

OKANAGAN MISSION SECONDARY SCHOOL



Grade 8 Course Guide

2018 - 2019

Table of Contents

ADMINISTRATOR’S MESSAGE	3
WHO’S WHO AT OKM – School Contact	3
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:	
Academic Support Programs	4
English	4
Exploratory	4
Languages	4
Math	4
Music	5
Physical Education	5
Science	6
Social Studies	6
Visual and Performing Arts	6
Resource Program	6

Administrators' Message

OKM prides itself on the excellence achieved by our students in the areas of: Academics, Fine Arts, Applied Skills and Athletics. Our school's motto is "Excellence Through Effort". We steadfastly believe that all students should be challenged individually to pursue excellence and achieve their goals. It is our commitment to provide a flexible and positive atmosphere built on mutual trust and respect so that students can focus 100% of their attention to achieving their goals. With that in mind, students are introduced to and have the opportunity to explore a wide variety of courses. OKM is able to provide these opportunities through various outstanding academic, fine arts, applied skill and work / career related opportunities. All of these efforts are aimed at allowing students to explore many different areas of interest and provide them with a pathway towards graduating with dignity, purpose and options.

This Course Selection Guide is intended to assist students in planning their educational program to meet their long-term goals. We are proud to be able to offer a diverse selection of courses. Students are encouraged to investigate the courses that are of interest and make an informed decision. Take time to make your selections and keep in mind your goals and interests. Feel free to see one of our counsellors, administrators, career programs staff or teachers in specific areas should you have any questions.

Mr. Bruce McKay
Principal

Mr. Michael Dornian
Vice-Principal

Mrs. Nina Ferguson
Vice-Principal

Ms. Jasmine Lemon
Vice-Principal

Who's Who at OKM

Area	Contact	E-mail
Specific Programs		
Athletics	Paul Tiessen/Rob Steciuk	paul.tiessen@sd23.bc.ca rob.steciuk@sd23.bc.ca
Enrichment Programs	Lisa Fidler	lisa.fidler@sd23.bc.ca
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General Questions		
Administrative/Behavior A-G	Nina Ferguson	nina.ferguson@sd23.bc.ca
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Administrative/Behavior O-Z	Jasmine Lemon	jasmine.lemon@sd23.bc.ca
Behavior Support	Austin Ross	austin.ross@sd23.bc.ca
Career Exploration	Jill Robinson	jill.robinson@sd23.bc.ca
Counselling/Course Advising A-G	Marilyn Green	marilyn.green@sd23.bc.ca
Counselling/Course Advising H-N	Solenn Dishaw	solenn.dishaw@sd23.bc.ca
Counselling/Course Advising O-Z	Lorna Proch/Brent Sookochoff	lorna.proch@sd23.bc.ca brent.sookochoff@sd23.bc.ca
Learning Support	Lisa Fidler	lisa.fidler@sd23.bc.ca
Library	Leisha Cumming Sarah Murdochblack	leisha.cumming@sd23.bc.ca sarah.murdochblack@sd23.bc.ca
Resource Gr. 7 – 9	Kendra Jacobs	kendra.jacobs@sd23.bc.ca

Course Descriptions

ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAMS

ACADEMIC INTERVENTION PROGRAM (AI)

To support student success, OKM has developed an after-school program that helps students who are struggling academically. The program runs on Mondays to Thursdays and is staffed by a teacher and CEAs who can help support a wide variety of subject areas so that students can get the academic support they need. Often, students are directed into this program by teachers and administrators if they are not being successful. However, students are welcome to drop in for academic support at any time.

LEARNING ASSISTANCE

The OKM Learning Assistance program provides support to students with learning disabilities who have a designation from the Ministry of Education. Assessment, identification, curriculum adaptation, and the development and implementation of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) are all integral parts of the learning assistance program. Learning strategies are taught and support is given both within the whole class setting as well as within small groups. Some students are given time within the school timetable to receive assistance and support for their academic courses. OKM's Learning Support Team, along with the student and family are included in decisions regarding involvement in this program. Students who are non-designated, but who face academic challenges, may also receive support from the learning assistance program based on recommendations from the School Based Resource Team.

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 8

English 8 will provide students with the opportunity to further their knowledge and skills related to English language skills and to strengthen their core and curricular competencies. Students will study language and literature in a collaborative environment, with an emphasis on reading, writing, viewing, listening, and speaking. The development of a variety of literacy skills, especially comprehension, analyzing, critical thinking, deconstructing and presenting will also be emphasized.

EXPLORATORY

EXPLORATORY 8

In Exploratory 8, students will be exposed to the Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies and the Career Education Curriculum. They will tackle some big ideas concerning the building of new skills, learning new technologies, and developing a sense about how design can be responsive to their needs. Students will also start exploring the nature of careers and work, understanding how their digital footprint forms part of their public identity, safety, and leadership skills. Courses that students may take include Career Education, Foods, Metalwork, Tech. Ed, Textiles, and Woodwork.

LANGUAGES

FRENCH 8

All students are required to take French 8. The aim of the new Core French curriculum is for students to “become proficient users of French, gain new perspectives, and engage with Francophone communities.” Classroom activities, assignments, and evaluations will be designed to help students meet these learning outcomes.

MATH

MATH 8

The aim of Mathematics 8 is to provide students with the opportunity to further their knowledge, skills, and attitudes related to mathematics and numeracy. Students will be given opportunities for meaningful discussions and self-reflection and to work with a variety of materials, tools, and contexts that will further their conceptual and procedural comprehension, problem solving skills, and communication skills. The goal is to allow students to make the essential links among concrete, pictorial, and symbolic representations of mathematics. During their learning journey, students will continue to develop and strengthen their curricular and core competencies.

MUSIC

BAND 8

An important outcome for Band is to have fun by enjoying making music! The courses mentioned here are progressive steps toward musicianship and leadership in the music area. Each year requires progressively greater competence in technique skills, tone, and ability to play well in ensemble situations and progressively greater responsibility for assisting their sections to play their best. A wide range of styles is explored including traditional concert band literature, pop, rock, jazz and contemporary. Exceptional extra-curricular travel and touring opportunities are open to all Band students - including our unrivaled Europe and International Touring program. **All students are required to participate in scheduled school concerts and festivals as an extension of their class work.**

CONCERT CHOIR PROGRAM

Choir is intended as an introductory choral experience for students in any grade who enjoy singing. No previous experience is necessary but students should have a love for singing. It is intended to prepare students for enrollment in Choir as a course starting in Grade 10. The program will cover basic vocal production, music reading, part-singing, and performances, along with the responsibilities and the fun which go along with working in a team. Students interested in taking part in any musicals the school puts on in the future are encouraged to take this program. This is a performance-based program and all students are required to attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances.

THIS IS AN AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION 8

Physical and Health Education 8 is an introduction to the Okanagan Mission Secondary Physical Education Program. In grade 8 students are exposed to a variety of activities in the realm of team and individual sports, minor games, dance and fitness. Students will develop an appreciation for personal fitness, the development of life-long physical activity and healthy lifestyle. They will also learn to work in a collaborative setting, to problem solve and to explore and enhance their leadership skills. Finally, students will develop the ability to make healthy choices with respect to their emotional and mental well-being and to incorporate strategies for developing positive relationships and connections with others in their community. Students will be provided optional field trips around the local community. All students are encouraged to secure their valuables in their lockers. Appropriate PE attire is required for this class.

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION 8 – HOCKEY CANADA SKILLS ACADEMY – ONE SEMESTER PROGRAM

(Online Application & Academy Fee Required)

Students enrolled in SD#23 and registered in their local Minor Hockey Association have a unique opportunity to participate in a program that allows them to develop and improve their hockey skills and gain course credits. The HCSA's are based on the following principles:

- Strictly supplementary to Minor Hockey
- To provide additional training for minor hockey aged players
- Focus on individual skill development and academic achievement
- Receive instruction from fully qualified Hockey Canada instructors

OKM will offer one semester HCSA classes for students in grades 7-9. Each student selected into the program will be assisted in the planning of course selection based on individual academic goals. (Students enrolling in the program will receive credit for Physical Education at their grade level).

Visit the program website at www.okmhcsa.weebly.com to complete the online application.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 9, 2018

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION 8: HUMAN PERFORMANCE (Application Required)

This course is intended for student athletes engaged in high level training and competition which results in missed school days. This course replaces the High Performance Program. The Human Performance course will provide students with the opportunity to survey various components of health, physical fitness, strength and conditioning, psychology, and leisure pursuits. The course will contribute to the physical, intellectual, human and social development of the student. The overall objective is to allow students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable them to enhance their quality of life. The students' physical activity component of PHE is satisfied through their extensive participation in their sport.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 9, 2018

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8 – SOCCER ACADEMY (Application & Academy Fee Required)

The soccer program is intended to provide students with an opportunity to further enhance their soccer skills and to grow personally both on and off the field. This program will support the Ministry's desire to increase program flexibility for students. An OKM teacher plus one-three certified soccer instructor(s) will be on the field for each session. Students enrolling in the program will receive credit for physical education at their grade level. Visit the program website at www.okmsocceracademy.weebly.com **APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 9, 2018**

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION 8 SWIMMING ACADEMY (Application & Academy Fee Required)

The goal of Swimming Academy 8 is to build students' physical and emotional well-being through the promotion of active living, movement and leadership skills in an aquatic environment. Students will develop an appreciation for personal fitness, the development of life-long physical activity and healthy lifestyle. Students will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities to further develop their knowledge and skills with respect to water comfort, breath control, kicking, strokes, diving and water safety. Students will be provided with field trips around the local community, qualified coaches as well as fitness instructors for dryland training. Students enrolling in the program will receive credit for physical and health education at their grade level. All students (7-12) and swim abilities are welcome in this program. Visit the program website at: <http://okmswimacademy.weebly.com/> **APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 9, 2018**

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 8

Science 8 will provide students with the opportunity to further their knowledge and skills related to science and to strengthen their core and curricular competencies. Students will explore and develop a solid foundation of conceptual and procedural knowledge in life sciences, physical sciences, and earth science through direct instruction, meaningful student discussions, hands-on activities, laboratory investigations, and inquiry projects. The goal of science education is to create a lifelong interest in science and the attitudes that will make scientifically literate citizens.

SOCIAL STUDIES

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

Social Studies 8 will provide students with the opportunity to further their knowledge related to skill acquisition and historical content as well as strengthening their core and curricular competencies. Content themes will include how cultural, social, political, and environmental changes have affected people between the 7th century & 1750 and continue to affect cultures today.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS 8

Through art making, one's senses of identity and community evolves. Experiencing art challenges our point of view and expands our understanding of others. The Visual and Performing Arts are each unique languages for creating and communicating, and engaging in the arts develops people's ability to understand and express complex ideas. The Grade 8 Visual and Performing Arts course helps students develop these big ideas and is an exploratory course where students can sample many different areas. Areas of study may include Art, Choir, Dance, Drama, Music (drumming and guitar), and Video Production. Students are encouraged to develop visual awareness and curiosity in as many areas of the Fine Arts as possible. Please note that this course does not include band.

RESOURCE PROGRAM

Resource Students in consultation with parents, the resource teacher and school counselors make course selections that meet their developmental needs and strengths as well as their IEP goals. Course selections can be made during the time period courses are selected for all students. An individual program for Resource Students can then be adapted or modified at the IEP (individual education plan) meeting. Students on a modified program can participate in regular courses as well as be involved in work experience, job shadowing and fitness programs that meet their needs.

A Resource room is available at OKM for designated Resource Students to work on their individualized programs. When working in the Resource Room they may receive support from Certified Education Assistants under the direction of the Resource Teacher. Certified Education Assistants are also available to support students in regular classes with their peers as determined by the IEP Team. If you have any questions regarding the Resource Program, please contact the school and ask to speak with the Resource Teacher.