

# **NECHAKO VALLEY SECONDARY SCHOOL**

## **GRADE 9 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

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## INTRODUCTION TO STUDENTS

This book is for all Grade 8 students who are planning their courses for next year. In planning you should have the advice of your parents, and in order to receive full benefit, it is important that you read the course descriptions thoroughly.

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### TIMETABLE

At NVSS, grade 9-12 students follow a semester timetable, which means that the school year is divided in half and, with a few exceptions, each student takes four courses each semester. We try to balance student timetables with electives so that students are not overloaded in either semester with heavy academic courses. Students are able to meet with counsellors to have their timetables adjusted when necessary.

### SPECIAL NOTES:

**COURSE CONSTANTS** courses that **MUST** be taken by all students.

**ELECTIVES** courses that students may choose to take considering their qualifying options and goals for future years.

**COURSE LOAD** students are required to take full course loads (8 courses) in Grades 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Students are strongly encouraged to select their courses with consideration to their future plans and interests. Students will **NOT** be permitted to make changes to their course requests unless one of the following conditions applies:

- To meet grad requirements
- To meet Career Prep program requirements
- To complete core course requirements
- To balance academic course load

## **COUNSELLING SERVICES AT NVSS**

Currently at NVSS, there are two counsellors. The counselling duties can be divided into three different areas – educational, career and personal – with educational counselling receiving the majority of the counsellors' time.

The counsellors handle course selections and course transfers for current and new students, as well as arrange and conduct meetings with parents and students.

Counsellors organize liaison visits between students and post-secondary representatives and assist students with financial aid (loans, scholarships, bursaries), and post-secondary education. They counsel students regarding such things as academic progress, attendance and behaviour; they interpret educational needs of students to administration and staff.

The counsellors are always available for personal counselling and they are prepared to help students in resolving special problems (e.g. with teachers, family, peers, self) and in developing skills in making personal decisions, and in realizing potential. The counsellors will also help find special help for students, if this is needed.

As well, the counsellors and school secretaries are responsible for monitoring and maintaining adequate and accurate student information records such as: permanent record cards; graduation requirement credits; up-to-date student timetables; student medical problems; student performance surveys and interim reports; student course selection sheets; student course transfers; class size counts and limits.

Ms. Vahi works primarily with students in grades 11-12. Mrs. Baker deals primarily with students in grades 7-10. Of course, either counsellor will be available to assist any student in emergency situations and for personal counselling.

## **REQUIRED GRADE 9 PROGRAM**

The Ministry of Education mandates the following program of studies for Grade 9 students:

- English 9
- Math 9 (or Math 9: Workplace Essentials, by teacher recommendation)
- Physical and Health Education 9
- Science 9
- Social Studies 9
- One arts education elective
- One applied design skills & technologies elective
- A third elective - choose from modern languages\*, arts education or applied design skills & technologies.

\*A modern language should be selected if the student is considering attending university.

# REQUIRED GRADE 9 COURSES

## English 9

The English 9 curriculum will help students develop strong communication skills, an understanding and appreciation of language and literature, and to become literate and responsible citizens in a digital age. Students are guided in learning to think critically, creatively, and reflectively; to construct a sense of personal and cultural identity; and to be respectful of a range of perspectives and worldviews.

## Mathematics 9

Mathematics 9 is a course designed to improve both mathematical fluency and understanding. Much of the course involves number sense (fractions, exponents) but it also lays out the basic understanding of graphing, algebra and polynomials which is needed for more advanced mathematics.

An alternate course, Math 9: Workplace Essentials, is available to students who require more support and/or more time. This pathway allows students to proceed into Workplace Math 10. Please consult with a counsellor if this might be a good fit.

## Physical and Health Education 9

In PHE 9, students will be expected to demonstrate skills and strategies in the following:

- Daily participation in different types of physical activity influences our physical literacy and personal health and fitness goals
- Lifelong participation in physical activity has many benefits and is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle
- Healthy choices influence our physical, emotional and mental well-being
- Healthy relationships can help us lead rewarding and fulfilling lives
- Advocating for the health and well-being of others connects us to our community

## Science 9

Science 9 is an exploration of four basic areas:

- An examination of reproduction on the macroscopic and microscopic levels.
- Investigation of Atomic structure and chemical compounds.
- Gaining an understanding of electrical charge and current.
- Connecting the interactions of humans within the environment and how the two are connected.

Students will also get the opportunity to develop various science skills both inside and outside the classroom environment.

## Social Studies 9

Social Studies 9 covers the history of the development of Western Democracy from 1500 CE to 1920 CE.

The Big Ideas of the course are The Clash of Cultures, contact, conflict and cooperation as Europeans began Empire building in North America. As well, the Development of the Idea of Democracy and the changing attitudes as Nations struggled with Rebellion and Revolution in the English Civil War, the American and French Revolutions. The development of the understanding of rights and responsibilities in Canadian Society as expansion went westward. Further, we study the power of invention, the Industrial revolution and the Abolition of Slavery. The course ends with study of the Riel Rebellion, the building of the Railway, the Laurier era, Canada in World War 1 and the aftermath of the Russian Revolution.

Throughout the course is instruction on how to write an historical essay.

## MODERN LANGUAGES ELECTIVES

### French 9

French 9 builds on the skill-set acquired in French 8 – adding depth, breath and texture. Through authentic and learner-oriented text, film and research, students will further their understanding of both the French language and culture. Skills focus on speaking, reading, writing, viewing, listening and interacting. Projects and presentations are additional ways to demonstrate learning.

### Francais Langue 9

The language of instruction is French and all conversations are in French. Students continue to improve their vocabulary and knowledge of French language and culture through various authentic materials mainly from France and Quebec. Assessment is done on listening (movies and video clips), speaking (conversation, skits, presentations, etc.), writing (creative and opinions) and reading (magazines and literature).

### Carrier Language and Culture 9

Time will be spent on developing a Carrier vocabulary and speaking Carrier. Topics covered in the course are: Carrier culture and way of life prior to European contact, kinship, clanship, Carrier alphabet (47 letters), genealogy and others.

Guest speakers are an important part of the program.

### Introductory Japanese 11

**Open to students in grades 9 – 12.**  
**4 credits Elective Courses**

Introductory Japanese is a provincially prescribed curriculum that serves as a pre-requisite for Japanese 11 for students who may not have taken Japanese 5 to 10. It will introduce students to the fascinating language and culture of Japan. The linguistic component of the course will focus on the five skills of language acquisition – speaking, listening, reading, writing, and interpreting. The cultural components will include some of the many unique customs, hobbies, foods, arts, etc. which has been at the root of the island people's background for countless generations. Students will find this course as a beginning point of a life-long love and pursuit which will instill great satisfaction, as well as providing to be an important tool of communication in the Pacific-Rim.

The successful completion of Intro. Japanese 11 should provide students with a level of competence that will allow them to participate successfully in Japanese 11 and Japanese 12 courses (credit courses that will give you the second language credits required by some universities).

# APPLIED DESIGN SKILLS & TECHNOLOGIES ELECTIVES

## Computer Studies 10

### **4 credits Elective Courses or 4 credits ADST Courses**

This course is open to students in both grade 9 or 10.

Computer Studies 10 is an introduction to the fundamentals of computing. C.S. 10 is an excellent starting point for students considering a career in information technology or who are looking to take advanced courses in Computer Science or Robotics. This is a hands on course.

Through your study of *Computing Systems* you will come to understand that computers are machines made up of interconnected parts (both hardware and software) by taking them apart, putting them back together, and setting up simple networks.

You will develop your *Computational Thinking* skills by solving problems and implementing solutions in the Python programming language. You will also learn to design the circuitry for basic calculators.

You will also learn about *Computers & Society*, both by learning about the history of computation and engaging in the ethical issues regarding the future of computing. You will come to understand that computation has the power to impact people and that both system design and personal decisions should be informed by social, ethical, and sustainability considerations.

## Electronics & Robotics 10

Electronics & Robotics 10 is an introductory course into robotics focusing on programming and building robots. This course will be useful for students interested in pursuing studies in the fields of science, engineering and robotics. This is a hands-on course that will require you to design, build and test robots.

Throughout the course you will learn basic programming techniques and apply those techniques to program the robots. You will learn how to integrate the robotic sensors and motors into both the program and the actual design of the robot.

Teamwork is essential in this course as you will be part of a team. As such you will learn to work effectively in a team environment and how to communicate with each other as well as your project supervisor.



## Home Economics 9

This course includes two components:

**Food Studies:** Students will cover topics revolving around nutritionally sound food habits and preparation using simple recipes and cooking techniques. Students will acquire knowledge in the areas of food safety, food systems, as well as global and local food factors, through a combination of written assignments and cooking labs.

**Textile Studies:** Students will explore the elements of design through the creation of sewing projects, from planning to creation. Through these experiences, students will gain a knowledge of sewing machine and tool use, fabric uses and care, following pattern directions, and social factors relating to textiles. Students must provide their own textile supplies for the projects.

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## Applied Design, Skills & Technologies 9: Media Arts

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This course is an introduction to the many aspects of digital media technologies. You will explore the various technology-mediated tools of digital media production including imaging, 3d modelling, video, and animation. Students MUST enjoy working with computer and web-based applications and teamwork is essential.

We will explore a variety of image manipulation, 3D modelling and video production software programs and learn how to use industry standard programs including Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects and Premiere Pro as well as Blender 3D modeling.

In addition to image based media we will plan, write and film a variety of video projects.

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## Metalwork 9

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This course develops fundamental metal working skills and safety procedures that will be useful throughout a person's life. It provides technical knowledge and practical experience working in the following facets of metalwork: layout, reading drawings, sheet metal, hand tools, forging, heat treatment, oxy-acetylene welding and cutting, arc welding, and machining. This course is largely project and lab oriented.

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## Power Technology 9

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This course is an introduction to small engines, with an emphasis on small 4-stroke and 2-stroke engines, such as those found in lawnmowers, chainsaws, and rototillers. Safety and proper use of equipment are stressed. Time permitting, students are encouraged to work on their own projects. The second part of the course includes technology related areas. Students will be designing and building solar cars, magnetically levitated cars, and CO2 powered cars.



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## Woodwork 9

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This course develops fundamental woodworking skills. It involves the use of hand and power tools with emphasis placed on learning the correct and safe uses of such tools. IN the approximately 120 hours of the course, a base cabinet will be completed. Students who complete it will (if time permits) have the opportunity to do a project of their own. The course is project oriented.



# ARTS EDUCATION ELECTIVES

“Art does not reproduce what we see. Rather, it makes us see.” Paul Klee

The NVSS Fine Arts program meets the needs of both the student who is seriously interested in the world of the Arts and related career professions, as well as those of the student who is interested in exploring aspects of artistic expression for personal enrichment and enjoyment. Students will be expected to develop the life skills of communication, cooperation, and collaboration (which are the foundations for all Fine Arts activities).

## Drama 9

In this ensemble-driven class, students will have the opportunity to learn more about theatre and develop their abilities as creators, performers, and technicians in a collaborative, active, and “playful” atmosphere. Over the course of Drama 9, students will:

- Work in pairs, small groups, and as a class to create their own material
- Experiment with a variety of theatrical genres and scripts, including at least one non-contemporary form
- Develop a solid foundation in improvisation and acting
- Gain experience with aspects of theatre, marketing, and front-of-house
- Grow their confidence, sense of personal and social responsibility, communication skills, and creativity
- Rehearse, contribute to, and participate in a final project that will be devised by the class as a whole and performed for the NVSS community



## Music 9: Concert Band

**Concerts and performances outside of class time are an integral part of this course, and band members are expected to be involved.**

Concert band 9 will allow students the opportunity to explore and communicate their identity through music, while gaining insight into perspectives and experiences of people from a variety of times, places and cultures. We will utilize a collaborative musical experience to build community, teamwork, and nurture relationships with others. In this course, students will:

- Perform collaboratively in a large ensemble, while developing an understanding of personal, social, cultural, historical, and environmental contexts through a variety of musical experiences.
- Develop, refine, document, and critically appraise ideas, processes, and technical skills to improve your quality of musicianship.
- Reflect on musical performance to make connections to personal learning and experiences.
- Build musical literacy skills such as metre, rhythm, pitch, intonation, dynamics, and blend as they pertain to your concert band instrument in a large ensemble setting.

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## Music 9: Jazz Band

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*This course meets outside the timetable, and a placement audition is required with Mr. Larden. You must have prior experience on either trumpet, trombone, saxophone, clarinet, drum-kit, guitar, bass, or piano. Guitarists will require elementary theory knowledge.*

Jazz Band is a highly specialized instrumental organization that meets outside regular school hours. The skills and knowledge gained in the Concert Band course are imperative for success in Jazz band. Students learn the techniques of swing, funk, bebop, rock, soul, and other genres. The course will cover the principals of improvisation and entry level Jazz theory and history. Since this course meets outside the timetable, attendance at all rehearsals is a required part of the course.



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## Visual Arts 9

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Exploration of the elements of art through specific art mediums and techniques.

Drawing, sculpture, printmaking, and painting. In this course, the student will be introduced to drawing, sculpture, printmaking, and color theory. They will be encouraged to describe, interpret, and evaluate how artists use, processes, materials, and environments to create and communicate ideas.

Drawing techniques using the right side of the brain will help develop both visual and drawing skills. All students will participate, collaborate, critique and submit, as well as participate in the year-end art show.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# NVSS Grade 9 Course Selection 2019 – 20

## 5 REQUIRED COURSES:

- |              |                     |                                  |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. English 9 | 2. Mathematics 9    | 3. Physical & Health Education 9 |
| 4. Science 9 | 5. Social Studies 9 |                                  |

## 3 ELECTIVE COURSES:

1. Applied Design Skills & Technologies Elective: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Arts Education Elective: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Any Category Elective: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 ALTERNATIVE COURSES:

All students MUST indicate alternative choices.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

French, Japanese or Spanish to the grade 11 level is required if students are considering going on to university.

ALL students must commit to their course selections.

Class size and elective offerings are determined by student's original selection of courses.

Students are strongly encouraged to select their courses with consideration to their future plans and interests. Grade 9 students will NOT be permitted to make changes to their course requests unless one of the following conditions applies:

\* To complete core course requirements

\* To balance academic course load

**ALL COURSE SELECTION SHEETS MUST BE COMPLETED, SIGNED BY YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN, AND RETURNED TO THE OFFICE BEFORE**

**Thursday, MARCH 7, 2019**

# NVSS Grade 9 Course List

# 2019 – 20

\*\* Please write your 2019-20 course choices on the backside of this page and have your parent/guardian sign in agreement to your choices. \*\*

<b>GRADE 9 REQUIRED COURSES</b> <b>(You must have all five(5))</b>	
English 9	Mathematics 9
Physical and Health Education 9	Science 9
Social Studies 9	

<b>GRADE 9 ELECTIVE COURSES</b> <b>(Choose 1 Fine Arts, 1 Applied Skills, and 1 from any category.</b> <b>You must also indicate 2 additional alternative courses.)</b>	
<b><u>APPLIED DESIGN SKILLS &amp; TECHNOLOGIES:</u></b> Computer Studies 10 Electronics & Robotics 10 Home Economics 9 ADST 9: Media Arts Metalwork 9 Power Technology 9 Woodwork 9	<b><u>ARTS EDUCATION:</u></b> Drama 9 Concert Band 9 Jazz Band 9 Visual Arts 9
<b><u>INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES</u></b> French 9 (must have French 8) Francais Langue 9 Carrier Language & Culture 9 Introductory Japanese 11	

## Course descriptions:

To view course descriptions online, visit the school website at: [nvss.sd91.bc.ca](http://nvss.sd91.bc.ca)

If you do not have internet access, you can request a copy of the book at the office.