

CANMORE COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL GRADE 9 HANDBOOK



Welcome to Grade 9. This is an exciting time in your lives and we are excited about embarking on the journey with you. This is a time of rapid change where you will move from being a kid to becoming an adult in less than 1500 days.

Canmore Collegiate's vision statement is ***"Fostering a Passion for Learning"***. Our mission as a caring school community is to support and challenge our students to reach their individual potentials. We do this by teaching them new skills and sharing knowledge, while respecting them for who they are. We prepare students to meet challenges with confidence.

Your time in high school is a time to acquire important skills and knowledge essential in forming a personal foundation, upon which you will open doors to future successes. We encourage you to become involved – in art, music, drama, athletics, clubs, pep rallies, leadership. This involvement will enhance your experience at a time when you will be forming and maintaining life-long friendships.

We urge you to take care of your academic pursuits and enjoy the many opportunities and challenges high school will bring into your lives.

To the ***Class of 2015*** the students and staff of Canmore Collegiate High School look forward to having you join us in September 2011.

General Information for Grade 8 Students

This booklet is designed to help you plan your Grade 9 year at Canmore Collegiate High School. The Grade 9 year is the foundation for the years that follow. Remember that your success in Grade 9 subjects will determine which courses you take in high school. Set realistic goals and keep up with class work. Grade 9 is an important year of transition for you.

Your Grade 9 Program

- All students will take Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science.
- All students will take: Health/Technology and Physical Education.
- Students will be registered in up to four options.
- All Grade 9 students come to school with a netbook/laptop (check our website for information on the 1 to 1 computing).

Homeroom Groupings:

Each Grade 9 student will be assigned to a homeroom. Your homeroom is not a location but a group of students. All students in the same homeroom will remain together for all core subjects. Your homeroom will be identified by a number designation such as 9-01, 9-02, 9-03 etc.

Each homeroom grouping will have a unique timetable indicating the time and location for each class. Homeroom groups travel to different classrooms each period. For options, students will not remain in homeroom groupings. Timetables for options are determined on an individual basis according to student requests.

Grade 9 is an important year in preparing for high school. How well you do in your courses will determine which high school stream you should enter to achieve success.

Generally 65% is recommended as a minimum target mark for students wanting to enter the academic 10-1, 20-1, 30-1 stream and 50% for the 10-2, 10-3, 20-2, 20-3, 30-2, 30-3 stream in high school.

In addition to Alberta Education Diploma requirements all CCHS students must complete 25 community hours during their four years at CCHS in order to take in cap and gown ceremonies in Grade 12. **It is a good idea to start collecting the hours in Grade 9.**

Get involved and have fun on athletic teams (including football, basketball, volleyball, badminton, golf, cross country, track and field, rugby, curling), yearbook, intramural activities, drama, art, concert and/or jazz band, pep rallies, helping at home tournaments and also by joining clubs.

Canmore Collegiate has Guidance Counsellors and a career practitioner located in the Student Services area. Student Services has an open door policy and is located in the circle between the library and the music room. We are generally available during school hours between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. If you have any concerns or questions after arriving here feel free to make an appointment anytime.

C.C.H.S. TIMETABLE

Semestered – most options scheduled into 1/2 a semester
 Example Timetable

SEMESTER 1

SEPTEMBER - JANUARY

	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.
A	ELA	ELA	ELA	ELA	ELA
B	SC	SC	SC	SC	SC
C	PE/HEALTH/ TECH	PE/HEALTH/ TECH	PE/HEALTH/ TECH	PE/HEALTH/ TECH	PE/HEALTH/ TECH
D	FOODS/DRAMA	FOODS/DRAMA	FOODS/DRAMA	FOODS/DRAMA	FOODS/DRAMA

SEMESTER 2

FEBRUARY - JUNE

	MON	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.
A	SOCIAL	SOCIAL	SOCIAL	SOCIAL	SOCIAL
B	MATH	MATH	MATH	MATH	MATH
C	PE/HEALTH/ TECH	PE/HEALTH/ TECH	PE/HEALTH/ TECH	PE/HEALTH/ TECH	PE/HEALTH/ TECH
D	FSL/FLA	FSL/FLA	FSL/FLA	FSL/FLA	FSL/FLA

The daily timetable changes approximately every 1 – 1 ½ months so that you are not having the same class, at the same time, all semester long.

Course Descriptions – Core Courses

The following course descriptions are provided as a preview of the topic and concepts covered in the Grade 9 curriculum.

Language Arts 9 (English/French)

Students in this program will become increasingly familiar with the inter-related nature of such language skills as speaking, listening, reading, writing and viewing. Language functions throughout the entire high school curriculum as a means of understanding and communicating ideas and feelings and assisting in personal and social development.

Greater emphasis will be placed on more active involvement in language situations in order to enhance the quality and flexibility in the use of language.

Through talking and writing students will be encouraged to organize and interpret their experiences and share newfound ideas and philosophies with others. Literature will necessarily be an integral part of this learning process.

The purpose of the program is to provide opportunities for students to experience language in functional and pleasurable situations.

Students are required to write an Alberta Education Achievement exam at the end of this course.

Social Studies 9 (English/French)

Grade 9 students will analyze the relationship between Canada's political and legislative processes and their impact on issues pertaining to governance, rights, citizenship and identity. Students will also explore issues of economics and their impact on quality of life, citizenship and identity in Canada and the United States.

Grade 9 students will broaden their understanding and appreciation of the relationships among governance, economics, quality of life, citizenship and identity.

Students are required to write an Alberta Education Achievement exam at the end of this course.

Mathematics 9 (English/French)

The student outcomes of the Mathematics program are organized within four strands: number, patterns and relations, shape and space, and statistics and probability. These strands are further split into sub strands and form the basis for the further study of mathematics at the senior high level. Throughout the strands emphasis is placed on mathematical reasoning, conjecturing, inventing, problem solving, using logic and mathematics, its ideas, and its applications in our environment. Students are required to write an Alberta Education Achievement exam at the end of this course.

Science 9 (English/French)

Science 9 is a general course focusing on the scientific building blocks students will require to pursue future courses in Grade 10. It covers a diverse range of scientific topics, split into 6 major themes:

Biological Diversity, Matter and Chemical Change, Environmental Chemistry, Electrical Principles and Technologies, Space Exploration. The course places focus on building an interest in science through a diversity of media and hands on laboratory experiences. Students are required to write an Alberta Education Achievement Exam at the end of this course.

Physical Education

PE 9, in conjunction with Teen Element 9, will be offered as a combined course that runs all year long. Teachers will balance class activities so that daily physical activity occurs.

PE 9 emphasizes active living with a focus on physical activities that can be valued and integrated into daily life. Activities include individual and group sports all intended to develop basic skills in students, and at the same time contribute to their health and well being, their ability to cooperate with others and to encourage positive attitudes towards life-long fitness.



Health/Technology

Making Choices that Matter - helping students understand new ways of communicating and new technologies in order to make responsible and informed life choices using critical thinking.

A well known commentator on digital technology, Marc Prensky, refers to this generation of students as "Digital Natives." Many people have assumed this means that today's students know about the digital world in which they live. It is true that students are very comfortable with digital tools (like cell phones or facebook) and that they can easily move from one new tool to another or multitask using many tools at once. However, they often lack the critical thinking skills or background information needed to function in this digital world safely, efficiently, and effectively. Almost all would benefit from better skills to manage issues around protection of identity, privacy, cyberbullying, access to graphic content, authenticity of information, management of and making relevant use of every increasing amounts of information.

This is a course for grade 9 students which will help them learn the habits of mind and skills needed to "read" digital information and understand new technologies and new ways of thinking. This year-long course will address all types of student needs (emotional, physical, and mental). With help from the Public Health Nurse, School Guidance Counselors, and other experts in the community, our students will learn not only the tools needed to create, communicate, and collaborate effectively but also how to use these tools in the context of their lives. Our goal is to create a learning environment which engages our students in their learning by helping them find what they are most passionate about, what they are good at, and what the world needs. Authors Sean Covey (Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens) refers to this as their "Voice", and Sir Ken Robinson (The Element) calls it "Our Element."

Specific details about the tools and learner outcomes addressed in this course can be found on the course management software called Moodle.

Check out our website at <http://www.crps.ab.ca/cchs> to keep current with news and happenings at CCHS. Become a member of the email users group by sending a blank email to: cchsparents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Grade 9 Option Course Descriptions

FAQ for @ 9 (Art Technology 9) - \$50

What is this course?

This course invites the student to explore a wide variety of experiences in Drawing, Design, Animation, Photography, Art History, Video, Painting and Computer Design/Graphics.

Is this Art class or Computer Class?

This course is both. Students will learn a broad range of Art skills and concepts while learning to use a variety of Computer based tools to create their products.

What will it look like when I am in the class?

Great question! You will be doing hands on project based work. You will work on several large projects over the course of the term. There will be a mixture of individual and group based work. Even the group work will have a STRONG individual component.

Depending on the project or even the stage of the project, you will be either in the Computer Lab, Art Room, or Production Studio.

Why should I take this Option?

The best Question yet! You should take this class because it will be a fun and challenging course which will provide you with a lot of choice in your learning. This will also provide you with a solid foundation should you choose to take Art, Communication Technology, Design or Information Processing in your grade 10 year.

Foods - \$20

Grade 9 Food students are primarily involved in learning how to prepare saleable food for our cafeteria program, and of course that involves first making it for themselves to eat! An introduction to safe handling of food and equipment, is followed by students rotating through several stations to practice their skills. From making cinnamon buns from scratch to producing baked salmon with rice for our daily special – students gain a thorough understanding of the food service industry.

Drama

Students entering Drama 9 focus on the very foundation of Drama skills. Creative drama experiences are provided while stressing fundamental skills. Movement, speech, theatre studies and introductory improvisation skills are all explored at this level.

French

French 9 is a prerequisite for the French 10, 20 and 30 programs. It develops the basic skills needed to communicate in basic daily situations at school, at home and in the community. Both speaking and writing are emphasized.

Construction Technology- \$25 - includes ONE completed animated toy.

The Grade 9 – Industrial Arts Program is a “TOY” construction course. Although seemingly simplistic, this is the ideal method of teaching simple tool use, finishing and assembly methods to the Grade 9 student with or without experience in the Construction Lab. Students MAY choose to complete additional projects and costs will depend on degree of difficulty and size of the project.

Mechanics - \$20

This first year mechanics course is designed for students who have an interest in mechanics and basic automotive maintenance. Classroom instruction is supported by hands-on shop work. Emphasis at this level is placed on Shop safety, proper tool use and shop and work area cleanliness.

Other units include:

Comprehensive Vehicle Maintenance

Tires and Wheels

Basic Electricity and Battery Care

Electrical Circuit Diagnosis

Auto Detailing

Gas Welding & Thermal Cutting

Music – musical instrument required

Discover how playing in band can be fun! Students will discover, develop and evaluate their talents and abilities while playing a musical instrument. Previous experience is an asset. In this class, we will work to establish and reinforce correct techniques and skills while playing in a concert band setting. Students will also be asked to perform in various other ensembles in a variety of settings. Public performances (in the school) will be a required part of the class.

Outdoor Education - \$50

Outdoor Education 9 is a skills based course which covers many of the following topics:

Equipment for the Outdoor Experience, Trip Planning, Low Impact Camping Practices, Shelters, Knots, Stoves and Cooking, Backpacking, Navigation, Fishing, and Canoeing. The theory component of the course will center on Group Processes (leadership, responsibility, self-reliance), Leadership Qualities, Outdoor Safety, and Nature Awareness. Good outdoor clothing, camping equipment, and a positive attitude are necessary to complete the course.

Trips: All students participate in one overnight trip and one full day of canoeing (depending on availability of equipment, weather conditions and 'fitness' of students).

GRADE 9 OPTION REGISTRATION – The following has the possibility of being offered if enrolment is sufficient.

OPTION A CHOICES – Full semester (20 weeks)

Music
ArtTechnology
French as a Second Language

OPTION B CHOICES – ½ semester (10 weeks)

Drama
Food Studies
Mechanics
Outdoor Education
Construction Technology

STEP 1 - Students **must** choose **one** of the following combinations – **please circle combination:**

1. Two option A
2. One option A + two option B
3. Four option B
4. **French Immersion students** – can choose **either** one option A **or** two option B as they will be registered in a core French Immersion course during the option block for one of the semesters.

STEP 2 – list **six** options, in order of preference that you have chosen from the lists above. We will endeavour to give students their first choices, but class size limitations and course conflicts do exist in some cases.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

NAME(Please print)_____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE_____

DUE DATE – May 16, 2011 (Please hand in this page ONLY to your Grade 8 homeroom teacher).