

**GEORGE ELLIOT SECONDARY
GRADE 9 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
2025-2026**



Vision Statement

Love, Learn, Thrive

Principal: Mr. J. Laird

Vice Principals: Mrs. J. Hall & TBA

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

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Course Selection 2025/2026

The purpose of this guide is to provide students and parents 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. Brent Sookochoff at George Elliot Secondary (250-870-5102) or by email brent.sookochoff@sd23.bc.ca

FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE:

Contact the school counsellors:.....Mr. Sookochoff (students entering grade 9)

Contact your Vice-Principal:.....TBA (students with last name A-K)

.....Mrs. Hall (students with last name L-Z)

Contact the Principal:.....Mr. Laird

General Inquiries:.....Mrs. Robinson (Head Secretary)

.....Ms. Komant (Student Records)

Required Courses

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

English 9: This course is designed to help a student broaden and develop their confidence when reading, writing, speaking, listening, researching and studying. A number of short stories, plays and novels will 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 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.

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 required and elective course offerings.**

Applied Humanities

Applied Humanities 9: This course will be taught in community for grades 9-10, merging English and social studies. Students will explore global issues and engage in perspective-taking to consider unheard voices. There will be a strong emphasis placed on student safety and well-being. This course will embrace diverse learning styles, aiming to cultivate critical thinking, empathy, and readiness for a multifaceted world. This course will help learners build fundamental skills in literacy.

French Immersion

Francais 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.

Applied Skills 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.

Metal 9: This is an introductory course to metalwork. Students will make a decorative pendant, a functional whistle, a sheet metal pencil case, a blacksmithed coat hook, a welded mini anvil, and a chain ball.

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.

Photography and Video Production 9: Make cool stuff! This course will provide students with the foundational skills to create interesting and original films and photographs. Students will get to use the latest in cameras and editing platforms including professional cinema and photography cameras as well as industry-standard editing software such as Photoshop, Premiere Pro, Lightroom, and more!

Digital Design & Animation 9: Create wonderful things! 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!

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.

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.

Fine Arts Electives

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Commercial Music 9: Commercial music 9 is a music performance course where you learn how to create, perform, and record music. You 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.

Dice Discoveries 9: Unlock the realms of imagination and storytelling in our groundbreaking new course: Dice Discoveries Navigating Creative Writing and Storytelling in Tabletop Adventure. This innovative curriculum offers an immersive exploration of the dynamic world of storytelling within TTRPGs (Table-Top Role-Playing Games). Dive into the heart of narrative structures, character development, and thematic richness unique to TTRPGs. Through hands-on experiences as both players and game masters, students will dissect game manuals, character sheets, and campaign settings, unraveling the art of crafting compelling stories in a collaborative setting.

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.

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. Because this course is outside-of-timetable, it can be taken in addition to a regular full time course load.

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.

Grade 9 Academies

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, 2025 and full payment is required by June 3, 2025. 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, 2025 and full payment by June 3, 2025. Total Cost—\$400.**

On-line payment plans for academies can be set up at the main office. Please call Ms. Polson (Bookkeeper) at 250.870.5102. Please note, as per Board Policy 425R: Students will not be excluded from any educational program due to financial hardship.

COURSE SELECTION 2025—Important Dates

Parent Information Night.....	February 12 (7:15 Theatre)
Grade 9 Elective Tours.....	February 12
On-line Course Selection Opens.....	February 18
On-line Course Selection Closes.....	March 9
Academy Deposits Due.....	March 9
Course Selection Verifications Sent.....	After Spring Break