



# DTSS Grade 8

## Frequently Asked Questions

### My Courses

What will my schedule look like?

Your schedule will resemble one of these options:

- 1: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical/Health Ed., French, Career Ed.,  
1 or 2 Applied Design electives,  
1 or 2 Art Education electives.

- 2: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical/Health Ed., French, Career Ed.,  
Band,  
1 Applied Design elective

A typical week may look something like this:

DAVID THOMPSON SECONDARY SCHOOL  
SCHEDULE 2019-2020

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		Friday	Friday
8:46	Warning Bell				8:46	Warning Bell	
Period 1 8:50-10:04	A English	B2 Math	C Textiles	D2 Social Studies	Period 1 8:52-9:52	A English	C Textiles
Period 2 10:09-10:49	CORE	CORE	CORE	CORE	Period 2 9:57-10:58	B1 Math	D1 Physical & Health Education
10:49-10:59	Break						
Period 3 11:04-12:16	B1 Math	C Textiles	D1 Physical & Health Education	A English	10:58-11:23	Lunch	
12:16-12:56	Lunch				11:18	Warning Bell	
					Period 3 11:23-12:24	C Textiles	A English
12:56	Warning Bell						
Period 4 1:01-2:13	C Textiles	D2 Social Studies	A English	B2 Math	Period 4 12:29-1:30	D2 Social Studies	B2 Math
Period 5 2:18-3:30	D1 Physical & Health Education	A English	B1 Math	C Textiles			

**Are grade 8 courses harder than grade 7?**

Grade 8 courses build on many of concepts learned in grade 7. It is harder in the sense that students are expected to take added responsibility in terms of organization, time management and task completion. One of best things about high school is that you move from class to class and have up to 6 different teachers in one semester. On the other hand, having 6 different classes/teachers can make things more complicated.

**Is there a lot of homework in grade 8?**

Grade 8 students report that homework is manageable, especially if CORE block is used effectively. Homework will vary according to the courses you take.

**Will I receive letter grades and/or percentages on my report card?**

Grade 8 and 9 students receive letter grades on report cards. Percentages are not reported. The BC Ministry of Education is currently developing a new Reporting Order for all schools.

**Do I have to leave the classroom to get extra support?**

It depends on whether a student benefits from smaller group instruction that can be accommodated by an Educational Assistant and the classroom teacher in the class. If a student needs more assistance they can also be scheduled in a support block with a Learning Support teacher. Some of our students receive additional support from our Aboriginal Education Support and Youth Care Workers. We have a lot of support options and students have choice. We will make a plan that is right for you.

**Will I get elective courses?**

Our Applied Design Exploration courses include Woodwork, Metalwork, Textiles, Foods, Media Arts, Information Technology, and Computers & Communication Devices. Our Arts Education Exploration courses are Band, Drama, Drawing & Painting, and Sculpting. Students are expected to take at least one course in each category. The goal is for students in grades 8 and 9 sample a variety of these courses. All of the above exploration courses are 50 hours and completed in one term There are two terms in one semester.

Therefore, in grade 8, the only choice you have is to select band or not. In Grade 9, students have the opportunity to select exploration courses.

## **CORE Block: Connected - Organized - Resilient – Empowered**

### **What is CORE block?**

CORE block offers students 40 minutes each day from Monday – Thursday to complete projects, assignments, get extra help from teachers, and/or explore opportunities beyond the courses they are enrolled in. Students have the flexibility to choose which class/teacher they will connect with during CORE. Grade 8 students have a reading block once a week during CORE. A teacher may require your attendance in their room if you are behind.

## **Technology**

### **Do I need to bring my own computer to school?**

DTSS has laptop computers for students to sign out with their teachers. Students are more than welcome to bring their own computer and sign up for access to the school Wifi. They will need parent permission to do so.

### **Can I bring a cell phone to school?**

Yes you may, but cell phones are not to be seen or heard during class time, unless a teacher is incorporating it into their lesson. If a cell phone is used inappropriately (which may include simply checking the time), it is taken to the office and given back to the student at the end of the day. Cell phones may also access the school's wifi, with parents' permission. Never leave cell phones or valuables in the change room during PHE!

### **What else should I know about technology?**

The School Code of Conduct has a section on technology, and it can be viewed on the DTSS website.

# Extracurricular Activities and Clubs

## What kinds clubs are offered at DTSS?

Some options for lunchtime or after school clubs include: Art club, board games, Dungeons and Dragons club, Super Smash Bros, ping pong and cooking club.

The gym is always open at lunch for physical activities, providing students wear a gym strip. Basketball and floor hockey are the most popular activities.

If there is a club that you are interested in starting, you just need to find a sponsor teacher and it can happen!

## Athletics

### What sports are offered at DTSS?

DTSS offers a variety of sports: volleyball, basketball, ski/snowboard, badminton, track and field, cross country running, and rugby.



As long as there are enough players and a coach or two, the teams go ahead. Many of our coaches are community volunteers and parents.

Bantam (Grade 8)

Junior Teams (Grade 9 & 10)

Senior Team (Grade 11 & 12)