



**COURSE**  
**PLANNING BOOK**  
**2023 TO 2024**  
**Grade 8**

# Grade 8 Course Planning Book

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## Welcome Grad Class of 2028

We are excited to welcome you to Brookwood Secondary School in September 2023. We know that the next five years will fly by and look forward to getting to know you and work with you as you move toward Graduation and a successful transition to post-secondary experiences.

The biggest difference between elementary and secondary school is that, in secondary, students have opportunities to dig deeper in many subjects and content areas. Students also have more flexibility to pursue areas of particular interest. As you move through the grades, you will find more and more opportunities to make choices as to what areas you would like to explore including all of the academic areas as well as the many electives we offer. To be successful, all Brookwood students are encouraged to take ownership of their own learning and gain as many experiences and skills as possible while here. Think about how you will do that? At Brookwood, you will be asked to move independently from class to class and be responsible for organizing yourself for each courses taken. In order to help you, have created the 'MySchoolDay APP' (available on iPhone and Android for free), we have homerooms that we use to help support students and our counsellors, teachers and admin are always available to help. Organization is a key to being successful and we promise to help you learn the skills you need to be just that!

Brookwood is 'Bobcat Country' and together we are all Brookwood Bobcats. The secret to success in any secondary school is to get involved in the school community. Class work is important and should always be a priority, but experience has shown that students who are involved in school clubs and teams learn important skills that lead to success later in life! Some of the activities available to you include: Athletics, Music, Drama, Student Clubs, Student's Council and Intramurals. We want you to get involved and to thrive academically so that when you walk the stage as one of our Graduates in 2027 you will be well prepared for whatever you choose to do in the future!

In closing, let me extend my warmest welcome on behalf of the staff, students and parents of Brookwood. We are proud to have you join us in Bobcat Country! Together we can "Positively Shape Our World".

Sincerely,

Lisa Ellis  
Principal

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## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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

### **Student Council – Grades 8 to 12**

Provide 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.

### **Elective Courses Outside the Timetable**

Concert Band 8, Jazz Band 8 and Musical Theatre 8 are full credit courses offered outside of the timetable (before and after school).

### **Other clubs and activities**

For students include Multicultural Club, Art Club and Environmental Club (The Green Team).

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### **BROOKSWOOD SCHOOL FEES:**

#### **Student Activity Fee - \$25.00**

All students (excluding ISP and Equestrian students) must pay the activity fee. This fee helps us bring in guest speakers; help fund field trips and other school wide activities that benefit all students.

#### **Lock Rental - \$8.00:**

This fee is for all new students and all grade 8s. It is a one-time fee for a lock rental for school lockers. Students get one lock each year through to graduation. Lost locks may be replaced by purchasing a new one at the school office for \$8.00.

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

- You can talk with the vice-principals, Mr. Jeff Keen and Ms. Lisa Ellis and/or to the principal, Mr. John Pusic.
- In addition, any of the counsellors 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.

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### ***Course Plan for Grade 8 English Program***

1. English 8
2. Social Studies 8
3. Physical Education 8
4. Science 8
5. Mathematics 8
6. French 8
7. Discovery 8A (Computational Thinking, Textiles and Woodwork)
8. Discovery 8B (Arts Education, Drama, Media Arts and Career Education)

### ***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 8
7. Français Communication 8 (FRAC 8)
8. Discovery 8B (Arts Education, Drama, Media Arts and Career Education)

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

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## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### ***Career Education 8 (MCE--08)***

In Grade 8, students take Career Education 8 as part of their Discovery Rotation and explore concepts such as identity, leadership, personal planning, and transferable skills. As students build on the foundation developed from their experiences in kindergarten to grade 7, they begin to explore in greater depth their skills and passions and begin to determine possible routes to their goals. The concepts started in Career 8 will build toward the knowledge needed to start the Capstone project in Grade 10. Students will continue to collect artifacts of learning for their Capstone as well.

### ***English Language Arts 8 (MEN--08)***

English Language Arts 8 gives students to explore various texts and stories to help understand different perspectives while solidifying their own viewpoints. Students will have opportunities to question, view, read, listen, and critically think about various forms of text.

The Goals of English 8 are to:

- Communicate effectively in written, spoken and visual forms.
- Develop a positive attitude towards reading and learning language.
- Make connections with other areas of study and to outside the classroom.
- To think critically, creatively and reflectively.
- Appreciate culture-your culture and the culture of others.

### ***Mathematics 8 (MMA--08)***

This course is designed to develop deep mathematical understanding in a variety of topics. Students will engage in a thinking classroom model to comprehend and solve problems effectively and efficiently. Topics include number sense (ex. fractions), financial literacy, algebra, shapes and space, and probability.

### ***Physical Education 8 (MPHE-08)***

Students are exposed to a wide variety of activities.

- 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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## **Science 8 (MSC--08)**

Students will focus on the following essential questions:

- What does it mean to be alive? How does science classify something as living? non-living?
- What are the basic building blocks of matter? How do we see the things we cannot see?
- What is light? How are different models of light used to explain different phenomena?
- How is evidence used to understand how earth has been shaped throughout time?

Students participate in a wide variety of investigative activities, with an emphasis on learning to observe, question, explore and communicate what they have learned.

## **Social Studies 8 (MSS--08)**

Period of Study: 7<sup>th</sup> Century to 1750

Social Studies 8 seeks to answer the question of how civilization took shape through the exploration of different nations and cultures dating back to the fall of the Roman Empire. As such, Social Studies 8 involves the study of new and developing political, social, and cultural ideas that grew out of various conflicts and interactions over the centuries between people in Europe, The Middle East, Asia, and Africa as well as the emerging nation of Canada. While Social Studies 8 covers a vast expanse of time, the focus is less on content and more on allowing students to make historical connections in the past and with current events.

## **French 8 (MFR--08)**

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.

## **Sciences Humaines 8 (FSCHF08)**

Sciences Humaines 8 is an exploration of how contact between peoples and civilizations created social, political, and economic changes. Sometimes these changes resulted in partnerships, peace, and understanding, but sometimes they led to conflict and war. How do these events which happened so long ago and so far away still affect us today? To answer this question, students will study topics like world religions, the rise and fall of

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civilizations like Rome and the Vikings, significant periods in history like the Middle Ages, and the varied effects of the Age of Exploration. This is a French Immersion class and it requires students to read, speak, and write entirely in French.

### ***Français Litterature 8 (XLCA08)***

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 Langue Seconde-Immersion 8 (FRAL08)***

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.

### ***.Discovery 8A (MADCT08, MADT-08, MADW-08)***

This survey course will cover introductory courses in the areas of computational thinking (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 (MCE--08, MDR--08, MADMA08, MAE--08)***

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

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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### ***Band 8 (XBA--08)*** *(Junior Concert Band)*

This full credit course is an X-Block class that rehearses twice a week out of the timetable: one before school and one after school. Please contact Mr. Turi ([dturi@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:dturi@sd35.bc.ca)) for more information.

This performance-based 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 an appropriate amount of time.

Objectives of the course are to continually develop technical skills on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. A variety of musical styles will be taught throughout the year and students will continually learn increasingly difficult musical repertoire.

Students will develop the following:

1. Instrumental music techniques such as tone production, articulation, breath control, and pitch discrimination, while demonstrating continual improvement of tone and range on instrument.
2. Melodic and rhythmic concepts and patterns, while maintaining their part within complex textures and harmonies.
3. Listening skills, not only for tuning their own instrument but also for listening across the band and understanding the importance of their part within the ensemble.
4. Practice skills and habits.
5. Solo, small ensemble, and full ensemble rehearsals.
6. A variety of instrumental music repertoire in many different styles.
7. Learn about various composers and review rudimentary music theory.
8. Experiences in performing and understanding music as it relates to self, community, historical, and cultural context.

Attendance and participation in field trips, concerts, and festivals are part of course requirements.

### ***Jazz Band 8 (XBA--08J)*** *(Junior Jazz Band)*

#### Co-requisite: Band 8

This full credit course is an X-Block class that rehearses twice a week out of the timetable: one before school and one after school. Please contact Mr. Turi ([dturi@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:dturi@sd35.bc.ca)) for more information.

Students must also be enrolled in Band 8 to be in Jazz Band 8. While priority is given to students in Band, exceptions to this may be made to piano and guitar players. Please see Mr. Turi for more information.

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Instrumentation for the class is designed for standard jazz instrumentation: alto sax, tenor sax, baritone sax, trumpet, trombone, percussion, electric/acoustic bass, guitar, piano, and drums. If you are not playing one of these instruments but would still like to play in the Jazz Band, please see the director.

While building on the skills and experience learned in Concert Band, this course will emphasize performance in the language of jazz. Students will gain knowledge of the various forms and periods of the jazz idiom. Jazz concepts, theory, and history will be discussed, and all students will learn how to solo appropriately. Students will become aware of the importance of jazz music to music history in general.

Students will be able to:

1. Perform the idiosyncrasies of jazz music and play parts with complex jazz textures and harmonies.
2. Demonstrate improvement of tone and range while performing increasingly difficult jazz repertoire.
3. Explore the fundamentals of improvisation and the specialized techniques required in this idiom.
4. Understand the theory of jazz, blues, and hybrid styles.
5. Explore, study, and listen to the masters of jazz history.
6. Perform jazz big band and stage band repertoire, as well as combo arrangements.
7. Use appropriate jazz terminology to describe rhythm, metre, and melody.
8. Perform music in many different styles including pop, rock, blues, swing, Latin, and more.

Attendance and participation in field trips, concerts, and festivals are part of course requirements.