

# MERRITT SECONDARY SCHOOL

## 2023 ~ 2024

### Course Selection Guide: Grade 8 – 9

#### Office Hours

Monday to Friday  
8:00am to 4:00pm

#### Administration

Principal: Ms. A. Mouland

Vice Principal: Mr. D. Andersen

Vice Principal: Mr. G. Cavaliere

#### Student Services

Counsellor: Mr. K. Ellis

Counsellor: Ms. M. Cooper

Counsellor: Ms. E. Switzer

#### Trades and Transitions

Coordinator: Mr. K. McGifford



#### STUDENT AND PARENT MESSAGE

At Merritt Secondary, we work hard to provide a positive learning environment, with rewarding education programs that build pride in our school and community. We are proud of the work we do and are proud of the students we serve.

This year's Course Selection Guide is designed to provide information regarding graduation requirements, post-secondary entrance requirements and trades opportunities, among other things.

Our timetable is built upon the educational plan our students make and it is critical that our students take time and care with their choices. Students and parents are encouraged to be involved in their student's secondary and post-secondary goals. Whether this means attending a post-secondary institution, travelling, or community living, Merritt Secondary can provide the guidance needed to support any decision after high school.

If your student is considering post-secondary, please note that admission requirements for post-secondary programs of study may vary by institution and by year. With multiple mathematics programs, sciences, and humanities program, students need to clearly understand which courses meet the necessary requirements for trades training, college, or university.

Our school community encourages its members to be life-long learners who are productive, responsible, and adaptable in our changing global community.

[Merritt Secondary School \(sd58.bc.ca\)](https://sd58.bc.ca)

[EducationPlannerBC - B.C. Post-Secondary Program Information and Application Service](#)

We welcome you to the 2023 ~ 2024 school year and we hope that it will be your best year yet!

# GENERAL INFORMATION


## SCHOOL INFORMATION

Please refer to our school website [Merritt Secondary School \(sd58.bc.ca\)](http://sd58.bc.ca) for school information regarding bell schedules, block rotation and other important information to assist you.

## REPORTING AND GRADING

Merritt Secondary School has separate reporting periods for Grade 8 and Grade 9 students. Grade 8 students are on a 3-trimester reporting period per school year, as their courses run all year long. The Grade 9 students are on 4 reporting periods per school year. 2 reporting periods in Semester 1 and 2 reporting periods in Semester 2.

## GRADES 8 – 9

Proficiency Scale				
	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
	The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.

Because achievement and work habits are interrelated, work habits are also assessed and graded. Work habits and effort reflected by good or satisfactory comments have helped students obtain acceptance and employment. Students are encouraged to attain good effort marks as this often reflects character and attitude.

## COURSE SELECTION

Students make their course selections in February and March. Since teacher assignments and course offerings are based on these selections, course change **requests ARE NOT permitted after the September 15, 2023 deadline.**

## CANCELLATION, CONFLICTS OR LIMITS ON ENROLMENT

Students should be aware that an elective course that they have selected may be cancelled due to lack of enrolment. In cases where courses are cancelled, or conflict arises because of timetabling, one of the student's alternate selections will be substituted. Due to enrolment or a limit on the number of course sections, it may be necessary to limit enrolment in some classes. The administration reserves the right to adjust student timetables should these situations occur.

**Choose your alternate courses carefully** and see a counsellor immediately if you have any questions or concerns. It is the responsibility of all students to ensure they have selected courses that will satisfy graduation requirements and also, that they have selected courses that satisfy entrance requirements for any particular post-secondary program, and they have selected sufficient courses and alternates to build a complete timetable. If you have any questions, ask a counsellor.

## DROPPING A COURSE

Students may not drop a course without the approval of an Administrator

# Merritt Secondary School

## Course Selection Guide

### LANGUAGE ARTS

#### Language Arts – Grade 8 and 9

Grade 8 English is a yearlong course and Grade 9 English is a semester course.

<b>English 8</b> MEN-08	All aspects of the provincial curriculum will be taught in the grade 8 course. Students will study literature (novels, short stories, poetry, etc.), sentence structure, and the basics of capitalization and punctuation. Spelling, vocabulary and the writing of clear sentences and paragraphs will be emphasized. Students will also be offered the opportunity to write creatively and express themselves orally.
<b>English 9</b> MEN-09	English 9 continues to build on the skills learned in English 8. Writing skills will be further refined with an emphasis on the writing of grammatically correct sentences, as well a spelling and vocabulary. Writing good paragraphs will be a prime focus of this year's composition. Through the study and appreciation of literature, students will continue to practice reading skills. Students will also have the opportunity to further develop speaking and listening skills.

### MATHEMATICS

#### Mathematics Grade 8 & 9

Grade 8 Math is a yearlong course and Grade 9 Math is a semester course.

<b>Math 8</b> MMA-08	<p><b>Contents covered in Math 8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number (Rates, ratios, percents, decimals and integers)</li> <li>▪ Fractions</li> <li>▪ Linear Relationships (Linear patterns and equations)</li> <li>▪ Geometry (Surface area and volume)</li> <li>▪ Data (Central tendency, probability)</li> <li>▪ Financial Literacy</li> <li>▪ Pythagoras (Right triangles and square roots)</li> </ul>
<b>Math 9</b> MMA-09	<p><b>Contents covered in Math 9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rational Number &amp; Operations (Fractions, decimals, integers, roots)</li> <li>▪ Powers</li> <li>▪ Polynomials</li> <li>▪ Graphing (Linear relationships)</li> <li>▪ Equations and Inequalities</li> <li>▪ Financial Literacy</li> <li>▪ Geometry (Proportional reasoning)</li> <li>▪ Statistics</li> </ul>

Courses continue on the next page

<b>Mathématiques 8</b> FMTHF08	<p><b>This course is mandatory for students taking the French Immersion Program.</b></p> <p><b>Contents covered in Mathématiques 8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number (Rates, ratios, percents, decimals and integers)</li> <li>▪ Fractions</li> <li>▪ Linear Relationships (Linear patterns and equations)</li> <li>▪ Geometry (Surface area and volume)</li> <li>▪ Data (Central tendency, probability)</li> <li>▪ Financial Literacy</li> <li>▪ Pythagoras (Right triangles and square roots)</li> </ul>
<b>Mathématiques 9</b> FMTHF09	<p><b>This course is mandatory for students taking the French Immersion Program.</b></p> <p><b>Contents covered in Math 9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rational Number &amp; Operations (Fractions, decimals, integers, roots)</li> <li>▪ Powers</li> <li>▪ Polynomials</li> <li>▪ Graphing (Linear relationships)</li> <li>▪ Equations and Inequalities</li> <li>▪ Financial Literacy</li> <li>▪ Geometry (Proportional reasoning)</li> <li>▪ Statistics</li> </ul>
<p>Courses continue on the next page</p>	

<h1 style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px;">SCIENCE</h1>	
<h2 style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px;">Science – Grade 8 &amp; 9</h2> <p style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px;">Grade 8 Science is a yearlong course and Grade 9 Science is a semester course.</p>	
<b>Science 8</b> MSC-08	Science 8 serves as an introduction to laboratory-based science courses. Content includes cell components and processes, fundamental atomic and kinetic molecular theory, the nature of energy and the theory of plate tectonics.
<b>Science 9</b> MSC-09	Science 9 builds on the fundamentals developed in Science 8, with the introduction of more complex processes. Content includes cell division, atomic structure, energy transfer within Earth's environment, electricity, and circuits.
<b>Sciences 8</b> FSCF-08	<p><b>This course is mandatory for students taking the French Immersion Program.</b></p> Sciences 8 serves as an introduction to laboratory-based science courses. Content includes cell components and processes, fundamental atomic and kinetic molecular theory, the nature of energy and the theory of plate tectonics.
<b>Sciences 9</b> FSCF-09	<p><b>This course is mandatory for students taking the French Immersion Program.</b></p> Sciences 9 builds on the fundamentals developed in Sciences 8, with the introduction of more complex processes. Content includes cell division, atomic structure, energy transfer within Earth's environment, electricity, and circuits.
<p>Courses continue on the next page</p>	

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## Social Studies – Grade 8 & 9

Grade 8 Social Studies is a yearlong course and Grade 9 Social Studies is a semester course.

<b>Social Studies 8</b> MSS-8	This Social Studies 8 course begins with a look at geographical skills and then moves onto an examination of the changes in the world, people, and cultures all over Europe and the Middle East. As students travel through the past, they will examine Medieval Europe, World Religions, the Crusades, and other civilizations and how they developed and influenced the world we know today. This journey will take the class back to Europe in the Dark Ages, the Late Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the start of modern-day exploration to the new worlds of the Americas.
<b>Social Studies 9</b> MSS-9	Social Studies 9 studies Canada from 1750 to 1919. The course is organized around the major themes of politics and law, the economy, technology, society, culture, and the environment. Major topics include immigration and settlement, the rebellions of 1837, the advent of responsible government, Confederation, westward expansion, Louis Riel and the Metis resistance, First Nations treaties, the Laurier Boom, BC's economy, and the geography of Western Canada.
<b>Sciences Humaines 8</b> FSCHF08	<b>This course is mandatory for students taking the French Immersion Program.</b> Sciences Humaines 8 course begins with a look at geographical skills and then moves onto an examination of the changes in the world, people, and cultures all over Europe and the Middle East. As students travel through the past, they will examine Medieval Europe, World Religions, the Crusades, and other civilizations and how they developed and influenced the world we know today. This journey will take the class back to Europe in the Dark Ages, the Late Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the start of modern-day exploration to the new worlds of the Americas.
<b>Sciences Humaines 9</b> FSCHF09	<b>This course is mandatory for students taking the French Immersion Program.</b> Sciences Humaines 9 studies Canada from 1750 to 1919. The course is organized around the major themes of politics and law, the economy, technology, society, culture, and the environment. Major topics include immigration and settlement, the rebellions of 1837, the advent of responsible government, Confederation, westward expansion, Louis Riel and the Metis resistance, First Nations treaties, the Laurier Boom, BC's economy, and the geography of Western Canada.

# PHYSICAL HEALTH EDUCATION

## Physical and Health Education – Grade 8 & 9

Grade 8 Physical and Health Education is a yearlong course and grade 9 Physical and Health Education is a semester course.

<b>Physical and Health Education 8</b> MPHED-8	This course provides opportunities for students to experience a variety of recreational pursuits and activities that promote lifelong, healthy living. The course is made up of three curriculum organizers – Active Living, Movement and Personal/Social Responsibility. In Active Living, students will learn the value of physical activity and its integration into daily routines and leisure pursuits. They will also learn to make appropriate lifestyle choices and set personal goals to enhance quality of life. Each grade has a different theme for Active Living. In Movement, students are offered a variety of individual and team sport activities. Within those activities, students will be given the opportunity to develop a variety of movement skills and acquire game strategy and knowledge of each game. The level of skill progresses through each grade. In Personal/Social Responsibility, students develop positive personal/social behaviors and interpersonal relationships. Students develop respect for self and others as they learn and practice the skills of communicating and co-operating. In a balanced physical education program, the outcomes for all three curriculum organizers are realized through a broad selection of activities. Evaluation is on a daily basis and, therefore, regular attendance is mandatory. <b>Gym Strip is required.</b>

<b>Physical and Health Education 9</b> MPHE-9	Physical & Health Education 9 provides opportunities for students to experience a variety of recreational pursuits and activities that promote lifelong, healthy living. The course is made up of three curriculum organizers: Active Living, Movement and Personal/Social Responsibility. In Active Living, students will learn to value physical activity and its integration into daily routines and leisure pursuits. They will also learn to make appropriate lifestyle choices and set personal goals to enhance quality of life. Each grade has a different theme for Active Living. In Movement, students are offered a variety of individual and team sport activities. Within those activities, students will be given the opportunity to develop a variety of movement skills and acquire game strategy and knowledge of each game. The level of skill progresses through each grade. In Personal/Social Responsibility, students develop positive personal/social behaviors and interpersonal relationships. Students develop respect for self and others as they learn and practice the skills of communicating and co-operating. In a balanced physical education program, the outcomes for all three curriculum organizers are realized through a broad selection of activities. Evaluation is on a daily basis and, therefore, regular attendance is mandatory. <b>Gym Strip is required.</b>
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## LANGUAGES

### Grade 8

<b>French 8</b> MFR-8	French is a required course in Grade 8. Students will have the opportunity to improve their listening, reading, writing and speaking skills, and to explore the cultures of French speaking regions. Possible themes covered include greetings and introductions, sports and activities, food and ordering from a menu, school routine, family members, and characteristics. Students will have opportunities to communicate in French in situations that are personally meaningful and to gain confidence in their abilities as learners and users of the French language.
<b>Nłe?kepmxcin 8</b> MNTE-8	This course is available to all students who wish to learn <b>Nłe?kepmxcin</b> , a dialect of the Thompson Language. The emphasis is on understanding basic grammatical structure of oral and written <b>nłe?kepmxcin</b> . Students are expected to gain an understanding and appreciation of the culture, history and ancestry through short stories, art, use of plant material and interaction with Elders in the Nicola Valley.

### Grade 9

<b>French 9</b> MFR-9	Students will be continuing to develop the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These skills will be integrated through various communicative activities and assignments. A rich, cultural component is integrated throughout the program. Some possible themes include: asking for information, shopping, and groceries, items located in a home, health, holidays and Paris.
<b>Nłe?kepmxcin 9</b> MNTE-9	This course is a continuation of Nłe?kepmxcin 8. Students will continue to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the culture, history and ancestry through short stories, art, use of plant material and interaction with Elders in the Nicola Valley. At the end of this course the students are expected to be able to respond to sight and sound association, carry on basic conversation, respond to questions and be comfortable with a minimum of 350 terms and phrases.

### Français Langue Seconde – French Immersion – Grades 8 & 9

*Students enrolled in this program are required to take the following courses to meet the Ministry of Education requirements for a Diploma in French Immersion.*

<b>Français Langue Seconde Immersion 8</b> FFRAL08	Students understand the implicit and explicit meanings through which cultural knowledge and values are conveyed in various texts, such as legends and plays. They evaluate sources in order to understand how a communicator defends his or her point of view.
<b>Français Langue Seconde Immersion 9</b> FFRAL09	Students deepen their understanding of language as a tool to convey cultural knowledge and values in various texts, such as fables and novels. They improve communication skills (oral and written) in order to explore their identity and affirm their opinions and ideas.

# MOSAIC COURSE ELECTIVES – GRADE 8

## Mosaic Courses – Grade 8

Students entering Grade 8 will have an opportunity to sample “mini courses” in a mosaic rotation of electives. Students will progress through multiple courses as listed below. Not all students will sample every course available in the rotations, and courses in the rotations may change from year to year; however, they will be able to experience a broad range of these courses in the areas of Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (ADST), and Arts Education (AED).

### Mosaic Courses – Applied Skill (ADST) – Grade 8

<b>Computer &amp; Communication Devices 8</b> MADCC08	Students will get an introduction to designing their own programs, apps, games, and solving puzzles using block coding. Along the way, students will practice communicating in collaborative ways (e.g., Teams, email), and demonstrate their thinking by annotating their code.
<b>Foods Studies 8</b> MADFS--08	Foods Studies 8 is a practical course where students learn about kitchen safety, food safety and measurement. The food preparation skills they learn will help students throughout their lifetime. Students will be able to make a variety of foods such as vegetable soup, apple crisp and pizza, that they will enjoy.
<b>Metalwork 8</b> MADM-08	This 6-week course is meant to be an introduction to metalwork skills. The proper names and uses of hand tools and basic power tools will be studied and used. The emphasis on this course is safety, design skills, reading a drawing, laying out and building small, useful projects using different types of metal.
<b>Textiles 8</b> MADT-08	Textiles 8 will introduce hand sewing techniques so that students can make basic clothing repairs. Students will also learn how to use a sewing machine and complete a home laundry assignment.
<b>Woodwork 8</b> MADW-08	This introductory course offers students important learning opportunities in the field of woodworking. It is geared for maximum student knowledge in planning, materials, hand and stationary tools, work habits and safety. Students are introduced to working with wood while developing cognitive skills, motor skills, and problem solving. Student learning is through project work. Safe conduct and use of tools is stressed thoroughly at all times.

### Mosaic Courses – Arts Education (AED) – Grade 8

<b>Drama 8</b> MDR-08	Drama 8 is an introductory course that provides students with the opportunity to explore a variety of dramatic forms and learn some basic elements of acting. It focuses on student participation and engagement in preparing and performing activities and skits, and on building confidence in presenting.
<b>Music 8</b> MMU-08	Grade 8 Band is an extension and continuation of Grade 7 Band. Through practice, rehearsal and performance on one musical instruments (chosen from a variety of options), the students will learn about beat/pulse, metre, duration, rhythm, tempo, pitch, timbre, dynamics, form, texture and notation in music. This will be primarily done in a group setting and in the context of learning exercises and melodies for skill development and testing and larger musical works for the purpose of performance. We will be using purposeful play both as a group and as individuals to explore culture and society, to develop technical skills, to take creative risks, and to experience and exhibit positive group interactions. We perform at least twice in the school year and provide the opportunity for an annual Band Trip. <b>*Music 8 is 18 weeks (takes the place of 3 mosaic courses)</b>
<b>Visual Arts 8</b> MVA-08	Arts 8 is an introductory course designed to give students a sampling of art projects that develop the unique language of visual art. A variety of media and techniques will be used to create an active learning experience.

Courses continue on the next page

## ELECTIVE COURSES – GRADE 9

### Elective Courses – Applied Skill (ADST) – Grade 9

Elective courses in Grade 9 are a semester long each.

<b>Information &amp; Communications Technologies 9</b> MADIT09	This course is designed as an introduction to Information and Communications Technologies. Students will learn text-based coding such as HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to create websites. Learn about cloud-based environments, wireless transfer systems such as Bluetooth, mobile payments, and Cloud storage and privacy. Students will also learn digital creation and manipulations of videos and images. Keyboarding techniques: for example, physical hand and foot placement, posture, development of touch-typing skills and use of “home row” and ASDFJKL techniques.
<b>Foods Studies 9</b> MADFS09	Foods Studies 9 is an exciting practical course with an emphasis on helping students understand the significance of food, principles of nutrition, and the relationship to your health and well-being. Students will enjoy nutritious soups, macaroni and cheese, calzones, and quinoa bowls to name a few tasty foods. You will prepare many kinds of foods and learn a variety of food preparation skills that will help you throughout your lifetime.
<b>Metalwork 9</b> MADM-09	This metalwork course expands on metalwork 8, using more hand and stationary tools. Safe hand and stationary tool use are practiced in this course, with major tools being metal lathes, drill presses, angle grinders, bench grinders and wire wheels. Tool organization and proper use are studied through practical projects. Projects of this course include a metal bi-plane, metal rose, and screwdriver.
<b>Textiles 9</b> MADT-09	This is a course for students who want to develop their sewing skills and techniques. Students will learn how to read and interpret pattern directions. They will have project choices according to their sewing level. Some examples may include: PJ Pants, Creative Monster Project, Tote Bags and Bucket Hats. The cost of the course will be determined by the student’s choice of patterns and fabrics.
<b>Woodwork 9</b> MADW-09	Woodwork 9 is geared for maximum knowledge in planning, materials, tools, work habits and safety in the field of woodworking. Students will discover interests in woodworking and begin to develop skills and knowledge in practical hands-on work. Learning is project based and students will be given an opportunity to choose multiple projects that spark their interests. Safe conduct and use of tools is stressed thoroughly at all times.

## AED (ARTS EDUCATION) – ELECTIVE COURSES

### Elective Courses – Arts Education (AED) – Grade 9

<b>Drama 9</b> MDR-09	This is an introductory course designed to expand students’ personal development in communication, creativity, and self-confidence on and off the stage. With the instructor’s direction, students will learn to work together to create, perform, discuss, and analyze drama, and then reflect on the experiences to develop an understanding of themselves, the art form, and the world around them.
<b>Visual Arts 9</b> MVA--09	Art 9 students will work in a variety of media to improve their skills and visual literacy. The major components of this course will consist of design, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and art appreciation. Students will also gain an appreciation and knowledge of the elements and principles of design. Students will apply artistic processes and skills, using a variety of media to communicate meaning and intent in original artworks.
<b>Music: Concert Band 9</b> MMU-09	Concert Band 9 continues the development of students from previous band classes. The course is open to anyone who has completed Concert Band 8 or with the approval of the instructor. Music will be selected to best teach the concepts of the course but will also be used as evaluation for each student. Continued exploration of various musical themes and concepts from classical to contemporary styles of music will be explored. Activities consist of concert preparation and performance, and possible trips in the Spring to a location selected by the students and instructor. Evaluation is based on attendance at all rehearsals and concerts, performance in class playing opportunities and written exercises. Out of class practice and possible sectional or individual lessons will be required.



**Vocal Jazz 9**  
MMU-09Vocal

Vocal Jazz is a grades 9 to 12 music course that is ***outside the timetable*** where the primary focus is practice, rehearsal, and performance of 20<sup>th</sup> century and contemporary popular music styles utilizing ensemble singing with the traditional SATB choral division of voices (or whatever the makeup of the group may be). Acceptance and enrollment are dependent on a successful audition. In this course, the growth of the student musician is dependent on their individual perseverance, resilience and reflection, and dedication to the group and the music is expected. Students are expected to learn and know music elements, principals, techniques, vocabulary, and symbols. We explore the cultural significance of the music that we play. Through the year we will have multiple performances and we will provide the opportunity for an annual Music Trip.

**Note: If there are many students enrolled in this course there is the potential for it to be divided into two courses: Choral Music: Vocal Jazz 9-10 and Choral Music: Vocal Jazz 11-12.**

