



Grade Eight Options

ART 8: Half Year programs.

Do you love to draw, paint, or sculpt? When you see a new art supply, is it hard not to pick it up and give it a try? Do you have an artist's mind? If you answered yes to any of those questions, let your creativity bubble in Art! This option allows students to gain experience with a variety of new materials, develop their skills, and discover their taste in art through the study of an art movement of their choice.

Students will create a personal portfolio where they will store their artwork throughout the semester, and it is theirs to keep when the course is complete. Students will also be provided with a "Skillbook"; here they will develop their understanding of the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design. They will continue to grow as an artist as they apply their newfound skills in their sketchbooks and develop their talents through two-dimensional and three-dimensional student-choice projects. Uncover the artist within you in this hands-on course!

NOTE: There is an additional fee for this course to cover the cost of materials and supplies - determined by student activities. Students are also required to bring their own *Sketchbook*. They can be purchased at most dollar stores, arts and crafts stores, and stationery stores. Sketchbooks do not need to be expensive or high quality, they can be any size or shape based on student preference, and the same sketchbook can be used for all three years of the program - if you can get them to stop drawing in it! :)

Band 8: Full Year Program.

This option allows students to continue learning a concert band instrument and provides opportunities to perform publicly. Students increase music reading skills and musicianship through actively participating in class. Young musicians gain an appreciation for making music as an ensemble and being an important contributor to a musical team. Band 7 or equal training is preferred but not mandatory for this option. **Students rent or purchase their own instruments. Semester fees for rentals go toward maintenance, repair & replacement and vary depending on the instrument. The Band Director will help facilitate the rental or purchase process. Students will be responsible for transporting their instrument to and from school; larger instruments are not permitted on the school bus. NOTE: There are a limited number of school instruments available. Priority is given to those who can't afford rental.**

Singing 8: Half Year program. New musicians welcome. (One Semester)

Unlock your voice and discover the joy of singing in this engaging and dynamic Grade 8 Singing course. Designed for all experience levels, this program focuses on building confidence and vocal skills through a variety of singing experiences. Students will explore vocal development, choral singing, solo singing, and performance opportunities. Students will learn proper breathing, tone production, and techniques to care for and strengthen their voice. Join Singing 8 and showcase your growth through individual and group performances in a supportive environment. Whether you're a seasoned singer or just starting out, this course offers a creative space to develop your voice, express yourself musically, and make lasting memories with fellow performers. Join us and let your voice be heard!

There are no extra fees for Singing 8.

Construction 8: Half Year Program.

CTF 8 focuses on introductory-level hands-on skills and knowledge related to construction of real life wood and fabricated products. Students will apply fundamentals of safety, shop management, basic tools and materials, solid stock construction, and product management to create related projects while working through engaging challenges and applying project management skills. The student will realize that safety is our first and highest concern. Quality of workmanship and product produced is our other important concern. Students will develop technology related skills and refine career planning pathways. All projects are adjusted to match student readiness for successful completion. **Note: Additional costs are associated with this course – to be determined by student activities.**

Drama 8: Half Year Program.

Here is your opportunity to be a star as well as a part of what goes on behind the scenes! Take part in the audition process, rehearsals, and the performance of a production. Learn what it takes to design costumes and make-up, create the set and put together sound and lighting effects. The course will be complemented with theatre sports, movement games, smaller group performances such as Sword Play, and of course, the development of your acting skills! Get the opportunity to put your knowledge to the test as a member of the stage crew for an actual VJM production. Self-discipline, imagination, teamwork, and the ability to have fun are all needed!

Fit For Life 8: Half Year program. All students are welcome.

This course incorporates a study of health, fitness and safety as it is applied to live a healthy lifestyle. This option includes a variety of activities (traditional and non-traditional) that will allow individuals to participate and develop an interest in physical activity.

Note: \$10 Fee to be charged for equipment replacement.

French 8: Full Year Program.

The goal of this French program is to provide opportunities for students to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to communicate in French in a variety of real life situations. Each level specifies expectations in four integrated components: communication, culture, language system, and strategies for language learning. An online module-based learning program is used which allows students to work at their own pace and individual French level. This, in conjunction with projects and classroom activities in alignment with the Alberta curriculum meets the needs and interests of students. **There are no extra fees or materials for French.**

Foods and Fashions 8: Half Year Program.

Looking for that creative, inspired, and perfect personal look? Try sewing in Fashions. Select a project of your choice, at a level that works for you, and create. Students will learn and develop a variety of skills including hand sewing and machine sewing techniques, and apply them to the classroom, but also the world outside of school.

Hungry? Check out our menu! Working within a group, students will learn skills and techniques in the kitchen related to some of the world's most famous sauces and the foods that go with them. Students

will practice kitchen safety and hygiene, and work with a variety of real life challenges such as allergies, vegetarianism, gluten intolerance, etc. to create amazing food and experiences.

Note: Additional costs are associated with this course – to be determined by student activities.

Guitar 8: Half Year Program.

This option is for students who have taken Guitar 7 or who have basic guitar fundamentals. This option focuses on building and refining guitar skills such as music reading and performance through active class participation and individual practice. **Students rent or purchase their own acoustic guitars.**

Students will be responsible for transporting their guitar to and from school; please note they are not permitted on the school bus. (Secure school storage is available)

NOTE: There are a limited number of school guitars available. Priority is given to those who can't afford rental or have no way of transporting their guitar between home & school.

Leadership 8: Half Year Program. ALL STUDENTS WELCOME

In this dynamic and hands-on leadership class, students will develop the skills and knowledge to support them in shaping the school community by planning and facilitating a variety of events and initiatives. They will organize and run fundraisers, plan exciting school spirit days, facilitate seasonal student activities, and contribute creative ideas to boost school culture. Students will also develop their public speaking skills by making announcements, presenting at assemblies, and engaging with their peers. Throughout the course, they will explore different leadership styles, strengthen their communication and teamwork skills, and build a personal portfolio showcasing their service work. This portfolio can be used for future resumes and job applications, and as a recognition of their contributions, the teacher will provide a reference letter highlighting their leadership growth and impact on the school.

Students will: Engage in the concepts of integrity, discipline, responsibility, empathy, accountability, acceptance, courage, work ethic, resilience, and effective communication.

Outdoor Education: Half Year Program.

This course is designed to give students an appreciation of the environment and how we interact with it. The following will be the focus of the option: Ecological Footprints, Multi-Day Trip Planning, Survival Studies and our immediate impact on animals in the wild. Please be aware that this course involves a day trip involving survival skills. Commitment to attending this trip is vital. Please do not register if you do not intend to take part in the trip.

Note: Additional cost for this course is \$100.00 covering the cost of the field trip.

Photography 8: Half Year program. All students are welcome.

Students will acquire basic knowledge of photography techniques as well as components of a digital camera; in addition, they will apply these skills in various photography assignments. Students will also experiment with special effects modes and software to edit photos. Students will also get to explore the functions of the personal devices and learn how to create videos and images relevant to the digital age.

Note: Additional costs are associated with this course – to be determined by student activities.

Robotics 8: Half Year Program. Preference to students who completed Robotics 7.

For those who have taken Robotics 7, Robotics 8 is a continuation of Robotics 7. Students will continue their studies using the Lego Mindstorm program. Modules will be slightly advanced from Robotics 7 with an emphasis on the engineering process.

(Grade 7 Robotics is a prerequisite for Level 2. If students are interested and have not completed the prerequisite then both levels will be offered.)

Note: Additional cost of \$10.00 will be charged for cost associated to maintain equipment.

Sports Medicine 8: Half Year Program.

This course is intended to provide learning opportunities for students with career plans in medical and related fields, as well as active student athletes. The following topics provide an organizational structure for the course: a) immediate care, prevention, and rehabilitation of athletic injuries, b) intermediate anatomy & physiology c) leg injuries and taping.

Note: Additional fee of \$10.00 is associated with this course to cover the cost of course materials.

Technical Theatre 8: Half Year Program. All students are welcome.

The Technical Theatre program at VJM will allow students to learn about what goes on behind the scenes of live theatre in a hands-on setting. Students will first develop a basic understanding of the five departments within technical theatre: scenery, props, costumes/makeup, lighting/special effects, and sound engineering. Later, they will branch off into the areas they are most interested in while working on a real musical theatre production – the dual-campus VJM/ESSACHS musical. Projects will vary each year based on the chosen musical, and to allow students to direct their learning. This course is for crafty, techy students with a designer's mind. They enjoy working with a team to solve problems, get the job done, and achieve a common goal. There is no outside time requirement for this course – students are not obligated to participate in after-school rehearsals or to act in the musical. They are the brains of the operation who bring the performances to life working “behind the scenes”. The practical knowledge acquired in this course will expose students to a wide variety of future career possibilities!

Note: There is an additional \$40 fee for this course to cover the cost of materials and safety equipment.

Textiles.

Embroidery, applique, cross stitch, needle felting, and more. This course will provide a sampling of these and other crafting methods. Students will then design and complete a project using the techniques they most enjoy. Projects will be based upon student interest and ability. Students do not need any prior knowledge of sewing to participate. **Additional costs are associated with this course – to be determined by student activities.**

Writer's Ink 8: Half Year Program.

This option is for students who love to write and would like to publish their work. It will provide an opportunity for students to write for enjoyment, personal growth and to enter writing contests. Students will explore various writing mediums. Students will learn how to work in editing teams to make revisions to self and peer work. Student projects are determined on an individual basis with students having the opportunity to have creative control.

There are no extra fees for Writers Ink. Students will either bring a notebook or a Chrome book to class to write

Pop Culture: Half Year Program.

Canada is in many ways defined by our popular culture and has been for the past century. Pop culture is all around us, influencing how we think, how we feel, and how we live our lives. Our popular culture not only influences Canadians it is also tied to our neighbors to the south, the United States.

Over the course of the year, we'll study topics ranging from celebrities to sports to music and advertising. We'll also spend time talking about tv, art, dance, fashion and technology. All of these topics are linked to the history and events from that time, so you will need to draw on your knowledge of the various decades of the 20th century (no worries though, we'll review the relevant details at the start of each unit!)

Film Study 8: Half Year Program. All students are welcome.

Students will analyze movie elements like theme, mood, and tone. Students will also explore careers in film and what happens behind the scenes. This option will also explore different genres of film, as well as some foreign films and how their movie elements differ from Westernized movies.. In addition to watching movies, students are expected to complete questions and projects pertaining to the films.

There are no additional fees associated with Film Studies 8.

Big History: A Journey Through Time:

Step into the past and explore the events, people, and ideas that have shaped our world. In Big History students will take a deep dive into major historical events from ancient civilizations to modern conflicts like WWII. Together, we'll investigate recurring themes in history and discover how the past influences the present (current events and conflicts).

The course will be largely shaped by your interests - whether you want to geek out on the rise of ancient empires, unravel the mysteries of historical turning points, or uncover the origins of cultural or political revolutions.

PLEASE NOTE: Option courses offered are dependent upon adequate student enrollment.