

# MAPLE RIDGE SECONDARY SCHOOL ECOLE SECONDAIRE MAPLE RIDGE

Creating Community, Providing Opportunity

2026-2027

MRSS is a dual track English & French Immersion school with a proud history. At MRSS we combine the best educational practices that lead to academic success. By blending traditional approaches to learning with cutting edge technology, MRSS achieves the highest scholarship totals, the highest transition to post secondary rates and the highest ranking of our district in the Fraser Institute report.

Students develop their academic and personal skills through collaborative and independent learning. They also have access to on-line learning to complement the vast options at Maple Ridge Secondary School. While it is not required, students are encouraged to bring their laptops and tablet computers to school to take advantage of the many on-line learning resources and teacher web pages available to them.

## PURSUING EXCELLENCE

Extensive involvement and commitment by staff beyond the classroom creates a variety of rich experiences where students continue their pursuit of excellence. MRSS have earned many team and individual provincial championships. Fine Art students are regularly recognized both at home and abroad as representatives of their school and community. During the year our music program invites the larger community to various concerts showcasing the jazz band, concert band, concert choir, a cappella choir, rock band, and vocal jazz.

## PROGRAM CHOICES

### English Program:

This is the standard course curriculum which follows expectations defined by the Ministry of Education.

### French Immersion:

The French Immersion program leads to bilingual graduation. The purpose of the program is to offer students the opportunity to learn subjects in an immersion context in order to be able to attain a high level of fluency in the language by the end of grade 12. The program intends to offer the best available courses and curriculum to complement the studies of a student who would like to graduate with a bilingual certificate.



## Athletic & Club Activities

Students who attend MRSS have unlimited opportunities to become involved in the school's numerous activities. Our school features an outstanding activity program open to every student.

Astronomy  
Ball Hockey  
Basketball  
Cheerleading  
Circle of Indigenous Youth & Allies  
Cross Country  
Fiction Addiction  
Field Hockey  
Field Lacrosse  
Graphic Novel  
MedUnity

Model United Nations  
Physics Olympics  
Basketball  
Rainbow Connection Scorekeeping  
Rugby  
Strategic Games Club  
Student Council  
Track and Field  
Video Games Club  
Volleyball  
Wrestling ... and more...



## COURSES - English & French Immersion

### English Language Arts 8

English Language Arts 8 is a mandatory academic course focused on strengthening communication skills. Students develop writing with an emphasis on expository, narrative, and descriptive paragraphs, while being introduced to the writing process of prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. Grammar and mechanics are taught through the study of parts of speech, punctuation, and sentence structure. Reading skills are practised and assessed through literature studies, which provide the foundation for writing assignments. Students can expect to read novels, short stories, and poems, and to explore these texts through discussion, debate, and formal public speaking.

### Français Langue 8

Français Langue 8 is designed to help French Immersion students develop proficient oral communication skills, as well as listening, reading, and writing skills. Students are introduced to literature in French. Students can expect to read from a variety of materials, develop grammar skills, write compositions, and engage in oral presentations.

### Languages 8

The Languages 8 course provides students with a glimpse of three world languages: French, Spanish, and Japanese. All language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) are developed through topics dealing with everyday situations. Emphasis is on oral communication.

### Mathematics 8

Students will work on the following curricular competencies: reasoning and modelling; understanding and solving; communicating and representing; connecting and reflecting. These competencies will be assessed while covering the course content, such as; logic, percent, square roots, perfect squares and cubes, rates, proportions, fractions, two step equations, surface area and volume, probability, and financial literacy. Students will connect these concepts to real life problems and clearly communicate their mathematical thinking. A fundamental focus will be to increase math literacy and encourage students to become effective problem solvers in all areas of mathematics.

### Physical Education 8 Education Physique 8

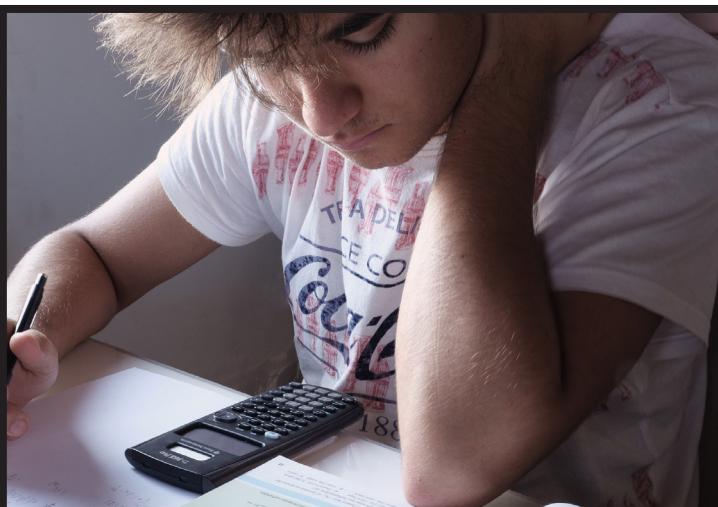
Physical and Health Education 8/Education Physique 8 introduces students to a variety of team and individual sports. Emphasis lies in students understanding the importance of a healthy lifestyle and having fun playing sports. Activities include badminton, basketball, field hockey, football, road hockey, rugby, dancing, softball, tennis, track and field, weight training, and wrestling, minor games and a full day hiking trip.

### Science 8

The Science 8 curriculum includes content from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science. Students will develop the skills, processes, attitudes, and scientific habits that allow them to pursue their own inquiries using scientific methods. Biology examines the relationship of micro-organisms with living things, the immune system, vaccinations



and the impact of epidemics and pandemics on human populations. Earth Science investigates layers of the earth, plate tectonics and major local geological events. Physical Science looks at the properties and behaviours of light, how we sense it, the Kinetic Molecular Theory (KMT) and atomic models. Using critical thinking, creative insight, and their current scientific knowledge, students work together to explore, problem solve, communicate, discover, learn, and increase their understanding of science through hands-on experiences.



### Social Studies 8 Sciences Humaines 8

This course examines the areas of historical world events from 7th century to 1750, physical geography, and current events. Students will be introduced to historical thinking concepts and skills that include establishing historical significance, identifying continuity and change, analyzing cause and consequence, using primary source evidence, taking a historical perspective, and understanding ethical dimensions of historical events. Themes for study include social, political, and economic systems and structures of the past, major scientific and technological innovations, philosophical and cultural shifts in society, the impacts of exploration, expansion and colonization, the interactions and exchange of resources and ideas between different groups, and the changes in population and living standards.

## GRADE 8 ELECTIVES EXPLAINED

All Grade 8 students will be enrolled in the following courses: English 8, Mathematics 8, Physical Health Education 8, Science 8, and Social Studies 8. Students will also be enrolled in Explorations and Discovery and Language classes which rotate throughout the school year - each course lasts 10 weeks.

### LANGUAGE ROTATIONS

Language 8 provides students with an introduction to three important world languages: French, Spanish, and Japanese. All four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) are developed through topics dealing with everyday situations. Emphasis is on oral communication.

### DISCOVERY, EXPLORATIONS, AND FINE ART ELECTIVES:

#### Option #1: Full Rotations:

Students are exposed to a variety of electives in Grade 8, and are programmed into two different rotations, Discovery and Explorations. Discovery courses include: Digital Literacy, Foods, Indigenous Explorations, Info Tech, and Textiles. Explorations courses include: Art, Career Education, Drama, Choir, and Guitar.

#### Option #2: Early Morning or After School Music Course and Full Rotation

Grade 8 students can elect to take our Band and Choir courses which happen before or after school (i.e.: at 7:00am or 2:45pm). If students elect to take one of the music courses that happen outside our regular timetable, they will be enrolled in all Option #1 courses as well as the early morning or after school class. Note that students cannot pick and choose which elective courses they take.

## EXPLORATIONS / DISCOVERY 8 CLASSES

Students have two blocks in which they will be introduced to all of the following subject areas.

### Art 8 / Beaux Arts 8

This course builds basic art skills, drawing, painting, art criticism, lettering and print making. Emphasis is on art techniques and improvement of drawing skills.

### Career Education 8

The role of Career Education 8 is to assist students in their personal development. Career Education 8 will introduce graduation requirements and reflective practice in relation to goal setting. Students will also examine various career options, the roles of community and school in career planning, and further their exploration of cultural and social awareness.

### Digital Literacy 8

Digital literacy is essential for navigating the online landscape safely, responsibly, and effectively. This course empowers students to become informed and ethical digital citizens. Through engaging lessons and hands-on activities, students will explore key topics such as:

- Social Media Savvy: Understanding the benefits and risks of social platforms regarding content, creation, and screen time implications while also developing strategies for positive engagement.
- Digital Footprints: Learning how online actions contribute to long-term reputations and how to manage privacy settings to safeguard personal information.
- Email Etiquette: Mastering professional and effective communication skills, including crafting clear subject lines, proper tone, and responsible use of email.
- AI Ethics and Responsibility: Exploring the implications of artificial intelligence, addressing issues like bias, misinformation, and responsible use of AI tools.
- Cyberbullying and Online Behavior: Identifying cyberbullying, learning prevention and intervention strategies, and fostering empathy and inclusivity in digital interactions.
- Critical Thinking in the Digital Age: Evaluating the credibility of online sources, identifying fake news, and understanding the role of algorithms in shaping information.



By the end of the course, students will gain the knowledge and skills needed to navigate digital spaces confidently, make ethical decisions, and contribute positively to the online community.

### DRAMA 8

Have you ever wanted to act, tell stories, or just feel more confident speaking in front of others? Drama 8 is a creative, hands-on course where you get to move, imagine, collaborate, and perform. No acting experience needed! In Drama 8, you will play drama games that build confidence and teamwork, create characters and short scenes with your classmates, learn how to use your voice, body, and imagination, try improvisation (thinking on your feet!), and explore storytelling, movement, and performance in a supportive space.

This course is all about participation, creativity, and taking positive risks. You don't need to be loud, funny, or "good at acting" to succeed - just willing to try! Drama helps you become a stronger communicator, a better collaborator, and a more confident version of yourself. If you like being creative, working with others, games and movement, expressing ideas in different ways, then Drama 8 is for you!

### Home Economics

Students will develop skills in cooking and sewing. In Food Studies students learn about meal planning and simple meal preparation of things like pancakes, macaroni and cheese, and apple crumble. Personal nutrition needs are also examined. In Textile Studies, students will be introduced to basic sewing terms and techniques, and will make a simple project like a pair of shorts.

### Indigenous Explorations 8

Indigenous Studies 8 is a new course which explores Indigenous cultures, beliefs, and history to help educate students about the principles of Truth & Reconciliation. Students examine topics like identity, racism, allyship, and colonialism. Students learn about the government of Canada's attempts to destroy Indigenous cultures through the Indian Act and Residential Schools, and the strength and resilience of Indigenous peoples in the face of these challenges. The class features talking circle class discussions, Indigenous storytelling, the 7 Sacred Grandfather Teachings, current Indigenous heroes in Canada, movies, and fun art projects.

### Information Technology 8

This course introduces students to the keyboard, basic word processing skills, basic computing skills, and some business skills.

### Music 8 - Guitar

The music component of the elective rotation introduces students to playing guitar. Students can expect to learn how to play the guitar at the basic level by playing songs. Basic chords, strumming and picking techniques along with basic music theory are practiced regularly. Students will also be introduced to becoming critical listeners. Understanding how music plays a major role in our daily lives.

### Music 8

This class introduces music theory, singing, performing, dancing, choreography, and theatre. In an ensemble-setting, students prepare a 25-minute musical theatre production that encourages them to memorize lines, act with their peers, and perform on stage.

## FINE ARTS ELECTIVE COURSES: BAND and CHOIR

MRSS is well known in the community and the province for its high caliber music program. Ensembles from MRSS have taken top awards at festivals from Hawaii to San Francisco to Disneyland. Students in the music department develop strong leadership and communication skills and quickly become a close-knit group.

### Beginner Band (A.M. BLOCK)

Did you miss out on joining band in elementary school, and now wish you learned that instrument you've always dreamed of? Maybe you are already in band or choir, but always wanted to try out a different instrument? Well it's never too late to join band at MRSS! We are pleased to offer a new Beginning Band open to all students grade 8 - 12 who have never played a concert band instrument before. Instruments for beginners to choose from include Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, or Percussion. Experienced band students who wish to learn a more advanced instrument may also choose from Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, and French Horn. While every effort will be made to allow everyone's first choice instrument, students may need to choose an alternative choice in order to better facilitate balanced instrumentation for the ensemble. Opportunities for solo and ensemble playing, public performance, and service hours are a part of this course. **This course takes place on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 7:20-8:20 am.**



### Concert Choir (A.M. BLOCK)

In this course you will learn how to sing with good vocal technique, learn basic music reading, and take part singing in a variety of music styles. The course is designed to develop each student's individual musical skills, learn the responsibilities and value of being a member of a musical ensemble and to continue to foster a life-long love of music. You will have two amazing privileges singing in choir: to be affected by performing music with a community of singers with the same goals and to affect; and evoke emotion of those present in your audience. **Rehearsals take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:20-8:20 am.**