

Grade 8 Course Planning Book

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ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Attendance

- **Closed Campus rules apply. All grade 8 students must remain on the school property at lunch.**
- Teachers take attendance in every class every day.
- Attendance is recorded and displayed on your report cards.
- The computerized attendance tracking system will phone your home if you have an unexcused absence. Please remind parents to phone in when you are ill or absent for an appointment.
- **DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE** to call your parent at home when you are ill.
- Please **“sign out”** in the counselling office before you leave for an appointment or if you feel ill throughout the day. We need to contact a parent/guardian before you leave the building.
- Please **“sign in”** with the counselling secretary upon your return to school from an appointment during the day.

Dress Code

- Students are asked to dress **appropriately** and **respectfully** for school – students should dress for **“work”**, **NOT THE BEACH.**
- ******For P.E., students must purchase Brookwood strip (shorts & t-shirt) for \$25.00.******
- Order forms will be on the website in August.

Lockers

- Lockers are the property of the school and should be respected and kept clean; the administration is entitled to search your locker at any time should the need arise.
- Every student is assigned a full locker in which to store personal items and books.
- Students are encouraged to buy the combination locks from the school. In this way, locks can be exchanged if necessary and the combinations can be found in the office in case students forget their combo numbers.

Textbooks

- Textbooks are provided free of charge; however, because texts now cost in excess of \$40.00 each, students are asked to take good care of their texts.
- Student names should be written in textbooks; replacement fees will be charged if texts are defaced or lost.

Agenda Planners

- Every grade 8 student is given an agenda planning book in September. Replacement cost is \$8.00. A planner is a key to use because:
- It keeps you organized, it relays important information and it gives you important dates to remember (Pro-D days, holidays, report cards, interviews).
- Use your planner in every class to record homework, projects, tests and marks; in addition, record your goals and achievements.

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Agenda Planners (Continued)

- We have also added our own Brookwood app called the 'Catz Calendar'. This app allows students to record their courses, record homework and receive notifications. Students should download it in August to be ready to use in September.

Homework

- All grade 8 homework is posted on the Brookwood website. On the right side of the home page there are tabs for both Teacher Website and the Homework page.
- Grade 8 students are expected to study or work on homework/assignments for about an hour every day.

Parents play a critical role in the completion of homework.

- Ask your child to show you the planner, the homework assignments and the due date.
- Go through the website together to see what is on the homework page for that day.
- Ask your child how you can help study or prepare for test or quizzes.
- E-mail or phone your child's teacher(s) if you notice your child is not doing homework or struggling with homework.

Fee/Course Supplies

- All students pay an activity fee of \$25.00 in September. This money supports extracurricular activities, student council events, guest speakers and assemblies.
- In September, individual teachers will inform students of special supplies, other than binders, paper and writing instruments, required for their courses.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We are very proud of the extracurricular activities available for students:

Student Council – (grades 8 to 12)

- Provides students an opportunity to coordinate special events and dress-up days.

Athletics

- Students can participate in volleyball, basketball, cross country, hockey, golf, rugby, soccer, cheerleading, track and field and noon-hour intramurals such as dodge ball.

Other clubs and activities

- For students include Jazz Band and Choir, Multicultural Club, Art Club and Environmental Club (The Green Team).

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OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Brookwood has over 1050 students in attendance. The School mascot is the BOBCAT. The school colours are blue with red and white accents.

HELP

At Brookwood, if you need assistance, there are many people who can help!

- You can talk with the vice-principals, Mr. Jeff Keen and Mr. Mike Pue and/or to the principal, Mr. John Pusic.
- In addition, the counsellors, Ms. Dean, Ms. Faber and Ms. Zaragoza would be delighted to help you with any concerns you may have.
- Your teachers are available for after school help sessions on most days of the week and the Librarian can help you with any research or reference books you may need.

REGULAR BELL SCHEDULE	<i>3 (70) + 1 (68) minutes blocks = 40 min GL</i>
Welcoming Bell	8:25
Period 1	8:30 – 9:40
FLEX	9:45 – 10:25
Period 2	10:30 – 11:40
LUNCH BREAK	11:40 – 12:20
Period 3	12:25 – 1:35
Period 4	1:40 – 2:48

*** *Our day includes FLEX Time each day, a forty minute block of time following first period for students to receive extra help, make up missed work or complete other homework. Students are in the same classroom that they had first block of the day.*

CAT PACK 8

Cat Pack is an innovative, engaging, technology rich, interdisciplinary program that will encourage students to develop the skills necessary for success in the 21st century: critical thinking, collaboration, oral and written communication, information analysis and effective use of technology.

In Cat Pack 8 English Program students have the option of enrolling in Cat Pack by completing the application on the back of the course planning sheet. All students in the French Immersion program are automatically part of Cat Pack. All Cat Pack students will work with a team of experienced teachers with specialties in Science, Math, Social Studies, English, French Immersion and Information Technology. Students will engage in learning where they will take initiative and responsibility in many aspects of their learning, while reinforcing the essential skills listed above.

Technology will be infused into the program to help bolster these 21st Century Skills and to bring real world experiences in to the classroom. Students enrolled in Cat Pack 8 should expect reduced instruction or learning associated with textbooks, as every student will have an iPad to work with in class and at home. The iPad has been chosen for consistency, for its use as a digital creation tool, for its digital library, for ease of interacting in the classroom and for sharing of information. We have set the iPad 2 as a minimum requirement for the program. No student will be turned away from the program based on financial need.

The Cat Pack program has a limited enrollment capacity. As a result, students will apply to get into the program. Application forms will be available during course planning.

The Cat Pack program is open to students of all ranges of academic abilities. The program is however, designed for students who possess certain personal and learning qualities.

Who would thrive in this program?

- Students who enjoy working collaboratively with their peers.

- Students who show initiative in their own learning.

- Students who have an interest in developing leadership skills.

- Students who show mindful behaviour (not distracted easily)

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Course Plan for Grade 8 English Program

1. English 8
2. Social Studies 8
3. Physical Education 8B (Boys), Physical Education 8G (Girls)
Or High Performance 8B or 8G
4. Science 8
5. Mathematics 8
6. French 8
7. **TWO** of
 - a) Discovery 8A (Music Appreciation, Information Technology, Textiles and Woodwork)
 - b) Discovery 8B (Arts Education, Drama, Media Arts)
 - c) Concert Band 8

Course Plan for Grade 8 French Immersion Program

1. English 8
2. Sciences Humaines 8 (Social Studies 8 in French)
3. Mathematics 8
4. Science 8
5. Français Langue 8 (FRAL 8)
6. Physical Education 8B (Boys), Physical Education 8G (Girls) or
Or High Performance 8B or 8G
7. Français Communication 8 (FRAC 8)
8. Beaux Arts 8

**** French Immersion students who wish to take Band 8 should speak with a counsellor.**

Note: Throughout high school, French Immersion students are limited to fewer elective choices due to prescribed immersion courses.

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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

English 8

The aims of the English 8 course are to increase the students' basic language arts skills and to broaden their knowledge through exploration and investigation. This course provides a balanced program of instruction in language, literature and composition.

Students will be evaluated based on:

- **written work**
Because the course focuses on developing the students' writing abilities, assessment of a variety of writing will be a major part of evaluation.
- **classroom work and participation**
- **quizzes and larger tests**
- **formal tests**
These tests will be written in the middle and at the end of the year.

Social Studies 8

Social Studies 8 explores our diverse heritage. Units include:

- **Geography:** Interpreting maps and globes; locating information.
- **History:** Middle Ages in Western Europe; Eastern Europe, the Middle East, India, China and Japan; Renaissance and Reformation in Europe; Exploration and Conquest.
- **Current Events and Field Studies.**

Physical Education 8

Students are exposed to a wide variety of activities presented in units lasting 3 or 4 weeks in length.

- Soccer
- Cross- country running; track and field
- Rugby and touch football
- Circuit weight training and aerobic fitness
- Volleyball and basketball
- Badminton
- Wrestling
- Floor hockey and minor games
- Dance

Evaluation will be based on having PE strip, fitness and skill level, participation, basic knowledge of rules, effort and sportsmanship.

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High Performance Physical Education 8

This is a course designed for highly skilled and self-motivated athletes who are interested in augmenting their training regime through a sport-specific training program.

The course will involve the following programs:

- Plyometric
- Sport-specific weight training
- Jump program
- Agility and core training
- Aerobic and anaerobic training

Choosing High Performance 8 does not guarantee enrolment as there will only be one boys and one girl's course offered.

Mathematics 8

This course is designed to develop deep mathematical understanding in a variety of topics. Students will progress from the use of "hands-on" manipulatives to more abstract routines and strategies in order to comprehend and solve problems effectively and efficiently. Topics include number sense (ex: fractions), financial literacy, algebra, shapes and space and probability.

Science 8

Students study the following topics:

- **Life Sciences:** Cells and Body Systems;
- **Physical Sciences:** Optics, Fluids and Dynamics;
- **Earth Science:** Water Systems of the Earth

Students participate in a wide variety of investigative activities, with an emphasis on scientific process and the scientific method throughout the course. Evaluation is based on class work, lab assignments, quizzes and tests.

French 8

This is an introductory course which develops the skills and vocabulary acquired at the elementary level. Topics include:

- Vocabulary
- Verbs and conjugations
- Some grammatical structures
- Culture

Emphasis will be placed on oral activities complemented by grammar work using written materials. Evaluation includes quizzes and unit tests, interview for oral/aural testing, projects, home assignments and workbook exercises.

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Français 8 Immersion (FRAC)

Prerequisite: French Immersion

This is a French Immersion Cat Pack course with a focus on French literature studies. Students will explore French novel and texts in literature circles and also independently. They will also learn about Aboriginal culture and stories through legends in written and video format. They will further develop listening, speaking, reading, writing, vocabulary and culture. The course will be taught with a communicative-experiential and technological methodologic approach towards learning. The use of French will be contextualized and student will be using language in real life situations.

Français 8 Immersion (FRAL 8)

Prerequisite: French Immersion

Welcome to FRAL 8! In this course students will participate in activities which will help develop their French listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. They will also explore French grammar in a guided participative approach and one based on story telling. Grammar will be contextualized to real life situations and lessons will be created through the lens of the communicative-experiential approach toward French language learning. Students will develop the ability to communicate in French and have an open mind towards francophone cultures within Canada and throughout the world, as well as explore their own culture groups. Students improve their written and oral communication, as well as their editing and thinking skills.

Beaux Arts 8

Prerequisite: French Immersion

This is a French Immersion Cat Pack course, students will explore theatre, music, photography, art and health and career. They will develop multiple intelligences such as bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal, verbal-linguistic, intrapersonal, visual-spatial and musical. Student will use an iPad and apps as tools for learning. The course will be taught with technological methodological approach towards learning.

Discovery 8A

This year long survey course will cover introductory courses in the areas of music appreciation, information technology, textiles and woodwork.

Each module will run for approximately 30 hours and will serve as an opportunity for students to sample each of these elective areas.

Discovery 8B

This year long survey course will cover introductory courses in the areas of art education, drama and media arts.

Each module will run for approximately 30 hours and will serve as an opportunity for students to sample each of these elective areas.

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Junior Concert Band 8

This course is for students who have had one or two years of either private or school band experience and is the appropriate level for students who have played in an elementary band.

Those with no prior band experience may join, however it is expected that the students will put in extra practice to catch up to the band skill level within approximately three months.

Objectives of the course are to develop technical skills at the beginning level on woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. This beginning band course is designed to introduce students to the following:

- basic instrumental music techniques such as tone production, articulation, breath control, pitch discrimination
- melodic and rhythmic concepts and patterns
- practice skills and habits
- solo, small ensemble, and full ensemble rehearsals
- a variety of instrumental repertoire
- experiences in performing understanding music as it relates to self, community, historical and cultural context

Participation in field trips, concerts and festivals is a course requirement. Students may be invited to participate in a spring music trip.

Junior Jazz Band 8

***Pre-requisite: Audition and Director's permission
Co-requisite: Junior Concert Band 8 or
Intermediate Concert Band***

Instrumentation for the class is limited to E-flat alto sax, B-flat tenor sax, E-flat baritone sax, B-flat trumpet, trombone, percussion, electric/Acoustic bass, electric guitar, piano, percussion and drum. If you are not playing one of these instruments but would still like to play in the jazz band, please see the director.

The course will emphasize knowledge of the various forms and periods of the jazz idiom. Students will become aware of the importance of jazz music to music history in general. Students will be able to:

- perform the idiosyncrasies of jazz music
- explore the fundamentals of improvisation and the specialized techniques required in this idiom
- understand the theory of jazz, blues and hybrid styles
- perform jazz big band and stage band repertoire, as well as combo arrangements

Attendance at before and after school rehearsals and participation in field trips, concerts and festivals are part of course requirements.