



# **R. C. PALMER SECONDARY SCHOOL**

## **Grade 8 Course Selections for 2025 – 2026**



### **REQUIRED COURSES**

#### **EN: HUMANITIES 8**

This combined studies course focuses on the development of a basic knowledge and application of skills in both the English and Social Studies curricula. Humanities 8 allows students to develop their Communication, Thinking, and Personal and Social core competencies. The influence of language and text to understand ourselves and make connections to others and the world is explored. The role of contacts, conflicts, and environment are analyzed to determine significant cultural, social, and political changes during the time period of the 7th century to the 1750's. These big ideas are further developed through an examination of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Reformation. Geography knowledge and skills previously acquired in Grade 7 are reinforced and expanded. In literature, emphasis is placed on reading comprehension, writing skills and analysis of ideas. Reading selections will include novels, short stories, poems, non - fiction, and historical texts to emphasize universal themes in the content area.

#### **PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION 8**

This course addresses the concepts of physical literacy, healthy and active living, social and community health, and mental well- being. An introduction to team and individual pursuits will be undertaken, with an emphasis on active participation and personal and social responsibility. Students will also learn about the core components of fitness, as well as strategies to pursue healthy living goals. Healthy Living Days will address the short and long term consequence of health decisions, and will examine strategies related to mental well- being through a variety of topics.

#### **SCIENCE 8**

Within the framework of the Communication, Thinking and Personal Social Core Competencies, Science 8 includes hands-on lab activities, inquiry projects, collaborative assignments and class work. This course also promotes positive attitudes toward science and an understanding of the importance of science in today's complex world. The Big Ideas include the understanding that: Life processes are performed at the cellular level, the behaviour of matter can be explained by the kinetic molecular theory and Atomic Theory, the Theory of Plate Tectonics is the unifying theory that explains Earth's geological processes and energy can be transferred as both a particle and a wave.

#### **MATHEMATICS 8**

This course introduces students to many mathematical concepts and combines mathematical knowledge with curricular competencies in problem solving, reflection, and communication skills to help students develop multiple approaches to mathematics. The core curriculum consists of number operations, algebra, logic, measurement, geometric constructions, probability and statistics, as well as financial literacy. Ministry of Education requirements for this course can be found at:

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/mathematics/8>

#### **FRENCH 8**

This course builds on the work and skills developed in grades 5, 6 and 7, and focuses on communication skills. Students will

participate in a variety of activities such as conversations, role-plays, "sondages" and skits. This course stresses oral skills, cooperation, and a willingness to participate in class activities. Written work and projects will be used to reinforce the speaking component. The French 8 text is Communi-Quéte 1.

Note: Grade 7 students enrolled in French Immersion must write a placement exam.

#### **APPLIED DESIGN, SKILLS, AND TECHNOLOGIES 8**

This course includes content for both Technology Education and Home Economics. It serves two major purposes. Firstly, as an exploratory course, it gives the students an introduction to the Home Ec and Tech shops where they will learn the safe operation of both hand and power machinery. Focus is on experimentation and the development of simple skills (measuring, marking, cutting) and the familiarity of the Tech Ed shops and Home Economics environments. Problem solving, creativity, and fine motor skills are developed. Secondly, it introduces the student to various areas of Technology Education and Home Economics so that the student may make informed choices of electives in subsequent years.

### **INCENTIVE COURSES**

(Application Required)

#### **EN: INCENTIVE HUMANITIES 8**

This combined studies course focuses on the development of advanced knowledge and application of skills in both the English and Social Studies curricula. Humanities 8 allows students to develop their Communication, Thinking, and Personal and Social core competencies. The influence of language and text to understand ourselves and make connections to others and the world is explored. The role of contacts, conflicts, and environment are analyzed to determine significant cultural, social, and political changes during the time period of the 7th century to the 1750's. These big ideas are further developed through an examination of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Tudors, and the Reformation. Geography knowledge and skills previously acquired in Grade 7 are reinforced and expanded. In literature, emphasis is placed on reading comprehension and analysis of ideas. Reading selections will include novels, short stories, poems, non - fiction, and historical texts to emphasize universal themes in the content area. This course includes additional enrichment activities ranging from independent study to extended group discussion and debate, as well as integrated individual and group research projects. Students will be expected to pursue areas of special interest to develop critical and creative thinking skills.

#### **MATHEMATICS 8**

This course covers the same curriculum as the Mathematics 8 course (and part of Mathematics 9), but at a faster pace, and to a greater depth and enrichment for certain topics. It is intended for highly-motivated students who have a higher-than-average ability and interest in mathematics. Students will be challenged



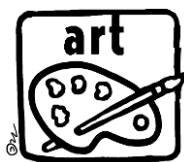
with rigorous extension activities, which may include the writing of mathematics contests and/or projects. The entire Mathematics 8 curriculum and approximately two-thirds of the Mathematics 9 curriculum will be completed by the end of this course. Students who successfully complete this course with a sufficiently high enough grade may continue onto Pre-AP Honours Mathematics 9/10. Students who pass this course without a sufficiently high enough grade should take regular Mathematics 9 in the subsequent year.

### **SCIENCE 8/9 INCENTIVE**

This course is the second of a two-year accelerated Science curriculum where motivated and Incentive students cover three years of Science (8-10) in two years rather than the usual three. In this second course, Incentive Grade 9 students will cover the balance of the Science 9 course that started in Incentive

Science 8, as well as the entire Science 10 curriculum. The scientific method of inquiry will continue to be a major theme through the study of topics such as: Genes as the foundation for the diversity of living things, energy is conserved and its transformation can affect living things and the environment, chemical processes require energy change as atoms are rearranged and the formation of the universe can be explained by the big bang theory. Laboratory activities will be used as a vehicle to develop the scientific approach to problem solving, as well as increased skills in scientific observation and interpretation. Class activities will include discussion and debate, as well as enrichment opportunities such as independent student research, culminating in a mandatory Science Fair project. Students will receive credit for Science 10 upon the successful completion of this course.

## **GRADE 8 ELECTIVE COURSE OPTIONS**



### **ART 8**

This course provides a foundation for a basic understanding of art. Students will learn to produce and respond to works of art in many different art media, including drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics sculpture and mixed media. Students will be expected to keep a visual journal as a record of their ideas, image development and explorations. This course is paired with Drama 8.



### **BAND 8**

This course is open to all grade 8 students who want to learn (or continue learning) how to play a band instrument in an ensemble. The objective of this course is to have students develop and improve playing skills on concert band instruments. Students will play a variety of musical styles and perform in several concerts during the year. Regular home practice and attendance at concerts and rehearsals are necessary for success in this course.



### **DRAMA 8**

This course is an introduction to creative drama. Students will explore the arts of mime, movement, and public speaking. In addition, students will engage in role drama, improvisation and character development. Students will develop their acting skills as well as their imaginations. No previous experience is necessary. This course is paired with Art 8.

**To read more information about Palmer and to view the detailed Program Planning Guide, please visit our website:**

**<http://palmer.sd38.bc.ca>**