

Grade 8 Subject Selection for 2019

Students in Grade 8 in 2019 will study a range of subjects, some of which form the core of their academic programme and as such are compulsory. The rest of their programme is made up of a number of elective subjects.

Core Subjects:

Eight subjects form the basis of the Grade 8 curriculum. They are English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Health and Physical Education, languages (French, German and Japanese) or HEC, and Christian Studies. Students are organised into four core classes for these subjects with the exception of Mathematics (where students are grouped according to their relative mathematical strengths) and languages (students continue to be grouped according to the language that they study). HEC or Helpful Extra Classes is provided as an alternative to a foreign language for those students have been identified as needing additional learning support, particularly in literacy.

Elective Subjects:

Grade 8 students study **six** elective subjects during the year, with each subject running for a semester. Students may opt to study some subjects for the full year including Art, Creative Writing, Drama, Extension, Food Studies, ICT Studies, Music, and Technology; **however**, Dance, Electronics, Craft and Design, Design Graphics, Minecraft Programming, Philosophy, Robotics and Textiles and Design may only be studied for one semester.

An outline of each subject appears below to help students make their selection. Students will enter their subject preferences on-line following the instructions attached. Students are encouraged to have a balance between the arts and technology subjects; at least one elective should be chosen from each area.

Please note: If a student is the holder of a **scholarship** in a particular area, such as Music, Drama or Dance, the corresponding elective should be selected for study for at least one semester.

Please read the attached instructions carefully before completing the on-line subject registration. **A printout of each student's subject registration signed by a parent should be returned to his/her Grade 7 Class Teacher no later than Monday 4 September.**

Art (ART1, ART2)

The Grade 8 Art course is designed to extend the students' skills, knowledge and experience in the subject in a friendly and supportive environment. Students who tackle the subject for the full year will pursue innovative projects in areas including drawing, printmaking, painting and 3 dimensional constructions which form a valuable basis for the Grade 9/10 Art programmes.

Craft and Design (CRD1, CRD2)

The Craft and Design course introduces students to a range of craft areas including stained glass, jewellery making, mosaics and leather craft. A design based subject, students will design and produce individual pieces of work within set parameters.

Creative Writing (CRW1, CRW2)

Students experiment with and develop their writing skills by examining a number of genres and the stylistic components which form a basis of these. They will produce a collection of their own writing and develop proof reading and editing skills in a collaborative environment. Students will engage in discussions of texts, both print and non-print, as a source for their own ideas and style of writing.

Dance (DNC1, DNC2)

Through the Dance course students will be introduced to the principles and terminology of dance and dance making. They will learn to create dance works which have structure and which communicate a particular intention. Physical proficiency is expected to develop over the course as well as an awareness of safe dance practices. Journal work will reflect the students' planning and assessment of their own work and the work of others. Students will be expected to present group polished performance work in public. **Please note: previous dance experience is NOT a requirement for this course.**

Electronics (ELT1, ELT2)

The Electronics course aims to give students an introduction in to the fascinating world of electronic circuitry. Students will learn how to use a soldering iron and other tools to build electronic circuits. They will study the fundamentals of electricity as well as how components such as diodes, resistors and capacitors work and investigate how they can be used to sense and control the world around us. The course will culminate with students building their own electronic gadget (for example a fridge door alarm, a car parking sensor or a door bell/intercom). In addition we will have the opportunity to pull apart and explore some commercially made electronic equipment – maybe even replacing the cracked screen on an iPhone!

Design Graphics (DGR1, DGR2)

Students develop freehand sketching skills in perspective and isometric drawing methods. They gain experience in the use of a range of media, and cover techniques in producing 3-dimensional drawings. Students are also introduced to computer graphics, drawing standards and methods.

Drama (DRM1, DRM2)

Through this course students will acquire an increased understanding of the use of spoken language, drama and movement. They will be involved in working co-operatively and creatively with others to explore social issues, attitudes and opinions. Students will be expected to present polished performances in public. They will also be involved in problem-solving situations. The development of knowledge and skills in speaking, listening, script-writing and performing will be undertaken to an appropriately high standard. This will be achieved through the setting of short-term goals and reflecting on personal achievement throughout the course.

Extension (EXT1, EXT2)

Extension is designed to challenge able students. There will be opportunities for students to negotiate independent research as well as involvement in a range of competitions and activities. Students will need to be highly motivated; approval from the Dean of Studies (Mr Dudgeon) will be required for students to be accepted into the course.

Food Studies (FST1, FST2)

The Food Studies course is practical in nature and develops basic cookery skills with an understanding and awareness of food in our daily lives. Students will study topics such as safety and hygiene, meal planning, nutrition, food advertising and labelling, as well as prepare a wide variety of recipes. Students will develop skills in research and are expected to maintain a folio of their studies on food topics. Students who complete this unit will have a solid foundation for further Food Studies in Grades 9 and 10.

ICT Studies (ICT1, ICT2)

ICT Studies gives students the opportunity to learn and further develop skills relevant in today's world. ICT skills are taught to develop logical, creative and critical thinking skills. The areas of graphic manipulation, animation, programming and video production are taught. This is a project based subject and students have the opportunity to work individually or as a productive member of a team.

Minecraft Programming (MNC2)

This course for Grade 8 is aimed at beginning programming and developing problem solving skills in students, with a focus on creating Mods (modifications) in Minecraft. Students completing this course will be able to begin from their current level of expertise, and build on that expertise to complete a series of Mod challenges.

Music (MSC1, MSC2)

A major focus of the Music course is the development of instrumental and performance skills with students working individually and in groups. Students will have the opportunity to explore and develop ideas by creating and arranging music and experience computer technology using a variety of software for theory, composing and arranging.

Philosophy (PHL1, PHL2)

Philosophy in Grade 8 is an elective that leads students to ask the big questions. Are we really free? What is happiness and how might we attain it? What is right and what is wrong? How do we approach these questions and how do they apply to our 21st Century lives? In addition to these contemplations, students will learn the basics of argument construction. Assessments range from debates and presentations to various written tasks, all of which are geared to excite students about life's fundamental questions.

Robotics (RBT1)

This course for Grade 8 is aimed at beginning programming and developing problem solving skills in students, with a focus on robotics (EV3) and coding. Students completing this course will be able to begin from their current level of expertise, and build on that expertise to complete robotic challenges.

Technology (TCH1, TCH2)

In Technology students follow a problem solving approach through the design and production of small projects, usually in wood. Students gain experience in using a range of hand tools, and construction joints are introduced. Personal safety and workshop operation are important aspects also covered by the course.

Textiles and Design (TXD1, TXD2)

The Textiles and Design course is practical in nature and is designed to further develop skills in needlework. It also fosters the importance of design and creativity. The subject provides the opportunity for students to learn to use sewing equipment, follow instructions and develop skills in the construction of items made from textiles. Students who complete this subject will have a solid foundation for further Textiles and Design studies.