

GRADE 8
COURSE INFORMATION
BOOKLET 2008-2009

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

At the end of the day, school is about making dreams come true. My sense is that too many see school as an obstacle to overcome. School can be difficult. There are rules and expectations, and yes, there will even be some things you do not like. Yet, within the walls of this fine building, there are people who can challenge you, motivate you, and inspire you. Your task is to tap into the opportunities afforded you, and recognize that the experiences you have at Westview will resonate for a long time.

My vision is that Westview is a place that you come to each day not because you have to but because you want to. You want to because you are excited about learning and the possibilities that lie before you each day. As you walk through the school front doors each morning, understand that lying in wait, behind the lessons and the assignments, is a new experience, a new friend or acquaintance, an introduction to a new idea, a new road to travel. We know, as Oliver Wendell Homes did, that "A mind once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions.". May your years at Westview be rich and rewarding.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Nosek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Sean Nosek
Principal

GRADE 8 PROGRAM

At Westview, we strive to create the best learning opportunities for all students. For many years, we have blended the best in timetable models and curriculum delivery options to create an exciting and beneficial learning environment.

Westview is proud of our Grade 8 Transition program. The goal of this initiative is to ease the student's transition from interacting with one or two teachers in elementary school to interacting with as many as eight teachers in secondary school. Plus, elementary students are used to a flexible timetable and secondary schools, with block driven timetables, are not flexible. Westview's goal, then, is to "combine" the two models. The students will stay with a smaller number of teachers for all of their core courses and the teachers will have more flexibility within the timetable. Students will move from these core teachers to exploratory courses in Fine Arts and Life Skills. Westview calls these courses C.A.T.S. for Creative Arts and Technical Skills.

The advantage of our model is that it is a gentler transition from what they are used to in the elementary system to what they will experience in the full secondary system. It also allows them to learn at a pace where there is time to absorb difficult concepts and receive the extra help they may need in some subject areas.

As well, the grade eight students will have a teacher advisor in their Health & Career Education 8 course to help them navigate through both their new school and the many challenges they face from day to day. They will need good advice, our support, and our help during this tremendously important time.

In short, our goal is to expose our grade eight students to a smaller and caring learning community in which fewer teachers work with a group of students. This approach will provide the advantages of a sense of belonging for students, an opportunity to develop group cooperation, and a supportive academic environment in which to learn.



TO START THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR OFF RIGHT, OUR ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT IS HELD EACH SEPTEMBER, WESTVIEW TAKES TIME TO HONOUR ITS STUDENTS FOR ALL OF THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS, ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND GOOD WORK HABITS.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance and punctuality are critical in order to be successful at school. Studies have proven that there is a direct correlation between regular attendance and high achievement.

Attendance is taken in every class by every teacher and is recorded on the report card for each term. We track student attendance and monitor it regularly. The school Auto-Dialer will telephone the home of all students whose names appear on the absentee list each morning.

Your parents/guardians are asked to telephone the school before 8:25 am if you will be absent from school and to write a note in your agenda planner for presentation upon your return to school. It is your responsibility to make up for missed assignments and class work.



SEVERAL TIMES EACH YEAR (AND ALWAYS DURING SPIRIT WEEK) WE HAVE "JERSEY DAYS" WHERE YOU CAN PROUDLY SHOW YOUR TEAM'S COLORS! WHETHER ITS THE CANUCKS OR EVEN THE LEAFS, THIS IS YOUR DAY TO SUPPORT YOUR TEAM!

OUR NEWSLETTER

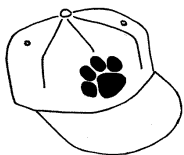
To keep you informed and up-to-date on activities around the school, our newsletter (*Westview News*) is published nine times a year. It contains articles from various subject areas letting you know what is happening both in the classroom and on field trips; it recognizes students for their achievements both in the classroom, around the school and in the community; it announces upcoming events around the school including drama and music productions, athletic events, dances, non-instructional days, awards ceremonies and student-led conferences. Our newsletter is sent home with students. You will receive your first newsletter at the end of August.

AGENDA PLANNERS

At the beginning of September, you will receive a planner. This is an excellent communication tool for you and your parents as it provides a great deal of valuable information about our school.

Your parents are encouraged to write notes in your planner if they wish to communicate with your teachers. The planner provides a calendar of important dates for the entire school year, including report cards, parent-student-teacher interviews, and non-instructional days.

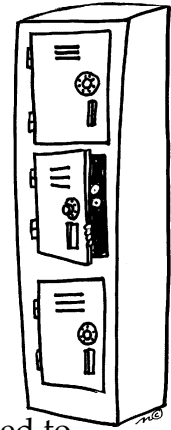
You are expected to bring your planner to every class and record all tests, assignments, and marks in your book. As well, you are encouraged to use the planner to set your personal goals and record your achievement. The planner allows parents to stay well informed and monitor your progress.



WESTVIEW IS A HAT-FREE SCHOOL BUT ON SPECIAL "HAT DAYS" YOU CAN WEAR YOUR HAT TO SCHOOL (IF YOU HAVE PURCHASED A HAT LICENSE)! WATCH OUT FOR THE "HAT POLICE"!

LOCKERS

When you arrive in September, you will be assigned a locker in which to store your books and personal items. We are fortunate at Westview because every student will be able to have his or her own locker and will not be required to share. It is important to note that the locker is the property of the school and that school administration are entitled to the right to search students' lockers should the need arise.




Periodic locker checks are made throughout the year to ensure that lockers are in the same state as when they were first assigned. Students are not to deface their lockers; keeping a tidy and well organized locker throughout the year is expected of all students. Students are also encouraged to purchase locks for Physical Education lockers as unlocked lockers invite theft.

We have found that cheaper commercial locks encourage theft, and that key locks often have to be cut off because students lose their keys. Therefore, combination locks are sold by the school. The advantage of purchasing a school lock is that they can be exchanged immediately if someone learns your combination, or if you forget your combination. The combinations can be looked up in the office when they are forgotten or a replacement can be issued if the lock becomes broken or sticky.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are provided free of charge to all students. Many of these books now cost well in excess of \$50.00 each. You are asked to give your textbooks the care and attention they deserve. Your name should be written in the space provided when the textbook is issued. You can expect to be assessed replacement costs for any textbook that is damaged or lost during the school year.



ONE OF THE HOTTEST FASHION STATEMENTS THAT YOU CAN MAKE AT WESTVIEW IS TO PROUDLY WEAR YOUR WESTVIEW SWEATS, T-SHIRTS, HATS AND HOODIES! YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ORDER YOUR OWN NEXT YEAR!

SCHOOL FEES AND COURSE SUPPLIES

Fees may not be charged for: regular course or program fees – core or elective; resource materials necessary to participate in an educational program sufficient to meet the general requirements for graduation; or, field trips that are mandatory or necessary for the successful completion of a course.

In general, fees and deposits may continue to be charged for: yearbooks, student planners, student activity fees, grad activity fees; extra-curricular activities - e.g. elementary band, athletic fees; refundable deposits for textbooks, tools, cleaning of uniforms; advanced placement exams; certifications e.g. FoodSafe™; enhanced materials for courses - e.g. higher grade of wood from the basic quality provided by the school; purchase of student made projects; work books for individual use; secondary band – individual choice of instruments outside of school supplied pool; individual school supplies; field trips that enhance the learning program but are not a course requirement and students will not be evaluated for credit - actual costs only; and, transportation for teams, music events, etc. where participation is not mandatory.

Accommodating Hardship

Where economic hardship is a barrier to participation, the school will work with parents and students to find alternate means to allow the student to participate. Questions regarding this process should be addressed to the Principal, counsellor or your child's teacher.

ENGLISH 8

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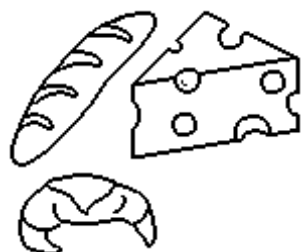
English 8 is the first of five English courses at the secondary level and is a foundation course for all English courses that follow in later years. This course builds skills in writing and literature. The major literary genres for study will be the novel, short stories, and poetry. Writing instruction will emphasize the paragraph focusing on style, grammar, punctuation, usage and vocabulary development. The grade 8 curriculum also includes public speaking, an examination of the media, letter writing, mythology, and technology.

ENGLISH 8 (HONOURS)

Westview offers students who have exceptional interest and ability in reading and writing the opportunity to enroll in an enriched program of English. You may enter this course only through the recommendation of your grade 7 teacher and, once recommended, you will be required to write an entrance composition exam. This is a challenging and demanding course, and to be successful you must demonstrate persistence, good work habits, and a good attitude towards English literature and language. If you progress through the enriched courses over your five years at Westview, you will be able to enroll in Advanced Placement English in grade 12. This course provides students with an opportunity to gain first year university credit for English and is recognized world wide as an exceptional program.

FRENCH 8

French 8 will introduce you to some fundamentals of our second official language. The focus at this level will be on participation (speaking and listening skills). Through meaningful communicative/interactive activities, you will learn how the language works and more importantly, you will be able to practice how to make the language work for you.



Topics studied in French 8 include school, health, food, sports, television, hobbies, travel, etc.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

Social Studies 8 is a required academic course for grade 8 students; it is the first of four required Social Studies courses at the secondary level. In addition to current events, the major components of the course are:



Medieval Europe and Asia- This component focuses on Medieval Europe, India, China, and Japan. It includes units on the importance of religion; the social structures of the time; and other interesting topics of history.

Geography- The study of Geography will help students learn how people live in different places. You will begin to understand other countries and their cultures. This component will help you to develop geographic skills which are useful in upper level courses.

Renaissance and Reformation Europe- This component will provide you with a background of political, social and cultural history, starting with the changes which took place at the end of the Medieval Period and ending with the development of nations. This section also looks at early explorers and how their growing knowledge of geography helped them to expand their horizons.

SCIENCE 8

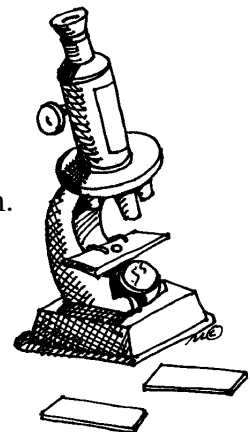
This course is the first of four mandatory science courses in the high school curriculum. The goal for science 8 students is to become acquainted with various concepts in the world of science and technology using demonstrations and 'hands-on' activities. Topics covered in this course include:

Biology- This unit focuses on cells and body systems.

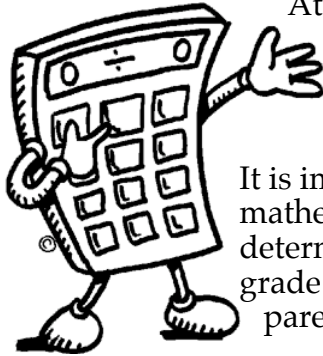
Chemistry- This unit focuses on the properties of fluids, uses of fluids, and how fluids act in living things.

Physics- The study of optics (including the understanding of human vision).

Geology- This unit introduces students to the water systems on Earth. It includes the water cycle, the power of water, and the treatment of water.



MATHEMATICS 8



At Westview, we offer three levels of grade 8 mathematics in order to best serve your learning needs. They are Principles of Mathematics 8, Essentials of Mathematics 8 and Principles of Mathematics 8 (Honours).

It is imperative that you be placed appropriately in your grade 8 mathematics course. Placement in grade 8 mathematics courses is determined through consultation with the grade 7 teacher, the grade 8 counsellor, the mathematics department head and your parents.

PRINCIPLES OF MATHEMATICS 8

Principles of Math 8 is the basic required academic course for math. Most students entering secondary school will take this course to fulfill their math requirement. If you take this course, you will go on to follow the core academic math courses through grades 9 - 12 and will be in a position to go on to post-secondary education.

ESSENTIALS OF MATHEMATICS 8

Essentials of Math 8 is a modified course for those students who have difficulty with mathematical concepts. You may enter this course only through teacher recommendation.

Please Note: Students enrolled in this program will meet graduation requirements by completing a modified course called Essentials of Mathematics 11. Graduation from a modified program has post secondary limitations, therefore, it is advisable to consult with the counselling department to consider options for post-secondary planning.

PRINCIPLES OF MATHEMATICS 8 (HONOURS)

Math 8 (Honours) is an enriched course for those students who have exceptional mathematical ability. You may enter this course only through a recommendation by your grade 7 teacher. Once recommended, arrangements will be made for you to write an entrance examination. This is a challenging and demanding course and, to be successful, you must have persistence, good work habits, and a good attitude toward mathematics.

BAND 8

BEGINNING BAND 8

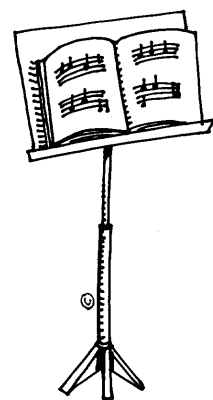
This course is designed for those students interested in learning how to play an instrument and have no previous experience. Instrument options include: saxophone, trumpet, flute, clarinet, keyboards, percussion (drums), the electric bass as well as others. You will be expected to provide your own instrument and supplies. This is a performance level course and you will be required to participate in evening performances. Students who choose this option will also complete the Health and Career Education 8 requirements.

JUNIOR BAND 8

This course is designed for those students who have played a band instrument for one year. Music of a beginning to a more advanced level will be performed by these students. You are expected to provide your own instrument and supplies. This is a performance level course and will involve performances at the school and provide the opportunity for participation in a band trip and attend music festivals.

CHOIR 8

If you enjoy singing and would like to learn how to improve your voice, this course is for you. No previous choral experience is necessary to be successful in this course. Students will receive instruction in proper vocal technique, unison and part singing, sight singing, and basic theory. Students will have the opportunity to sing music in a variety of styles such as rock, musical theatre, jazz, and pop. This is a performance course and will require students to participate in evening performances at the school and other venues. Students who choose this option will also complete the Health and Career Education 8 requirements.



HEALTH AND CAREER EDUCATION 8

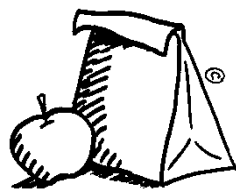
All grade 8 students will be in a Health & Career Education program. The aim of this course is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will assist them in making informed decisions related to their health, their education, and their future careers. Comes the topics included in Health & Career Education 8 (and 9) are healthy living, healthy relationships, safety and injury prevention, substance misuse prevention, and career exploration. Guest presenters will be invited to speak on these topics as well.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

In one of the best physical education facilities in the province, you will be encouraged to develop positive attitudes and appreciation of physical activity, fitness and performance. The main emphasis of evaluation will be on participation and effort, thus contributing to a positive self-concept and respect for others. Students will participate in the following:

- team and individual sports
- community activities (e.g. field trips)
- fitness and active living



WHETHER YOU ARE “BROWN-BAGG’IN IT” OR BUYING FOOD AT SCHOOL, THE CAFETERIA IS THE PLACE TO BE AT LUNCH TIME. IT IS ALSO WHERE YOU WILL FIND WESTVIEW’S FAMOUS FRESH BAKED COOKIES!

C.A.T.S. 8

CREATIVE ARTS AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Students will rotate through a variety of mini-courses in order to gain an understanding of course offerings at later grade levels in the Applied Skills and Fine Arts elective areas. Rotations typically include three or four of the following:

Home Economics Component- This is an introductory course in Foods and Nutrition and Textiles Arts and Crafts. You will be given the opportunity to work in the foods lab investigating flour mixtures. Students will also be introduced to arts and crafts and will complete a simple project.

Industrial Technology Education Component- In this introductory course, students will complete projects in the areas of Electronics, Drafting, and Industrial Design. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to: design, test and solder together basic electronic circuits; use the design process to solve engineering design challenges; sketch and use a computer to create technical drawings; and, use the computer as a tool to create graphics and 3D models of objects.

Information Technology Education Component- This component provides students with learning opportunities related to: designing, building and posting a website to our school server using iWeb; working with graphic images and preparing them for the web using iPhoto; using web browsers and setting up a mail account; producing and publishing a podcast to a website using Garageband; and, producing technical drawings using Vectorworks (CAD) software.

Introduction to Computers in Business- This is an introductory course where the student will be given the opportunity to explore and develop skills using the basic computer applications. Topics covered include: word processing using formatting skills, basic keyboarding techniques, use of graphics, making multimedia presentations, safe/correct use of the email and the internet, and exploration of careers for the future.

Art Component- This component will offer the you the opportunity to develop your basic skills in the foundation areas of art. You will experience at least three of the five visual expression areas- this includes drawing, 3D art, and print making. You will also learn the basic steps of art criticism and learn about the life and times of various artists.

Drama Component- When you take drama you will have fun! You will play drama games, learn how to concentrate, how to improvise short scenes, develop expression and present scenes to your peers. Drama 8 will give you the opportunity to work with all members of your class as well as teaching you to be a respectful audience member.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In addition to the excellent academic opportunities that are offered to Westview students, we are proud of our extra-curricular program and encourage all students to become actively involved in this aspect of school life. These activities provide a wonderful way to make new friends, learn new skills, and become involved in our school. The following are some of the activities we provide:

Athletic Department- The Athletic Department co-ordinates and administers numerous activities for students throughout the school year. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities to participate in team and intramural programs.

- Badminton
- Basketball
- Wrestling
- Hockey
- Golf
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Noon-hour Intramurals
- Fitness & Weight Training

School Activities- If the gym is not your favorite place to spend time, there are lots of other opportunities for you to get involved in the school. Why not consider signing up for one of the following activities?

- Garage Games Club
- Drama Plays
- Exposé Nights
- Travel Club
- Ski & Snowboard Club
- Band and Choir Program



EVERY YEAR THE GRADE 8 TEACHERS HOST THE ANNUAL "GO BANANAS" DAY. BRING IN A BANANA AND YOUR TEACHERS WILL MAKE YOU A FABULOUS ICE CREAM SUNDAE!

WESTVIEW SECONDARY SCHOOL

GRADE 8 COURSE INFORMATION BOOKLET

2008-2009

