoyment of literature, critical thinking, communication skills, reading and writing. Students will develop an appreciation of literature, and an understanding of literary devices and techniques. To that end, students will read from a variety of genres, including short stories, novels, poems, essays and non-fiction prose. Students will also read three independent novels—one novel per term. Students will choose these titles themselves to encourage reading as an enjoyable activity, as well as working on reading fluency and comprehension. Sentence structure and style are emphasized, as are inquiry research techniques, formal academic paragraph writing and creative writing. The course will prepare students for public speaking, to enter the school speech contest, and will also cover issues surrounding modern communication media and Digital Citizenship.

[English Language Arts 8: BC Curriculum Document](#)

### **Mathematics 8**

BC's redesigned curriculum is centered on the core competencies of communication, thinking, and personal & social skills. Mathematics 8 is designed to help students develop these competencies through daily group work in which students have opportunities to make their thinking visible. Additionally, Mathematics 8 is centered on curricular competencies that are designed to build numeracy and mathematical thinking. The following curricular competencies are the center of all mathematics courses: reasoning and analyzing, understanding and solving, communicating and representing, and connecting and reflecting. The big ideas of Mathematics 8 include: number sense, computational fluency, linear relations, shape and space, and data analysis.

[Mathematics 8: BC Curriculum Document](#)

### **Mathematics 8/9**

Mathematics 9 Accelerated [or Mathematics 8/9] focuses on the four major core competencies of reasoning and analyzing, understanding and solving, communicating and representing, and connecting and reflecting. The big ideas of Mathematics 9 include: number, patterns and relations, spatial sense, and statistics and probability. Students will also cover essential prerequisite topics from Mathematics 8. Special attention is paid to operations with rational numbers and exponents. Algebra continues with linear equations and an introduction to polynomials. Students also study the symmetry and proportional relationships of 2D objects, and further their study of data analysis, collection, and reliability. At the end of this course, students are prepared for Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-calculus 10. Placement Mathematics 9 Accelerated [or Mathematics 8/9] is contingent on a successful assessment, recommendation from the student's grade 7 Math teacher, and approval from STMC's Mathematics Department Head.

[More information about Mathematics 8/9](#)

[Mathematics 9: BC Curriculum Document](#)



## **Physical and Health Education 8**

There will be a variety of units throughout the school year that will allow students to work towards the learning standards and promote lifelong physical activity and healthy living.

The learning standards for Physical & Health Education 8 include:

- Develop and demonstrate safety, fair play, and leadership in physical activities
- Develop, refine, and apply fundamental movement skills in a variety of physical activities and environments
- Assess factors that influence healthy choices and their potential health effects

[Physical and Health Education 8: Curriculum Document](#)

## **Religion 8**

Religion 8 serves as a foundation for our Catholic community with a focus on the basic overview of the Old Testament and God's covenant relationship with us. Students will also learn about the life and charism of Blessed Edmund Rice and the Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education. In addition, an introduction to prayer, the sacraments, the liturgy and Theology of the body will be covered in this course.

## **Science 8**

Science 8 explores the branches of biology, chemistry, physics and earth science. Students will investigate life processes at the cellular level, the behaviour of matter explained through kinetic molecular theory and atomic theory, the transfer of energy as both a particle and a wave, and the theory of plate tectonics. Opportunities will be presented for students to question and predict, plan and conduct, process and analyze, apply and innovate, evaluate, and communicate as they apply core competencies to topics within each branch.

[Science 8: BC Curriculum Document](#)

## **Social Studies 8**

Social Studies 8 is a very exciting course in which students study World Civilizations, with an emphasis on comparative analysis of civilizations from the Fall of Rome to the Age of Exploration. Students examine ancient civilizations, the role of religion, the nature of social and political organization (such as feudalism); basic economic systems and forms of exchange; the impact of science and technology on political, economic, and social structures and periods of significant cultural achievement. Throughout the course, students also develop skills which are essential to the study of people and places over time: identifying and clarifying a problem, issue, or inquiry; gathering, organizing, and interpreting information from a variety of sources, including print and non-print; assessing a variety of positions on controversial issues; preparing and delivering written, oral and graphic presentations; developing library and research skills and working cooperatively.

[Social Studies 8: BC Curriculum Document](#)

## **Core French 8**

**Prerequisite:** French 7

Students learn to communicate in authentic communication contexts. The basic elements of French grammar are introduced as a means to facilitate communication. Students learn to express themselves using complete sentences in predominantly present timeframes. Reading, writing, listening and speaking activities will focus on vocabulary and structures used to express preferences, emotions, opinions and physical states. Learners will also explore Francophone communities to appreciate other cultures, as well as their own.

[Core French 8: BC Curriculum Document](#)

## **Learning Strategies 8**

*This course is only open to students with an IEP. Enrollment in this course is done by permission of the Learning Resource Centre. Please contact the LRC Coordinator for more information.*

This course has been designed to help meet the academic, social and emotional needs of students who need support to learn in the classroom. Students in this course may be working towards Individual Education Plan goals, or may demonstrate a need for a learning support program to reach their education goals. This course provides direct instruction in effective learning skills and strategies that are needed to become independent, successful learners and teaches students the skills to develop their executive functioning and self advocacy skills.

Students in this course benefit from a structured class to receive direct instruction and support to develop and retain learning and study skills and to help them reach their goals. Students work with a teacher who will monitor their progress and provide instruction and feedback on developing IEP goals, executive functioning, self advocacy and learning strategies taught in this course and help support the generalization of these skills across their other courses.

## **Electives**

### **Information Technology 8 (ADST-IT 8)**

At STMC, the Applied Design, Science, and Technology (ADST) 8 single-semester course offering focuses on developing technology-centric skills that will make learning easier and improve their overall abilities. Instead of focusing on technical details, IT 8 concentrates on how to use technologies and any related benefits or concerns. Depending on the unit, students can expect learning through both projects and research/discussion. Evaluation is designed to encourage students to bring concepts learned in class into their daily practices. Unit of study include, computer security, passwords and authentication, keyboarding proficiency, introduction to Javascript programming, cable/connector identification, computer components, basic Windows platform troubleshooting, and introduction to Windows and Android/ChromeOS file systems.

### **Drama 8**

This one-term course is an introduction to acting with theatre games, improvisations, playbuilding, and an emphasis on the development of movement and vocal skills. The term begins with a focus on movement. Students work in groups to create a series of tableaux based on traditional stories from around the world. Next, students work on their vocal skills - particularly, volume and articulation. The class reads Dr. Seuss' groundbreaking book, The Lorax, and students work in small groups to bring to life the book's tongue-twisting text and important environmental message. In the last part of the term, students create and perform one-act plays about environmental issues they feel passionate about. Through the study of acting and storytelling, students are encouraged to develop their creative, critical thinking, communication and collaborative skills, while engaging in fun and meaningful activities and projects.

### **Visual Arts 8**

Art 8 provides students with an introduction to Visual Arts at a secondary level. In Art 8, students will use a variety of art media, which include graphite, ink, charcoal, pencil crayon, collage material and water colour paint. Students will complete sketchbook activities and drawing tutorials that reinforce the skills and techniques learned in the classroom and modeled in the studio. The students will engage in an extensive study of the visual Elements of Art and Design. These elements are line, colour, form, space, shape, texture, value and tone. The focus on Art 8 is to have fun and learn about Visual Art.

## **Materials Engineering 8**

The aim of the work completed in this course is to provide a foundation level of knowledge, practical, and design communication skills needed to develop in the subject area. Students are set tasks that are built out of a design problem and brief. The course encourages students to iterate and work through the practical project(s) with a design thinking narrative. While working through the practical component of the project students gain, and develop their skill base with hand tools, power tools, and fixed machinery. Accuracy, and the highest of standards of finish are always encouraged. In addition to this, students experience soldering during the manufacturing stage and identification of simple electronic components. In addition to the traditional manufacturing elements. We have facilities to incorporate computer aided design and manufacture. During the development of the students' project, some elements can be manufactured via laser cutting and/or CNC routing. It is important for students to be exposed to this method of design and to utilize the technology available to ensure a high level of precision and outcome.

## **Music: Band 8**

This full year course is designed for Grade 8's who are interested in playing in a concert band setting. This on the timetable course allows students the opportunity to learn basic music theory, history, and performance skills on an approved concert band instrument. During the course of the year students will rehearse, perform, and take part in clinics and workshops. Students are required to rent their own instrument for this course. Prior musical training is not required for this class.

## **Music: Chamber Choir 8** *(off schedule; AM)*

This is an auditioned choir. Students must be registered in the concert choir program to be eligible for this course. Emphasis will be placed on performing challenging choral music from a wide variety of cultures, genres, and periods. In addition to our Christmas and Spring music nights, the chamber singers will perform at various festivals throughout the lower mainland. Opening and remembrance mass, the STMC open house, the elementary recruitment tour, as well as a number of different performance engagements that come up throughout the course of the year.

## **Music: Choir 8**

This year-long course explores choral music from a wide variety of cultures, genres, and periods through study and performance. Emphasis will be placed on developing the complete musicianship of each student through instruction on basic vocal technique, sight-reading skills, and introductory music theory. In addition to our Christmas and spring music nights, all choir students will have the opportunity to perform at music festivals, school masses and services, and are eligible to go on the STMC music trips.

## **Music: Vocal Jazz 8** *(off schedule; AM)*

This is an auditioned ensemble open to all students in grades 9 to 12 with previous singing experience. Incoming Grade 8 students may audition on their elementary choir director's recommendation. Students must also be in the Concert Choir program in order to register for this course. Students will study and perform a variety of vocal jazz music in many different styles at an advanced level. Emphasis will be placed on developing the complete musicianship of each student through performance. All students will learn advanced healthy vocal production techniques appropriate for choral and solo singing.

**Music: Jazz Band 8** (*off schedule; AM*)

This full year course will meet regularly off the timetable. This group is open to all students who are currently enrolled in a concert band program. Students will be instructed in basic areas of Jazz theory, listening, Jazz history, composition, Jazz improvisation, and performance in the Jazz style.

Students must either be enrolled in a concert band program or have the permission of the Band Director to be eligible to take this course. All students must audition to be eligible for this class. They will be placed in either Jazz Band A or B dependent on their audition.

[Arts Education: BC Curriculum Document](#)

[ADST 8: BC Curriculum Document](#)

## Grade 9

Grade 9 students will take the following required core courses and will select from the electives.

Grade 9	
Required Courses	
Career Education 9* ( <i>See below</i> )	Core French 9**
English Language Arts 9	Mathematics 9
Physical & Health Education 9	Religion 9
Science 9	Social Studies 9
Elective Courses (on schedule)	
Information Technology 9 (ADST-IT) ( $\frac{1}{3}$ year)	Drama 9 ( $\frac{1}{3}$ year)
Materials Engineering 9 ( $\frac{1}{3}$ year)	Visual Arts 9 ( $\frac{1}{3}$ year)
Music: Choir 9	Music: Band 9
Elective Courses (off timetable and by audition)	
Music: Chamber Choir 9	Music: Vocal Jazz 9
Music: Jazz Band 9	

\*Career Education 9: This 4-credit course is a ministry graduation requirement. The course content will be covered through an integrated delivery model.

\*\* Students who have a language exemption in their IEP can be enrolled in Learning Strategies 9. This selection is done in consultation with the Learning Resources Centre.

## Elective Selections:

### Two Options:

#### 1. Select Music (Band) Or Music (Choir) for the full year

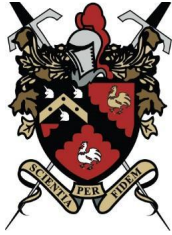
- Students who would like to participate in both, can meet with the teachers and rotate between the two classes. However, on PowerSchool, you must select one.

**OR**

#### 2. Select three out of the four remaining options: Drama, Information Technology (ADST-IT), Materials Engineering, and Visual Arts

- you will spend one-third of the year in each of the three options
- Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that you will be placed in all of your first choice selections.

Chamber Choir, Vocal Jazz, and Jazz Band are off timetable courses (taught before or after school). Admission to these courses is by **audition ONLY**. Students **MUST** be enrolled already in the on-timetable full-year Band or Choir Elective. Please contact the Choir Director, Mr. Lui, or the Band Director, Ms. MacLellan, for more information about auditions.



# ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE

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## Course Selection Sheet Grade 9 – 2023/2024

### **Directions:**

1. **This is a worksheet only.**
2. Please consult the [Course Selection](#) information posted on the website, including the Jr. Course Programming guide.
3. Please visit the [STMC Grades 8-12 Academics](#) pages to see full course descriptions.
4. Course selection should be entered online using PowerSchool. Parents and students should work together to select courses. Selections are considered to have parent approval.
5. Please see Mr. Bouwman or Mr. Spanjers if you have any course selection questions. See Mr. Olson if you are experiencing difficulties registering for courses using PowerSchool.
6. The **deadline** for course selections to be entered into PowerSchool is **February 15, 2023.**
7. Check the boxes of the courses you wish to take after consulting with your Academic Counselor, your classroom teachers and your parents.

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### **A. Pre-selected courses:**

- ✓ *Career Education 9 (offered via an integrated delivery model)*
- ✓ English Language Arts 9
- ✓ Core French 9\*\*
- ✓ Mathematics 9
- ✓ Physical & Health Education 9
- ✓ Religion 9
- ✓ Science 9
- ✓ Social Studies 9

[\*\*Students with an IEP that require a Learning Strategies block are Language exempted]

### **B. Select an Elective Offering:**

**OPTION 1: *Band 9 and Choir 9 classes are FULL YEAR courses and cannot be taken along with other electives.*** If a student has NOT taken Band 8 or Choir 8 they MUST seek permission from

Ms. MacLellan (Band 9) or Mr. Lui (Choir 9) before enrolling in these courses.

- Choir 9 (Full-Year Elective)
- Band 9 (Full-Year Elective)

**OR**

**OPTION 2: Select 3 of the following Elective Courses:**

***The following classes are 1/3 Year Elective courses.***

- ADST:IT 9 (1/3 Year Elective)
- Drama 9 (1/3 Year Elective)
- Visual Arts 9 (1/3 Year Elective)
- Materials Engineering 9 (1/3 Year Elective)

**C. Outside of Timetable Elective Courses – These auditioned courses will run before OR after school.**

Admission to the following courses is by **audition** ONLY. Students MUST be enrolled already in the on-timetable full-year Band or Choir Elective.

- Chamber Choir 9
- Vocal Jazz 9
- Jazz Band 9

Please contact the Choir Director, Mr. Lui ([johnson.lui@stmc.bc.ca](mailto:johnson.lui@stmc.bc.ca)), or the Band Director, Ms. MacLellan ([christin.maclellan@stmc.bc.ca](mailto:christin.maclellan@stmc.bc.ca)) for more information about auditions for these programs.

**D. Accelerated Courses:**

- ~~Mathematics 9 Enriched~~ - This course is no longer being offered. Enrichment will be available to all students and integrated into the Mathematics 9 course.

**Courses available to those currently taking Mathematics 8/9:**

- Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-Calculus 10 (Prerequisite: Mathematics 9)
- Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-Calculus 10 Enriched (Prerequisite: Mathematics 8/9 or HOD approval)
  
- Students currently taking Core French 9, 10, or 11, will enroll in the next Core French course.

**OVERVIEW:**

All students enrolled in:	<input type="checkbox"/> Career Education 9 <input type="checkbox"/> English Language Arts 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Physical & Health Education 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Religion 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Science 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Social Studies 9	
Mathematics (choose 1):	<input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics 9	<i>If currently taking a Mathematics 9 course:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Foundations of Math & Pre-Calculus 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Foundations of Math & Pre-Calculus Enriched 10
Language or Learning Strategies (choose 1):	<input type="checkbox"/> Core French 9 <i>Or if currently in Learning Strategies 8</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Strategies 9	<i>If currently taking Core French 9, 10, or 11</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Core French 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Core French 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Core French 12
ADST or Arts Education (choose 1):	Full-year electives <input type="checkbox"/> Choir 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Band 9	$\frac{1}{3}$ year electives (pick 3) <input type="checkbox"/> ADST:IT 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Drama 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Arts 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Materials Engineering 9
Off Timetable:	<i>By audition:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Chamber Choir 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Vocal Jazz 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Jazz Band 9	

## Course Descriptions

### Career Education 9

A person's career is considered their "journey" through life, and the Career Education curriculum offers students the opportunity to pursue this journey in personally meaningful and goal-oriented ways. In this course, students will focus on goal-setting, career research and planning, local and global needs and opportunities, mentorship, volunteering, digital citizenship, and workplace safety.

[Career Education 9: BC Curriculum Document](#)

### English Language Arts 9

The grade 9 English course will emphasize a comprehensive wide-ranging approach to the provincial curriculum. Short stories, a novel, Shakespearean drama, and poetry will be the platforms for skill development. Students will also read three independent novels—one novel per term. Students will choose these titles themselves to encourage reading as an enjoyable activity, as well as working on reading fluency and comprehension. The skills of analysis, reading comprehension, writing, and speaking and inquiry research will be emphasized during the year. These skills will be highlighted through formal single and multi-paragraph composition writing, literary analysis, creative writing, and analysis of modern communication media (Media Literacy), Digital Citizenship, formal and informal presentations, self and peer-editing, and public speaking. The course is structured to maintain a balance between individual work and group work with the primary focus of evaluation on individual students' development of language skills and usage.

[English 9: BC Curriculum Document](#)

### Mathematics 9

Mathematics 9 builds on the competencies developed in Mathematics 8 in the areas of reasoning and analyzing, understanding and solving, communicating and representing, and connecting and reflecting. The big ideas of Mathematics 9 include: number, patterns and relations, spatial sense, and statistics and probability. Special attention is paid to operations with rational numbers and exponents. Algebra continues with linear equations and an introduction to polynomials. Students also study the symmetry and proportional relationships of 2D objects, and further their study of data analysis, collection, and reliability. The prerequisite for this course is the successful completion of Mathematics 8. At the end of this course, students are prepared for Workplace Mathematics 10 and/or Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-calculus 10.

[Mathematics 9: BC Curriculum Document](#)

**Please note that Mathematics 9 Enriched will no longer be offered in the 2023-24 school year. Instead, enrichment activities will be incorporated throughout Mathematics 9 and available to all students.**

### Physical and Health Education 9

There will be a variety of units throughout the school year that will allow students to work towards the learning standards and promote lifelong physical activity and healthy living.

The learning standards for Physical & Health Education 9 include:

- Develop and demonstrate safety, fair play, and leadership in physical activities
- Develop, refine, and apply fundamental movement skills in a variety of physical activities and environments
- Assess factors that influence healthy choices and their potential health effects

[Physical and Health Education 9: BC Curriculum Document](#)



## **Religion 9**

Religion 9 is a study of the New Testament with a special focus on Jesus as a person, his position as the son of God, how he was called, his discipleship and his mission. The course covers Jesus and the Mystical Body, the Sacraments, the Eucharist and the Liturgical Year.

Several main units of study are involved in this course and they are principally focused on the key events of Jesus' life and the central themes that are found in the gospels. The other major component of the course is how we as individuals fit in with the teachings of Jesus, prayer life, the sacraments, the liturgy and Theology of the body.

## **Science 9**

Big ideas in Science 9 include ideas from biology, chemistry, physics, and Earth science and prepare students for senior science courses. Concepts include asexual and sexual cellular reproduction, the anatomy of the atom, and how ions form, naming and writing chemical formulas, understanding simple circuits and Ohm's law, and how energy flow and matter cycling connects the living and nonliving parts of the Earth's four spheres: the atmosphere, biosphere, geosphere, and hydrosphere. Students will gain proficiency in the core competencies of questioning and predicting, planning and conducting, processing and analyzing, applying and innovating, evaluating, and communicating through each of these big ideas in the course.

[Science 9: BC Curriculum Document](#)

## **Social Studies 9**

This course covers the period from 1750 to 1919. The four BIG IDEAS include emerging ideas and ideologies, the effects of the physical environment on different aspects of society, problems that result from disparities in power, and how a peoples' collective identity can change over time. In keeping with these themes, Socials 9 students will learn about different types of revolution, the effect of imperialism on indigenous people, global demographic shifts, nationalism, discrimination, global and regional conflicts, and the different physical features of Canada.

[Social Studies 9: BC Curriculum Document](#)

## **Core French 9**

**Prerequisite:** Core French 8

French 9 continues to offer authentic communicative tasks and explore cultural practices in Francophone regions. A variety of text types are used to increase comprehension and vocabulary. Students begin to have meaningful conversations in French, using structures relating to situational dialogues. The program introduces the use of past tense to open up students' capacity to read, write, listen and speak in French.

[Core French 9: BC Curriculum Document](#)

## **Learning Strategies 9**

*This course is only open to students currently in the program or by permission of the LRC.*

This course has been designed to help meet the academic, social and emotional needs of students who need support to learn in the classroom. Students in this course may be working towards Individual Education Plan goals, or may demonstrate a need for a learning support program to reach their education goals. This course provides direct instruction in effective learning skills and strategies that are needed to become independent, successful learners and teaches students the skills to develop their executive functioning and self advocacy skills.

Students in this course benefit from a structured class to receive direct instruction and support to develop and retain learning and study skills and to help them reach their goals. Students work with a teacher who will monitor their progress and provide instruction and feedback on developing IEP goals, executive functioning, self advocacy and learning strategies taught in this course and help support the generalization of these skills across their other courses.

# Electives

## Information Technology 9 (ADST-IT 9)

IT 9 continues to examine themes from IT 8 with slightly more technical focus and depth, adding underlying concepts that pave the way for Technology Explorations 10 and programming courses in later years. Students are also introduced to novel upcoming technologies that carry important societal implications such as cryptocurrency and digital identification. Javascript programming fundamentals are strengthened from IT 8, although students will be able to achieve success even if they have not taken the previous course. Unit topics include, computer security, passwords and authentication, cryptocurrency and blockchain technology, keyboarding proficiency, javascript programming with HTML/CSS interactions, computer components and system building, providing technology support, introduction to OSX and Linux, introduction to networking, implications of deep learning and neural networks.

## Drama 9

This one-term course continues the work begun in Drama 8 with more theatre games, improvisations, playbuilding; and a continued emphasis on the development of movement and vocal skills. Students create and perform silent movies and learn how to communicate a story through the use of physical movements, gestures and facial expressions - without the use of voice. Next, students work on their vocal skills by writing and performing short radio commercials designed to sell a product or service. In the last part of the term, students collaborate in groups to create a one-act play that explores a social issue or challenge that is relevant to their lives. Students will also participate in a workshop on unarmed stage combat given by a qualified guest fight director. The workshop will cover the basic techniques needed to create a safe and effective fight for the stage.

## Visual Arts 9

Art 9 allows students to expand upon the visual art styles and methods studied and work towards mastering the art media they were introduced to in Art 8. Students will complete sketchbook activities and drawing tutorials that reinforce the skills and techniques learned in the classroom and modeled in the studio. Students engage in an intensive study of the visual Principles of Art and Design: balance, movement, rhythm, contrast, emphasis, pattern & unity. The focus of Art 9 is to have fun and develop confidence using various art media.

## Materials Engineering 9

Materials Engineering 9 explores the use of polymers, timbers, engineered boards and electronics. The course develops students skills and ability to work through a problem using the design cycle via design thinking. Taught elements are exploring users and user contexts,, properties and uses of materials, product analysis, design context analysis, circular economy,, design communication techniques and methods, modeling and prototyping, plan of manufacture, computer aided design and manufacturing, analog and digital electronics, and trial and testing. The aim is to expose students to as many manufacturing factors used in the design, industrial, and manufacturing industry today, with the students developing the above elements through practical projects. They will be able to develop what they have experienced and learnt in grade 8, or, if new to the course, develop new skills as they work through the projects. Making is at the core of the course with the students spending the majority of lessons manufacturing.

**Music: Band 9**

This on the time table, full year course is designed to further the musical development within a concert band setting for students in Grade 9 and 10. Students will be instructed in areas of music theory, listening, music history, and musical performance in various musical styles. Students will also have the opportunity to perform at our annual Christmas and Spring music nights as well as various festival performances around the lower mainland. Ensembles will receive professional feedback through adjudications and clinics over the course of the year to aid in the musical development. **Students are required to rent their own instrument for this course.** Students must either have completed Grade 8 band or have permission of the Band Director to be eligible to take this course. This course is a co-requisite for Jazz Band.

**Music: Chamber Choir 9** *(off schedule; AM)*

This is an auditioned choir. Students must be registered in the concert choir program to be eligible for this course. Emphasis will be placed on performing challenging choral music from a wide variety of cultures, genres, and periods. In addition to our Christmas and Spring music nights, the chamber singers will perform at various festivals throughout the lower mainland. Opening and remembrance mass, the STMC open house, the elementary recruitment tour, as well as a number of different performance engagements that come up throughout the course of the year.

**Music: Choir 9** This yearlong course explores choral music from a wide variety of cultures, genres, and periods through study and performance. Emphasis will be placed on developing the complete musicianship of each student through instruction on basic vocal technique, sight-reading skills, and music theory. In addition to our Christmas and Spring music nights, all choir students will have the opportunity to perform at music festivals, school masses and services, and are eligible to go on the STMC music trips.

**Music: Vocal Jazz 9** *(off schedule; AM)*

This is an auditioned ensemble open to all students in grades 9 to 12 with previous singing experience. Incoming Grade 8 students may audition on their elementary choir director's recommendation. Students must also be in the Concert Choir program in order to register for this course. Students will study and perform a variety of vocal jazz music in many different styles at an advanced level. Emphasis will be placed on developing the complete musicianship of each student through performance. All students will learn advanced healthy vocal production techniques appropriate for choral and solo singing.

**Music: Jazz Band 9** *(off schedule; AM)*

This full year course will meet regularly off the timetable every Monday and Friday morning, as well as Wednesday at lunch. This group is open to all students who are currently enrolled in a concert band program. Students will be instructed in basic areas of Jazz theory, listening, Jazz history, composition, Jazz improvisation, and performance in the Jazz style. Students must either be enrolled in a concert band program or have the permission of the Band Director to be eligible to take this course. All students must audition to be eligible for this class. They will be placed in either Jazz Band A or B dependent on their audition.

[ADST 9: BC Curriculum Document](#)

[Arts Education 9: BC Curriculum Document](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions and Other things to consider:

### Math Enrichment Option: How can I enroll in enriched math classes?

Incoming Grade 8 students may be granted admission into Mathematics 8/9 by earning a proficiency level of **Extending** on the *Mathematics 8/9 Enrollment Exam*. An **Extending** result looks beyond rote memorization and basic problem-solving to evidence of a deeper and sophisticated understanding. Please note there is NOT an enriched mathematics 8 program. More information about the program can be found [here](#).

### \*\*\*Courses available to those currently taking Mathematics 9:

- Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-Calculus 10 (Prerequisite: Mathematics 9)
- Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-Calculus 10 Enriched (Prerequisite: HOD approval)
- Students currently taking Core French 9, 10, or 11, will enroll in the next Core French course

**(See the Grade 9 Course Selection Worksheet for more information)**

### Can I take both a Music Elective and one of the other elective courses?

Unfortunately not. Students select one of the two options: either a full-year music program or a rotation between three of the four remaining electives.

### Do I need to take a Second Language course?

You do not **need** a Second Language (ie French) to graduate, however, the vast majority of our students continue to take French to at least grade 11. Why?

1. We live in a bilingual country. French is a great asset to have on your transcript/resume.
2. **You need Core French 11** to enter UBC or SFU (most universities) directly from high school. Although many colleges do not require a second language, taking French 11 keeps more options open.
3. To graduate from UBC with an degree Arts, you need French 12 or its university equivalent. This requirement is unique to UBC.

**Please Note:** Students who have a language exemption in their IEP can submit documentation to many universities to also exempt the second-language entrance requirement (notable exception is UBC). Any student can-by-pass the French 11 university requirement by attending college first for 2 years before applying to university.

### Should I take Summer School courses?

Although grade 8 & 9 students don't take Summer School, this is often a question students ask. Students must consider:

- The courses are demanding work and students give up a good portion of their summer. Students attend classes for 4 hours a day for 6 weeks (*in addition, they can count on several hours of daily homework*).
- Students learn more over a school year than over the summer. Students who have taken a summer course that is prerequisite for another senior course, often seem unprepared. As a result, their marks suffer accordingly.
- The summer represents an excellent time to recharge batteries and enhance your resume and Personal Profile by developing new skills, working in the greater community, or volunteering. Post-secondary institutions (i.e., UBC) and scholarship committees are looking at those experiences when making their admission and scholarship decisions.
- Some Universities may penalize you for taking courses during the summer.
- **STUDENTS CAN FOLLOW A VERY COMPETITIVE, RIGOROUS SCHEDULE WITHOUT TAKING SUMMER COURSES.**

**NOTE:** Some universities, such as University of Waterloo, **will deduct 5%** of your final grade for those courses taken within the summer or through distance education. This could impact your admission qualifications.

**Please also note the new EXTERNAL COURSE POLICY that impacts summer school enrolment.**

*For your information:*

Our new [External Course Policy](#) puts into place for the 2023-24 school year much clearer guidelines for students who want to take courses that are offered in the summer, outside of STMC, or online. The most significant change is that students will no longer be able to take courses that are required for graduation in British Columbia outside of STMC. STMC is committed to student success and excellence and we are also committed to students staying on track to graduate. While external courses can provide opportunities not offered at STMC, we have found that, in the context of our higher level and more specialized courses, they do not match the depth and breadth of what is offered.

*For your action:*

Please see the attached information slide show and linked video for more detailed information.

[External Course Policy Video Walkthrough](#)

## Looking Ahead: Graduation Program Requirements for the BC Ministry and STMC

To graduate from the province of BC, every student in the Graduation Program has to pass certain required courses in their grade 10, 11 and 12 years. Students must also successfully complete Religion 10, 11 and 12 to graduate from STMC.

SUBJECT AREA	Credits
<b>REQUIRED CREDITS</b>	
Career Life Education (CLE)	4
Career Life Connections A and B	4
Literary Studies 10 & Composition 10 (English 10)	4
English First Peoples Literary Studies & Writing 11 (English 11) <i>this course meeting the Indigenous Focused Coursework requirement</i>	4
English Studies 12	4
a Mathematics 10	4
a Mathematics 11	4
an Arts Education and/or Applied Design, Skills, & Technology 10, 11 or 12	4
Social Studies 10	4
a Social Studies 11 or 12	4
Science 10	4
a Science 11 or 12	4
Physical & Health Education 10	4
<b>Total Required Course Credits</b>	<b>52 credits</b>
<b>ELECTIVE CREDITS</b>	
Students must earn at least 28 elective credits from Grade 10-12 courses.	
<b>THESE REQUIRED STMC COURSES ALL COUNT as ELECTIVES</b>	
Religion 10	4
Religion 11	4
Religion 12	4
<b>ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES</b> At least one of these additional electives must be a grade 12 course.	16
<b>Total Required Elective Credits</b>	<b>28 credits</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL:</b>	<b>80 credits</b>

Students on the current Graduation Program must also successfully complete three **Graduation Assessments**, written in grade 10 and 12.

- Numeracy Assessment 10** (*Assessing* the ability, willingness, and perseverance to interpret and apply mathematical understanding to solve problems in situations, and to analyze these solutions)
- Literacy Assessment 10 and 12** (*Analyzing and Making Meaning* from Texts, Communication and Understanding of Texts/Making Personal Connections)