

**DAVID THOMPSON
SECONDARY SCHOOL
INVERMERE, B.C.**



**SENIOR COURSE SELECTION HANDBOOK
2025 – 2026**

GRADES 10, 11 & 12

SENIOR COURSE SELECTION HANDBOOK

This handbook provides students and parents with information about courses and programs available for selection at David Thompson Secondary School for the 2025-26 academic year.

The final responsibility for course selection remains with each student and his/her parents; changes cannot be guaranteed once initial course selections have been submitted. Courses will be offered based on student interest, availability of staff and course offering sustainability; all reasonable efforts will be made to enroll students in requested courses.

For further information, please contact a member of the administrative team:

PRINCIPAL: Ms. Heather English

VICE-PRINCIPALS:

Ms. Teresa Vancise, Ms. Kristen Insull

UNDERSTANDING BC GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The BC Graduation Program requires **a minimum of 80 credits (total)** from Grades 10, 11 and 12.

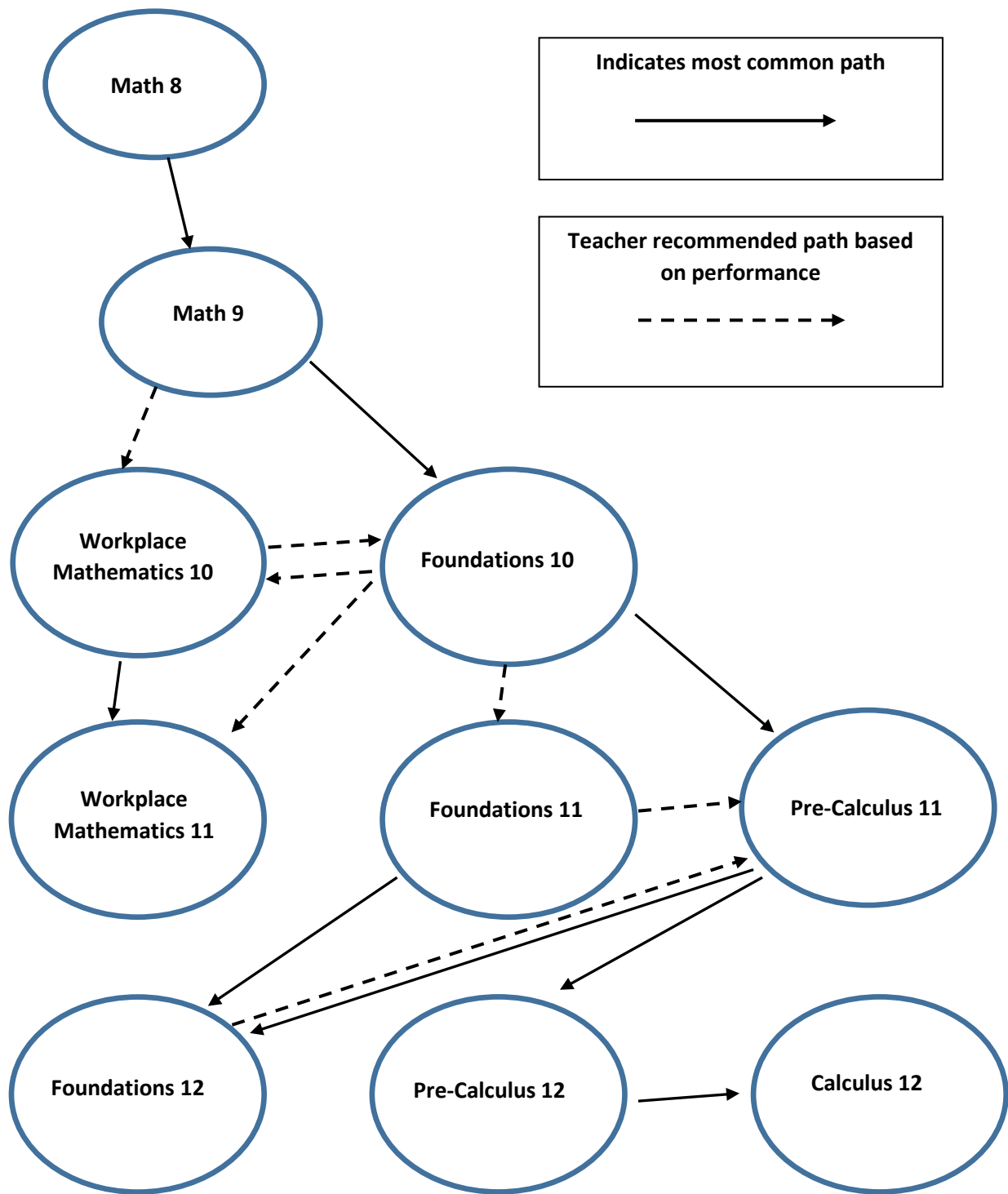
For each of the below required courses, please refer to the corresponding credits (in red):

<input type="checkbox"/> English Language Arts 10 2x2 = 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Science 11 or 12 4	<input type="checkbox"/> English Language Arts 11 4
<input type="checkbox"/> English Language Arts 12 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical & Health Education 10 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Studies 10 4
<input type="checkbox"/> AST – Arts Education/Applied Design, Skills and Technologies 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade 12 Social Studies 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Science 10 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics 10 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics 11 or 12 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Electives – 7 courses 28
	<input type="checkbox"/> Career Life Connections 12 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Career Life Education 10 4
+ Graduation Assessments (see below)	Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement (see below)	

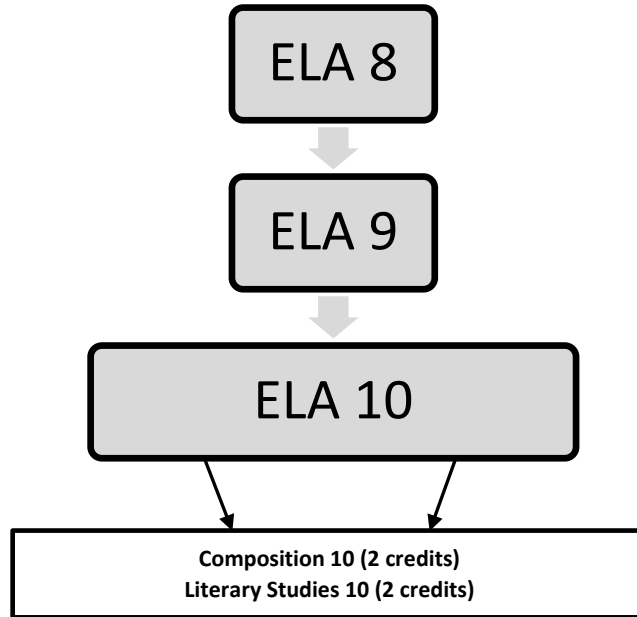
***Please use the above table as a planning checklist**

BC Graduation Program	
Graduation Assessments	Students graduating in the BC Graduation Program are <u>required</u> to write the following graduation assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment - Grade 10 Literacy Assessment - Grade 12 Literacy Assessment
* Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement	The BC Ministry of Education has implemented an Indigenous-focused graduation requirement for all secondary students. This requires that 4 credits of the current 80 credit requirements for the BC Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) include an Indigenous-focused course. This credit will be fulfilled for students in Grade 11 via English First Peoples: Literary Studies + Spoken Language/New Media 11, which will also fulfill the English 11 Language Arts requirement. DTSS will also be offering the following 4-credit Indigenous-Focused courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - English First Peoples 12
Course Load Expectations:	All students are expected to be fully timetabled, i.e. complete 32 credits per year. Grade 12 students who have successfully met graduation requirements <i>may</i> be permitted to have one (1) spare in their Grade 12 year.
External Credits	Students can possibly receive graduation credits for specialized programs taken outside of school (ie. Cadets, 4-H, Guides, Scouts, music courses such as a Royal Conservatory Music, Bronze Cross, National Life Guard Service, Occupational First Aid Level II) and for athlete programs (Athlete, Coach and Official Programs). Please visit the website for more information: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/graduation/getting-credit-to-graduate/external-credentials#more

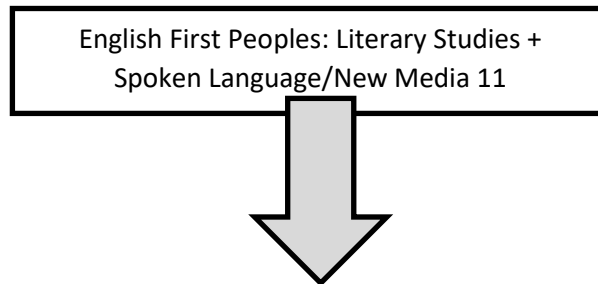
Mathematics Course Pathways



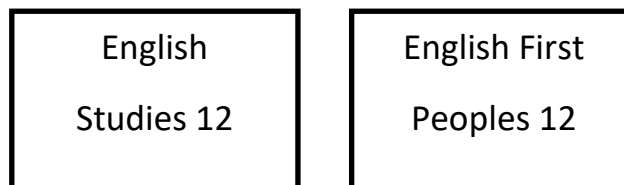
Senior English Course Pathways



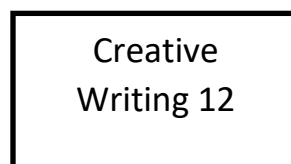
ALL students must take the following course (for 4 credits) to fulfill the Grade 11 English Language Arts requirement and the Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement:



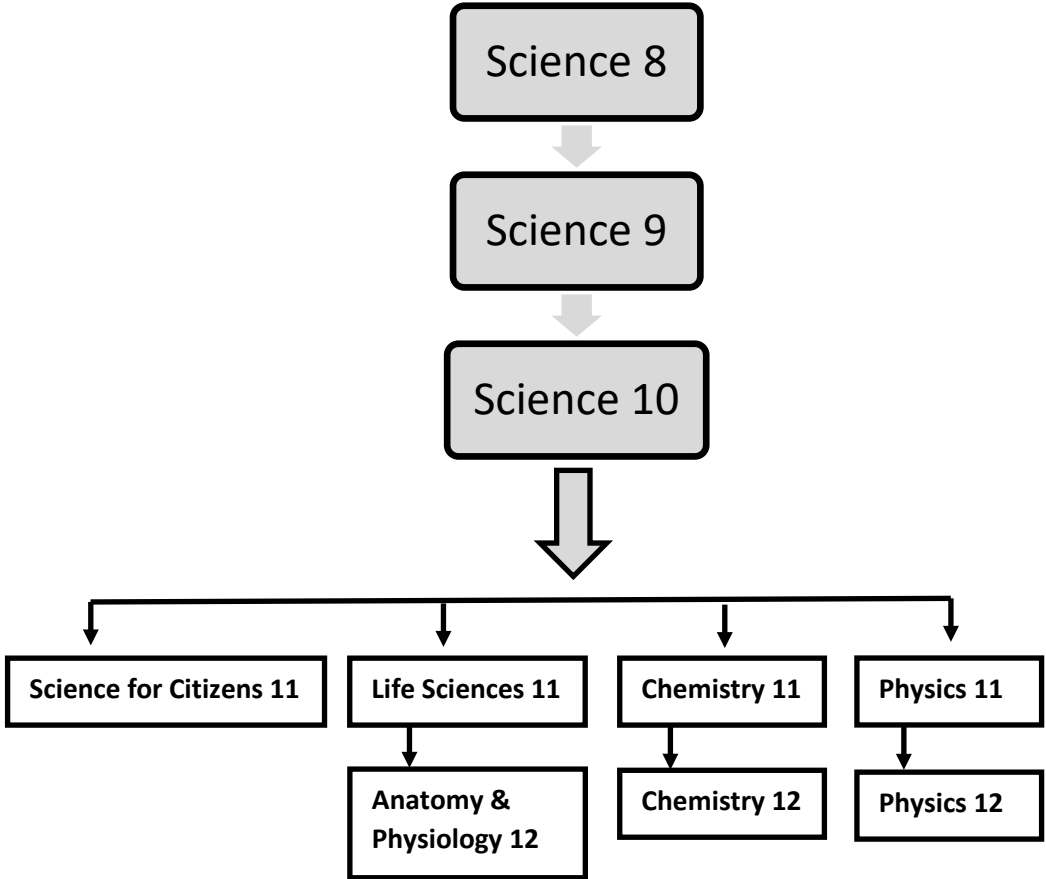
Students must take **one of the following courses** (for 4 credits) to meet graduation requirements:



Elective Choice for Grade 10-12 Students:



Science Course Pathways



Mathematics

Each pathway is designed to provide students with the mathematical understandings, and critical-thinking skills that have been identified for specific post-secondary programs of study and for direct entry into the work force.

<p><u>Workplace Mathematics 10 and 11</u></p>	<p>This pathway is specifically designed to provide students with the mathematical understandings and critical-thinking skills identified for entry into some trades at post-secondary and for direct entry into the work force. Topics include algebra, geometry, measurement, number, statistics and probability. Students who experience considerable difficulty with Math 8 and 9 should choose this pathway</p>
<p><u>Foundations of Mathematics & Pre-Calculus 10</u></p>	<p>This pathway is designed to provide students with the mathematical understandings and critical thinking skills necessary for entry into the majority of university programs. Topics include financial mathematics, geometry, measurement, logical reasoning, relations and functions, and arithmetic sequence and series. Students who did not experience significant difficulty with Math 8 and 9 and are considering post-secondary programs in sciences or humanities should choose this pathway.</p>
<p><u>Foundations of Mathematics in Grade 11 and 12</u></p>	<p>This pathway is designed to provide students with the mathematical understandings and critical-thinking skills identified for post-secondary studies in programs that do not require the study of theoretical calculus like Economics, Geography, Arts or Humanities. Topics include financial mathematics, geometry, measurement, number, logical reasoning, relations and functions, and statistics and probability.</p>
<p><u>Pre-Calculus in Grade 11 and 12</u></p>	<p>This pathway is designed to provide students with the mathematical understandings and critical-thinking skills identified for entry into post-secondary programs that require the study of theoretical calculus like Sciences or Engineering. Topics include algebra and number, measurement, relations and functions, trigonometry and polynomials.</p>

English Language Arts	
English Language Arts 10	ELA 10 consists of two 2-credit courses that focus on literature and composition.
English First Peoples: Literary Studies + Spoken Language 11 or New Media	EFP Literary Studies + Spoken Language/New Media is designed for students who are interested in studying First Peoples' literature and oral tradition and in strengthening their oral language proficiencies. The course emphasizes oral self-expression and communication in a variety of contexts. Students delve deeply into First Peoples oral and written literature in a range of media to explore various themes, authors, and topics.
English Studies 12	<p>English Studies 12 (4 credits and Grad. Requirement)</p> <p>The English Studies 12 course builds on and extends students' previous learning experiences in ELA and EFP 10 and 11 courses. It is designed for all students and provides them with opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refine their ability to communicate effectively in a variety of contexts and to achieve their personal and career goals • think critically and creatively about the uses of language • explore texts from a variety of sources, in multiple modes, and that reflect diverse worldviews • deepen their understanding of themselves and others in a changing world • gain insight into the diverse factors that shape identity • appreciate the importance of self-representation through text • contribute to Reconciliation by building greater understanding of the knowledge and perspectives of First Peoples
English First Peoples 12	<p>EFP 12 builds upon and extends students' previous learning experiences in ELA and EFP 10 and 11 courses. The course is grounded in the First Peoples Principles of Learning. It is designed for all students, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, who are interested in delving deeply into First Peoples oral and written literature and visual texts in a range of media. The course focuses on the experiences, values, beliefs, and lived realities of First Peoples as evidenced in various forms of text, including oral story, poetry, song, performance, film, and prose. A key feature of the course is its focus on authentic First Peoples voices (i.e., historical or contemporary texts created by or with First Peoples). In EFP 12, all students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examine texts grounded in a diversity of First Peoples cultures, including local First Nations or Métis communities • extend their capacity to communicate effectively in a variety of contexts • think critically and creatively about the uses of language • deepen their understanding of themselves and others in a changing world • gain insight into the diverse factors that have shaped and continue to shape their own identities • appreciate the importance of self-representation through authentic First Peoples text • contribute to Reconciliation by building greater understanding of the knowledge and perspectives of First Peoples
Creative Writing 12	Creative Writing is a grade 12 elective class (though it is open to grades 10-12). It is designed for students who are interested in developing confidence and refining their writing skills through self-expression for various creative purposes. Within a supportive community, students will collaborate and strengthen their skills as they express themselves creatively and reflect on, adjust, and extend their writing skills.

Science	
Science 10	Students enrolling in Science 10 will have the opportunity to learn about four major fields of science: Genetics, chemical reactions, physical sciences and astronomy. Within these studies, there will be a closer look at the structure of DNA, inheritance, genes, ethical considerations of natural and artificial selection, acid-base chemistry, thermodynamics, energy transformations, nuclear energy and radiation, cosmology as it pertains to collection of data that lead to the Big Bang Theory. While exploring these big ideas, we are also focusing on helping students learn the science skills of questioning, predicting, planning, conducting, processing, analyzing, evaluating, applying, innovating and communicating.
Chemistry 11	Builds on students' understanding of atoms and molecules, chemical bonds, and chemical reactions. Introduces organic chemistry, the mole (a quantity used to count atoms and molecules), and solubility. Also introduces various laboratory skills.
Life Sciences 11	This course explores the following topics: characteristics of living things, process of evolution, and taxonomy (with a focus on plant and animal biology.) Students will learn to correctly apply and use the scientific method through questioning and predicting, planning and conducting experiments, processing and analyzing data and information, evaluating, applying and innovating, and communicating.
Physics 11	Students will learn to use both graphical and algebraic methods to solve problems involving motion, forces, energy, and waves. A grade of 67% or higher in Math 10 is strongly recommended as a pre-requisite. Learning activities in this class include problem-solving, both individually and in groups, as well as lab investigations.
Science for Citizens 11	This is a senior science offering that meets requirements for graduation but cannot be used as a pre-requisite for university programs. Students will learn about science topics they will encounter for the rest of their lives. The course covers: viruses and bacteria, how antibiotics and vaccines work, weather patterns, how to prepare for natural disasters, food production and nutrition, gardening science, using chemicals at work (WHMIS) and at home, electricity and some home construction ideas, the history and science behind blood, and the scientific method. Attendance is crucial for success in this course.
Anatomy & Physiology 12	Anatomy and Physiology 12 is a rigorous course designed for science students wishing to continue in science studies at the post-secondary level in the health and medical fields. The course is focused on biochemistry and human biology. The content is organized conceptually and includes expected knowledge in the following areas: homeostasis, DNA, cells, and organ systems. This is a lab-based course. Students will build on their previous science experience and learn to correctly apply the scientific inquiry model to include questioning and predicting, planning and conducting, processing and analyzing data and information, evaluating, applying and innovating, and communicating.
Chemistry 12	Students will learn about reaction rate, equilibrium reactions, solution chemistry, acids and bases, and electrochemistry. They will also continue to refine their laboratory skills. Co-requisite: PRE CALCULUS 12
Physics 12	Students will learn about Einstein's theory of special relativity, electric and magnetic fields, and conservation of momentum. They will also gain a deeper understanding of forces and their impact on motion. Co-requisite: PRE CALCULUS 12

Social Studies

Social Studies 10	There are two broad units – government and history. Topics in government include how government works, elections and political parties, and human rights. Twentieth century history topics include Canada’s involvement in World War I, interwar period, World War II, Cold War and more recent international events (Rwanda, terrorism)
Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12	This course will study issues facing Indigenous communities in Canada and the world. The history of colonialism and its impact will be examined, along with current developments with such topics as the role of Indigenous communities can play with climate change and resource development; renewing languages; improving relationships with government, including law enforcement/courts; and Reconciliation.
BC First Peoples 12	The history and contemporary issues of First Nations people before and after European contact. Topics include traditional territories, culture, and impact of colonization, government policies and the role of the media.
Physical Geography 12	This course merges Earth Science with how humans use the earth. Topics include plate tectonics, erosion, predicting weather, biomes, environmental issues, and natural resource development
20th Century World History 12	Significant world events of the 20 th century including the Treaty of Versailles, Russian Revolutions, Rise of Dictators (Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, Hirohito) Roaring Twenties/Dirty Thirties, Second World War, Cold War, China, Middle East, India and the struggle for Rights
Law Studies 12	Overview of Canadian law including: criminal law, police powers, court proceedings and trials, youth justice and civil law (lawsuits). Much of the course is based on current events.
Psychology 12	Psychology 12 is a grade 12 elective class (though it is open to grades 10-12). It covers topics on the Brain, Human Development, & Mental Disorders.

Arts Education

Drama

Theatre Company 10	Movement and Voice, Role, Context, Drama as a Metaphor, Character Exploration, Performance.
Theatre Company 11: Acting	Movement and Voice, Characterization, Drama Forms, Script Conventions and Structure and Performance. Course could include theatre aspects of: acting, directing, script work, technical theatre, and theatre management. Learn through the whole process of putting of a live public performance.
Theatre Company 12: Acting	Extended exploration of dramatic skills and context for theatre performance. Develop production skills and knowledge. Learn through the whole process of putting of a live public performance.

Music

Instrumental Music 10: Concert Band	Group instruction on various instruments. Concert band musical styles.
Instrumental Music 10: Jazz Band	Group instruction in jazz and big band styles, dance focus. Extended day scheduling (Wed. night) must be taken concurrently with MCB 10.
Instrumental Music 11: Concert Band	Group instruction on various instruments. Concert band musical styles.
Instrumental Music 11: Jazz Band	Group instruction in jazz and big band styles, dance focus. Group instruction in jazz and big band styles, dance focus. Extended day scheduling (Wed. night) must be taken concurrently with MCB 11.
Instrumental Music 12: Concert Band	Group instruction on various instruments. Concert band musical styles.
Instrumental Music 12: Jazz Band	Group instruction in jazz and big band styles, dance focus.
Composition & Production 12	Designed for students pursuing a career in music.

Visual Arts

Art Studio 10	Explore 2D and 3D art Techniques: Pencils, Charcoal, Acrylic, Oil Pastels, Water Colours, Clay and a Pottery unit.
Art Studio 11	Use the principles of design in a variety of 2D and 3D projects. Includes a Pottery unit.
Art Studio 12	Further develop 2D and 3D techniques in drawing, painting and pottery.
Photography 12	DSLR camera use, elements of composition, creative concepts, using Adobe Photoshop.

Applied Design, Skills & Technologies

Home Economics and Culinary Arts

Child Development and Caregiving 12	Child Development and Caregiving 12 focuses on the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development that occurs in a child from birth to 12 years of age. This course provides students with the background knowledge required to understand the attitudes and skills necessary to work with children. We will cover topics in child development and caregiving including children's rights and parent/ caregiver responsibilities, prenatal development and pregnancy, labour and delivery, stages of child development, and children's nutrition. This is an excellent course for those considering careers involving children, including healthcare, teaching, childcare, and recreation, or for those who simply enjoy being around children or who plan to eventually become a parent in the future.
Culinary Arts 10	Introductory training in professional cooking techniques. Emphasis on knife-handling techniques and basic cooking methods in a commercial kitchen. Students will obtain Foodsafe Level 1 certification.
Culinary Arts 11	Professional cooking techniques and operations continued. Emphasis on Stocks, Sauces, Soups and Meat Cookery.
Culinary Arts 12	Professional cooking techniques and operations continued. Emphasis on Egg and Breakfast Cooking, International Foods and Nutrition.
Textiles 10	Continuation of study of textiles and sewing skills. Students will choose their own projects and purchase their own supplies.
Textiles 11	Introduction to clothing construction and design, interior furnishings, and textiles. Students will choose their own projects and purchase their own supplies.
Textiles 12	Advanced study of textiles, clothing construction and home textile products. Students will choose their own projects and purchase their own supplies.

Information and Communications Technology

Computer Studies 10	An introduction to problem-solving that relates to programming through a series of puzzles, challenges, and real world scenarios. Students will learn skills such as debugging, commenting, and structure of HTML, SCC, and Java languages.
Media Design 10-12	Overview of computers including flash, graphic design, video production and 3D graphics.
Computer Information Systems 11-12	An introduction to the foundation concepts of Computer Science. They explore the use of computers to store, retrieve, transmit, and manipulate data. Students use the binary representation of various data types, including text, sound, pictures, and video. They use text-based coding, such as JavaScript in the projects.
Computer Programming 11-12	An introduction to programming using Java and other languages. Si ++, python
Digital Communications 11-12	An introduction to the foundation concepts of Computer Science. Students will be challenged to explore digital and non-digital media technologies: explore layout and design, graphics and images, sounds, colors, settings, ideas, and text to represent characterizations and points of view. Students will work on advanced digital media project using After Effects, Java, HTML, and Maya.
Graphic Production 11-12	An introductions to a wide range of computer software, including Adobe Creative Suite and graphic design, 3D animation. Students will be challenged to explore digital and non-digital media technologies: explore layout and design, graphics and images,

	sounds, colors, settings, ideas, and text to represent characterizations and points of view.
Digital Media Develop 12	Advanced digital media project work.
Electronics & Robotics 10	A lab-based course that uses a hands-on approach to introduce the basic concepts of electrical theory and robotics, focusing on construction sequences of working circuits and block-based coding development to obtain a general understanding of robotics and the robotics environment.
Robotics 11	Introductory robotics course to learn about robot design and the fundamental skills to design, program and develop your own robots.
Robotics 12	Continuation of previous robotics courses and will explore the principles of designing, constructing and programming robots. The course will be tied to lab experiments; students will work in groups to build and test increasingly more complex mobile robots, culminating in an end-of-semester robot contest.
Technology Education	
Metalwork 10	Exploring basic metalworking and welding practices and procedures while completing assigned and student-choice projects.
Woodwork 10	Exploring basic woodworking procedures and practices while completing assigned and student-choice projects.
Metalwork 11	Continuing to explore basic metalworking and welding practices and procedures while completing assigned and student-choice projects.
Woodwork 11	Continuing to explore woodworking procedures and practices while completing assigned and student-choice projects.
Metalwork 12	Continuing to explore basic metalworking and welding practices and procedures while completing assigned and student-choice projects.
Woodwork 12	Continuing to explore woodworking procedures and practices while completing assigned and student-choice projects.
Power Technology 10	This is a senior-level elective open to students in grades 10-12 who are interested in applied engineering, applied physics, or trades and technology. The course explores the theory and practical application of technologies that use and generate different forms of energy and power, such as machinery, alternate energy sources (wind, solar, hydro), and fossil fuels (internal combustion). This is a hands-on, project-based course.

Languages

French 10	French 10 continues to focus on spoken communication skills. By the end of the course, students will achieve the equivalent of an A2 CEFR level . They will be able to: Understand frequently used expressions in most intermediate areas such as shopping, family, employment, etc. Complete tasks that are routine and involve a direct exchange of information. They will be able to write short stories in the past tense and respond to invitations in the future tense. The final exam will include a spoken conversation with the teacher. Two of the themes we will use to study French are Urbane folklore and natural disasters. The course uses units from the communicative series Communi-Quete.
French 11	French 11 students will concentrate on improving their listening and reading comprehension as well as their ability to participate in a spoken conversation with fluidity. In their written work they will be expected to use several tenses correctly. It will be expected they can speak and write correctly in the past, present, future, and conditional tenses. The class will use themes of travel, work, and French films to improve their French comprehension. The final exam includes a written composition and a spoken conversation with the teacher.
French 12	In French 12, students will increase their vocabulary and perfect their grammatical skills. This course will be taught primarily in French. Students are expected to use vocabulary in the present, past, present, compound and future tenses as well as the use of the subjunctive mood. They will watch, listen to and read creative works and respond to them both in written and spoken assignments. Students will be required to write short essays and opinion paragraphs. The final exam includes a spoken conversation with the teacher.
Enhanced French 10	Course will follow the curriculum guidelines and expectations of the Intensive French program with the goal of obtaining the B1 DELF level.
Enhanced French 11	Enhanced French 11 will be taught primarily in French. Students will increase their vocabulary and improve their grammatical skills to successfully write the B1 DELF exam in order to receive a certificate. Students functioning at a B1 language level will be able to maintain independent conversations about several topics in which they are familiar. They will be able to defend their opinion and offer counter-arguments in a debate. Their written work will include several tenses with few errors. Students will listen to, watch and read several creative works in French from around the world.

Physical and Health Education

Physical & Health Education 10	<p>This course is based upon two primary focuses. The first focus is that of physical literacy movements in a variety of environments with major themes including fair play and social responsibility. The second focus will be on healthy and active living, getting students to consider potential barriers, as well as, options to maintain an active lifestyle. A variety of minor games, traditional games and field trips will make up the majority of the class. Students will also identify and apply strategies to pursue personal healthy-living goals and analyze how health-related decisions support the achievement of those goals.</p>
Active Living 11	<p>Enhance lifelong activities including, team sports, individual sports and outdoor pursuits. Spring session will have a greater emphasis on outdoor pursuits.</p>
Fitness & Conditioning 11	<p>In this course students have the opportunity to learn about and experience a variety of activities at different intensity levels. F&C includes hands on learning in the gym and weight room that focuses on technique and safety, explores active options off campus, weekly classroom time to focus on anatomy, nutrition and various training methods. This class is meant to introduce students to activities and methods that will provide them with the knowledge, skills and drive to participate in an active lifestyle after graduation</p>
Active Living 12	<p>Enhance lifelong activities including, team sports, individual sports and outdoor pursuits. Spring session will have a greater emphasis on outdoor pursuits.</p>
Fitness & Conditioning 12	<p>In this course students have the opportunity to learn about and experience a variety of activities at different intensity levels. F&C " includes hands on learning in the gym and weight room that focuses on technique and safety, explores active options off campus, weekly classroom time to focus on anatomy, nutrition and various training methods. This class is meant to introduce students to activities and methods that will provide them with the knowledge, skills and drive to participate in an active lifestyle after graduation.</p>
Outdoor Education & Recreation 12	<p>Students will explore a variety of outdoor activities including cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, fly fishing & fly tying, archery, canoe & kayaking, rock climbing, mountain biking, hiking, outdoor photography, & tracking.</p>

Career Education	
Career Life Education 10	Career education, post-secondary school options, employment skills, student-designed service learning/work experience.
Career Life Connections 12 (includes Capstone & 30WE)	<p>This program consists of two sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Career-Life Connections</u>: a continuation of Career-Life Education assisting students in building marketable and transferrable skills, connecting with the community through work or volunteerism, and evaluating options for post-graduation in terms of training, work, career-life balance, and wellbeing. b) <u>Capstone Project</u>: a self-directed (and teacher supported) passion project engaging students in communication, research, teamwork, goal setting, time management, organization, reflection, and public presentation.

Work Experience & Apprenticeship Training	
Work Experience 12A & 12B	WEX 12A and 12B gives students the opportunity to participate in, observe, and learn about the tasks and responsibilities related to an occupation or career. Work experience helps prepare students for the transition from secondary school to the world of work, for further education and training, or for other post-graduation opportunities. The primary goal of the WEX program is to help students personalize their learning and prepare them for life after secondary school completion. Through WEX, students have the opportunity to observe and practice generic employability skills, as well as skills specific to occupations, industries, or careers.
Youth Work in Trades 11A	If you know the trade you want to go into, start your apprenticeship training in grade 11 or 12. You can get up to 16 credits, 8 at grade 11 level, 8 at grade 12 level, and receive an automatic \$1000.00 scholarship.
Youth Train in Trades 11	Course credits can be earned by participating in the SSA program.
Youth Train in Trades 12	Course credits can be earned by participating in the SSA program.
Trades Sampler	Will provide students with learning experiences in the areas of Carpentry, Small Engines, Electrical and Plumbing as well as other locally developed modules.

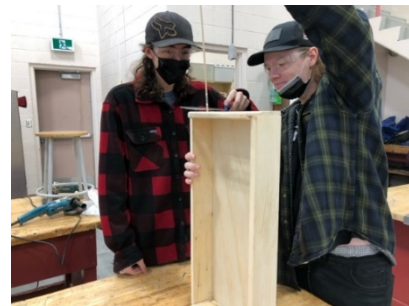
ARE YOU CONSIDERING A CAREER IN TRADES?

DTSS Senior Secondary Students can pursue the following three (3) options:



1. Youth Explore Trades Sampler

This is a twelve-week program planned and taught by the College of the Rockies. Students will gain hands on experience to prepare them for basic work in the trades industry along with **earning 12 credits** toward their High School Dogwood Diploma. Students gain hands on experience with a variety of trades and earn certificate qualifications. Maximum enrollment: 12 Students



2. Youth Work in Trades (YWT)

Students can get a head start with work-based training of a **trade apprenticeship** while they are still in high school. Students will not only take home a pay cheque, but will also earn **up to 16 credits** towards your high school diploma, and log 480 training hours toward trade credentials, and maybe even earn a \$1,000 award.

3. Youth Train in Trades (YTT)

Students will attend trades training classes at a partner post-secondary institution or an Industry Trade Authority certified training facility; DTSS students will enroll with the College of the Rockies in Cranbrook. Students will learn from skilled instructors and earn credits that count towards your high school diploma and Level 1 of your Technical Trades Training.

Youth Train in Trades and Youth Work in Trades programs can be taken in any order and there are no pre-requisites



