

Welcome to Grade 8



at

**Lakes District Secondary
2023-2024**

STUDENT AND PARENT INFORMATION

CORE SUBJECTS

- Humanities (English and Social Studies)
- Science
- Physical education
- Math
- French
- 6 electives (3 each semester in rotation)

Grade 8 student timetables remain constant throughout the semester with the exception of their electives, which they will rotate through every five to six weeks.

Tutoring is available every day after school in the Cultural room until 3:45 for all students.

Every Friday morning, we have a block from 8:47-9:30 for students to complete missing assignments with extra support from teachers and assistants.

CALENDAR

The school calendar is maintained electronically on our website: ldss.sd91.bc.ca.

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is published bi-weekly through email. You are automatically included in the when you provide your email address.

CONCESSION

Concession tabs are kept for all students. Students and families can put funds on the tab at the main office by cash or cheque made out to School District 91.

PAC

The Parent Advisory Committee welcomes new members, feel free to contact the office for the current PAC contact information. They also have a Facebook page they can be contacted through.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

ENDEAVOURS PROGRAM

This multi-grade, integrated program supports students who require highly individualized educational plans. It is staffed by one teacher and several Learning Support Workers. Support may be given in the life skills classroom, or in regular, adapted, or modified academic or elective classes. Students placed in this program may be working towards their Evergreen, Adult Dogwood, or Dogwood graduation.

INTERVENTION

Students must have sufficient literacy and numeracy skills in order to graduate with a Dogwood Diploma. For students who require supplemental instruction, they may be registered in an intervention block. Please contact the school to inquire.

HUMANITIES 8

This is a year-long course that covers the content and competencies of both English Language Arts and Social Studies. Within this course, students will develop skills in reading, writing, and communication through creative and critical thinking. Students will also develop a sense of personal and social responsibility.

English covers how the exploration of text and story deepens our understanding of diverse, complex ideas about identity, others, and the world.

Social Studies 8 explores content spanning the 7th century to 1750, such as:

Students will be able to engage in the inquiry process; assess significance of place, people, and events; look at continuity and change throughout history. Also, they will learn to explain different perspectives and make ethical judgements on past and present events, actions, and decisions.

MATH 8

Math 8 consolidates the learning from elementary school with a focus on number sense and problem-solving skills.

The course includes units on:

- Exponents
- Percent
- Geometry
- Rational numbers
- Graphing
- Statistics
- Ratios
- Measurement
- Solving equations

It is expected that students will use calculators throughout this course.

SCIENCE 8

Science 8 develops four main areas of understanding:

- Life processes at the level of the cell
- Properties and behavior of light
- The structure and behavior of matter
- Plate tectonics and processes within the Earth

Many of these concepts will be explored and tested in lab activities.

PHYSICAL HEALTH EDUCATION 8

Topics include:

- Physical Literacy, Healthy and Active Living, Social and Community Health, Mental Well-being.

Projects include:

- Group work
- Independent projects

Students will learn:

- Fundamental movement skills in a variety of activities and environment.
- Demonstrate safety, fair play, and leadership.
- Develop strategies for promoting healthy eating choices.
- Create strategies for promoting health and well-being.
- Create strategies to manage life challenges.

FRENCH 8 (FR-8)

This semester course focuses on the development of basic communication skills. Students learn strategies to make them more comfortable learning a second language. They will participate in a variety of activities stressing the development of oral skills and comprehension. Students will also learn to write simple sentences on topics studied in class, as well as information about Francophone countries and culture.

GRADE 8 – ELECTIVES (3 each semester to rotate through)

There is one elective block each semester designed to introduce grade 8 students to subject areas that they might take in future years at LDSS as well as to fulfill some course requirements. Each grade 8 student must take all elective courses.

They will experience (options vary dependent on staffing):

- Career Education & Health
- Computer Technology
- Drama
- First Nations Studies
- Metal/Auto
- Robotics
- Textiles & Foods
- Visual Arts
- Wood

DRAMA

This is an introductory course designed to expose students to acting skills. Many skills are introduced to enhance self-confidence and drama skills through games and skits. Mutual respect and trust are a big part of the grade 8 course.

VISUAL ARTS

Students will have the opportunity to explore a variety of different mediums. Each student will produce a minimum of four projects demonstrating their use of different mediums and techniques learned. The purpose of the rotational course is for students to realize they can do well in the Visual Arts with effort, patience, and perseverance. All you need to do well is the desire to want to learn techniques and to understand that you get better with practice!

WOODWORK

This is a 6-week course that introduces students to basic woodworking skills. Safe work habits will be stressed and maintained at all times. We will be working on several small projects with the main focus being on hand tools. Students will be exposed to all stages of project building from layout, shaping, sanding, and finishing. Students in the grade 8 rotation will learn the skills to draw and match three dimensional drawings to two dimensional ones.

METAL/AUTO

This is a 6-week course that introduces students to basic metal work skills. Safe work habits will be stressed and maintained at all times. Several projects will be completed that will have students cutting with shears and hacksaw, fastening with soldering, drilling, measuring and layout. Finishing of metal will be accomplished by filing, sanding, and polishing. At the end of the program, students will design, build, and race a CO2 powered model dragster.

CAREER EDUCATION & HEALTH

All grade 8 students will be enrolled in this course. Students will be instructed on a variety of topics such as career exploration, career goal setting, value of work, economic & labour market, and educational choices.

TEXTILES AND FOODS

This course teaches students the basics of sewing using hand and machine construction techniques. They will learn the invaluable art of sewing on buttons, simple hand stitching, and the basics of threading and using a sewing machine. Students will learn the basics of kitchen safety, sanitation, equipment use, and basic recipes such as pancakes, cookies, muffins, and casseroles.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

Students are introduced to computer basics. This includes both software and hardware systems. This is a good course for students wanting to take Information Technology 9/10.

FIRST NATIONS STUDIES

Students will be learning about the Dakelh, Nedut'n, and Wet'suwet'en people through hands-on learning, land-based learning, storytelling, songs and more. This work will be supported by local knowledge keepers. Each part of the curriculum will aim to promote an increased sense of identity, cultural understanding, and skills. The learning outcomes will cover four main areas:

- The Balhats System
- Local history
- Food harvesting and preparation
- Art and material culture

ROBOTICS

This course will offer the opportunity to learn about robots and robotics.

This course will teach:

- Basics of how electronics work, including circuit construction
- Block-based and/or logic-based coding
- Sensor use
- Relationships of power and motion
- How robotics are used in industry

Students will participate in robotics challenges as part of their learning.

STUDENT SERVICES

COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT

Services offered by Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Dezamits are:

- counselling in matters of a personal and private nature.
- guidance with regards to the selection of appropriate courses.
- discussions with students (and parent meetings) regarding academic progress, attendance, and behavior.
- distance learning course information and registration.

We encourage students to stop in anytime! We can also help refer students to outside counselling agencies for support. Parents are welcome to stop in or call anytime if you have concerns for your child.

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN

Learners with an IEP:

If your student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) you are encouraged to contact our Inclusive Education Department. These services support students with:

- A learning disability
- Medical conditions
- Behavioural challenges
- Cognitive challenges

The goal is to support learners to access curriculum and to engage in school programs and activities

Contact Stacie Gray at sgray@sd91.bc.ca

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVOCATES

Indigenous Education Advocates are proactive members of the school staff who support the educational program and services of Indigenous students and assists teachers and parents/guardians to increase and promote student success by advocating for students and the school. They act as a positive Indigenous role model for students and promote pride in Indigenous culture. They function as a member of the school-based team and participate in team meetings regarding progress and placement of students, where appropriate, as well as working and consulting with teachers and parents, to discuss the social, emotional, and academic progress of all Indigenous students on a regular basis.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The athletic teams and clubs available at Lakes District Secondary are listed below. Should you have questions concerning a particular team or club, talk to Mrs. Brown or Mrs. Dubé. We are always looking for parents to help, and we would definitely welcome other activities not listed that you would like to sponsor/coach.

- Archery
- Skiing/Snowboarding
- Basketball
- Soccer
- Golf
- Track & Field
- Mountain Biking
- Volleyball

GRADE 8 SUPPLY LIST

You should have at least two binders, paper, and pens for the first day and then once you know your schedule you can bring additional supplies and a PE strip if required.

- ☐ pocket dictionary and thesaurus
- ☐ 12-15 dividers
- ☐ 500 pages of lined three-hole punched paper
- ☐ 50 sheets of plain three-hole punched white paper
- ☐ pencils and pens
- ☐ small ruler
- ☐ glue
- ☐ pencil crayons
- ☐ pencil case
- ☐ math set
- ☐ inexpensive calculator (must have -/+ and square root)
- ☐ 3 to 4 one-inch binders
- ☐ gym strip and indoor shoes (depending which semester PE is in)
- ☐ headphones
- ☐ small notebook for French to be purchased at the school for \$1

LOCKS

- Students must use a school issued lock.
- Combinations and locker numbers are recorded in the office
- Locks are sold for \$8.00 each and students keep the lock for 5 years