

Nose Creek School



Grade 8 Overview 2017-2018

Welcome to Grade 8 at Nose Creek School! Our learning team is very excited to embark on this journey with you. As a learning team our emphasis will be to provide opportunities for students to deepen their understanding of the world around them. Students will be challenged to make connections amongst all subject areas and the world they live in. We will be integrating inquiry-based learning into our lessons to foster critical and creative thinking, problem solving strategies, and practical applications.

The Grade 8 team consists of: Danielle Burden, Michele Midyette, Aynsley Rishaug, Sonia Tyhonchuk, and Varinder Gill.

Course Description and Proposed Year Plan

Math

The main goals of Mathematics 8 Program are to prepare students to:

- use mathematics confidently to solve problems
- communicate and reason mathematically
- appreciate and value mathematics
- make connections between mathematics and its applications
- commit themselves to lifelong learning
- become mathematically literate adults, using mathematics to contribute to society

September – end of January	February - June
Units: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integers• Fractions• Rates, Ratios, Percent and Proportion	Units: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data Analysis• Patterns and Relations• Shape and Space

The Math 8 program consists of the following course stems:

1. Understands mathematical concepts and relationships.
2. Uses mathematical reasoning to analyze and solve problems.
3. Explores and develops strategies for mental mathematics and estimation.
4. Develops and applies appropriate and efficient strategies for computation.
5. Models, represents and communicates mathematical ideas.

Science

The goals of the Science 8 Program involve:

- the nature of science and science processes
- the relationships between science and technology
- science, technology and society (STS)

Together these approaches are designed to develop students' critical thinking skills. They learn to identify scientific questions, technological problems and STS issues while recognizing the underlying assumptions of each. Students will use science and technology to acquire new knowledge and solve problems, develop the ability to identify and gather data, make inferences and draw conclusions from this data. Students are encouraged to assess issues from various viewpoints and evaluate evidence on specific issues. As well, our goal is to develop a critical sense of wonder and curiosity about scientific and technological endeavours.

September – end of January	February - June
Units: • Lab Safety • Mix and Flow of Matter • Cells and Systems	Units: • Light and Optics • Mechanical • Fresh and Saltwater Systems

The Science 8 program consists of the following course stems:

1. Understands and makes connections between concepts.
2. Analyzes and solves problems through scientific reasoning.
3. Develops skills for inquiry and communication.
4. Explores scientific events and issues in society and the environment.

Humanities

Humanities is a course of study that maximizes the natural links that exist between the Language Arts Program and the Social Studies Program. The language arts strands (reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and representing) are best realized when they are context based.

Students will be engaged in activities that meet the requirements of both the Language Arts and Social Studies Program of Studies; both subjects are combined and the student learner expectations mandated by Alberta Education for both disciplines will be met. A humanities approach allows interdisciplinary connections and creates time for further exploration of concepts and issues.

In order to achieve these goals, we will be following the guideline below, which is a rough estimate and may change as needed. Throughout the course of the year, we will also be focusing on specific skills and instructions to improve students' reading and writing competencies, as these are fundamental to build a solid foundation for literacy skills. The basis for the Language Arts curriculum is to, "enable each student to understand and appreciate language, and to use it confidently and competently in

a variety of situations for communication, personal satisfaction and learning” as stated in the program of studies by Alberta Education.

Below is a guideline for the language arts portion of Humanities 8:

September – end of January	February - June
Units: · Short stories · Novel study · Script writing	Units: · Poetry · Persuasive writing · Literature circles · Book Club · Advertising

The theme for Grade 8 Social Studies is Worldviews Contact and Change.

September – end of January	February - June
Units: · Introduction to Worldviews · Medieval and Renaissance Europe: Origins of a Western Worldview	Units: · Worldviews in Conflict: Spanish and Aztec · Japan: From Isolation to Adaptation

The Humanities 8 program consists of the following course stems:

1. Reads to explore, construct and extend understanding.
2. Writes to develop, organize and express information and ideas.
3. Manages and evaluates information and ideas.
4. Constructs meaning and makes connections through speaking.
5. Constructs meaning and makes connections through listening.
6. Represents ideas and creates understanding through a variety of media.
7. Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of citizenship and identity.
8. Explores events and issues from different points of view.
9. Demonstrates skills and processes for inquiry and research.
10. Communicates ideas in an informed and persuasive manner.

Health

At Nose Creek School our Health program is integrated in our daily Physical Education class. Students will have one week of Health where they will participate in Health instead of daily Physical Education followed by 4 or 5 weeks of time back in the gym. This rotation will start in September and finish at the end of May. Each Grade has a specific Health specialist that is the contact concerning any missed work or time away from the class. The units covered in Health are: Healthy Eating, Relationship Choices, and Life Learning Choices.

Physical Education

The Physical Education program seeks to provide students with an education that enables all students to enhance their quality of life through life long fitness and a healthy active living. Our weekly Unit’s will be posted on the P.E. Blog for each specific grade level. This blog also is updated information around school activities and sports and Kodiak Athletic tryouts/team’s or practices.

Students in Grade 5 – 9 are required to change into alternate clothing along with indoor gym shoes (athletic shoes/shorts/pants/t-shirt/leggings) for each gym class throughout the year and need to be dressed appropriately if they are going outside for class. Students in Grade 4 have the option to change if they would like but are not required to on a daily basis. They are required to have indoor athletic shoes that are non-marking throughout the year. We have specific Physical Education teachers who will be teaching the full year in a P.E. setting.

Grade 8 P.E. Teachers: Mr. Price, Mrs. Logan, Mr. Thouret, Mrs. Midyette, Ms. Tyhonchuk

Assessment

Students' assessment will be based on their ability to demonstrate an understanding of curriculum objectives based on the Program of Studies and will be determined through a variety of formative and summative assessments, including but not limited to: projects, assignments, visual journals, interdisciplinary work, presentations, written work, tests, quizzes, etc.

Students will be graded on the following scale:

- 1 - Not meeting
- 2 - Basic
- 3 - Good
- 4 - Excellent

Expectations for Behavior, Absences, and Assignment Completion

Be Prepared:

- Bring all necessary supplies with you to class
- Have all homework completed before the class starts
- Enter the classroom quietly, sit down and prepare your materials to be ready for work.

Be respectful:

- Use your class time effectively and safely
- Treat each other in a caring, respectful manner, displaying KODIAK SPIRIT
- Share your insights at appropriate times

Be responsible:

- If you don't understand – ASK!
- If you are falling behind because you are not sure of the expectations, make a plan to see your teacher at lunch or after school to get the explanation
- Anyone caught cheating on a test, copying homework, or any other form of plagiarism will have a consequence. This may also include the person who allows the cheating to occur. If you feel as though people are pressuring you to share your homework or test responses, please approach your teacher in private to discuss what is happening.

- Keep up with your assignments and make sure you check Nose Creek School communication tools daily for information about assignments, upcoming quizzes and tests, etc.
- Keep your notes organized with titles and dates
- Review your work regularly and prepare for tests well in advance

Please refer to the Nose Creek School Handbook for more information. To find the handbook please go to Nose Creek School's website (<http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b661/>), click on ***school information*** then ***school handbook***.

Absences

- If you were absent from the previous class, it is your responsibility to find out what work you have missed and complete it. Check the Grade 8 blog which can be accessed at: <http://kodiaks8.weebly.com>. If you do not have access to a computer or internet, please ask a peer to gather any handouts you may have missed and please complete as soon as you can.
- Be prepared to complete any missed tests, quizzes, assignments or presentations missed when you return.

Assignments

- Assignments must be handed in complete or students will be asked to resubmit them.
- Students will be expected to hand in assignments on a given due date. After the due date, they will be given 3 days to submit their assignment, however, it **MUST** be signed by the parent/guardian indicating their understanding that the assignment is late. IF there is ongoing concern with lates or missed assignment, parents/guardians will be contacted to discuss the issue.
- Name (first and last), homeroom number and date should be placed on all handouts, quizzes and tests.

Helpful Hints:

Parents can assist by taking an active part in their child's learning by:

- Checking the *Teacher Blog* (<http://kodiaks8.weebly.com>) or the Nose Creek School website at <http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b661/> regularly will allow both you and your child to stay on top of things.
- Checking the student's notebooks/binders, work, quizzes and tests.
- Ask to see your child's monthly communication piece about their time at school.
- Encourage your child to review previous chapters, vocabulary terms, quizzes and tests. Encourage your child to come in after class for extra help.
- Encourage your child to read and to practice math for 30 minutes each, on a nightly basis.

- Setting aside a routine specific time and focused place for homework and/or review (students should be spending approximately 60 minutes per day - if no current homework is due, this time should be spent reading or reviewing)

Teacher Contact Information

Parents are encouraged to make contact with us if they have questions or want to keep updated on their child's progress. *E-mail is the most efficient way to reach us.*

Contact for Grade 8 Teachers:

Danielle Burden – dmburden@cbe.ab.ca or 403-817-3360 ext. 2114

Sonia Tyhonchuk – sotyhonchuk@cbe.ab.ca or 403-817-3360 ext. 2113

Michele Midyette – mdmidyette@cbe.ab.ca or 403-817-3360 ext. 2118

Aynsley Rishaug – amrishaug@cbe.ab.ca or 403-817-3360 ext. 2119

Varinder Gill – vkgill@cbe.ab.ca or 403-817-3360 ext. 2109