

ÉCOLE GEORGE ELLIOT SECONDARY
GRADE 9 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
2026-2027



VISION STATEMENT

Love, Learn, Thrive

Non Nobis Solum - *"Not For Ourselves Alone"*

Principal: Mr. R. Aviani

Vice Principals: Mrs. J. Hall & Mr. C. Mayer

Counsellors: Mr. B. Sookochoff & Mr. B. Shaw

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WELCOME

The purpose of this guide is to provide students and families with information about courses and programs available at George Elliot Secondary School. It is important to know that the final responsibility for course selection remains with each student and their parents/guardians. Please read this guide carefully. For further information, please contact Mr. Sookochoff (brent.sookochoff@sd23.bc.ca) at George Elliot Secondary (250-870-5102).

FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE:

<i>Contact the school counsellors:</i>	<i>Mr. Sookochoff (students entering grade 9) Mr. Shaw (students entering grades 10-12)</i>
<i>Contact your Vice-Principal:</i>	<i>Mr. Mayer (students with last name A-K) Mrs. Hall (students with last name L-Z)</i>
<i>Contact the Principal:</i>	<i>Mr. Aviani</i>
<i>General Inquiries:</i>	<i>Mrs. Robinson (Head Secretary) Mrs. Komant (Student Records)</i>

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REQUIRED COURSES

English Language Program		French Immersion Program	
English 9 Science 9 PHE 9 (3 Options)	Math 9 Social Studies 9 Careers 9*	Français Langue 9 Sciences Naturelles 9 English 9 Careers 9*	Mathématiques 9 Sciences Humaines 9 PHE 9 (3 Options)

English 9: This course is designed to help a student broaden and develop their confidence when reading, writing, speaking, listening, researching and studying. A variety of short stories, plays and novels might be read and analyzed during the course. In addition, there is a focus on the clear transmission of ideas both in written and oral form.

Math 9: Students are empowered as they develop proficiency in using mathematics as a tool, a process, and a way to understand the patterns and relationships within the world. The concepts covered in this class are rational numbers, exponents, polynomials, linear equations, graphing, financial literacy, statistics, and similarities. Students will work independently and collaboratively to solve problems and develop numeracy skills.

Science 9: Science at the Grade 9 level has students studying four areas. These include: Chemistry, Biology, Electricity and Nutrient cycles. Theory and hands-on experiences will be used to learn each topic.

Social Studies 9: The emerging and ever changing power balances ideas and ideologies that profoundly influence societies and events from 1750 to World War 1 are the big ideas addressed. The physical environment that influences the nature of political, social and economic change is the background lens through which we analyze the sweeping changes of this period.

Physical & Health Education 9: In PHE 9, the focus is on team sports with time also spent on individual activities. PHE 9 includes fitness and active healthy living components. social and economic change is the background lens through which we analyze the sweeping changes of this period. Hockey Skills Academy, Soccer Academy.

Careers 9: Career exploration allows students to dig deeper into learning about careers in local and regional labour markets. Experiences are tailored to help students make better informed education and future career choices. *The content of Careers 9 is embedded within the other course offerings.*

INTEGRATED LEARNING

Integrated Learning 9: In this integrated class, you'll satisfy curriculum requirements in Science and Social Studies, while exploring big questions about the world, your community, and your future. This course is hands-on, land-based, inquiry-based, and student-driven, meaning your interests help shape what and how you learn.

You'll study topics like climate change, ecosystems, identity, social justice, history, and decision-making, not in isolation, but as connected systems that affect people and the land. You'll spend time learning outside and on the land across the Okanagan (at least once a month), working with local experts, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community mentors.

This course is for students who:

- Like learning by doing, not just listening
- Want their learning to connect to real issues and real places
- Care about the environment, community, and future possibilities
- Want more voice, choice, and independence in their learning

You'll build skills that matter beyond school (communication, teamwork, leadership, research, reflection, and goal-setting) while exploring careers and pathways that align with who you are and what you care about.

By the end of the course, you'll have a stronger sense of who you are, where you're going, and how you can make a difference.

*This course runs all year (for a half-day every second day).
Field study fees may apply.*

This course satisfies the following curriculum:

- Science 9
- Social Studies 9

FRENCH IMMERSION

Français Langue 9: The heart of the immersion program aims to place the student in learning situations in a Francophone context. These situations will allow them to acquire the skills, knowledge and strategies necessary to communicate and interact in French effectively and with confidence. Students will develop their language skills in French and discover the richness and diversity of Francophone cultures and works.

Mathématiques 9: Students are empowered as they develop proficiency in using mathematics as a tool, a process and a way to further understand the patterns and relationships within the world. Mathematical abilities enable them to understand their place in society from both an individual and a global perspective. Mathematical knowledge, attitudes, and skills create opportunities for and enrich the lives of us all. The concepts covered in this class are rational numbers, exponents, polynomials, linear equations, graphing, financial literacy, statistics and similarities. Students will work independently and collaboratively to solve problems and develop numeracy skills.

Sciences Humaines 9: The emerging and ever changing power balances ideas and ideologies that profoundly influence societies and events from 1750 to after World War 1 are the big ideas addressed. The physical environment that influences the nature of political, social and economic change is the background lens through which we analyze the sweeping changes of this period.

Sciences Naturelles 9: Science at the Grade 9 level has students studying four areas. These include: Chemistry, Biology, Electricity and Nutrient cycles. Theory and hands-on experiences will be used to learn each topic.

LANGUAGE ELECTIVE

French 9: French 9 is an academic elective covered in a complete semester. This course is designed to develop the student's reading, writing, speaking and listening skills through purposeful use of the language.

SAMPLER ELECTIVES

Art Sampler		Shop Sampler	
Art 9 Drama 9	Digital Design 9 Guitar 9	Metal Sampler 9	Wood Sampler 9

Art Foundations 9: Students will be introduced to the elements and principles of art as the fundamental building blocks. They will have fun using various mediums and will get a chance to explore techniques that allow them to familiarize themselves with the basic skills that will be built upon in further Art classes.

Digital Design 9: This course will provide students with the foundational skills to create interesting and creative digital art and designs for things like posters, album covers, animations, and more. Students will get to use the latest digital tools including professional drawing tablets and vinyl printers as well as the industry-standard editing software such as Illustrator, Photoshop, Animate, and more!

Drama 9: Drama 9 focuses on developing acting skills through theatre games, improvisation, and scripted plays. The class undertakes several projects, which focus on developing communication through body language/facial expression, tone of voice, and verbal clarity.

Guitar 9: Guitar 9 focuses on how to play and perform with the guitar. You will learn to read notes, tabs, and chords, which are needed to know how to play your favourite songs. This class is perfect for beginners, or those who have some experience. School instruments are provided, but students are encouraged to have their own instrument.

Students who choose to take the Art Sampler will be required to take all four of the above electives during a semester. Two classes will be taken during one term, and two during the other.

Wood/Metal Sampler 9: This sample course introduces students to the basics in creating beginner projects in wood and metal. Students will learn safe machining practices along with effective and decorative wood joining techniques. Students will also be introduced to metal fabrication and welding to create functional and creative projects. This course allows students to experience the creation process using hand tools, basic power tools and machine tools.

Students who choose to take the Shop Sampler will be required to take both Wood 9 and Metal 9 over the course of a semester.

FULL SEMESTER ELECTIVES

Foods 9: This course gives students the opportunity to prepare a variety of exciting dishes while learning new culinary techniques. It includes the evaluation and planning of foods and meals from each food group, sanitation and food safety, environmental concerns and consumer issues. This is a lab-oriented course where students are involved in collaborative and cooperative teamwork. This is a fun course for students who enjoy cooking and would like to develop their cooking skills.

Indigenous Art and Textiles 9: This is a hands-on, creative course for students who enjoy making, experimenting, and working with materials. This class explores Indigenous art as a living and contemporary practice, with a focus on textiles and natural materials. Students will create art through projects such as beading, fibre work, clay, natural dyes and paints, and mixed media. Alongside making, students will learn about Indigenous visual storytelling, symbolism, and design through examples such as pictographs, West Coast design, and creation stories. No previous art experience is required. This course is designed as an entry point into studio-based art courses. It provides a strong foundation for students interested in continuing into SCRAP Studio or other senior art classes.

Leadership 9: Leadership is for students who are inspired to make a difference in their school and community through hands-on activities, training, presentations, event organization, fundraising, and service. Some participation in activities outside of the regular class time is expected.

Metal Craft 9: This course introduces students to metalworking through a series of creative, hands-on projects. Students will safely learn and practice skills such as measuring, cutting, forming, soldering, welding, and basic blacksmithing while creating items including a decorative pendant, a stylized ring, a functional whistle, a sheet metal pencil case, a forged coat hook, a welded mini anvil, and a chain ball. The course emphasizes craftsmanship, creativity, and problem-solving, helping students build confidence and appreciation for metalwork as both a functional trade skill and an artistic practice.

Photography 9: See the world through a different lens. We welcome everyone at all levels ready to pick up their first dedicated camera. This course focuses on the foundational art of the image—exploring lighting, framing, and genres like portraiture and street photography. You'll learn to turn your vision into reality using industry-leading editing platforms, such as Lightroom and Photoshop, while shooting with professional-grade equipment. New students can learn the ropes, and experienced students can refine their technical skills. *Cameras are provided for student use.*

Video Production 9: Start your journey behind the lens! Whether you've never held a camera before, or you're a practiced content creator, this course is the place to build your foundation. Students will learn to create films from start to finish—covering everything from the basics of scriptwriting and filming, to green screens and visual effects. You'll use professional cinema cameras and the Adobe Creative Suite, including industry-standard editing platforms like Premiere Pro and After Effects, to bring your imagination to life. This course is designed to be accessible for newcomers while offering the tools and space for experienced students to push their limits. *Cameras are provided for student use.*

Wild Ed 9: Where the land becomes your classroom and mentor. Immerse yourself in the exploration of the local environment and the abundant wonders of the natural world while developing essential outdoor skills. Learn about yourself by exploring ways to connect to our local territory and deepen your understanding of what it means to be a caretaker of this Earth. You will also engage in activities related to investigating, understanding, and appreciating nature, while having opportunities to share your love of the land by becoming guides for those in our community.

Wood Craft 9: This course introduces students to the basics in creating unique and creative projects using wood, stained glass and other materials. Students will learn safe machining practices along with effective and decorative wood joining techniques that will give their projects strength and beauty. Students will have the opportunity to add their own style to each project and build each piece to fit their needs. Table and mirror projects will introduce basic machining techniques and students can incorporate stained glass and sandblasting to customize the project. Wood jewelry, musical instruments, custom wooden pens, decorative boxes and student interest pieces will also be optional projects. A fee will be required for materials for projects beyond the basic course requirements.

MUSIC COURSES

Band 9: Band 9 builds on skills developed in Band 8, with an increased focus on scale and chord theory. Students will explore a diverse range of music through performance and listening. Attendance at concerts and festivals is expected, and the group traditionally participates in a spring trip. Students are responsible for providing their own instrument. No prior experience is required; beginners with an interest in joining are welcome. *This is an all-year linear course paired with a linear English 9.*

Choir 9: In Choir 9, you will explore the fundamentals of vocal performance while developing your skills in music theory, sight-singing, and ensemble singing. This course is designed for students with varying levels of choral experience, from beginners to those with previous vocal training. *This is an all-year linear course which runs outside of the timetable, and can be taken in addition to a regular full-time course load.*

Commercial Music 9: Commercial music 9 is a music performance course where students can learn how to create, perform, and record music. Students will have the opportunity to perform and record individually and as a group. Students are expected to be actively involved in singing or playing an instrument as part of the class.

Jazz Band 9: Jazz Band is a course for Grade 9 students offered outside of the schedule that places instrumental music students in a "Big Band" performing group. The musical styles of Jazz, R & B, and Funk are emphasized. Preferred instruments are trombones, trumpets, saxophones, flutes, guitar, piano, bass and drums. *This is an all-year linear course which runs outside of the timetable, and can be taken in addition to a regular full-time course load.*

PHYSICAL HEALTH EDUCATION

High Performance Volleyball 9: Designed for motivated athletes who are interested in high level skill development moving towards playing on competitive teams. This PE option involves sport specific fitness training and skills designed for the student athlete wanting to grow their skills. Including weightroom, speed & agility training and mindset strategies.

Hockey Skills Academy 9: This course will take place at the Winfield Arena 2-3 times per week during Semester 1. Hockey Academy focuses on various on-ice skill development with accredited instructors. Students will have the opportunity to improve their skill development, individual game, and build confidence moving forward in Hockey. To secure your spot, a \$100 deposit is due to the office or on-line by March 9, 2026 and full payment is required by June 3, 2026. Total Cost—\$725 (Goalies pay \$360).

Soccer Academy 9: This course includes 3 to 4.5 hrs/week of intense training that will focus on individual skill development and also touch on team concepts. Students will travel to and from the Vernon Toyota Indoor Sports Centre during the pre-spring break period and all post-spring break classes will take place at Beasley Fields. To secure your spot a \$100 deposit is due by March 9, 2026 and full payment by June 3, 2026. Total Cost—\$400.

Please note the fees associated with both the Hockey Skills Academy and the Soccer Skills Academy. Online payment plans for academies can be set up at the main office. Please call Ms. Polson (Bookkeeper) at 250.870.5102.

As per Board Policy 425R: Students will not be excluded from any educational program due to financial hardship.

OUTSIDE OF THE TIMETABLE ELECTIVES

Any courses selected that are outside the timetable are scheduled before or after regular school hours. These courses are over and above the regular scheduled courses that fill a grade 9 student's timetable.

Theatre Performance 9: Introductory Drama focuses on developing acting skills through theatre games, improvisation, and scripted plays. Students prepare much of their own material and are encouraged to perform publicly at least once in the course of the school year. The class undertakes several projects, which may include an elementary school play or a full-length play.

Yearbook 9: This course will take place after school hours; punctuality and attendance is a must. Students must be prepared to work independently outside of that time frame to "cover" school functions and to take photos. The yearbook is a reflection of our school and of a year in the lives of more than nine hundred students and staff. You will learn about graphic design elements and principles, creative layout design, journalism, and photography techniques. We create our yearbook digitally online using eDesign. Students will be expected to complete many assignments outside of class time on computers, on-line. This course is only offered outside the timetable.

COURSE SELECTION 2026 - IMPORTANT DATES:

Family Information Night	Feb. 11 (7:15 PM - thtr.)
Grade 9 Elective Tours	Feb. 6 (afternoon)
Online Course Selection Opens	Feb. 12
Online Course Selection Closes	Mar. 2
Academy Deposits Due	Mar. 9
Course Selection Verifications Sent	After Spring Break