



Complementary Course Guide: 2025-26 – May 25 Update

Key Information

[2025-26 CBE Calendar](#)

First Day of School:

Tuesday September 3
Details in late August

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All students at Sir John A. Macdonald will take:

- English Language Arts and Social Studies (Humanities)
- Science and Mathematics (SMATH)
- Physical Education integrated with Health and Life Skills

[Grade 7 At A Glance](#)

[Grade 8 At A Glance](#)

[Grade 9 At A Glance](#)

All Grade 7 and 8 students will take:

- 4 complementary courses:
- two from September to January
- two from February to June
- Exception: Full year courses include Band & Yearbook

New: All grade 9 students will take a CTF Science Enrichment course to provide additional Science time given we have double math on Fridays. As a result, grade 9s will access 3 additional complementary courses.

During the year, there will also be periodic homeroom blocks to support whole school learning activities.

How do I sign up for my desired complementary courses?

Given it is now May, students must see Ms. Reynolds, in the main office, to sign up for complementary courses.

Due to declining enrollment at SJAM, we had to reduce the number of complementary courses being offered. Based on student demand from February to May, the following classes had the lowest interest: Design, Music, Tourism, Robotics and Wellness. As a result, they will not be offered in 2025-26. Elements of design and robotics will be added to the Grade 9 CTF complementary course.

This information helps us to design student timetables and teaching assignments. **Note:** due to high demand in several courses and facility restraints, it is impossible to give every student all of their course selections.

FINE ARTS



ART (VISUAL ARTS): A safe and welcoming space for students to take creative risks and become artists! No experience necessary; we teach you the attributes to become confident in expressing yourself, in a relaxed, supportive and fun atmosphere. Classroom instruction is student-centered and focused on individual abilities and interests. Experienced artists will be given opportunities for enrichment and growth through personalized instruction.



Art 7 (\$25.00 course fee in 2024-25; subject to an increase) Designed to introduce students to the elements and principles of art and will focus on creating art using various 2D and 3D materials and processes. This course will aim to build fundamental skills and will allow students to learn the basic techniques behind drawing, painting, printmaking, fiber art and sculpture. Additionally, students will discover how to analyze art, communicate through their art and understand composition. Art is all about experimenting; please do not feel like you need to have “artistic talent” or experience to take Art!



Art 8 (\$25.00 course fee in 2024-25; subject to an increase) Visual Art 8 will focus on creating art using various 2D and 3D materials and processes at the intermediate level. This course will allow for a deeper understanding and focus on drawing processes, painting techniques, printmaking, fiber art and sculpture. Students will integrate their knowledge of composition and use creative decision-making to communicate ideas with their art. This course does not require a prerequisite so do not be deterred if you did not take Art 7! Art is all about experimenting; please don't feel like you need to have “artistic talent” or experience to take Art!



Art 9 (\$25.00 course fee in 2024-25; subject to an increase) Visual Art 9 will focus on creating art using various 2D and 3D materials and processes. This course will allow students to direct their own learning so that they can build upon their skills from previous Art courses. Students will integrate their knowledge of composition and use creative decision-making to communicate ideas with their art. Fundamental skills will still be central to our learning so do not feel intimidated if you have not taken previous Art classes, there are no prerequisites required. Art is all about experimentation and practice; please don't feel like you need to have “artistic talent” or experience to take Art!





Band (Instrumental Music) 7

(\$30.00 Course Fee and Instrument Registration (Rental) Fee \$100 non-refundable)

Do you love music?! Band at SJAM is about learning to play a musical instrument while playing in a Band! No prior musical experience is necessary. Band is a full year course.

- learn to play a musical instrument; woodwind (flute, clarinet, bass clarinet) or brass (trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba) instrument, with additional percussion performance opportunities.
- perform and listen to a variety of musical genres (pop, rock, classical, jazz and more!)
- create and compose music.
- enjoy annual activities which include; performing in winter and spring concerts, attending concerts and field trips, performing for elementary students and band camp!



Band (Instrumental Music) 8 and 9

(\$30.00 Course Fee + Instrument Registration (Rental) Fee \$100 non-refundable)

Band students learn to play a musical instrument while playing in a Band! Band 8 and Band 9 students continue to develop music performance skills started in Band 7 and 8. Prior experience is an asset, but not required. Band is a full year course.

- learn to play a musical instrument; woodwind (flute, oboe clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone), brass (trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba) or percussion. (Percussion is by audition).
- perform and listen to a variety of musical genres (pop, rock, classical, jazz and more!)
- create and compose music.
- enjoy annual activities which include; performing in winter and spring concerts, attending concerts and field trips, performing for elementary students and band camp!



Guitar 8 and 9 (\$20.00 Course Fee in 2024-25; subject to an increase) The guitar class introduces students to the fundamentals of music and playing guitar! No previous musical experience is necessary. However, if you already have experience playing guitar, you will continue building skills from your current playing level. Guitar students:

- Learn about the history of guitar music through various musical genres (pop, rock, classical, jazz and more!).
- play chords, melodies and finger picking technique.
- learn to count rhythms, read and write musical notation and chord symbols, various strumming patterns, as well as develop basic music composition skills.
- listen to different genres of music (pop, rock, hip hop, rap, jazz and more!).
- play independently, with a partner, and within a group.
- apply new skills to learn music of their own choice!



Drama 7, 8, 9 (no course fee)

This course offers students a wide variety of creative and expressive opportunities. Classes are designed to focus on individual improvement in the disciplines of movement, voice, character development, scene study and structure. Further venture into tech, improvisation, and minimal script work is also developed within the course. The basic skills of performing and audience awareness are explored in this hands-on, creative course. In addition to exploring all aspects of the dramatic arts, the film studies portion of this course is ideal for students who enjoy watching a

variety of movies, who want to look deeper into the plot lines of a film and who would enjoy discussion about some of their favorite characters.



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INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Niihiyyat 7, 8, 9

This course creates space for students to build relationships with Place and Community. In Niihiyyat (Guide Us), students will learn to understand The Land as teacher, their own personal gifts and explore the 4 Domains: Spirit, Heart, Body, and Mind. Students will participate in Holistic and Experiential learning to explore the following questions:

- How can students build respect between self, others, and the natural world?
- How can students recognize and model relationships as interconnected?
- In what ways can students foster reciprocity?
- What evidence of renewal can students find on the land and in the world around them?

Throughout the semester, students will be offered opportunities to listen to Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, Elders, when these experiences are in person, through Course Materials and/or Field Trips. An additional fee may be attached based on opportunities offered.



CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATIONS [Program of Studies](#) CTF Science Enrichment Course: New for all Grade 9 Students

The Grade 9 SMATH team is excited to offer Grade 9 students a hands-on learning experience in this semester class that will combine Enrichment Through Experimentation, Innovation & Inquiry. By increasing time in Science, students will:

- extend and deepen understanding of science concepts (life science, chemistry, physics, and earth science)
- develop critical thinking, scientific inquiry, and hands-on skills
- encourage curiosity, creativity, and collaboration
- and explore real-world applications and current issues in science

In alignment with our School Development Plan, the class will be inclusive & culturally responsive by including topics that connect to local issues (e.g. water quality, land use, Indigenous knowledge). Students will also have choices in how they explore and express their learning (poster, model, short skit, drawing, oral presentation, etc.). A space will be created for group learning and peer collaboration, especially for students with less access to resources at home. Teachers will build in scaffolding and support for students who might need extra guidance. By offering hands on learning opportunities, student learning will deepen as we prepare for [Science 10/14](#) and a province wide [Science PATs](#).



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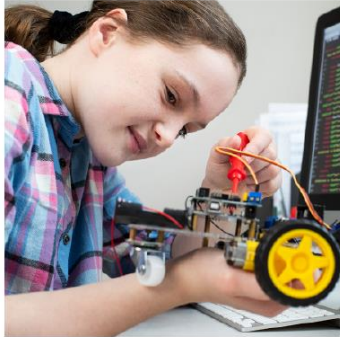


CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATIONS Program of Studies

Creative Apps 7 and 8 (Computing Science) (no course fee)

CTF Occupational Areas: Computing Science (CSE), Information Processing (INF), Networking (NET)

Working independently and through collaboration with others, students will experience the creative process through project-based assignments. Students will utilize interesting and relevant technology to meet the challenge of using computer applications, both web and desktop based, and understanding network processes to create products and develop skills applicable to everyday and/or workplace practices. This includes typing skills, creating and formatting spreadsheets, manipulating digital photos, making multimedia presentations, and more, through engaging projects like creating a personal class schedule, composing a photo collage about a career, and producing a narrated video presentation about themselves. There will also be creative exploration in Minecraft and an introduction to coding through gaming.



Yearbook 9 (Management and Marketing) (no course fee)

CTF Occupational Areas: Management and Marketing, Communication Technology

Working as a team, students will experience the creative process through the creation of our school yearbook. Students will learn the skills and concepts needed to take them from developing a theme for this year's book through to creating and publishing the pages in the finished product. The demands and expectations of this course will bring everyday workplace concepts, like deadlines and delegated responsibilities, to the forefront in a relevant way. Students are also required to commit their time outside of class to fulfill their obligation to photograph three school events/activities for each semester. Upon completion of the yearbook, as a final project students will then go through the creative process again in the creation of the Grade 9 Farewell Video.

FULL YEAR COURSE.

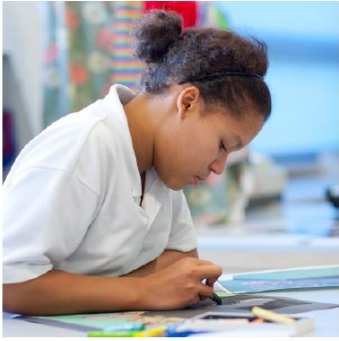


Film Studies 7, 8, 9 (no course fee)

CTF Occupational Areas: Communication Technology, Design Studies, Management and Marketing

The aim of this course is to encourage students to explore their interests and passions in film as they learn about various career possibilities and occupational areas in film that may interest them in the future. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the history of film, film techniques, how to appreciate and analyze film, and how to review and write about film. Students will watch and analyze film clips, short films, documentaries, and full-length films. Advanced students will engage in writing screenplays from different genres, design promotional materials, and create short films.





Construction and Fabrication 7, 8, 9

CTF Occupational Areas: Construction (CON); Fabrication (FAB); Design Studies (DES)

Course fee: \$30 Course Fee in 2024-25; subject to an increase

The Construction program provides students the opportunity to work with their hands to design and construct wood, metal, and plastic projects. During their exploration, students will apply elements of design, experiment with different materials, and explore various wood-working and metal-working techniques.

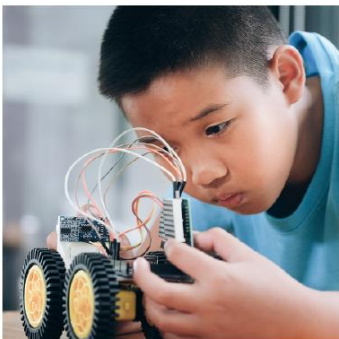
After completing a mandatory machine safety unit, students will have the opportunity to take on projects that will challenge their abilities and extend their skills. Students will learn about the design process and how to plan and construct projects in an efficient manner. The goal in our construction course is to focus on the students' interest in designing and creating, develop technical skills, and expose students to the knowledge and skills required in wood working and metal working industries. Students do not need any prior experience to join our class although it may be an asset.

Grade 7: Students will build 3 skill development projects + a mechanics project (something moves) and a design project (that solves a technical problem). They will learn about introductory hand tools, measurement types, and various ways to assemble designs. They will also engage with machine tools such as the scroll saw, the bandsaw, and belt/disc sanders.

Grade 8: In this 'intermediate' level class, students will complete the same basic requirements of grade sevens, but they will be introduced more interesting and challenging projects as well as several new machines, such as wood lathes (bowls, candle sticks), milling machines (metal die) and more advanced metal work.

Grade 9: In this 'advanced' level class, students will complete the same basic requirements of previous courses, however, they will be taking on more advanced projects. Students will have greater freedom to individualize their mechanics and design projects and demonstrate their creativity, originality and their craftsmanship.

Please Note: All basic materials and supplies are covered by course fees, however, additional fees may be required if students wish to complete larger projects, use exotic hardwoods, or require specialized materials.





Food Studies 7, 8, 9

CTF Occupational Areas: Human services, Business, Information Processing
\$30 Course fee in 2024-25; subject to an increase

Students examine the role of food, looking beyond consumption to production, visual appreciation, nutrition, meal planning, economics and preparation; and learn the various skills in the cooking trade.

Food Studies 7- Food Basics

Students learn safe and sanitary food handling procedures, equipment care, comprehension of recipes and the importance of efficient work habits. Students will discover basic recipes with a focus on breakfast foods and Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide. Grade sevens will also prepare some light snacks and baking.

Food Studies 8- Contemporary Baking

Students develop and demonstrate an understanding of traditional and contemporary baking focusing on basic measuring techniques, preparation methods, role of ingredients and the proper use of equipment for baked goods. Grade eights will also prepare some light lunch items.

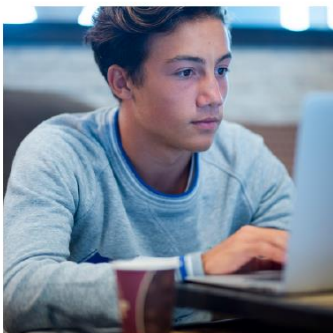
Food Studies 9- Snacks & Appetizers

Students apply the importance of snacks and appetizers related to lifestyle by making nutritious, as well as delicious, snacks and appetizers. Students develop an understanding of planning, preparation and evaluation of balanced, healthy meals. Students will also prepare some dinner items, baking and some multicultural foods.

Movie Making 8 and 9 (Communication Technology) (no course fee)

CTF Occupational Area: Communication Technology

Working independently and through collaboration with others, students will experience the creative process through project-based assignments. Students will utilize interesting and emerging technology as a means to meet the challenge of communicating a message through the "canvas" of making movies. Emphasis will be on exploring skills relating to post-production tasks like audio-video editing, digital graphic design, and animation. Major projects include creating a logo graphic and animation as well as editing together a movie trailer, both of which are broken into two main parts; first is learning the skills needed by recreating an exemplar, and second is applying the skills to create their own version.





Leadership 7, 8 and 9 (no course fee)

CTF Occupational Areas: Enterprise & Innovation, Community Care Services

This exciting course will prepare you to successfully work with people and help you to make a positive impact in your school and home community. The course blends aspects of community volunteerism, mentorship, and leadership into one course that:

- Encourages you to be a leader at SJAM! As part of this course, you will engage in activities such as planning various school events such as spirit days, fundraisers, dances, and assemblies.
- Examines the role of volunteers in a community and performs as volunteers themselves!
- Supports learning about the characteristics of positive mentoring relationships in their personal lives and society. Students will prepare to engage in a mentoring relationship which could include things such as mentoring future SJAM students and reading buddies.
- Explores basic principles of leadership. Create a plan for personal growth- Who do you want to be!?



Leadership 7: Listen and learn – Year of Discovery

Leadership 8: Key leaders in the support of the SJAM Grade 7 welcome in 2024-25 and support with the Grade 9 Farewell

Leadership 9: Add in Pep Rallies and support organizing the Grade 9 Farewell

Outdoor Education and Environmental Education 7, 8, 9

CTF Occupational Areas: Agriculture, Environmental Stewardship, Forestry, Primary Resources, Wildlife, Recreation Leadership

Activity fee for each field trip students choose.



The focus of the Outdoor and Environmental Education course is to build an awareness and foundation of basic knowledge, skills, and attitudes related to a variety of environmental issues and outdoor pursuits. Students are introduced to safe and responsible outdoor travel, have a chance to apply their new skills on off-site trips, and learn about basic ecological processes and the effects of human lifestyles on the environment. The in-class theory-based learning prepares students with all the required knowledge, skills, proper use of equipment, and experience to ensure safe and enjoyable opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Students will connect to and explore occupations in resource management and extraction, urban planning, parks and protected areas, recreational pursuits and leadership opportunities.

Field Trips may include skating, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, climbing, canoeing, kayaking, field experiences in water testing, ecosystems, forestry, air monitoring and wetlands, and in grade 9, the possibility of an overnight experience. Off-site activities will have an associated cost.

Grade 7: focus is on wetlands, navigation and introductory map making skills, ecosystems interactions and wildlife in addition to basic survival skills and understanding human impacts

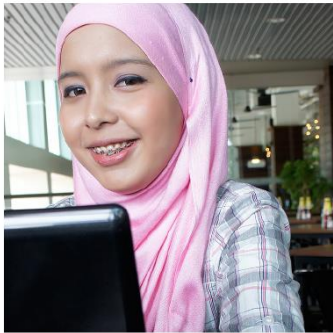
Grade 8: focus is on forests, Navigation and topographic mapping, interactions of biomes and human impacts, in addition to survival skills, first aid and risk management

Grade 9: focus is on outdoor leadership, environmental action, climate change, advanced survival skills, first aid and risk management, and trip planning.



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Power Up Your Learning: 7, 8 and 9 (no course fee): Power Up Your Learning is based on the belief that students who have the confidence to ask questions, solve problems, explore possibilities and evaluate choices will make responsible decisions about their learning. Students who understand their learning preferences are better equipped to understand and explain relationships among ideas and make relevant connections between what they are learning in school and their lives outside of school. Awareness of areas for growth assists students in setting appropriate goals that will support their learning.

Grade 9 Transitions:

The CBE and SJAM staff are supportive of the transition of students from Grade 9 to 10. Ms. Billeck and Ms. Balis have started conversations.

- Your child's high school is based on your primary address: [CBE Find A School](#)
- All high school transfer requests need to be submitted by families between February 10 to March 15 – no extensions are provided.
 - [CBE High School Transfer Process](#)
 - A course (taken in Grade 10, 11 and 12) can be a reason for transfer.
 - Schools accepting transfers: [See Green and Yellow Schools in Chart](#)
 - If Diefenbaker offers the course or program, it cannot be a reason for transfer.
- A full list of possibilities for your child: [CBE High School Programs](#)
 - Regular programming: designated high school
 - Advanced Placement
 - IB program: [Expression of Interest](#)
 - [High Performance Athletic Development Pathway](#) (Bowness)
 - [Performing and Visual Arts Programs \(Central Memorial\)](#)
 - Application and interviews January 21-24
 - Unique Settings
 - [Alternative High School](#)
 - [CBE Learn](#)
 - [Jack James](#)
 - [Louise Dean](#)
 - [CBE Language Programs](#)

An excellent guide for all families: [Get Ready, Set, Go For It...](#)

Detailed High School Course Guide: [2024-25 - hopefully updated soon](#)

If you have questions about your child's transition to high school, please don't hesitate to contact Ms. Billeck (mabilleck@cbe.ab.ca), Ms. Balis (bjbalis@cbe.ab.ca) or Ms. Hornby (mahornby@cbe.ab.ca).

