



Elective Courses Offered at GMS

Art

Students experiment with different materials and techniques such as drawing, painting, and sculpture. They learn to express ideas visually, explore art history and culture, and reflect on their own creative process.

Choir - Let's sing!

This grade 6-9 ensemble teaches students about vocal technique, harmony, blend, balance, and different musical styles, all while immersing students in the beauty of singing in a group. The GMS choir has many performance opportunities throughout the year, from singing at school assemblies to performing at festivals, within the community, and even occasional concerts with the Okanagan Symphony!

Foods

Students learn basic cooking and baking skills, food safety, and nutrition. They get hands-on experience preparing simple meals while exploring healthy choices and cultural food traditions.

Music 6

In this course we explore music through beat, rhythm, history, composition, note reading, listening, singing, movement and playing instruments! Music is a universal language that connects all subjects, and we do it all in our time together!

Introductory Band 7

This course offers an introduction to playing a musical instrument in an ensemble! Because music is a language, we learn first to play by ear through musical games and call-and-response activities. Once all students are playing songs and making music, we begin to learn about the systems of musical notation. This year-long course culminates in full ensemble performances and participation in a local band festival.

Jazz Band/Combo

In these courses, students learn about the genre of jazz! We explore swing, blues, rock, Latin, and funk styles while learning about jazz theory and improvisation! Listening, creating, and playing in different styles are pillars of this exciting and fun extra-curricular musical ensemble that meets twice a week in the mornings.

Sewing

Students explore textiles by learning to use sewing machines, patterns, and hand-sewing techniques. Projects may include clothing, accessories, or creative textile art, with a focus on safety and craftsmanship.

Woodwork

Students develop practical skills using hand tools and basic machines to design and build wood projects. Safety, problem-solving, and creativity are emphasized while creating functional or decorative items.



Elective Courses Offered for Grades 8 & 9

Art 9

Students build creative skills through engaging tasks, lessons and projects. Students learn the basic elements, principles and strategies, building to develop their own artistic potential to prepare for more specialized art courses. There are a variety of mediums (art materials) and artistic approaches to work with. One can expect to create larger scale paintings with acrylics and hand created spray-painted stencils.

Art Metal 9

Students will use hand tools, power tools, and torches to design and create their own jewelry pieces. Safety, design, and production are emphasized.

Band 8/9

This course builds on the skills learned in Introductory Band. Students explore traditional and non-traditional music-making practices within the concert band ensemble. This includes learning repertoire, building skills and technique on their instrument, learning to listen and blend with an ensemble, creating music, and performing on stage. In grade 9, students have the option to travel on a senior music trip to celebrate their time in music at GMS.

Drama 9

Students explore performance through improvisation, role-play, and scripted scenes. They build confidence, collaboration, and communication while learning stagecraft and theatre conventions.

Japanese 9

This course blends Japanese culture with written language. Students will learn hiragana, basic greetings, and numbers while also experiencing cultural traditions such as tea ceremonies, ramen and sushi making, and Japanese crafts. The course offers an introduction to both the language and the rich traditions of Japan.

Lab Experiments 9

Working with microscopes, creating chemical reactions, and discovering science through hands-on lab activities—this science enrichment elective is dedicated to performing engaging experiments. Students will explore a wide variety of topics while developing valuable laboratory skills, techniques, and data collection methods to prepare them for future high school science courses.

Leadership 8

Leadership 8 is the first step for students interested in becoming leaders at GMS. Open to all, this course helps students build character, confidence, and practical skills through projects that develop public speaking, teamwork, and creativity. Students also mentor younger Jags as positive role models, preparing them to take on greater responsibilities in Leadership 9.

Leadership 9

Leadership 9 empowers Grade 9 students to build school spirit and give back to their community. Students plan spirit days, pep rallies, and school-wide events, while also leading fundraisers, volunteering, and supporting local causes. This course focuses on teamwork, service, and creating a welcoming school culture where everyone feels valued.

Life Fitness 9

Students explore a variety of physical activities such as yoga, walking, hiking, cycling, weight training, and recreational games to develop lifelong healthy habits. The course emphasizes enjoyment, personal wellness, and discovering ways to stay active outside of traditional sports. Students learn to make positive choices that support both physical and mental well-being.

Media Arts 9

Students will develop their skills in analyzing media texts and considering audience needs. They will explore a range of digital tools to create their own advert and sci-fi film campaigns.

Music & Film Studies 9

In the Music and Film Studies course, we will look at the different genres of music, from classical to hip hop to rock and roll, how they were created, and why they are important. We will investigate the transformation of film through the ages and analyze different aspects of film such as dialogue, loglines, opening sequences, etc. We will also be looking at the 5-point breakdown of the stories and analyzing the characters in the films.

Outdoor Education 9

Students explore the outdoors through activities such as hiking, camping, survival skills, and environmental stewardship. They build teamwork, leadership, and respect for nature while learning to stay safe in outdoor settings.

Peer Tutoring 9

Students build leadership and mentoring skills by supporting younger students in their learning. They develop patience, responsibility, and communication while acting as positive role models. Peer tutors help others succeed by encouraging confidence, modeling good study habits, and practicing kindness and respect.

Strength & Conditioning 9

Students learn the foundations of physical training, including proper techniques for strength, endurance, agility, and flexibility. The course focuses on personal goal setting, safe use of equipment, and building healthy habits for lifelong fitness. Students challenge themselves to improve performance while supporting peers in a positive training environment.

Technology Education 9

Students build skills in areas like drafting, design, 3D modeling, electronics, and digital tools. They learn problem-solving and innovation through hands-on projects that connect to real-world technology. Students learn to code videogames and robots using block and text coding. Students also learn to design and build contraptions like a trebuchet or a pullback car. Finally, they learn how to use one of the most important workplace software of all: Excel / Google Sheet.

Yearbook & Photography 9

Students work collaboratively to plan, design, and publish the school yearbook. They gain skills in photography, writing, layout, and digital publishing. Students also explore photography as both an art form and a tool for communication.