



Grade 9

Course Selection Booklet

2023 - 2024

Mission Statement:

Belmont strives to be a community where people feel inspired, acknowledged and supported.

Through rich and diverse programs, within an environment of mutual respect, and in cooperation with the community, we will foster the attitudes, skills and knowledge which encourage individuals to risk the untried, and to be independent, life-long learners and productive citizens.



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Introduction to Course Selections

Belmont Secondary School offers an outstanding range of academic and elective courses for all students. This booklet provides details for students about the courses offered. The choices students make ultimately determine the timetable construction. It may not always be possible to offer all the courses listed in this booklet. For example, if a course has insufficient enrollment, it will not be offered. Students will need to be flexible in adjusting to alternate course selections they will be asked to list along with their choice selections. Make course selections carefully and please be aware that requests for course changes after the timetable is built will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

Students, please consult with your parent/guardian as you make your course selections for next year. Our counsellors will meet with students during and after course selection to ensure they have chosen the appropriate courses in order to meet the Ministry of Education's Graduation Requirements.

Communication

The communication tools and links below are the main methods we use to send out notifications and news:

- Belmont Website <http://belmont.web.sd62.bc.ca/>
- Belmont APP <https://belmont.appazur.com/>
- Belmont Bulletin <https://belmontbulletin.blog/>

Counselling Department – Counsellors are an integral part of the academic advising process. Students should meet with their assigned counsellor to plan/finalize their programs and review graduation requirements as not all course requests can be accommodated. Appointments can be booked online at <http://belmont.web.sd62.bc.ca/resources/counselling/>

Counsellor	Student Portfolio	Email
Ms. Pettigrew	A – Gh	spettigrew@sd62.bc.ca
Ms. Kiefert	Gi – N	mkiefert@sd62.bc.ca
Ms. Sandberg	O – Z	rsandberg@sd62.bc.ca

Each student is assigned a Counsellor and a Vice Principal based on their last name.

Vice-Principal	Student Portfolio	Email
Ms. Horner	A – Gh	mhorner@sd62.bc.ca
Mr. Dubé	Gi – N	rdube@sd62.bc.ca
Mr. McHugh	O – Z	smchugh@sd62.bc.ca

Program Planning

Class Size Limitations – When space in classes is limited, priority will be given to students needing the course to meet graduation requirements. Students wishing to upgrade previously attempted courses may be admitted depending on availability of space; students may need to consider online or summer school alternatives.

Course Selections – Course selections are completed via the MyEd Student Portal so students must activate their account. See our website for assistance.

Full-Time Program - Students in Grades 9, 10 and 11 carry **full timetables (8 courses)** and are **not** permitted to have unassigned blocks in their timetables, except for very exceptional circumstances approved by the Principal or Vice Principal. **Grade 12 students** undertake full timetables until graduation requirements have been addressed.

Students in Grade 12 who have heavy academic loads and are students in good standing can request to drop a course in the second semester and have it replaced with a study block. This will be decided on a case by case basis and will involve an application form that must be signed by a parent. Students who are successful in being allowed a study block will need to spend it in the learning commons, or at home if permitted by the parent/guardian.

Post-Secondary Admissions - When selecting courses, students should research post-secondary requirements to ensure they are making suitable course selections. Current post-secondary calendars are available online.

Repeating Courses - Students who do not attain a minimum of 50% in a course will be re-scheduled into those courses in order to meet graduation requirements. Students who have completed a distributed learning or summer school course should inform their counsellor to ensure that marks have been recorded and credits have been assigned.

StudentTranscripts Service: You can use the StudentTranscripts Service (STS) to:

- View or order your grade 10 to 12 course [transcript](#)
- Send your high school transcript to post-secondary institutions
- Send your high school transcript to a third-party (another person or group)
- Order your [graduation certificate](#)
- View your [provincially awarded scholarships](#)
- View your provincial graduation assessment and exam results
- Watch [Help Videos](#) on using the StudentTranscripts Service.

Course Planning (Grade 9)

For more information on BC's Curriculum visit <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

Required Courses

Career Education	Social Studies
English Language Arts	Elective 1
Mathematics	Elective 2
Physical and Health Education (PHE)	Elective 3
Science	

Elective Courses¹

Applied Design, Skills & Technologies (ADST)	Arts Education	Languages	Physical and Health Education (PHE)
<p>Home Economics & Culinary Arts: -Food Studies -Sustainability -Textiles</p> <p>Information & Communications Technology: -Information Technology</p> <p>Technology Education: -Cosmetology -Metalwork -Woodwork</p>	<p>Cross-disciplinary & Interdisciplinary Arts Courses: -Film Making -Photography</p> <p>Dance: -Dance Company -Dance Technique and Performance -Hip Hop & Conditioning -Tap and Broadway Studies</p> <p>Drama: -Drama -Theatre Company: Production</p> <p>Music: -Concert Band -Concert Choir & Chamber Choir -Drumline -Introduction to Guitar -Introduction to Piano</p> <p>Visual Arts: -Ceramics & Sculpture -Mixed Media Arts -Visual Arts</p>	<p>-French -Japanese -Spanish</p>	<p>-Active Living -Athlete Training -Outdoor Education -Sports Performance: - Basketball - Football - Rugby - Volleyball</p>

Choice Programs¹

<p>Academies: - Baseball, Hockey, Softball, and Climbing</p> <p>More information on Academies here: https://www.sd62.bc.ca/programs-services/academies Click here to apply: https://www.sd62.bc.ca/programs-services/academies</p>	<p>Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) – AVID is yearlong course as it is paired with English and students use one elective choice for this course.</p> <p>More information on the program here: http://avidsooke.weebly.com/ Click here to apply: Application</p>
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¹ Course Fees, as applicable, are determined annually.

Community and School Leadership

Leadership	This is a yearlong course and occurs outside the timetable.
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English Program: Required Courses

Career Education 9

MCE--09

Careers 9 is embedded in Social Studies 9. They will receive a mid-year and final report in June for the course. Students will explore the following big ideas:

- 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 labour market changes requires flexibility.
- Our career paths reflect the personal, community, and educational choices we make.

English Language Arts 9

MEN--09

- Designed to build students' skills in the areas of reading and writing, speaking and listening, viewing and representing through various activities and strategies in order to strengthen their literacy and critical thinking.
- Explores each of the choice areas: Composition, Creative Writing, Focused Literary Studies, New Media, and Spoken Language in preparation to enter their preferred areas of choice in English 10.

English Language Learners (ELL) 9

YLE--0B

- Enhancing the English Language learners' skill in reading, writing, listening and speaking through exposure to appropriately challenging texts.

Mathematics 9

MMA--09

- Designed to continue building on skills from math 8 and to prepare students for both the Workplace pathway and the Foundations/Pre-Calculus Pathway.
- Covers powers and exponents, rational numbers, algebra, polynomials, linear equations, graphing, proportional reasoning, statistics in society, and financial literacy.
- Expands students' application, understanding, proficiency and leadership through physical activities.
- Explores skills, knowledge, appreciation of team and individual sports, dance, theory, and healthy living.
- In order to be successful in Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-Calculus 10, a C+ or better in Math 9 is strongly recommended.

Science 9

MSC--09

- Designed to expose students to a variety of topics in the areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Incorporates the Scientific Method as students develop an understanding of the role of science in their surroundings.
- Includes the elements, the Periodic Table, compounds, chemical formulas, static electricity, current, electric circuits, power, cell reproduction, reproduction in living organisms, solar radiation, ecosystems and sustainability.

Social Studies 9

MSS--09

- Concentrates on 1750-1919, and includes European, Asian, North American and First Nations topics.
- Refines skills introduced in Grade 8 through an examination of concepts such as: revolution, nationalism, industrialization, colonialism and imperialism.
- Builds concepts and skills, together with the discussion of contemporary issues, culminates in students' ability to transfer knowledge to a real-life situation.
- Provides greater opportunity to explore a variety of topics and First Nations issues will be a central theme.

Elective Courses

Applied Design, Skills & Technologies (ADST)

Home Economics & Culinary Arts

Food Studies 9

MADFS09

- Introduces preparing meals, desserts, snack foods, and developing cooking skills and knowledge.
- Shares the experience of cultural food preparation and celebrations.
- Explores food trends, nutrition, and food systems to make wise choices for a healthy lifestyle.

Sustainability 9

XLDCB09SUS

- Explores the connections between sustainable lifestyle choices, self-sufficiency, healthy foods and a sustainable planet.
- Involves a combination of research, projects, seed to table gardening, sustainability labs and discussions at school and in the local community.

Textiles 9

MADT-09

- Introduces sewing and/or builds on existing skills.
- Explores other textile arts techniques such as weaving, crochet, or knitting.
- Explores how to design and plan projects, and construction techniques.
- Explores the cultural and social influences that play a part in our fashion and textile choices.

Information & Communications Technology

Information Technology 9

MADIT09

- Designed to provide students with a wide range of computer literacy skills.
- Develops knowledge and skills in keyboarding, computer fundamentals, business applications, use of the Internet, and web site design.
- Potential applications include All the Right Type, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), HTML, GIMP, Scratch, Photoshop, Unity Game Engine and C#.

Technology Education

Cosmetology 9

XLDC09COS

- Introduces the salon industry and career opportunities.
- Explores hairstyling techniques (braiding, updo, blow dry, curling iron, etc.), skin care, and nail art.
- Builds towards Intermediate Cosmetology and other courses in grade 10-12.

Metalwork 9

MADM-09

- Begins with learning project layout and measurement techniques.
- Students fabricate projects through a variety metalwork processes including sheet metal fabrication, machining, welding, forge work and jewelry fabrication.
- Examines a variety of metalwork related careers.
- Prioritizes safety tests, safe and respectful metalworking shop etiquette.

Woodwork 9

MADW-09

- Develops skills using hand and power tools and machinery while building projects out of wood.
- Explores a variety of project designs and styles while learning a variety of techniques.
- Includes historical and cultural contexts of wood use, identification, properties, and uses of various wood species, and issues in wood sustainability.
- Prioritizes safety tests, safe shop and woodworking practices including stock breakout techniques using a variety of stationary machines.
- Completes projects using hand tools, portable and stationary power equipment.

Arts Education

Cross-disciplinary & Interdisciplinary Arts Courses

Film Making 9

XLDCA09DFT

- Students will be required to work in front of, but primarily, behind the camera.
- Introduces the practical functions and maintenance of HD video cameras and equipment and develops the skills necessary to participate in film production.
- Students will work independently and collaboratively on a series of short video productions to develop their skills in pre-production (planning), production (filming) and post-production (editing) where they will learn editing techniques using Adobe Premiere Pro.
- Students are also required to "read," reflect and write about films from a range of genres viewed in and out of class, focusing on both the narrative and technical aspects of films and their sociocultural relevance from both historical and contemporary perspectives.

Photography 9

XPHOTO9

- This course focuses on the basics of photography.
- Students will learn to use a camera and experiment with settings in a range of environments while completing engaging projects.
- The essential design elements, as well as composition techniques, feature throughout the course.

Dance

Dance Company 9

XD---09A

Prerequisite: Previous dance experience and a successful audition (held in March of 2023).

- Yearlong course with one block in each semester (Dance: Advanced and PHE Dance Conditioning)
- Auditions will be held in March 2023 among the applicants, to select those with the skill level required for this course.
- Learn and refine advanced technique in contemporary, lyrical, modern, jazz, ballet, and hip hop.
- Develop individual dance technique, muscular strength, fitness level, flexibility and performance skills.
- Dancers participate in the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival as well as other community performances.

Dance 9: Technique and Performance

MDNC-09

- Open to all grade 9 students with or without previous dance training.
- Learn a variety of dance styles including, but not limited to, jazz, lyrical, hip hop and contemporary.
- Develop dance technique, muscular strength, flexibility, fitness level and performance skills daily.
- Perform learned choreography at performances during the school year.

Hip Hop & Conditioning 9

XLDCE09HHC

- Open to all grade 9 students who have a passion for hip hop dance.
- Explore the different styles of hip hop in today's dance world: old school hip hop, commercial hip hop, street funk, etc.
- Improve coordination, muscle strength, flexibility, fitness level, and dance skills daily.
- Perform learned choreography at performances during the school year.

Tap and Broadway Studies 9

XLDCE09TBS

- Open to all Grade 9 students with or without previous dance training.
- Explore rhythm and theatrical tap styles, while studying classic Broadway tap numbers.
- Develop dance technique, muscular strength, flexibility, fitness level and performance skills daily.
- Perform learned choreography at performances during the school year.

Drama

Drama 9: Intro to Drama

MDR--09

- Come join us on the stage and see what high school Drama is all about!
- Students will gain performance experience in improvisation and scripted scene work, developing skills involving voice, movement, character development and will be introduced to various technical aspects and behind the curtain skills involved in theatre production.

Theatre Company 9: Production

XLDCG09THC

- This is a year-long course that takes place outside the timetable.
- Open to all students who wish to be a part of a theatre production.
- Inclusive and accessible for anyone wanting to perform onstage or be a part of the backstage crew.
- Offers opportunity for performance and productions during the year, with the production of one musical, as well as other exciting performance and production opportunities!
- Exposure to acting, dancing, and singing opportunities, as well as the opportunity to be a part of a community of students who want to put on a show!

Music

Please note:

- Performance Ensembles operate in a cohort fashion with designated supplementary blocks.
- The second block is to provide a structure for the variety of learning opportunities and activities that occur outside of conventional classes/rehearsals.

Concert Band 9

XBA--09Y

- Beginners are welcome!
- Runs as a **yearlong performance-based ensemble**; set as a Concert Band (woodwinds, brass and percussion), musical and instrumental skills will be developed through the rehearsal and performance of music from diverse styles including present day, and traditional Concert Band works.
- Develops students' understanding of music theory throughout the course.
- Occasional extracurricular rehearsals and festival/community performances will be required throughout the year.

Concert Choir 9 Chamber Choir 9

XC---09
XLDCG09CC

- **Runs outside of the timetable – Rehearsal times to be determined.**
- Runs as a **yearlong performance-based ensemble** that focuses on a wide variety of contemporary choral styles.
- Develop musicianship skills that include theory and ear training, vocal technique, and skill singing 3 and 4-part harmony.
- Excellent entry-level class for interested new singers to gain confidence and make friends with students who share a love of singing.
- Occasional extracurricular rehearsals, festivals, school, and community performances throughout this year will be required.

Introduction to Guitar 9

XGUIT09

- Introductory step-by-step course for Grade 9-12 students, geared towards the absolute beginner.
- Introduces chords, scales, popular riffs, theory, strumming patterns, finger picking, bass lines, note reading, symbols and technical terms, rhythm, and ear training.
- Develops technique and facility on the guitar through contemporary music and the blues.
- Promotes becoming a knowledgeable musician and take away guitar skills to continue learning.

Introduction to Piano 9

XLDCA09PIA

- Introduces a step-by-step method geared towards the absolute beginner.
- Starting with the basics, students will learn melody and chords, hand and finger positioning, theory, composition, symbols and technical terms, sight reading and ear training.

Drumline 9

MMU--09DRL

- **Runs outside of the timetable - Rehearsal times to be determined.**
- Utilizes multiple instruments and playing techniques to create engaging and entertaining concerts and performances in a variety of venues.
- Explores Percussion and Movement to express concepts and ideas through music.
- Develops competency and skills in the area of Music theory, Reading, Rhythm, and Percussion Techniques.
- Requires collaboration with classmates to create a dynamic learning environment in which to engage in musical expression.

Visual Arts

Ceramics & Sculpture 9

XLDCA09CS

- Explores the textural world of clay as you sculpt and construct vessels as well as other architectural forms using basic hand-building methods of slab and coil.
- Students will receive instruction of throwing on the potter's wheel – a challenging and exciting process!
- Includes glazing (and other methods of finishing clay), kiln use, tool manipulation and preparation for display.
- Requires students to work independently and remain open to a variety of possibilities as well as to teacher suggestions.

Mixed Media Arts 9

XLDCB09DPD

- Explore unique ways of making art through combining various types of media.
- Experiment with various types of media, including paint, charcoal, conte, watercolor, spray painting.
- Take creative risks to refine art skills and techniques.
- Begin developing artistic voice and an art portfolio, which can later be used for art school applications.

Visual Arts 9

MVA—09

- Project-based course where students learn new techniques as they develop and create works of art.
- Explores charcoal, paint, spray paint, printmaking, mixed media, ceramics, and sculpture (varies annually).
- Emphasis on creative and critical thinking and exploring different modes of communication.

Languages

Core French 9

MFR--09

- **Francophone or former French Immersion students must register in Core French 11 or 12.**
- Emphasizes basic French communication skills as well as listening, speaking, reading and writing in French.
- Explores familiar topics, basic needs, descriptions of items, people, places, and personal interests, etc.
- Introduces students to vocabulary from different French variations around the world (Canadian French, Metropolitan French, etc.) as well as traditions and other cultural practices.

Japanese 9

MJA--09

- Emphasizes basic conversation and communication skills and focuses on building vocabulary, pronunciation and interpersonal communication skills, and also reading and writing of HIRAGANA characters.
- Promotes learning via songs, movies, simple games and role-playing.
- Introduction to Japanese culture, custom and celebrations including practice of origami, calligraphy, and food.

Spanish 9

MSP--09

- **Native Spanish-speakers must enroll in a higher-level course such as Spanish 11.**
- Emphasizes basic conversation and communication skills and focuses on building vocabulary, pronunciation and interpersonal communication skills.
- Utilizes a communicative/experiential approach that incorporates gesture and holistic learning techniques.
- Exploration of themes such as: family, school, sports, food, travel and extracurricular activities.

Physical & Health Education

Active Living 9

MPHE-09AL

- Experience an alternative, safe environment to earn credit for PHE9.
- Choose various physical activities to experience to motivate you to be physically active throughout life.
- Develop healthy habits that will influence your overall well-being.
- An emphasis is placed on resistance training, individual sports, mobility, mindfulness, mental health, team building and many others.

Athlete Training 9

XLDCA09AT

This course offers sections both inside and outside of the timetable. Outside the timetable training/practice times to be determined.

- Geared towards student-athletes interested in developing explosive and functional strength as well as improving speed and agility for their respective sports.
- Utilizes a significant power-lifting component.

Outdoor Education 9

XLDCE09OE

- Introduces students to a variety of outdoor experiences and field instruction.
- Conducted through group activities, projects and expeditions to build trust and confidence while appreciating the local environment.

- Seasonal activities may include: hiking, canoeing, paddle boarding, snowshoeing, climbing, orienteering, navigation, Red Cross First Aid Certification, survival simulations, and forest games.
- Students will gain a basic understanding of the knowledge and skills required to participate safely in outdoor recreational activities as well as developing their environmental stewardship.

Sports Performance 9 – Basketball

XLDCE09BB

This course offers sections both inside and outside of the timetable. Outside the timetable training/practice times to be determined.

- Geared towards the basketball player who wishes to improve performance.
- A multi-graded class where students will work on basic skills, strategies, and related concepts.
- Students will train using a variety of methods such as weights, and plyometrics to improve performance.

Sports Performance 9 – Football

XLDCE09FB

- Geared towards the football player who wishes to improve performance.
- A multi-graded class where students will work on basic skills, strategies, and related concepts.
- Students will train using a variety of methods such as weights, and plyometrics to improve performance.

Sports Performance 9 – Rugby

XLDCE09RU

This course offers sections both inside and outside of the timetable. Outside the timetable training/practice times to be determined.

- Geared towards the rugby player who wishes to improve performance.
- A multi-graded class where students will work on basic skills, strategies, and related concepts.
- Students will train using a variety of methods such as weights, and plyometrics to improve performance.

Sports Performance 9 – Volleyball

XLDCE09VB

- Geared towards the volleyball player who wishes to improve performance.
- A multi-graded class where students will work on basic skills, strategies, and related concepts.
- Students will train using a variety of methods such as weights, and plyometrics to improve performance.

Choice Programs

Academies

- The following academies are hosted at Belmont:
 - **Baseball:** XLDCE09BAS & MPHE-09BAS
 - **Hockey:** XLDCE09SOF & MPHE-09SOF
 - **Softball:** XLDCE09HOC & MPHE-09HOC
 - **Climbing:** XLDCA09RC & MPHE-09RC

For detailed and up-to-date information regarding our District Academy programs, please visit our District Academies site: <https://www.sd62.bc.ca/programs-services/academies>

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) 9

AVID is a post-secondary preparatory program for A/B to C students who have a desire and willingness to challenge themselves.

- Focuses on building critical thinking skills, questioning strategies, post-secondary and career awareness, organization, and study techniques.
- Includes collaborative and enrichment activities that build and enhance teamwork and character traits.
- AVID classes are linear and paired with an English class.

Some of the topics AVID 9 students will be introduced to include: Writing-to-learn practices, Time Management techniques, Focused Note-taking, Collaborative Study Tutorials, & Public Speaking skills.

For more information about our district's AVID program, visit us at <http://avidsooke.weebly.com>

Community and School Leadership

Leadership 9

XLEAD09Y

- Designed for students wishing to develop leadership, organizational skills, public speaking.
- Explores leadership styles, methods and theory through organization of major and minor school events.
- Builds awareness of social and civic responsibility and effective leadership styles/ methods.
- Runs outside the timetable throughout the year and involves volunteer activities; meeting dates/times determined annually.

Grade 9 Blended Learning Program

Families with children in Grades 9 will have the option of choosing to enroll their child into a blended learning program for the 2023/2024 school year. Blended learning is a mix of online and face to face learning and is offered through SD62's Secondary Schools' Online Learning Hubs. This program is an option for full-time grade 9 students.

Program Highlights:

- Full time program that follows the school year
- Four days online, one day in-person
- Full curriculum covered
- Morning instruction with independent learning time in the afternoon
- Location for in-person learning will vary based on activities planned for the day
- Morning and afternoon check ins with teacher
- Students with Inclusive Education Plans (IEPs) will receive support to help them meet their IEP goals.

Please contact your vice principal or counsellor (see page 3) if you are interested in registering for the Blended Learning program.

FAQs about the Grade 9 Blended Learning are available on the Belmont Website, under Grade 9 Course Selection: <https://belmont.web.sd62.bc.ca/students/gr-9-course-selection-booklet/>