



WESTPARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
Grade 8 Complementary Course Selections
2020-2021



Parents, please help your child choose the options that best suit their interests. Students will be entering their option choices through PowerSchool.

Note: All students are required by Alberta Education to take the following core subjects:

Mathematics	Social Studies
Science	Language Arts
Physical Education	Wellness

1. Please note that timetable constraints impose some restrictions in our offering of option classes. We will do our best to include your top choices.
2. **If there are not enough students interested in a course, it will not be offered. We will not know this until all option forms have been submitted.**
3. **Full year courses –Band and French** classes are every other day, all three terms.
4. Please take the time to read the descriptions of the courses we are offering to be prepared to enter them online.
5. Optional fees for the year are: Yearbook - \$20; Instrument Rental Fee for Band students.
6. Non-optional fees for the year are: Lock - \$2.00

Grade 8 Complementary Course Descriptions

Band 8 (full year course)

Students must have completed and passed Band 7 in order to register for Band 8. Any students new to Westpark should consult with the teacher before enrolling. Band 8 requires a **full year commitment**, and must be completed to take high school band. They also have the opportunity to attend a two-day band camp. Jazz Band may also be offered, depending on numbers for interested students. Band members are expected to practice a minimum of twenty minutes per day, six days a week.

French 8 (full year course)

The grade 8 French course is a direct continuation of the grade 7 course. French 7 is a recommended prerequisite. Please see the teacher if you have not completed French 7. The format is the same, as it builds upon previous concepts; instruction still includes an interactive group-based approach. French 8 requires a **full year commitment**.

Art 8

This is a multi-media art course that is designed to promote creativity through both two and three dimensional art creation. We will examine many different aspects of art production, art history and art appreciation through a variety of art projects. We will learn some of the basic art skills involved in drawing, painting and sculpture.

Drama 8

Emphasis is placed on building a cooperative, team-like atmosphere through group based activities and assignments. Later in the course, students will be given the opportunity to work on performance-based activities such as Radio Theatre, Improvisation, Mime and Skits.

Career and Technology Foundations (CTF) Complementary Courses

The CTF Program of Studies is based on 14 learning outcomes that identify what students are expected to learn and what will be assessed, and are the same for grades 5 to 9. The CTF curriculum honours student diversity, and promotes the meaningful and authentic exploration of various occupational areas. (Alberta Education)

CTF Computer Science 8

This course focuses on learning essential technology skills: digital citizenship, word processing, spreadsheets, webpage design and creating multimedia presentations. The class may also build the school yearbook and take photos of students, activities, sports teams and special school events.

CTF Crafts 8

The Crafts 8 exploratory is dedicated to increasing the students' ability to create usable and decorative objects. The focus of the course will be to expand students' range of potential leisure and recreational pursuits by exposing them to a broad range of activities. Part of their learning includes planning, creating and evaluating their own progress. Students will develop their cutting, gluing, assembling, and visualization skills while working with a broad range of materials. Some of the projects that have been undertaken in past years include scratch art, papier mache, paper crafts, knot tying, and jewelry making.

CTF Fashion Studies 8

Students in Fashions 8 are encouraged to design and complete a project from the ground up. We will brainstorm ideas, research resources, and combine those resources with prior knowledge to make something personally meaningful. Prior sewing experience is encouraged but not essential. Projects in fashions 8 are subject to personal preference and ability, but examples of what can be made are quilted wall-hangings, small quilts, pajamas and stuffed animals.

CTF Food Studies 8

Students in foods 8 will learn to make healthy food choices as we look more deeply at why we eat what we do, and how we can make the best choices for ourselves based on nutritional needs, food cost & availability. Recipes will focus on snacks, soups, baking, lunch items and other small meals.

CTF Graphic Design 8

Students will be introduced to the future of graphic art and design through the creation of two- and three-dimensional digital designs for use by CNC router, vinyl cutter, or 3D printer. By using computers, participants will learn to create and manipulate designs using web-based software. Once designs are perfected, we will use the tools to create artifacts of the work.

CTF Leadership 8

Participation in this Complementary Course is based on being selected through **application ONLY**. The goal of the Leadership elective is to provide students with a variety of learning experiences which will enable them to acquire the skills needed to serve their school and community. If you are interested in applying for Leadership 8, please complete the application form [HERE](#) and return it to Mrs. Frank at lea.frank@rdpsd.ab.ca. Students will participate in a variety of activities that will foster skill development in the following areas:

- Best Buddies
- Communication
- Planning and Organizing
- Problem Solving and Decision Making
- Relationship and Team Building
- School and Community Service
- Self-awareness

CTF Learner's Driver's Education 8

The aim of this option class is to create a safe and responsible attitude in soon-to-be drivers so that they take a leadership role in regards to their driving habits, and that of their peers. We will learn the laws of driving and the meaning of road signs by accessing digital resources and using the Google Environment. The course will help prepare students for the government test, which they will need to take on their own time, at their own expense. The option is held in a classroom setting only.

CTF Recreation Education 8

Students will participate in a wide range of recreational games and activities both at school, in the gym and at city-wide facilities. There will be a FEE charged for this program as some of the facilities will have a rental charge. Students must be prepared to take part in all activities. Some of the activities may include: 5 pin bowling, tennis, golf, ultimate Frisbee and skiing.

CTF Technical Education 8 (SHOP CLASS)

COME BUILD YOUR FUTURE!

Continue from where you left off in grade six or seven, or come try it for the first time!

The shop is a great place to learn new skills and create a number of things that can be either useful or decorative. While you are using your hands and tools to make awesome projects, you will be learning to accurately interpret plans, select and safely use power tools, learning how the traditional shop operates, measuring and laying out projects correctly, and finishing projects properly.

Safety procedures are taught and tested, so there is no need to fear the tools.

You will have the chance to work with acrylic, other plastics, and of course, good ol' wood.

A fee applies to the cost of materials such as wood, acrylic, sand paper, nails, screws, glue, paint, wheels, axles, CO2 canisters, etc.

Gr. 8 Literacy/Numeracy Interventions by Teacher recommendation only

Throughout the year, we used multiple assessments to determine if our students were performing at grade level, primarily using the Fountas and Pinnell (for literacy) and the Math Intervention Planning Instrument (for Numeracy). If your child experienced difficulty with some of their grade level material, whether in Literacy or Numeracy, we may contact you with regards to placing your child in one of our interventions options. This would mean that they would be placed in a small group class where they would work on several key strategies to help them become more successful students. The student would remain in the Intervention option until the trimester has ended. A meeting with the administration, teaching staff and parents would determine whether or not the student continues in Interventions OR is placed in a different complementary course.