

2025-26: Grade 8 Complementary Course Descriptions

The following courses are being proposed for the 2025-26 school year. The final decisions on which courses will be offered are based on student interest and staffing factors.

Students will make their course requests in the Spring. Best efforts will be made to honor student requests, but placement in a specific course is not guaranteed.

Please note that some courses have a slightly different name in PowerSchool.

Fee	Course Description
ART	
20.00	In Art 8, students will be introduced to a wide variety of art techniques and mediums. Many opportunities will be tailored to allow individuals to explore their interests through art. In class, we will discuss artwork, current and historic. We will also critique, or talk about, finished work. Students develop their skills in communicating visually and verbally through art, gain confidence in their ability to create art and expand their knowledge and appreciation of artists and historical art periods. Students may even discover new things about themselves throughout the art process!
BAND	
100.00 Rental	Band 8 is a full year course that allows students to continue their musicianship on a Concert Band instrument, play as a part of an ensemble, and experience live performance. This course is an extension of Band 7 and requires the Band 7 prerequisite or extra musical experience outside of school.
20.00 Supplies	
	The Instrument Rental Fee covers the rental and use of an instrument. The supply fee covers student specific supplies such as cleaning tools, reeds, valve oil, etc. Students may waive the Instrument Rental Fee if they wish to rent their own instrument or if they own one.
	Students in Band 8 are approaching intermediate level and are working to greater develop their musicianship. <i>Students interested in Band 9 are required to have taken Band 8.</i>
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES: FILM STUDIES	
	In Film Studies 8, students will expand their understanding and appreciation of the art of cinema through a study of the technical, literary, historical, and sociological aspects of filmmaking. We will study the history of movies, cinematography, composition, editing, sound, special effects, film genre, screenwriting, acting, and directing. All concepts will be illustrated through film clips, comprising scenes from over 200 movies. Throughout this process, we will view, analyze, and discuss a number of complete films, representing the highest achievement of the art form. Students will work individually or in small groups to showcase their understanding of course concepts through a creative final project.
CONSTRUCTION	

35.00	Simon Fraser Construction is a hands-on project-based program intended to develop students' 3-dimensional problem-solving abilities, critical thinking skills, as well as mechanical and manual literacy. The Construction program is divided into beginner, intermediate and advanced project work. Students work independently and in small groups to complete projects. Students are marked on the quality of completed projects, their ability to overcome the challenges and problems they encounter as they work through the projects, and their ability to evaluate or appraise their own work to take steps to improve it.
DANCE	
	Students will learn a variety of dance techniques such as jazz, modern, hip-hop, funk, lyrical, swing, African and tap. Most styles are to current, popular music. Besides learning the dance steps and combinations, students will also learn about the history of the different dances – where they came from and how they have developed through the years. Students will learn choreographed pieces and have the opportunity to choreograph their own. The goals of Dance 8 are to develop and improve dance technique, flexibility, rhythm, strength and general fitness; as well as to develop an appreciation for different dance styles, to have fun with music and to have the opportunity to perform. The class is open to all students from beginners to experienced dancers.
ENTERPRISE & INNOVATION	
	This course will allow students the opportunity to explore areas of interest pertaining to business, employment and life skills in a practical context. It is important for students to be able to explore areas of interest to themselves. Business and Employment will allow them to learn about job requirements, areas of career interest, practical skills, and planning and implementation of a business/life plan. Students will demonstrate their understanding of essential elements of a business, as well as the importance of resumes, cover letters, career planning, and other necessary skills to acquire and maintain a position of employment. Students will Challenge Business Opportunities; Understand Elements of a Business Plan; Financing a Venture Plan; Demonstrated Marketing Strategies to Promote Their Venture Opportunity; Analyzing and Reflection on a Venture . Students identify, compare and assess a variety of entrepreneurial opportunities and ideas. Students learn the elements of a Business planning process. Students gather and analyze data to make informed decisions about the feasibility of their venture. Students will use various forms of financing to start up their venture. Students appraise various marketing strategies, techniques, and formulate a marketing strategy for their venture. Students will reflect and grow from receiving feedback from local entrepreneurs regarding their venture.
DRAMA	

	In Drama 8, students explore the five disciplines; acting, movement, speech, theatre studies, and technical theatre. Drama specifically explores live performance through structured play, improvisation techniques, and analysis. Working in small and large groups, students participate in a variety of creative projects through the units of tableaux, public speaking, script writing, and character study. Throughout this course students will see an emphasis on interpersonal skills, self-confidence, and positive self-image.
ENVIRONMENTAL & OUTDOOR EDUCATION	
130.00	This course is perfect for those students who love being active and outdoors and want to learn about their impact and relationship with the environment. Some of the main topics to be covered include but are not limited to the following: individual and group development, leadership, orienteering & map skills, hiking, cross-country skiing, canoeing, camping skills, & meal planning. Come out for an exciting educational experience.
FASHION	
25.00	This course is designed for beginners who want to learn the essential skills and techniques of hand sewing and machine sewing. Participants will gain a solid foundation in basic stitches, fabric handling, and projects construction through hands-on practice and guided instruction. Students will learn how to safely use and care for sewing equipment and apply these skills during project assembly.
FOODS	
45.00	Foods 8 will build on the skills students learned last year in Foods 7. Students will learn how to be safe in the kitchen, clean and sanitize all areas of the kitchen, and develop their teamwork skills as they work in a group to follow a variety of recipes. After each cooking journey, students will reflect on how the process went, along with how the recipe turned out. Students will develop their creative skills by designing and planning a number of recipes with their cooking teams.
FRENCH	
	French will be offered as a full year course. The focuses of this class are grammar basics, sentence structure, verb conjugation, creating French projects using technology, project-based learning and group work. Themes covered during the year are: les vêtements (clothing), les animaux (animals), and la nourriture (food and nutrition).
GUITAR	
50.00	Guitar 8 is an introductory level guitar class, which allows students to learn basics of guitar technique and independent performance. This course requires no prior knowledge of music or guitar. Topics include playing by ear, reading chords and TAB, guitar technique, and ensemble playing. Various styles of music will be studied,

	including rock, blues, country, jazz, classical, and pop. Students will develop skills in <i>performing, writing, evaluating, and listening to music.</i> Students need to supply their own acoustic guitar or rent an acoustic guitar from the school. The school has a limited supply of acoustic guitars. Students with previous experience will be challenged at their level.
LEADERSHIP	
	In Leadership 8, students will be involved with service and leadership to the Simon Fraser community. Student leadership and service development is integral to developing a positive school culture. Leadership teams will learn about the power of collaboration and effective communication skills while planning and executing numerous projects that focus on the betterment of our community. Students will support the school by: preparing materials for school-wide events, raising awareness about important issues; and possibly fundraising for charities.