



# GRADE 9 COURSE SELECTION GUIDE

YALE SECONDARY SCHOOL

2025/2026

COURSE PLANNING

# GRADE 9 PROGRAM:

Grade 9 students must take 8 classes during the regular day. There are 5 required courses and 3 elective courses. Students need to choose a Fine Arts elective AND an Applied Skills elective.

## **Career Education 9**

This course is a required course. You will not choose this course as one of your requests, it will be assigned to you. It will show on your grade 9 timetable as outside of the ordinary day but will not need to be attended during out of school hours. Career Education will be incorporated into the regular school day and is not offered as a separate course.

## **Required Courses:**

English Language Arts 9.....	2
Social Studies 9 .....	2
Math 9 or Workplace Math 9 .....	3
Science 9.....	3
Physical Education 9 .....	4

## **Fine Arts:**

Art 9 .....	6
Drama 9 .....	6
Guitar 9 .....	6
Musical Theatre 9 .....	6

## **Applied Skills:**

Food Studies 9 .....	4
Introduction to Computers 9.....	4
Metalwork 9 .....	4
Textiles 9.....	5
Woodwork 9 .....	5
Women in Tech 9 .....	5

## **Languages:**

French 9 .....	7
Spanish 9 .....	7

## **Other Electives:**

Student Leadership 9 .....	8
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## **Extended day:**

Concert Band 9 .....	8
Jazz Band 9 .....	8
Concert Choir 9.....	8

# ***ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS***

## **English 9**

Language is fundamental to thinking, learning, and communicating in all cultures. As students come to understand and use language more fully, they are able to enjoy the benefits and pleasures of language in all its forms. The English Language Arts program (9-12) provides students with opportunities for personal and intellectual growth through speaking, listening, reading, viewing, writing, and representing to make meaning of the world and to prepare them to participate effectively in all aspects of society. Students will experience the power of language by dealing with a range of texts. As they progress through the levels of English, students will encounter more complex texts, and should become more critical, creative and articulate in their own use of language.

\*\*\*At the end of the semester, English 9 students complete a school-based final assessment as well as a District Writing Assessment.

# ***SOCIAL STUDIES***

## **Social Studies 9**

(1750 to 1900)

The goal of Social Studies is to give students the knowledge and skills to be active, informed citizens who are able to think critically and communicate ideas effectively. Through their study of history, geography, economics, and culture, students will gain an understanding of the people, issues, and events that shape our world. The Social Studies curriculum also provides opportunities for students to learn about Canadian society, our democratic institutions, and the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizens.

### *Specifics in Social Studies 9*

- political, social, economic, and technological revolutions
- the continuing effects of imperialism and colonialism on indigenous peoples in Canada and around the world
- global demographic shifts, including patterns of migration and population growth
- nationalism and the development of modern nation-states, including Canada
- local, regional, and global conflicts
- discriminatory policies, attitudes, and historical wrongs
- physiographic features of Canada and geological processes

# ***MATHEMATICS***

## **Workplace Mathematics 9**

Prerequisite : Teacher recommendation. A scientific calculator (with a fraction key ) is required.

This course is best suited to students who have had challenges in understanding Mathematics. The purpose of this course is to fill in gaps of learning that have taken place, and to provide a safe environment to build the confidence of these struggling students. These students may then return to the foundations stream by taking Foundations of Mathematics 9 or they may continue to Apprenticeship and Mathematics 10.

Topics covered in this course include basic number operations, integers, fractions, proportions, conversions, percents, basic algebra and measurement.

## **Mathematics 9**

**Prerequisite** : At least a Developing grade in Math 8 OR teacher recommendation. A scientific calculator is required.

Topics covered in this course are Rational Operations, Polynomial Operations, Factoring, Algebraic Solving, Co-ordinate Geometry, 2D Measurement and Financial Literacy.

# ***SCIENCE***

## **Science 9**

Science 9 reinforces and extends the core concepts of Science 8. Chemistry 9 extends students' knowledge of the periodic table, chemical changes, and writing chemical formulas. Biology 9 focuses on the cell, including units on cell structure and processes, and reproduction. Physics 9 includes a laboratory study of electrical charge, current, and circuitry. In addition, Earth Systems 9 focuses on how the biosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere are interconnected.

# ***PHYSICAL EDUCATION***

Classes are held in the main gym, small gym, weight room and classroom. All students are expected to wear suitable clothing for all activities. Gym strip is available at nominal cost. All students are expected to participate on a regular basis, the only exceptions being those who have significant injuries and/or medical excuses provided by a physician. Assessment will be based upon participation, fair play, completion of assignments and leadership.

## **Physical Education 9 – boys, girls, or co-ed**

Yale's Physical Education program utilizes carefully selected activities to provide students the opportunities to develop:

- a) knowledge and understanding of principles of movement, and the relationship of exercise to personal well-being
- b) physical skills
- c) physical fitness
- d) social skills
- e) attitudes and appreciation that will encourage participation and enjoyment of physical activity, fitness, quality performance and a positive self-concept and respect for others.

# ***APPLIED SKILLS***

## **Food Studies 9**

Foods 9 is designed to spark an interest in food studies and develop the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary to prepare nutritious, tasty and attractive foods in a cost and time effective manner. The units covered include foundational cooking skills, baking basics, nutrition & health, additives & local eating, seasonal cooking and international cuisines.

## **Introduction to Computers 9**

Students will be introduced to a variety of topics in this fun and flexible course. The course will cover the following:

- basic web page design
- operating systems such as Windows and Linux
- installing software
- creating a virtual computer using 'open source' software
- introduction to JavaScript
- basics in creating interactive websites

You should take this course if you are interested in careers that focus on computer and technology use, such as the information technology sector, or engineering. This course will also help develop your analytical skills which would be very helpful for Science and Math.

## **Metalwork 9**

This course covers basic metalwork skills. Students will use a wide variety of tools and machines to cut, weld, grind, braze, and form metal. Students will explore hand tools as well as ARC welding, MIG welding, gas welding, flame cutting, CNC plasma cutting, forging, abrasive cutting, sterling silver jewelry casting, drilling, and lathe work. Students will work toward the creation of a project of their own design.

## **Textiles 9**

If you are just learning to sew or already have a foundation in sewing this course is for you! This newly designed course is offered to those students interested in designing and making apparel and accessories. Students are encouraged to explore a variety of techniques, basic hemming to more advanced alterations, using a pattern and fabric choice. You will learn about design and how to make it work for you, then apply it as you create and sew your own design. You will have choice in all projects that will suit you, your lifestyle, and skill level.

## **Woodwork 9**

This course offers experience in the wood shop and is an introduction to wood product design and manufacturing. Skills will be developed in hand and machine tool operation. Students will complete assigned projects as well as an individually developed project. Projects may include wood turnings, cutting boards, mantle clock, side tables, jewelry boxes, and other student designed projects

## **Women in Tech 9**

This course is open to grade 9-12 students. This is an introductory course that will introduce students to metal work, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, automotive maintenance and computer-controlled machines (CNC). Being a project centered course, students will get to make a variety of projects. Some project examples are jewelry, candle holders, picture frames, bowls, goblets, jewelry boxes, CNC made signs, vehicle oil change and basic maintenance.

\*\*Students will learn about BC's apprenticeship system and trades related careers.

# ***FINE ARTS***

## **Art 9**

Are you creative? Do you like to get your hands dirty? Do you like to have fun? Then Art 9 is for you. In Art 9, you will learn to express yourself using a wide variety of materials from drawing to painting, from graphic design to clay. If you are considering a career that involves any kind of creativity, then Art 9 is the place to start.

## **Drama 9**

This is a course that focuses on developing self-confidence, self-awareness, and the ability to work and communicate with others through a variety of acting techniques. Activities in this course will help to strengthen the student's powers of concentration and observation. Students will develop their skills in tableau, voice, physical comedy, improvisation, script work, and playwriting. Enthusiasm and self-discipline are necessary for success in this course. Evaluation is based on class participation, written assignments and performance. No prior acting experience is required.

## **Guitar 9-11** \*\*Students may only take Guitar once.\*\*

For students with little or no previous guitar experience. This is a beginner guitar course designed for students who wish to learn to play guitar. The course content will include basic note reading, chord construction and chording patterns.

**\*Students must bring their own acoustic or classical guitar.**

## **Musical Theatre 9 -12**

Yale Musical Theatre is a course dedicated to building well rounded performers and technicians with a passion for the stage. Our performances include acting, singing, dancing, and professional level production elements such as sets, lighting, sound, and costumes. Members in this class will be a part of both the cast and crew. All lead roles will require auditions. There will be a public performance at the end.

# ***MODERN LANGUAGES***

## **French 9**

Recommendation: French 8

*This is an introductory course, so students with French Immersion or Francophone backgrounds should enroll in a more advanced course (ask your counsellor)*

French is a beautiful and romantic language as well as an official language of Canada. In French 9, we offer students the opportunity to begin learning the basic language skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), while being introduced to unique Francophone cultures across the globe. French is not just spoken in France and in Quebec, it is also a national language in many African countries as well as other locations in Europe and across the world. Students will be able to introduce and describe themselves, their family, their friends, and their preferences. They will be able to ask and answer various questions as well as simply support their answers. Students in this course will take an active role in learning the French language.

## **Spanish 9**

Did you know that Spanish is the second- most widely spoken language in the world with 400 million native speakers?

Spanish 9 is an exciting course for beginners looking to expand their language abilities and broaden their future career and travel opportunities. In this course, we offer students the opportunity to learn basic grammar and develop the four language skills of speaking, listening, basic reading and writing as well as an appreciation of Latino culture. Students in this course will take an active role in learning the Spanish language as it is a communicative course.

# ***OTHER ELECTIVES***

## **Student Leadership 9**

The purpose of this course is to introduce theories of leadership and practice leadership skills. Students will be involved in planning school-wide events as well as becoming involved with community service. This course will focus on developing student's communication skills, organizational skills, critical thinking skills as well as becoming more socially and globally aware.



# ***EXTENDED DAY OPTIONS***

\*\*THESE CLASSES ARE OFFERED BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL AND ARE CHOSEN IN ADDITION TO THE 8 INSIDE THE TIMETABLE CLASSES.

## **Concert Band 9**

Open to students who have completed Band 8 or contact Ms. Sargent. Band 9 further develops technical skills as they relate to more challenging music from the band repertoire. There will be many opportunities for performances at concerts, festivals and trips. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

## **Jazz Band 9**

Co-requisite: Concert Band 9

Further development of technical skills in the area of Big Band Jazz. Instrumentation is the same as in Grade 8. This is an extended day class. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

## **Concert Choir 9**

Open to all students who wish to sing. Students do not need previous singing experience of any kind. Students will further their understanding of the vocal mechanism and basic music theory skills. The emphasis of this course is the performance of music in a variety of styles. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

## **Chamber Choir 9 \*BY INVITATION ONLY\***

This is an advanced choir for auditioned singers performing as a select ensemble. Students will rehearse and perform regularly. There may be rehearsals outside of class time that, with prior notice, you may be required to attend. There will be mandatory performances (ex: Christmas Concert, Kiwanis Festival, Choral Day) and there may also be opportunities for travel and optional fundraising. Students must be enrolled in Yale Concert Choir. Chamber Choir is open to exceptionally strong singers by audition. The ability to read music and to part-sing is a prerequisite. Auditions are approximately 10 minutes. You will be asked to sing "O Canada" in the key of your choice. You will also be asked to sing a series of vocal exercises and to sight-read an excerpt.

THE END!