



Graduating class of 2027

Grade 9 Course Planning



COUNSELLOR'S ROLE for course planning

- Counsellors help students with their course selection and make timetables but we are neutral when it comes to recommending courses- **it's better to talk to teachers, read the course planning book on our website and make an informed choice by doing research.**
- Counsellors advise students generally about post secondary requirements, but students and families should do their own research to determine high school course requirements for specific post secondary programs.
- Counsellors will enter all of the Course requests once students complete the Teams Course Request Form (QR code at the end of this presentation)

REQUIRED COURSES

- = courses that all graduating students have to take.
- Students will get all required courses for grade 9.
- Failure in a **required** course means that you have to attend summer school or repeat the course the next year.

REQUIRED COURSES

- ENGLISH 9
- SOCIAL STUDIES 9
- PHYSICAL HEALTH EDUCATION 9
- MATH 9
- SCIENCE 9

Required Courses for TAP/LSP 9

TAP English 9	LSP English 9
TAP Socials 9	LSP Socials 9
TAP SKILLS DEVELOPMENT 9	LSP SKILLS DEVELOPMENT 9
TAP Math 9	LSP Math 9
TAP Science 9	LSP Science 9
TAP PE 9	PE 9
TAP Fine Arts Rotation	Elective 9 choice
TAP Applied Skills	Elective 9 choice

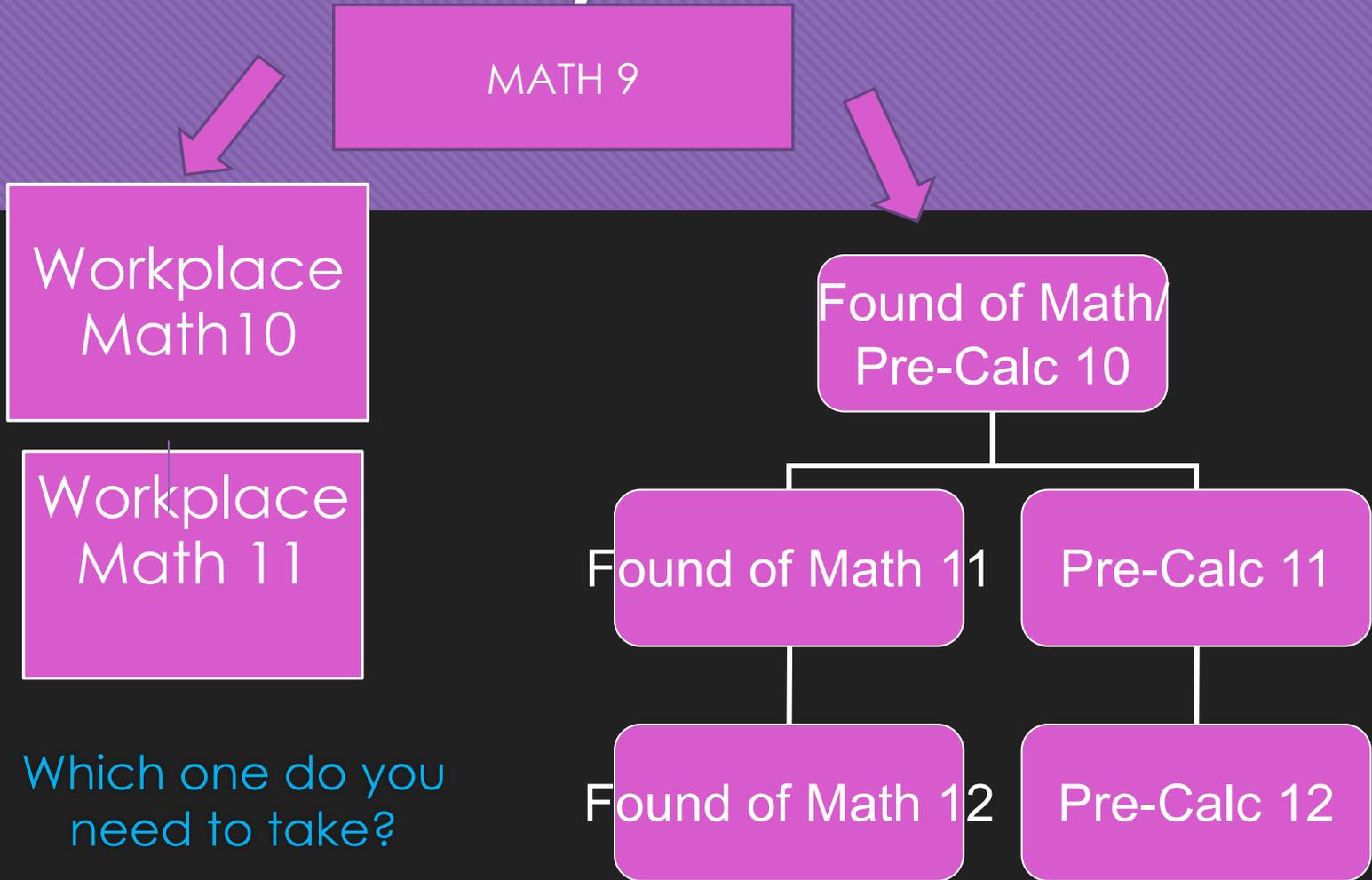
Required Courses for ELL 9

- ELL English
- ELL Social Studies
- ELL Writing
- Science 9 (by recommendation)
- Math 9 (by recommendation)
- PE 9
- 2 elective courses

Required Courses for Mini 9

- MINI ENGLISH 9
- MINI SOCIAL STUDIES 9
- PHYSICAL HEALTH EDUCATION 9
- MINI MATH FOUNDATIONS AND PRECALC 10
- MINI SCIENCE 10

Math Pathway From Grade 9



Which one do you need to take?

It depends on where you are going after high school.

ELECTIVE COURSES

- Elective Courses are REQUIRED for full-time students, but you get CHOICE in the type of class you take
- Elective classes will run according to student demand.

For example, if only 18 students sign up for PARKOUR 9 (not a real class), the course will likely not run. Whereas, if 50 students sign up for DABBING 9 (also not a class), it is likely to run.

Language and Skills Electives

- If you had a skills block in Grade 8, you should have a skills block in Grade 9. If you do not want Skills, discuss with your counsellor or Ms. Rentz in resource, AND your caregiver.
- Students who are/were in French 9 or higher this year can request the next level of French or take Spanish 10 or Japanese 10.
- There is a new **Filipino 11** course, and grade 9s can take it! FYI, it is an elective course, not a language credit course.

Fine Arts and Applied Skills Electives

- Many courses will be multi-grade
- You can take two fine arts courses or two applied skills courses or one of each.
- Take courses that interest you and do your research!
- I present the electives open to grade 9 students in the next few slides, but please read through the Course Planning Guide yourself in case you see something there you are very interested in taking. Then, chat with a teacher in that department to find out if you are able to take that course! 😊

APPLIED SKILLS ELECTIVES

- Foods 10
- Textiles 10
- Woodworking 10
- Drafting 10
- Technological Studies 10



APPLIED SKILLS ELECTIVES

- Computer Studies 10
- Entrepreneurship and Marketing 10
- Business Computer Applications & Keyboarding 11



FINE ARTS ELECTIVES



- ART 9
- BAND
- JAZZ BAND
- CERAMICS 9
- CHOIR 9 (OFF TIMETABLE)
- DRAMA 9
- DANCE 9



FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

- GUITAR 9
- PHOTOGRAPHY 10
- GRAPHIC ARTS 10
- ANNUAL PRODUCTION 11
- FILM AND TV STUDIES 11



Choosing Electives

- Think about your ideal career, think about your passions.
- What courses really interest you?
- Make informed choices by talking to family, teachers, adults you trust, and older students who have learned from their experiences.
- Read the course planning guide on our website carefully.

*Don't choose courses based on what your friends are taking - you might not end up in the same class!



How your schedule is made

- Once everyone's courses are requested, we spend months building the timetable.
- Factors that impact how the timetable is made: *number of people requesting a course, teacher's work schedules, room availability, student support needs, overall operating school budget/ staffing.*

FYI- IT'S A LOT OF WORK MAKING A SCHOOL TIMETABLE!

Frequently Asked Questions

- Can I have a free block in Grade 9?
- *No, for safety reasons, Grade 9s cannot have study blocks.*
- Do I need to have a language to graduate?
- *No, but some universities will require it for direct high school admission. Students with an IEP can be exempt from this requirement*
- Can I take online courses?
- *Yes, but it is a process that should be discussed with your counsellor and caregiver(s)*

FAQs continued:

- Can I choose my teachers?
- *No, we cannot accommodate requests to move classes based on teacher preference.*
- Can I be put into classes with my friends?
- *No, there are ample opportunities to spend time with friends during the school day, even if they're not in your class. It's also good for you to make new friends and practice getting out of your comfort zone.*

FAQs continued:

- I do lots of sports/ dance/ gymnastics outside of school, can I be exempt from PE?
- *Sorry, the Ministry of Education does not grant PE credit for that, even for many of the very best athletes! Some sport activities will give you an Athletics 10 credit– but it's not the same as PE and PE is required for graduation.*
- Will there be older kids in my class?
- *Depending on our final timetable, some elective classes may be multi-level classes 9/10 split or combined 9-12 classes.*

What is Summer School?

The VSB operates a few types of summer school programs/ registration and info on the web comes out in **May**.

- **Remedial Summer School:** you have failed a class and need to get credit.
- **Completion Summer School:** you take a whole class over five and a half weeks, for 3.5 hours/day- FYI, the workload is intense.
- **Preview Summer School:** no marks, just getting a preview of a course you might want to be ready for.
- **Summer Experience:** special fun elective class.

What is Online School?

- Vancouver Learning Network (VLN) is a SEPARATE school that offers online classes for VSB students
- Online courses are possible for Grade 10 level courses and above but shouldn't be taken without consideration.
- Every year some students do not complete their online courses, and this can affect graduation.
- Not all students do well in online courses. Talk to me about it!

Managing Expectation



- You will choose three electives and three alternates. Every effort will be made to give you your first choices.
- *If I can't give you your first choice, I will schedule in alternate elective choices*
- FYI, Grade 12's and 11's will have priority in their grade level courses because they have to meet post-secondary requirements sooner than you.

Timetable and Staffing

- Course requests drive our entire timetable and staffing process for the following school year. The school gets a limited number of “blocks” to spend on courses and we have to figure out how to meet everyone’s requirements with that allotment.
- When not enough students sign up for an elective course, it is at risk of being cancelled.
- Sometimes there can be staffing changes later in the year as a result of timetabling.
- For these reasons, student schedules are not “set” until late in the summer and we still work on fixes etc. in the beginning of the school year.

I didn't get my
elective choices!!!!

Sometimes courses are full, cancelled
or don't work with your schedule. Pick
alternates, remain roarsy and I'll do my best.



Final Steps

- Complete the Course Selection Form by **Feb 24th**.

<https://forms.office.com/r/kRwwsNm68P>

- See or email Ms. Cancar if you have more questions.
- Parents/Caregivers, feel free to email me with questions not covered in this presentation: mcancar@vsb.bc.ca
- Students, you can build your communication skills and post-secondary readiness by practicing emailing me yourself. I try to copy parents on schedule-related emails.

Want to talk more about course planning or need help?

- I will be holding an afternoon Q & A session on TEAMS February 1st from 2:30-3:30p.m. Students & parents/caregivers are welcome to attend.
- Students will have an in-person course planning assembly during FIT on Thursday February 16th.
- FIT Time drop-in sessions will take place in the computer lab on Tuesday, February 21st and Thursday February 23rd

To recap:

• TALK

Talk to elective teachers to find out more about their courses

• SELECT

Please select 3 alternate elective courses in case your first choices are full or don't work with your timetable

• COMPLETE

Complete the Course Selection Form by February 24th (QR Code in next slide)

• ASK

Ask Ms Cancar if you have any questions (by email or in person!)



Tupper Secondary - Grade 8 to 9 Course Selection Form

