2019 - 2020 Junior High Programme of Studies
Junior High School Information

Junior High: Grades 7, 8 and 9 Course Selection

All students are enrolled in the five core programs which include:
1. English Language Arts
2. Geography/History
3. Mathematics
4. Science
5. Physical Education.

In consultation with parents and/or the Head of Senior High School, students may choose from the following options:
6. One Second Language* (Chinese/Mandarin, French, Spanish)
7. Grade 7 students choose one from Band, or a Third Language*
8. Grade 8 and 9 students choose one from Band, Computers, or a Third Language*
9. Grade 7 students choose both Drama and Art.
   Grade 8 and 9 students choose either Drama or Art.

* Students are assigned to the second language streams based on prior language experience and competency.
Contact Information

WEBBER ACADEMY

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Notes
ACADEMIC COURSES

English Language Arts (ELA) 7
This enhanced course involves the study of the six interactive elements of language: reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and representing. Students develop the ability to express ideas with clarity and coherence in oral and written communication, with a focus on memoir and essay. Students are expected to participate in formal classroom book clubs. Students are exposed to a wide range of literature, both fiction and nonfiction, and develop critical thinking skills and knowledge of self and others in response to these texts. There is an expectation of private reading beyond those works presented in class.

English Language Arts (ELA) 8
This enhanced course further explores the six interactive elements of language: reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and representing. Students focus on organizing their thoughts and demonstrating the ability to express ideas with clarity and coherence, in oral and written communication through further development of essay writing skills and narrative technique. Students are expected to engage in formal classroom book clubs. Students are exposed to a wide range of literature, both fiction and non-fiction, and develop critical thinking skills as well as the ability to read closely, recognizing inference and subtlety of text. There is an expectation of private reading beyond those works presented in class.

English Language Arts (ELA) 9
This enhanced course establishes the conceptual groundwork for further literary study. Through the study of fiction, poetry, drama, non-fiction, and film, students read critically, asking pertinent questions and evaluating information and ideas. Participating in formal classroom book clubs enables students to respond to literature in a meaningful context. Students demonstrate the ability to write clearly and concisely, using language to communicate knowledge and opinions, and to explore ideas and responses, especially within the framework of the narrative and the essay. There is an expectation of private reading beyond those works presented in class.

Geography/History (GH) 7
This enhanced course is based on the Alberta Education Social Studies curriculum, focusing on Canada. Emphasis is placed on citizenship and identity through the study of the events prior to and following Confederation, including perspectives from the different groups involved in the process of making Canada what it is today. In addition, students are introduced to primary and secondary source analysis, which allows them to appreciate and understand multiple perspectives on events central to Canadian history.

Geography/History (GH) 8
This enhanced course is based on the Alberta Education Social Studies curriculum, focusing on examining historical world views. The three main areas of historical study are: Origins of a Western Worldview - Renaissance Europe; World Views in Conflict - The Spanish and the Aztecs; and From Isolation to Adaptation - Japan. In addition, a special focus is placed upon historical and contemporary world geography.

Geography/History (GH) 9
This enhanced course is based on the Alberta Education Social Studies curriculum, focusing on issues for Canadians. This includes the political and judicial system, individual and collective rights, immigration, economic decision making, consumerism, quality of life, and political decision making. The study of current events provides students with the opportunity to continue developing a disposition towards the area of critical thinking, and also helps them learn more about what the current issues are for Canadians today.
Mathematics 7
Mathematics 7 is a course that reviews and extends fundamental topics of arithmetic such as operations with numbers, ratio, and percent. The course focus is on algebra, geometry, and statistics and probability. Students taking Mathematics 7 will study three exponent laws, algebra, patterns and relations, and planar and geometry. Mathematics 7 is an enriched program with a deep foundation in algebra. Part of its enrichment is taken from the Grade 8 Alberta Curriculum.

Mathematics 8
Mathematics 8 is a program with an algebraic and geometric focus. Students taking Mathematics 8 will study exponent laws, roots, linear equations, transformations, angles, pre-trigonometry, and geometry. Mathematics 8 is an enriched program which contains concepts from the Grade 9 Alberta Program of Studies.

Mathematics 9
Mathematics 9 is a program with an algebraic and geometric focus. Students taking Mathematics 9 will study exponent laws, number systems, polynomials, linear equations and inequalities, transformations, geometry, trigonometry, statistics and probability, and rational expressions and equations. Mathematics 9 Honours is an enriched program.

Mathematics 9/10 Pre-AP
Mathematics 9/10 Pre-AP blends the outcomes of Mathematics 9 and Mathematics 10C in one academic year. Throughout the year, students will be studying both the grade 9 and the grade 10 content. Topics that would be first introduced in the grade 9 year, and then would be expanded on in grade 10, will be taught concurrently in this course. Students taking Mathematics 9/10 Pre-AP are expected to have reached a Standard of Excellence in their Grade 8 mathematics course. Upon successful completion of this course, students will receive a grade for Mathematics 9, as well as credit for the high school course Mathematics 10C.

Science 7
Science 7 is a course in which students address questions about the nature of science involving broad explorations as well as focused investigations. Through varied topics, the course enables students to understand basic concepts in Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science. Students learn scientific theories and conduct investigations with primary emphasis on ecology, plants, heat, structures, and geology. The program is enriched through concepts that go beyond the Alberta program of studies.

Science 8
Science 8 is a course in which students are encouraged to utilize the scientific inquiry model and to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes relevant to science practices. The course approaches the nature of science and the relationship between science and technology throughout a variety of scientific concepts. Students learn and investigate about the particle model of matter, life processes, the nature of light and vision, mechanical systems, and the importance of water in our environment. The program is enriched through concepts that go beyond the Alberta program of studies.

Science 9
In Science, 9 students systematically discover the natural world through three general philosophies: “The Nature of Science and Science Processes,” “The Relationship between Science and Technology,” and “Science, Technology and Society (STS).” Together these approaches are designed to develop students’ critical thinking skills. They learn to identify scientific questions, technological problems, and STS issues recognizing the underlying assumptions of each. They will develop the ability to identify and gather data, and make inferences and draw conclusions from this data. They are encouraged to assess issues from various viewpoints and evaluate evidence on specific issues. Units covered in this course include biodiversity, matter and chemical change, environmental chemistry, electrical principles and technologies, and space exploration.
 PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Webber Academy Junior High Physical Education program is designed to increase children’s cognitive, emotional and physical skills. It challenges students to develop these skills through both individual and team activities. Students participate in cross-country running, track and field, volleyball, dance, basketball, cross-country skiing, leadership games, badminton, handball, soccer, dodge ball, ultimate and football. All students participate in an alternative environment activity. Athletics in Junior High presents the first opportunity of competitive team and individual sports with other schools in the same division; these competitive sports teams are offered outside of the timetable and include cross-country running, golf, volleyball, basketball, badminton, track and field and soccer.

SECOND LANGUAGES

Junior High second language courses promote the development of language skills through written and oral assignments, projects and group activities. Students build their vocabulary, develop use of language structures, and develop cultural awareness. The model that represents effective language learning is an expanding spiral; each new component is integrated into the system that exists, thus re-enforcing the pre-existing concepts and knowledge, broadening the range of applications. The placement of a student is determined by the level of language proficiency, background and experience. Every other year, students in Junior and Senior High Spanish, Mandarin and French classes have an opportunity to participate in immersion trips to other provinces and countries.

Mandarin

The Mandarin program in Junior High is designed to develop students’ basic communication skills, with the focus on the development of oral skills in listening and speaking. Development of reading and writing skills is also part of the curriculum, but more emphasis is on the recognition of the characters, so that students are able to better understand written texts. The aim of this program is to help students build a solid foundation to prepare them for more advanced studies in Senior High.

Students’ communication competency is developed through the interactions among students and with the teacher at various classroom activities. Students are expected to actively participate in oral exercises during class time. Learning materials are introduced with the aid of technology; audios, videos, and other digital materials are used to facilitate students’ learning. At the completion of each year, students will acquire a working knowledge to conduct simple conversations on the topics that have been covered. The topics for each grade, for example, are as follows:

Grade 7: Shopping, School Life and Extra Curriculum Activities, Health and Weather
Grade 8: Fashion and Leisure Life, Entertainment and Public Media, Travelling and Customs
Grade 9: Introduction of Oneself and Job Interviews, Environment and Living Surroundings, Housing, and Gifting

Cultural aspects of Chinese will also be integrated into the curriculum. Students will gain familiarity with the diverse Chinese culture and history through classroom discussions, video watching, and field trips.

Each grade under the program is arranged by different levels, so students with no previous knowledge are encouraged to enroll and will be helped to learn the language step by step.
French 7
The Grade 7 French course encourages students to develop positive attitudes towards the French language and culture. Students are expected to develop their French skills through various language activities based on fields of experience, communicative tasks, current resources, and available technologies. Students will be introduced to new grammar components such as the conjugation pattern of regular “er” verbs in the present tense and irregular verbs, negation, pronunciation of words, and the construction of sentences. There is also focus on specific vocabulary associated with the fields of experience and their subfields.

French 8
Different levels of instruction are offered to accommodate students’ learning needs and language proficiency. This course focuses on developing a practical, working knowledge of French with students increasing their oral and written skills in all areas of language learning. They will continue to develop knowledge in the following concepts: the present tense, the imperative, and the immediate future tense. A part of the curriculum is the study of specific vocabulary associated with the fields of experience and their subfields.

French 9
Different levels of instruction are offered to accommodate students’ learning needs and language proficiency. In this course, students develop a practical, working knowledge of French. Students will engage in various language activities, based on the context, the communicative task, and the different information and communication technologies that are available. At this level, the students continue to develop knowledge of concepts such as: pronominal verbs, past tense “passé composé”, and the future tense. A part of the curriculum is the study of specific vocabulary associated with the fields of experience and their subfields.

Spanish 7
In Grade 7, students will develop solid foundations in the five language areas: reading, listening, speaking, writing, and cultural sensitivity. A variety of resources and teaching techniques will be applied in order to help the students become well-rounded and independent language learners.

Spanish 8
The course continues to explore various lexical fields and grammatical structures within the three levels of instruction. More advanced groups may incorporate a novel study into the curriculum. Equal focus is given to all five language areas: reading, listening, speaking, writing, and cultural sensitivity.

Spanish 9
Students continue to acquire deeper levels of understanding of the language and Hispanic cultures. More advanced groups may incorporate a novel study into the curriculum. Higher levels of proficiency are demonstrated in both written and oral production.
COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

Computer Programming is offered in Grade 9. The course exposes students to the Senior High computer science curriculum a year early, allowing them to get a head-start on the more advanced modules. Students are introduced to computer languages by developing and writing their own programs, as well as modifying those of others. Through a series of projects, students become proficient in the logic and syntax required to create efficient and useful computer programs. Topics covered include Programming Fundamentals, Functions, File reading/writing, and an introduction to User Interfaces.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

The topics explored include graphic design, digital design, web design, audio techniques, numbers/word processing, photography, script writing, videography, stop-motion animation, keynote presentations, speech, and media literacy.

In grade 8, students are introduced to a variety of software and hardware. This can be used alone, or in conjunction with skills utilized in other courses. Students will engage in learning opportunities through digital media, where they will discover their interests in practical and purposeful ways, and offer experience in using technology related to classroom activities in core and option subjects.

In grade 9, the introductory unit uses the skills acquired in previous years and enables students to gain an understanding of business concepts through the study of subjects such as entrepreneurship, information and communication technology and marketing.

PLEASE NOTE: The core ICT (Information Communication Technology) program is embedded within our Junior High Program of Studies. Therefore, all junior high students will have exposure to the use of computer technology in the classroom. The Computer Applications course is an option designed for students who wish to further enhance their skills in digital applications.

FINE ARTS

Drama 7
Drama 7 is compulsory for all Grade 7 students. They will explore movement, speech, improvisation, technical theatre and design, and theatre studies through various exercises, projects and activities. Students will examine the roles of rehearsal processes, cooperation, concentration and commitment as applied to dramatic work. Technical theatre will examine property construction and design. Video projects are a part of this course and provide opportunity for sharing dramatic work with others.

Drama 8
Drama 8 students explore movement, speech, improvisation, theatre studies, and technical theatre and design through a variety of exercises, activities, and dramatic structures. Dramatic structures such as story theatre, tableau, and montage are further developed and three styles of presentation are introduced. Further development of improvisation is a focus of this course. Technical theatre may include study of costume design and promotional texts as examples. Theatre history will examine the development of types of stages used. There is opportunity for a live presentation which is developed through the improvisation process and through student input. The live presentation may require rehearsal and performance outside of class time.

Drama 9
Drama 9 students explore movement, speech, improvisation, theatre studies, and technical theatre and design through a variety of exercises, presentations, and activities. Emphasis is placed on individual acting and scripted work. Technical theatre roles will examine costume and set design. Theatre history will provide a general overview of Western drama. Some rehearsals and presentations may take place outside of class time.
**Instrumental Music 7**

Instrumental Music 7 is the first level of Junior High Band offered at Webber Academy. Skills in performance, musicianship, theory, and musical appreciation are introduced and developed. Through the instruments of concert band, students develop as musicians. Students perform a variety of musical styles at the Grade 1 level (Western Board). Students participate in concerts, festivals and an annual band camp. Students who wish to take this course as an option need no previous experience.

**Instrumental Music 8**

Instrumental Music 8 is the second level of Junior High Band offered at Webber Academy. Students continue to develop their skills in performance, musicianship, theory, sight-reading, and musical appreciation through the instruments of the concert band. Students perform a variety of musical styles at the Grade 2 level (Western Board). Students participate in concerts, festivals and an annual band camp. Students who wish to take this course as an option must have completed Instrumental Music 7 at Webber Academy. Any students who are new to Webber Academy must have at least one year of experience on a concert band instrument and must arrange for an audition/interview with the instructor prior to enrollment in the course.

**Instrumental Music 9**

Instrumental Music 9 is the third level of Junior High Band offered at Webber Academy. Students continue to develop their skills in performance, musicianship, theory, sight-reading, and musical appreciation through the instruments of concert band, building on their previous experience. Students perform a variety of musical styles at the Grade 3 level (Western Board). Students participate in concerts, festivals and an annual band camp. Students who wish to take this course as an option must have completed Instrumental Music 8 at Webber Academy. Any students who are new to Webber Academy must have at least two years experience on a concert band instrument and must arrange for an audition/interview with the instructor prior to enrollment in the course.

**Art 7**

Art is compulsory for all Grade 7 students. Students will experience an exciting in depth look at the fundamental concepts of the elements and principles of design. Drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture/3D, and computer design are all possible media. Exercises progress from observational and concrete to more conceptual productions at the project stage. Students are introduced to the design/creative process, aesthetics, and critique format. They also respond practically to the work of artists from their own culture and other cultures, both past and present. All students will complete drawing, design, and research homework connected with the projects.

**Art 8**

For Grade 8 students, art is offered as an option and the Junior High art program provides an academically focused, rewarding, and fun experience geared toward encouraging student success. Students continue to explore the fundamental concepts of the elements and principles of design while working on sharpening their technical skills. Drawing and research supports design and painting while development of conceptualization and imagination is fostered. Students respond practically to the work of artists/designers from their own culture and other cultures, both past and present through the process of critique.

**Art 9**

For Grade 9 students, art is offered as an option. Students are challenged to develop and merge their imaginative abilities and technical skills through a series of design based 2D and 3D assignments. Emphasis is placed on thinking styles, art/design process, and research to prepare students for Art 10. Students discuss and write about their projects in a critique format to articulate their thinking and design process and to review the language of art.