



# Skeena Middle School

3411 Munroe Street Terrace, B.C. V8G – 3C1

1-250-635-9136 (phone) 1-888-655-0523 (fax)

**Relationships - Respect - Honesty - Responsibility - Perseverance**

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please find attached our Grade 9 Elective Course Outlines for the 2016/2017 School Year and the course selection form below. We ask that students return the completed and signed form below as soon as possible. Student elective choices will be determined in the order that the forms are returned to the office. If there are not enough students requesting a specific elective, it will not be offered.

While we will try and ensure that all students will get their top choice(s) for the elective opportunities, it is important that all students fill out the entire form and indicate their order of preference for electives. Due to the long term impact of the choice to take French 9 (French or a second language can be required for entrance to some post-secondary programs) and the continuation needed in Band 9 (Concert), these are the only two electives that we can/will guarantee that students will be placed in (e.g. just because the first choice indicated was Art does not necessarily mean that a student will receive Art as an elective). Please note that Career 9 is a require course of one term (approximately 10 weeks). Career 9 will be paired with Information and Communication Technology 9 for the other term in the semester.

If you have any questions about the elective course outlines or the potential long term impact of these choices, please contact one of the school counselors.

Sincerely,

Mr. P. Barron  
Principal

Mr. C. Killoran  
Vice-Principal

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**STUDENT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade 9 Elective Choices** (Courses will only be offered if there is enough interest)

**Art, First Nations Art, Art/Metal, Band (Concert), Band (Jazz), Theatre, First Nations, Foods, French, Media Arts, Metalwork, Outdoor Education, Woodwork**

**Please enter your course selection in order of preference:**

1
3
5

2
4
6

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**Parent/Guardian Signature**



2016/2017

Grade 9 Electives  
Course Outlines



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### **Grade 9 Required Courses**

All Grade 9 students are required to take the following courses:

**English 9**

**Math 9**

**Science 9**

**Social Studies 9**

**Physical and Health Education 9**

**Career Education 9**

### **Grade 9 Elective Course Outlines**

For the 2016/2017 School year, students may select from the following list of elective offerings at Skeena Middle School.

#### **Art 9**

Art 9 is an introductory art course which exposes students to a variety of art media over a semester. Skills will build upon techniques learned in Art 8, and include an introduction to Art History, art movements, and the Elements and Principles of design. Students will have time to develop their own imagery using a variety of materials. Drawing, Collage, Design, Color theory, and Pottery with glazing are examples of what students will be working on over the semester.

#### **First Nations Art 9**

This course is designed to build an appreciation of the First Nations art forms focusing on Northwest design styles. Students will be introduced to the basic designs, motifs, myths, legends, and history of the First Nations culture with a focus on the Visual Arts. Role Models from the community will also assist with various assignments. Most supplies will be provided. Students will be exposed to a variety of drawing materials, as well as painting, wood carving, cedar weaving, glass etching, and Uno cuts.

#### **Art/Metal 9**

This course focuses upon the design and creation of jewelry and artistic metal projects. Students will use 'skill-builder' projects to learn several investigative skills and techniques including silver soldering, wirework, sawing, forming, texturing and basic casting. Students can expect to design and construct at least four art pieces. A variety of metals including copper, brass, aluminum, pewter, and sterling silver will be available for use. Students will also have the opportunity to explore the incorporation of other materials into their pieces such as resins, glass, and found objects. Safety is stressed in all aspects of shop work. (Students will be required to pay for materials for projects they opt to do beyond the basic course requirements.)

### **Band (Concert) 9**

Concert Band 9 is designed to develop each student's individual musical skills, discover the joys and responsibilities of being part of a large musical group, and encourage a life-long love of music. Students play brass, woodwind and percussion instruments in class and in band concerts throughout the year. Band 9 explores various styles of music including: concert band repertoire, jazz, rock, classical, marches, and TV/movie/game theme songs. Some interesting and fun SMS Band events include: the Halloween Band-a-thon, Band Telethon, Dare to Dream Band Workshops, the Band trip, Music Festival, etc. Playing an instrument well, meeting life-long friends and learning to create amazing music make SMS Band AWESOME!!!

### **Band (Jazz)**

Jazz Band is open to students in Grade 7, 8 and 9. Jazz Band works beyond the regular concert band class to further develop each student's individual musical skills through practice and performance in a smaller ensemble. Classes are outside the regular school schedule and students receive a mark for Jazz Band. Jazz Band instruments include a rhythm section (piano, bass, drums/percussion), saxophones, trombones and trumpets. The Jazz Band explores a variety of music such as: traditional jazz, swing, rock, Latin, funk, blues and pop. Creative improvisation, learning to read jazz rhythms and articulations and being responsible for their own musical line helps students reach a high level of musical literacy. Jazz Band students are the rock stars of the SMS Band Program!

### **Theatre 9**

Previous skills in drama are expanded on and applied to the theatre. During this course, students will explore: theater history, dramatic techniques, performance styles, the basics of script writing, set and stage design, set and stage production, lighting use, sound production and produce a play for an audience.

### **First Nations 9**

First Nations 9 is a course designed to enhance and promote understanding of aboriginal groups in Canada. There will be a special emphasis on the First Nations of the Northwest Coast, however, specifically the Tsimshian. Students will take part in activities about stereotypes, history, including the history of Residential Schools, culture, language, arts and games. The course strives to help students answer the essential questions: How does the history of the First Nations people affect my community, my family and myself? How will learning about First Nations people help me understand myself and the community?

### **Foods 9**

In Foods 9, we will investigate various areas of food preparation, health and nutrition and, of course, we will eat. The goal of this course is to provide a safe and hygienic environment that inspires students to be confident cooks that are able to prepare nutritious and economic meals, appetizers, side dishes and desserts. This is a lab based course where students will experience a wide variety of food preparation skills and styles of cooking. Students will have many opportunities to explore their own interests in food preparation including creating their own cookbooks, selecting recipes to demonstrate to the class and have input into a class cooking project. Instruction will be more of a holistic method rather than a series of units. All students who get involved in activities and try their best will have success in this course.

### **French 9**

French 9 will begin with a review of material covered in grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 French and working with simple conversations. We then move into creating more complex sentences that include various tenses in order to have longer and more informative conversations. To do this we look at the structure of a good sentence and break it all down. Students create posters, presentations using various technologies, such as window movie maker, and enjoy a safe and fun environment in which to practice their French speaking. Plenty of group work requires students to be focused and on task, but also allows a good deal of practice time with the written, spoken, and reading of the language.

**Media Arts 9**

In this course students will get to explore film and digital photography, graphic design, video production, and audio productions. Students will become familiar with computer editing programs and complete projects like package design, stop motion video, and vector art. This is an excellent course for creative students that prefer digital art to traditional methods.

**Metalwork 9**

This course is designed to build a strong foundation for advanced fabrication. A wide variety of machines are used, while processes and skills are developed, such as, hand tools, power tools, lathe, milling, sheet metal, forging, casting and welding. Some course projects include a machinist's hammer, cold chisel, coat hook, metal vice, collapsible shovel and gravity car, as well as, some self-directed projects.

**Outdoor Education 9**

The outdoor education course will investigate different ways to experience learning in an outdoor setting. Students will be immersed in many different situations that require them to be respectful of the environment. There will be a focus on the impact and environmental consequences of collective and individual actions. Students will partake in many hands-on experiences that help them develop ways to "play" in the wilderness without leaving a trail of their presence. They will also engage in outdoor expeditions, develop personal and group skills and work harmoniously within their surroundings.

**Woodwork 9**

This class is designed to familiarize students with woodworking hand tools, power tools and processes. Students will build a variety of projects, some of which will be assigned and some which will allow students to work on their own creations. The course emphases are shop safety, creative design, and problem-solving.