



WELLINGTON
SECONDARY SCHOOL

COURSE PLANNING GUIDE
GRADE 8
2025-2026

Wellington Secondary School

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GRADE 8 PRE-GRADUATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

As part of the BC Ministry of Education curriculum, the Grade 8 and 9 programs are a continuation of the Kindergarten – Grade 7 programs. Grades 8 and 9 lay the final foundational layers of preparation for the Grade 10-12 graduation program.

At Wellington Secondary, the Grade 8 program begins with a Wildcat Camp, designed to draw students in and become part of the Wellington family. Students participate in leadership, team building, and character development activities, as well as several academic assessments that assist teachers in understanding individual student needs. Integrated throughout the camp are activities to promote academic preparedness in a secondary school setting. From that point, students are organized into cohorts that attend their core academic classes together.

GRADE 8 PROGRAM

The grade 8 program is linear which means all courses run from September to June (year-long). However, we split our linear courses into terms so that students can have the opportunity for success in their courses in shorter chunks of time. Students will have alternating terms of English 8/Social Studies 8, Math8/Science 8, and PHE8/French 8.

Students in grade 8 will have the opportunity to choose elective offerings of interest. While we try to schedule all requested courses, we may need to schedule with alternate courses due to a variety of limitations. All grade 8s will take a Study Skills, Career Education and Emotional Wellness elective course as part of their grade 8 electives program. An additional three electives will be available by choice.

Students who require more support to be successful may have a different program developed by the elementary school, Wellington staff, the student and parent.

Each course contains several “Big Ideas” for students to understand; further Curricular Competencies and Content require students to develop further skills and knowledge. Details about each course are available at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8 (MEN—08)

BIG IDEAS

- Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.
- People understand text differently depending on their worldviews and perspectives.
- Texts are socially, culturally, and historically constructed.
- Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.
- Language and text can be a source of creativity and joy.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8 (MSS—08)

BIG IDEAS

- Contacts and conflicts between peoples stimulated significant cultural, social, political change.
- Human and environmental factors shape changes in population and living standards.
- Exploration, expansion, and colonization had varying consequences for different groups.
- Changing ideas about the world created tension between people wanting to adopt new ideas and those

wanting to preserve established traditions.

MATHEMATICS 8 (MMA—08)

BIG IDEAS

- Number represents, describes, and compares the quantities of ratios, rates, and percents.
- Computational fluency and flexibility extend to operations with fractions.
- Discrete linear relationships can be represented in many connected ways and used to identify and make generalizations.
- The relationship between surface area and volume of 3D objects can be used to describe, measure, and compare spatial relationships.
- Analyzing data by determining averages is one way to make sense of large data sets and enables us to compare and interpret.

SCIENCE 8 (MSC—08)

BIG IDEAS

- Life processes are performed at the cellular level.
- The behaviour of matter can be explained by the kinetic molecular theory and atomic theory.
- Energy can be transferred as both a particle and a wave.
- The theory of plate tectonics is the unifying theory that explains Earth's geological processes.

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION 8 (MPHE-08)

Physical and Health Education (PHE) emerges from two areas of learning, physical education and health education, brought together in order to promote and develop all aspects of well-being. The PHE curriculum is strongly linked to the personal awareness and responsibility core competencies.

The primary goals of Physical and Health Education include:

1. A focus on developing a holistic understanding of health and well-being by promoting and developing all aspects of student health and wellness, including physical, social, and mental well-being.
2. Big Idea statements to support teaching and learning and for deep understanding and skills transfer.
3. Content on individual identities, including sexual identity, gender, values, and beliefs.
4. Learning standards on various influences on healthy choices, including social and peer pressure, differing sources and validity of health information, and situational factors.
5. A focus on developing healthy habits in all areas of health that students will continue to practice after graduation.

Equipment and Supplies

*The following equipment is **compulsory and must be worn for all physical education classes: running shoes (non-marking); gym shorts or sweatpants and a t-shirt. A sweatshirt for outside activities and a towel for showering are optional. A lock for a day-use gym-lockers is essential. Student gym strip in physical education class must be appropriate for school attire. **For safety reasons skate shoes, slip-on runners as well as headphone ear buds are not to be worn in class.*****

FRENCH 8 (MFR—08)

French 8 provides students a foundation to explore the francophone world through food, film, music, and other aspects of culture. Students cover introductory basics like greetings, numbers, and common expressions before diving into the present tense and other key grammatical concepts. Classes emphasize learning through reading, writing, listening, and speaking the language while also utilizing games and technology to develop these skillsets.

CREW – Career Education, Executive Functioning Skill Development and Mental Wellness 8 (MCE—08)

BIG IDEAS

- Understanding our mental fitness helps us to navigate a complex world.
 - Reflecting on our preferences and skills helps us identify the steps we need to take to achieve our career goals.
 - The value of work in our lives, communities, and society can be viewed from diverse perspectives.
 - Achieving our learning goals requires effort and perseverance.
 - Adapting to economic and labour market changes requires flexibility.
 - Our career paths reflect the personal, community, and educational choices we make.
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GRADE 8 ELECTIVES CHOICES

Please rank your choices on your course selection sheet in preference order:

FINE ARTS 8

BAND 8 (MAE—08BAS) – Band 8 is a year-long elective that is paired with other set electives.

Students will learn to read music and play an instrument as part of a band. Band 8 involves continued development in producing good sounds, learning a more advanced technique on their chosen instrument, and continuing to progress in their music reading skills. It also involves basic music theory. Students will be involved in several performances throughout the year. Students will play a variety of music including pop, traditional and jazz.

VISUAL ARTS – An introduction to Art pathways at Wellington

Students will explore their creativity through an introduction to drawing, painting, and 3D art design. Students will learn to use different art materials and techniques and will try out various types of art media. Get ready to create, imagine, and show off your artistic talents!

PERFORMING ARTS – Drama

In our theater course, students engage in games, team activities, and scene creation to build key skills like communication, teamwork, and creativity. Starting with games to boost comfort and camaraderie, we then move on to tableaux and scene performances. Participants will also write their own scripts and explore costume design, along with technical theater elements such as lighting, sound, and prop making. This course is about transforming imaginative ideas into stage reality.

APPLIED DESIGN, SKILLS, AND TECHNOLOGY 8

HOME ECONOMICS – Foods

Food Studies helps students develop essential cooking skills by teaching them fundamental techniques for preparing a wide range of foods. The curriculum focuses on cooking principles, including safety, nutrition, and food preparation methods. In addition to hands-on cooking experience, students learn how to plan balanced meals and make informed, healthy food choices. This component encourages students to develop confidence in the kitchen while promoting healthy eating habits and an appreciation for diverse cuisines.

HOME ECONOMICS – Textiles

Grade 8 Textiles introduces students to basic sewing skills in a hands-on environment. They learn to use sewing machines and work with different fabrics, developing techniques like stitching, hemming, and seaming. The final project allows students to apply these skills in creating a more complex item, encouraging both creativity and practical problem-solving while reinforcing design principles.

TECH LAB – Intro to Computer Studies and IT

This course is for students interested in learning about the world of IT. Students will get hands-on experience with the same tools that professional software developers use to bring video games to life. Students will learn how to craft stunning visuals using 2D graphics software such as Photoshop and Illustrator. Students will also be introduced to other software and cutting-edge technology like 3D printing and virtual reality (VR), equipping them with a comprehensive toolkit for video game development.

MEDIA DESIGN

The Applied Design and Technology course offers a dynamic, hands-on learning experience, guiding students through the creative and technical use of technology to express ideas. Students engage with multiple software tools, starting with Google SketchUp for architectural design, moving to Adobe Premiere for video editing with green screens, and Photoshop for advanced image manipulation. They also learn quick photo editing with Lightroom and basics of animation with Adobe Flash, culminating in their own animation project. This course equips students with the skills to effectively communicate through various digital mediums, blending creativity with technology.

POWER TECHNOLOGY (ENGINEERING)

The Applied Design and Technology course offers a hands-on focused course which explores basic structural and engineering concepts, as well as focusing on useful design. The course also covers the basics of safety and ethics in an applied skills class with large machinery. Students will be introduced to the use of mechanical equipment.

ROBOTICS

In this Grade 8 Robotics course, students will dive into the exciting world of programming, coding, designing, and building through hands-on projects. Students will be introduced to the process of creating, from design to manufacturing and testing, with fun, hands-on projects. Throughout the course, students will enhance their problem-solving abilities, learn to analyze projects, and develop teamwork skills by collaborating on classroom challenges.

WOODWORK

In this introductory woodworking course, students will develop fundamental skills and learn how to operate machinery safely as they tackle various projects. The focus is on ensuring safety, promoting precision, and optimizing both time and effort. As participants become more adept, they'll have the chance to undertake increasingly complex projects, allowing them to enhance their craftsmanship and confidence in their abilities.

WILDERNESS SKILLS – Intro to Outdoor Education and Learning from the Land

Students in Wilderness Studies learn to connect with the land through outdoor adventures, designed to boost knowledge, self-confidence, and leadership skills. Through exploring the great outdoors, students learn to live an active lifestyle, and understand the importance of environmental care and community. Get ready for an adventure that teaches you about the environment, culture, and teamwork!