

# W.H. Croxford High School

## Grade 9 Course Handbook

### 2024-2025



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# Welcome to W. H. Croxford High School

Welcome Grade Nines!

W.H. Croxford is a place to be who you are. High school is a place to discover what you want to become. We look forward to meeting you and working with you over the next four years as you achieve your academic, social, emotional, and career aspirations. We are all committed to your success.

This course planner is intended to provide you with essential information related to what your grade 9 academic programming will look like and instructions to guide you through the selection of your complementary courses. Please take the time to review the information contained within this booklet and consider your choices carefully.

Parents new to Croxford are encouraged to reach out to administration or their child's guidance counsellor if they have questions. We look forward to meeting and working with you to assist our students in achieving their very best.

Derek Keenan, Nashira Dernesch, Scott Thompson, Vlad Stelkic  
WHC Admin Team

## Organization of Supports

When students enter grade 9, they are assigned an Assistant Principal, Guidance Counsellor and, when required, a Learning Support teacher. We also have a Child Development Advisor. Students are assigned to these supports based on the first letter of their last name.

<u>Assistant Principal</u>	<u>Counsellor</u>	<u>Learning Support</u>
(A-G) Nashira Dernesch	Paulette Morck	Michele Hudson
(H-O) Scott Thompson	Amy Ross	Shauna Knee
(P-Z) Vlad Stelkic	Alana Orchard	Amanda Jackson

Our Child Development Advisor (CDA) is Omolola Alawiye who works with students in all grades.

## Course Requests

Grade 9 students are automatically entered into the following Core Courses:

English Language Arts 9.3 and English Language Arts 9, Mathematics 9.3 and Mathematics 9, Social Studies 9, Science 9, Physical Education 9, and Health and Life Skills 9.

Grade 9 students are asked to request 6 complementary courses with the understanding they will be enrolled in 4 complementary courses next year, one per term.

Unlike middle school, Grade 9 students are not placed in cohorts. Please expect that each of your classes will be composed of different students and you will most likely have a different teacher for each class. Grade 9 students are not able to request a change of teacher for their core courses. Grade 9 students will follow the bell schedule below:

## Bell Schedule

2024-2025 Bell Schedule							
Schedule	Monday (Day 1)	Tuesday (Day 2)	Wednesday (Day 1)	Thursday (Day 2)	Schedule	Friday (Day 1)	Friday (Day 2)
9:00-10:28 Period 1	A	B	A	B	9:00-10:07 Period 1	A	B
10:33-12:00 Period 2	B	A	B	A	10:11-11:18 Period 2	B	A
12:00-12:45	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	11:18-11:48	lunch	lunch
12:45-2:13 Period 3	C	D	C	D	11:48-12:55 Period 3	C	D
2:18-3:45 Period 4	D	C	D	C	12:58-2:05 Period 4	D	C

\*bell schedule is tentative

## GRADE NINE CORE COURSES

All grade nine students are enrolled into the following courses:

### English Language Arts 9.3

English Language Arts 9.3 is an opportunity for students to enhance their skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and representing. All Grade 9 students will take English 9.3 in Term One OR Term Two, where they will learn the skills and strategies of written composition and reading comprehension that will enable them to find success in English Language Arts 9.

### English Language Arts 9

English Language Arts 9.3 is an opportunity for students to enhance their skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and representing. All Grade 9 students will take English 9.3 in Term One OR Term Two, where they will learn the skills and strategies of written composition and reading comprehension that will enable them to find success in English Language Arts 9.

### Mathematics 9.3

Mathematics 9.3 is an opportunity for students to reinforce the mathematical skills they learned in middle school while also preparing them for Math 9 in semester 2. Students will enhance their skills on numeracy, literacy, and problem solving, as well as developing academic skills such as notetaking, organization, and study strategies. The emphasis is not on students learning new material but on refining and strengthening their pre-requisite skills before they enter Math 9. All Grade 9 students take Mathematics 9.3 in Term One OR Term Two.

### Mathematics 9

Mathematics 9 consists of the following units: Powers and Roots, Algebraic Equations, Polynomials, Circle Properties, Shape and Space, Transformations, and Data Analysis. Grade 9 students take Mathematics 9 for the entire second semester.

To advance to Mathematics 10 Combined (Math 10C), it is recommended students achieve Emerging or higher in Mathematics 9. Students who earn a final grade of Beginning are encouraged to take Mathematics 15.

### Science 9

This is a general Science course that draws on the major scientific disciplines of Chemistry, Physics and Biology. Unit topics include Biological Diversity, Matter and Chemical Change, Environmental Chemistry, Electrical Principles and Technologies, and Space Exploration. Grade 9 students will take Science 9 in either semester one OR semester two.

To advance to Science 10, it is recommended students achieve Emerging or higher in Science 9.

### **Social Studies 9**

Grade 9 students will analyze the relationship between Canada's political and legislative processes and their impact on issues pertaining to governance, rights, citizenship, and identity. Students will also explore issues of economics and their impact on quality of life, citizenship, and identity in Canada and the United States.

Grade 9 students will take Social Studies 9 in either semester one OR semester two.

To advance to Social Studies 10-1, it is recommended students achieve Emerging or higher in Social Studies 9.

### **Physical Education / Health and Life Skills 9**

These two courses are blended together. PE 9 will focus on fitness, skills and the development of positive interpersonal skills. This activity-based course requires participation and the wearing of proper athletic dress. Shorts and t-shirts may be purchased through the school. Activities may include the following: Badminton, Basketball, Fitness Training, Football, Organized Games, Soccer, Softball, Team Handball, Track & Field, and Volleyball. The aim of Health and Life Skills 9 is to enable students to make well-informed, healthy choices and to develop behaviours that contribute to personal wellbeing and the wellbeing of others. Three general outcomes are the foundation for HPLS 9: Wellness Choices, Relationship Choices, and Life Learning Choices. As positive and productive citizens, we learn to make good decisions. Grade 9 students will take Physical Education/Health and Life Skills 9 in either semester one OR semester two.

## **GRADE NINE COMPLEMENTARY COURSES**

**Courses will run ONLY if there is sufficient enrollment.**

**Additional Fees Required and current costs are listed on the final page of the Course Planner booklet.**

**Each Grade 9 Complementary Course runs for a single term. This means that grade 9 students will have four complementary courses**

### **Art 9**

This course introduces the student to artistic terminology. It allows for experiential application of sketching techniques in various media and exploration of art forms, with research and design being integrated throughout the program. There is a heavy emphasis on self-control, self-direction and self-initiation of creative and challenging goals for the student.

### **Band 9 (year-long)**

**\*Please note there are additional costs for instrument rental.**

Students learn a variety of music styles, genres and facets in a wind instrument/percussion setting that promotes full band, ensemble, and solo work. Techniques learned include sight-reading, listening, ear training, composition

and evaluative performance. Skills learned in previous wind instrumental/ percussion courses will be further developed. Class times are inside of the regular timetable and run yearlong. Performances are **MANDATORY**. (Students are encouraged to have had prior school band experience but there is always the possibility of learning a new instrument.) If you want to make some noise, JOIN THE BAND!

In the first semester, Band 9 is paired with Physical Education 9/Health and Life Skills 9. On Day One, Band students are in Band 9 and on Day Two, Band 9 students are in Physical Education 9/Health and Life Skills 9. In the second semester, students take Band 9 every day.

### **Platinum Band 9 (yearlong)**

**\*Please note there are additional costs for instrument rental.**

Platinum Band 9 is a beginner jazz performance-based course. Grade 9 to 12 students are grouped together, and activities will focus on the development of each student as a well-rounded musician. This will include jazz technique, theory, listening, music appreciation, rhythm section foundations, and large ensemble performances. We will build upon skills learned from prior Music/Band experience and will focus on jazz-specific skills including various styles and form, improvisation, spoken/played jazz articulations, and extended technique. The development of teamwork, individual practice, creativity, self-expression, and complex thinking skills are also of great importance. Jazz Band is a full year course and runs before school on Day One.

### **Choral 9**

Choral Music is performance-based music class; attendance at all concerts, festivals and trips is mandatory. Choral Music is open to any student in grades 9-12 who has a love of singing and/or wish to improve singing within an ensemble. Having some previous experience with singing is an asset but not a necessity. Students are exposed to a wide range of musical styles, from renaissance and classical to gospel, pop and jazz. Choral Music 9 is a full year course and runs before school on Day Two.

### **Construction 9**

Throughout the semester students will become familiar with basic woodworking tools and machinery. Working both individually and with their peers, students will develop their skills, not only in woodworking, but lifelong skills that will help them in the workforce.

### **Cosmetology 9**

Cosmetology 9 is designed to introduce students to the fashionable world of hairstyling and aesthetics. This option will explore personal and professional grooming techniques as well as the following aesthetic and hairstyling practices: basic nail art techniques used to enhance the appearance of fingernails, introductory hairstyling and personal hair-care tips and techniques, basic skin care practices to help students maintain the cleanliness of their skin and the creation of the students' own salon. Cosmetology 9 provides students with an opportunity to explore the topic through project-based learning, helping to prepare them for the practical and creative aspects of the high school CTS (CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES) Cosmetology program.

### **Communication Technology 9**

We live in a world where visual communication is an essential skill. In this course, students will have the opportunity to explore all things multimedia. If you're interested in photography, graphic design, electronic publishing, animation or video production, then this course is right for you! Using industry standard software and

professional equipment, students will create a variety of multimedia projects that will give them the foundations for high school Photography and Video Arts courses.

### **Dance 9**

Students who participate in Grade 9 dance explore and enhance their skills, as well as build self-confidence and work ethic. Students will examine dance both as a performance art and as part of an active lifestyle. This level of dance is meant to introduce a variety of dance forms and dance techniques; students will not only learn dance but will also examine dance appreciation and choreography.

### **Drama 9**

Emphasis is placed on the development of the student as a creator, performer, historian, critic and patron. Students will develop dramatic skills through assuming roles, exploration of dramatic situations and reflection on the outcomes (though no previous experience in Drama is necessary). Teamwork is essential, as students participate in non-competitive, cooperative, supportive, joyful, yet challenging, dramatic study. This course is recommended as preparation for grade 10 level Drama courses.

### **Enterprise and Innovation 9**

Students will explore the world of entrepreneurship through analyzing existing business ventures, exploring entrepreneurial opportunities in their community, and learning about the different financial options for beginning businesses. This course encourages students to develop their abilities to collaborate and innovate, with a focus on the business world. Through Enterprise and Innovation 9, students interested in the challenging and exciting world of business will gain a better understanding of the fundamentals of entrepreneurship and will be better prepared to succeed in Enterprise and Innovation 10, 20, and 30.

### **Fashion 9**

Students get to learn new or enrich existing sewing techniques. This project-based course involves machine and hand sewing, appliqué and garment construction.

### **French Language and Culture 9**

This course is intended for students who have taken or been exposed to French at some point and wish to continue developing listening, reading, speaking and writing skills. The language of instruction will be French as much as possible. Students who take French 9 will have a smooth transition into French 10 3Y at WHC.

### **Leadership 9**

Students in Leadership 9 will build their skills as leaders while becoming engaged within the community. They will learn about leadership and learning styles and how they impact group dynamics. Learners will discover what their strengths are as leaders and how to put those skills into action by planning and delivering lessons.

### **Mechanics 9**

This is an introductory course designed for students who are interested in working on small engines, learning about vehicle maintenance, and using hand and power tools. Small metal art projects will teach them about cutting, measuring, taping, drilling, riveting and painting. Shop and tool safety are also covered, as well as a chance to use a welder and plasma cutter to create their projects.

### **Mechatronics 9**

In this introductory course students will engage in hands-on projects in the areas of electronics, computer science and design. We will combine theory with real life Mechatronic challenges to reinforce learning. No prior experience or knowledge is required.

### **Environment and Outdoor Education 9**

In Environmental and Outdoor Education 9, students will acquire basic knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for safe and comfortable outdoor experiences. They will demonstrate understanding, respect and appreciation for themselves, others and the natural environment. Topics may include team building, camping, forest ecology, geology, snowshoeing, winter ecology, and environmental awareness.

### **Science Studies 9**

Have fun using the Science you have already learned to launch rockets, build flying contraptions, and solve mysteries! This course applies lessons learned from Design Studies, Air & Aerodynamics and Forensic Science.

### **Sports Performance 9**

The aim of this course is to enable students to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to lead an active, healthy lifestyle above and beyond the regularly scheduled gym time. Participation in physical activity contributes to the overall well-being of individuals and the community. Students apply basic training and movement principles to health-related and performance-related components of fitness training. Students create fitness activities and develop a basic individual fitness plan to achieve goals for health-related and performance-related components.

### **Photography and Design 9**

Photography and Design 9 is an exploratory and experiential course. Through the use of DSLR cameras and mobile devices, students engage in activities that develop camera skills and produce a series of creative photography projects. Students are also encouraged to develop post-processing and editing skills through mobile apps or using web-based tools to manipulate and fine-tune their own images, or to create original works of photographic art.

### **Robotics 9**

This course will introduce students to engineering design, drafting and computer programming. Students will learn basic coding skills using the Lego Mindstorms coding language and will design robots that can complete engineering challenges. This course is a great introduction to careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and no programming experience is needed.

### **Spanish 9**

This is a beginner's course for those students who want to learn basic Spanish. If you already know English, then learning basic Spanish is easy. This course focuses mainly on speaking and listening, with some emphasis on reading and writing. Spanish 9 is recommended to prepare for Spanish 10.



## Yoga 9

Yoga 9 is an introduction to the poses, postures and breathing techniques of Yoga. This course is designed to develop strength, flexibility and relaxation in students. It combines disciplined physical training with breath work to improve focus, reduce stress and anxiety, increase flexibility, and promote overall wellbeing. No experience in Yoga is required to take Yoga 9.

## Course & Timetable Changes

Each spring, Grade 9 students request the complementary courses for the next school year. The master timetable is designed and built from these course requests to meet most students' programming needs. Course selection in our spring registration is also the single most critical element in staffing and budgeting for the next school year. Students who fail to select appropriate courses in the spring run the risk of not being able to access their desired courses in the next school year as the courses may not be available due to scheduling conflicts or space constraints. Please ensure you make your course selections thoughtfully.

In September, the focus of our counsellors is to program for students whose timetable is incomplete. At the Grade 9 level, this means we focus on registering new students first. Requests for a course change from students with complete schedules are based on educational reasoning only. Requests for timetable changes based on teacher preference, or placement with peers, will not be approved.

## Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)

Provincial Achievement Tests are administered annually to all Alberta students in Grade 9. PATs help determine if students are learning what they are expected to learn, report how well students have achieved provincial standards at given points in their schooling, and assist schools, authorities and the province in monitoring and improving student learning.

English Language Arts 9 and Mathematics 9 PATs will be written in May and June. Depending on their schedule, some Grade 9 students will write either Science 9 or Social Studies 9 PAT in January and the other PAT in June. Some Grade 9 students will write both Science 9 and Social Studies 9 PATs in January.

## Grade 9 Complementary Course Fees

(Fees for next year's courses have not yet been approved; these are tentative costs based on the fees charged for the 2023-2024 School Year)

Art 9	\$75.00	Drama 9	\$30.00	Science Studies 9	\$20.00
Band 9 (Full year)	\$90.00	Enterprise & Innovation 9	\$35.00	Sports Performance 9	\$25.00
Choir	\$30.00	Fashion 9	\$40.00	Photography & Design 9	\$15.00
Construction 9	\$35.00	French Language & Culture 9	\$20.00	Robotics 9	\$50.00
Cosmetology 9	\$20.00	Leadership 9	\$50.00	Spanish 9	\$20.00
Communication Technology 9	\$20.00	Mechanics 9	\$75.00	Yoga 9	\$25.00
Dance 9	\$30.00	Outdoor Education 9	\$100.00		

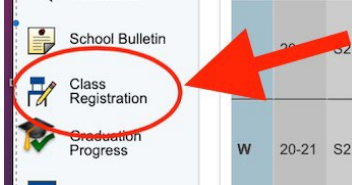
## **Entering Course Requests in the PowerSchool Portal**

Beginning March 4, 2024, Grade 8 students entering W. H. Croxford will be able to enter their course requests via the PowerSchool Portal. This can be done at home with parents or at school with the help of your middle school. Current RVS Grade 8 students will be able to log in and enter their requests online. If you need help accessing your PowerSchool Account, please contact your middle school for support.

Students enrolling in Croxford from outside of Rocky View Schools will need to contact our main office to submit their course requests.

To request your courses for the upcoming school year you must be able to log into your PowerSchool Portal.  
<https://ps.rockyview.ab.ca/public/home.html>

After logging into PowerSchool you must click the CLASS REGISTRATION button on the left.



When the registration system is live, your screen will look like this:

You will see that your Core Course request are already present:

You will then request your Complementary Courses for the 2021-2022 School Year

Click the Pencil



Then select 6 courses. (There are 3 pages of choices).

You will then see your 6 requests on the main screen.

Don't forget to click SUBMIT

Submit

You have now officially requested your courses...  
 WELCOME TO CROXFORD!!!!