



FAQ: For Incoming Gr 8's

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT COURSE SELECTION, HIGH SCHOOL & MORE!

Q: How will my child select their courses?

A: Students will be selecting courses in February at their middle school. Each student will be given a paper copy of the form. They will learn about what is offered, how to fill out the form and how to access the course selection booklet on-line. The forms will be brought home to be filled in and signed. Middle schools will collect these forms by the due date written on the top sheet.

Q: How many courses do they get to choose?

A: Students take 8 courses each year. Grade 9 students must take these 5 courses: English 9, Math 9, Science 9, Socials 9, and Physical Health Education 9. This means that students choose 3 electives. Electives should be written down in order of preference. For example: the course listed on the line that says #6, should be the course that the student wants the most. All elective options are listed on the back side of the course selection sheet that will be brought home. Also, each student MUST choose 2 alternate courses just in case they are unable to get one of their top 3 elective choices.

Q: Why does my child need to choose 2 alternate classes?

A: We try our best to get the courses that each student asks for but sometimes 2 courses are offered at the same time or the course is full. In these cases, we may need to look at the alternate choices in order to complete the timetable. Alternate courses should be ones that students wouldn't mind trying and should be listed in order of preference.

Q: Do students need a second language in order to graduate from high school?

A: No but some Universities require successful completion of a second language at a certain level in order to gain acceptance. It is important to review program requirements at different post-secondary institutions in order to prepare. (This year: UBC requires a Language 11 & SFU requires an Intro Language 11).

Q: What if my child does NOT get the language course they requested?

A: If this does happen, it is not something to worry about. The first thing you can do is email your son/daughter's counsellor to see if there is a reason and if the situation can be resolved. The second thing to know is that if a student needs to take a language course after grade 9, we offer Introductory Language 11 courses that will cover the material from grade 9 and 10.

Q: What courses are mandatory in grade 9?

A: As previously mentioned, Grade 9 students must take these 5 courses: English 9, Math 9, Science 9, Socials 9, and Physical Health/Education 9

Q: How many courses does each student have to take in Grade 9?

A: 8 courses

Q: How many courses does each student take at a time?

A: Heritage Woods has 2 semesters, September to January is semester 1 and February to June is semester 2. Students take 4 courses per semester. Typically, we try to make sure each student has 2 academics paired with 2 electives per semester.

Q: Do you offer any grade 9 Honours courses?

A: Normally we offer Accelerated Math 9 which is a course that covers the grade 9 & 10 curriculum. Due to current health related restrictions, we are unable to offer this course. Instead, we will be offering Math 9 Honours. This course can be selected on the front of the course selection sheet. Student should only select this course if they have strong foundational math skills and a desire to be enriched in this subject area.

Q: Can a student take more than 8 classes?

A: Yes, students can take additional courses that are taken before or after school. The full list of these courses can be found on the back of the Course Selection Sheet under Additional Elective Courses.

Q: Am I able to ask for my child to be with a certain friend in classes?

A: We are unable to accommodate these types of requests since our timetable is very limiting and, in many cases, there isn't space to move anyone around. We understand that there may be unique situations so if there is special circumstance please inform the teacher/counsellor at the Middle School so they can work with us to determine the best course of action.

Q: Does grade 9 count for credits towards graduation?

A: Grade 9 is required in order to graduate but grade 9 level courses do not count for credit. Grade 10 is when students start accumulating credits toward graduation. More information on graduation requirements can be accessed at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/public-schools/graduation-requirements>

Q: What is Flex?

A: FLEX has been part of HWSS's schedule since the school opened. It is a daily 30-minute block that allows students the opportunity to take control of their learning – they can complete assignments in an area of choice, collaborate with peers and receive extra help from teachers in a particular area. It is instructional time and not meant to be a break (it also happens after what is the first block of the day for most students so a break should not be necessary). Students are expected to be in a class that is in their current schedule or in the library. We encourage you to speak regularly with your child about how they are using this important time in their schedule as it can really make a difference in terms of success in their courses.

Q: What do students do at lunch? Is there a cafeteria? Can they come home?

A: At lunch, most students eat lunch in our grand hall or around the school in a variety of locations. They also permitted to go home for lunch. We do have a cafeteria that is in the grand hall and is open to students during lunch except for the 1st week after a holiday (ex: Christmas Break).

Q: Is there extra support if my child needs it? Academic? Emotional? How do I access it?

A: Yes, there is extra support available for students who need it. Students who have an IEP will have a case manager assigned to them closer to the end of this school year. If you want to make sure that your child has the things they need in place for September, please communicate with the case manager at your Middle School. The information will be passed on to the new case manager during articulation later in the spring. If student require other types of support (social/emotional), please communicate with the counsellor/classroom teacher/youth worker at the Middle School and that information will be passed on to our school.

Q: What is Applications of Digital Literacy 10?

A: Applications of Digital Literacy 10 is a district wide course offered in conjunction with Coquitlam Open Learning. All grade 9 students take this as a 9th mandatory course that is worth 4 credits towards graduation. The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the technology and tools needed to support their education as well as to start to create a portfolio of their work in preparation for Career Life Education 10 and Career Life Connections in grade 12. Students will connect with their teacher for this course on-line and in group sessions throughout the year. Examples of acceptable devices include: Laptops, Tablets and ipads. (Phones are NOT acceptable)

Q: What sports / activities are available for grade 9's to participate in?

A: We have many options! Here is a list of what we have offered in the past (most include gr 9's):

(this list can change each year, but it will give you an idea of what is typically offered!)

Model UN, HWSS Newspaper, Kodiaks with a Purpose, Kodiak Multicultural Club, Physics Club, Wish Youth Network Society, GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance) Kodiak Pride Club, Film Leadership Club, Student Host Club, Personal Finance Club, Blender 3D Club, Charity Brighthouse, HOPE Club (Helping Other People Every day), Grad Council, Student Council, Hot Potato Club, Human and Nature Club, Photography Club, HWSOAP (HW Society of Academic Philanthropists) aka Tutoring Club, You and I Club, Econ Club, HWSS Business Club, Stock Market Club, Writing Club, Girls Can Talk, Gardenbank Club, Book Club... Sports...

Fall:

Aquatics
Cross Country
Field Hockey
Football
Soccer (Boys)

Winter:

Basketball
Curling
Skiing/Snowbo
arding
Wrestling

Spring:

Badminton
Golf
Mountain
Biking
Soccer (Girls)

Q: Who do I contact if I have questions?

A: Counsellors are divided by Alpha (the first letter of the students last name)

A-G Shaunna Martin smartin@sd43.bc.ca

H-N Karen Watt/Karen Leeden kwatt@sd43.bc.ca kleeden@sd43.bc.ca

O-Z Curt DeWolff cudewolff@sd43.bc.ca

