



Grade 7-9 Complementary Programs:

Purpose:

At West Ridge School, we offer a variety of complementary programs. These programs are designed to help young adolescents explore a variety of experiences. Students will explore many programs in grade 5 and 6 where they will learn about themselves and areas of interest. As they move into grade 7 to 9 they will be able to select their own courses and delve more deeply into areas of passion.

Student Choice:

Students select from a variety of programs based on their conversation with parents and teachers and by applying knowledge of themselves as a learner.

Final Course Availability:

Please be aware that some courses may be cancelled due to demand, timetable constraints, expertise, and other unforeseen circumstances. We have listed all the courses that we are ready to offer. The final timetable will be determined by the selections and interest of students.

Exploratory:

The complementary program allows students to try different courses and experiences. By providing a variety of courses students are able to delve into areas of passion, or experiment with different complementary courses over the course of the year.

Grade Seven to Nine Complementary Programs

Students select a variety of complementary programs. Some courses are full year (Art, Drama, Band and French). Other courses are one semester in duration.

Choose Wisely!

Please read through the attached descriptions before selecting courses. We will do our best to place you into as many of your top choices as possible!

Fine Arts Courses

The Fine Arts includes art, drama and instrumental music (band). In each area there are common outcomes - the student is involved as creator, performer, historian, critic and consumer.

Art



Art - 7, 8, 9 (full year course)

Students have an opportunity to explore a range of two-dimensional projects using a variety of mediums. Each project given will allow students to explore their creativity through an art challenge as they work through the design process from planning to final art piece. Mediums students will be able to work with include pencil, charcoal, pastel, paint, ink, collage and print making.

Students will also be using both traditional and non-traditional three-dimensional materials that could include papier-mâché, clay, metal, textiles and mixed media. Emphasis is on basic design elements, creativity and craftsmanship. The process of art-making with these mediums will be emphasized through a series of art challenges. The course will provide an opportunity for exploration and discussion of sculptural practices.

Drama

Drama 7, 8, 9 (full year course)



Students will develop skills in acting, improvisation, movement and speaking as well as learn the history and context of theatre. Interesting areas of study will be stage fighting, monologues, short scenes, drama games, and tableaux.

Students will also study the many elements that go into staging a successful production, such as sound and lighting design, makeup, visual media, set and prop construction, and stage management.



Instrumental Music

Grade 7 Band (full year course)

Grade 7 band allows students the opportunity to play a wind instrument, and explore more exciting and challenging music throughout the year. Instruments included will be flute, clarinet, saxophone, trombone, baritone, French horn, trumpet, and tuba. They will also have access to the percussion instruments, at the discretion of the band director. Students focus on proper playing positions, skill development, and basic musical concepts. There will be a variety of performance opportunities throughout the year.



Grade 8 Band (full year course)

Grade 8 band will continue to develop wind instrument skills. They will also have access to the percussion instruments, at the discretion of the band director. They will explore more exciting and challenging music, including popular songs and movie music. Students will learn music history and more complex music theory. There will be a variety of performance opportunities throughout the year.

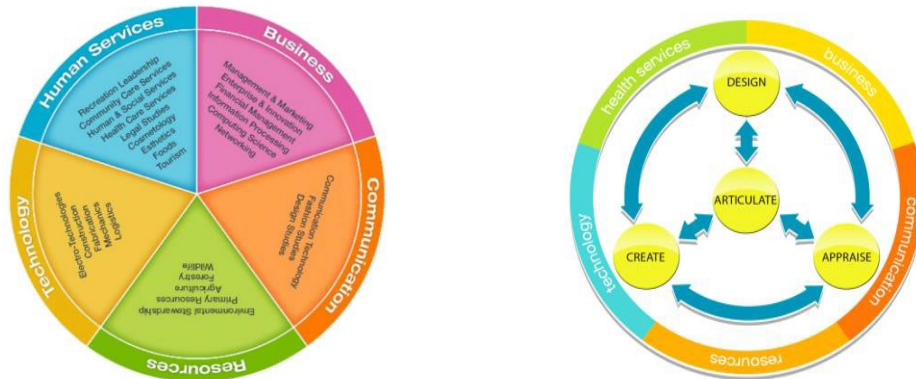
Grade 9 Band (full year course)

Students will continue to develop their musical skills and knowledge. Music will become more challenging and cover a wide variety of musical genres. Students will be taking a more in depth look at music history and theory. Instruments included will be all wind instruments (brass and woodwinds) as well as percussion. There will be a variety of performance opportunities throughout the year.



Career and Technology Foundations (CTF) Courses

Career and Technology Foundations (CTF) provides project-based learning experiences designed to help students explore their talents related to occupation-specific knowledge and skills related to five career clusters: business, communication, resources, technology and health/human services.



CTF Clusters and Occupational Areas

CTF – Financial Management

Financial Management 7 (one semester course)

Students are introduced to foundational financial concepts and terminology with opportunities to apply their knowledge and understanding in individual and group tasks. Students will learn about Credit Cards, Money Borrowing, Interest, Savings, and more. Students will explore the Junior Achievement module "Dollars With Sense" throughout the course. If you are interested in how to set yourself up for financial success, look no further!



Financial Management 8 (one semester course)

Students learn more of the entrepreneurial side of Finance with the class focus on business. Students start by exploring the role of advertising: what makes an advertisement effective, and why do companies need to advertise. Students will learn about a variety of entrepreneurs and how to start a business. The final project for this class is a Dragon's Den start-up, where students work in groups to plan and produce a product or service with the intent on trying to market it in the school.



Financial Management 9 (one semester course)

Students prepare for their financial future through monthly budgets, analyzing post-secondary education opportunities, and determining potential careers. This class helps students prepare for what lies ahead of them when they enter adulthood and their high school years. In addition, there is a Stock Market Simulation put on by Junior Achievement where students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of investing. Lastly, students will learn how to market themselves and apply for jobs.

CTF - Communication Courses



Digital Photography 7, 8, 9 (one semester course)

Students will improve their technical knowledge and learn techniques to use digital cameras in a variety of projects. They will learn elements of photograph composition, portrait taking, how to best photograph landscapes, and a variety of effects. Photography effects we will work with include practical effects, in-camera effects and digital manipulations. As students develop skills from one grade to the next, the program focus shifts more towards gaining experience with the many functions of Photoshop and the creativity that it facilitates. Students will also create portfolios and learn to display their work in various forms. Photography skills may have the opportunity to be published in the yearbook.



Film Studies 7, 8, 9 (one semester course)

Students will develop the ability to think critically about films in terms of content and context, filming techniques and theme through analysis and evaluation. Students will also explore film creation and editing techniques using cameras and video editing software.



Fashion Studies 7, 8, 9 (one semester course)

Students learn sewing and pressing techniques, the selection and care of fabric, and how to use sewing equipment. Students are encouraged to determine their own personal style in designing and deciding on the types of projects they will create based on their skill level. Students may have the opportunity to explore knitting, crocheting, quilting, making soft toys, making clothing, bags and other accessories. Students look at the role of the fashion industry historically, sociologically and economically on our world and the increased use of technology both in the making of textiles and directly in the garments themselves.



Publishing (Yearbook) 8 & 9 (one semester course)

Students engage in the digital design process and learn how to navigate an online publishing program with the end goal of creating West Ridge's yearbook. Students are assigned specific yearbook pages and work collaboratively to craft page layouts that appeal to the eye, showcase school photographs with the strongest composition, and tell the story of our school year in a thematic way. Students also engage deeply in the editing process by self-editing their assigned pages and those of their peers, as a means of modeling the actual publishing process.

CTF - Human Services Courses

Food Basics 7 (one semester course)

Students create basic meals from recipes that can be easily made at home; and that are both quick and nutritious. Students learn safe and sanitary food handling procedures, equipment care, comprehension of recipes, and the importance of efficient cleaning habits. Students also work with basic knife skills and handling of raw meat.



Baking Basics 7 (one semester course)

Students develop and demonstrate an understanding of traditional and contemporary baking. Focus will be on basic measuring techniques, preparation methods, role of ingredients, proper use of equipment for baked goods, and efficient cleaning habits. Lab activities are selected to provide students with the opportunity to prepare a variety of baked goods at the basic level.

Snacks & Appetizers 8 (one semester course)

Students create a variety of snacks and appetizers that are centered around social events. They will learn more about the presentation of food, how to make food visually appealing, and cooking for large scale events. Students will ultimately learn how to make a variety of artistic garnishes that look and taste amazing.



Cultural Foods 8 (one semester course)

Students create dishes from various countries that they study in Grade 8 Humanities (Italy, Japan, Mexico). We do an in-depth study of ingredients and cooking techniques that are at the core of each country's cuisine. Students will have the opportunity to work with a variety of unique and exotic ingredients with origins to these countries. If you are adventurous and like trying new and unusual recipes, this class is for you!

Advanced Foods 9 (one semester course)

Students work on three major components in this course: the five Mother Sauces, rice dishes, and preparing a 3-course meal. They will demonstrate their level of creativity and precision by making common variations of each Mother Sauce and by creating their own unique rice dish. Lastly, students will learn advanced cooking techniques and recipes that prepare them for the culminating "Iron Chef" competition.

Advanced Baking 9 (one semester course)

Students continue to develop and demonstrate an understanding of traditional and baking with various crusts, doughs, and cakes. After our introductory unit on pies, students will then learn about decorative toppings and piping techniques for cookies, cupcakes, and doughnuts. Finally, we end with our cake unit and the ultimate test for students to demonstrate their learning with the "Cake War" competition.

CTF – Technology Courses

Construction 7, 8, 9 (one semester course)



Students experience a skills-based approach to learning how to build a variety of projects. In this course students will develop appropriate tool safety as well as knowledge on how to best utilize a given tool. Students new to the program begin with hand tools. As they progress students have the opportunity to work with a full selection of power tools. Students personalize plans to align with their own interests and build skills towards developing their own projects from scratch. Some larger projects or specific materials could require an additional cost to students.

Robotics 7, 8, 9 (one semester course)



Students learn how to design and build robots to complete a variety of tasks and challenges using LEGO-based kits and BBC Micro Bits. Additional concepts explored include engineering principles and planning strategies, effective troubleshooting and problem solving methods, and mechanical systems that complement a robot's abilities. We discuss the role robots play in our daily life, where our relationship with technology is heading, and the increasing possibilities for automation in agriculture. We also look at case studies involving local examples of innovation in automation making change in the world.



Environmental and Outdoor Education Courses

EnvOE is an activity-based course that provides opportunities for in-depth practical studies and experiences. It is designed to give students the opportunity to develop leadership skills, build knowledge about environmental studies, and experience outdoor pursuits. There is a course fee to pay for the booking of class excursions.



Environmental and Outdoor Education 7 – Introductory Skills (one semester course)

In Grade 7 we focus on introducing students to a variety of seasonally focused outdoor activities and developing their skills as outdoor enthusiasts and future leaders. Some of the topics we explore are: bike mechanics, first-aid skills, rock climbing (top-rope & auto belay systems), trip preparation, orienteering, animal tracking, winter survival skills, leave no trace practices, and environmental footprints. This course involves a variety of activities both on and off campus. The only prerequisites are having a positive attitude and showing a willingness to try new and exciting outdoor activities.

Environmental and Outdoor Education 8 – Fundamental Skills (one semester course)

In grade 8, we focus on foundational skills that improve student awareness of natural environments, build outdoor leadership skills and support students in develop their own environmental perspectives. Some of the topics that we explore are: wildlife safety, protected areas, standard first-aid, endangered species, rock climbing (top-rope & bouldering), fire-starting techniques, navigation, snowshoeing and winter shelters. This course will involve a variety of activities both on and off campus. The only prerequisites are having a positive attitude and showing a willingness to try new and exciting outdoor activities.



Environmental and Outdoor Education 9 – Advanced Skills (one semester course)

In Grade 9 students learn advanced skills that allow them to have safe, comfortable, and active outdoor experiences while developing them as outdoor leaders. Grade 9's practice these skills on field trips and while exploring mountain biking, wilderness first-aid, trip preparation, meal planning, cooking with stoves, navigation skills, water sports (canoe/kayaking), knots & ropes, snowshoeing, avalanche awareness, and survival skills. This course will involve a variety of activities both on and off campus. The only prerequisites are having a positive attitude and showing a willingness to try new and exciting outdoor activities.



Second Languages Courses

French 7 (full year course)



Students explore and engage in the French language through a variety of diverse activities. Through the use of skits, presentations, brochures, videos, posters, etc., students study the topics of weather, school, and people in the community. These activities integrate listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Students are exposed to language and grammar as well as culture and language-learning strategies.

French 8 (full year course)

Students engage in projects that build on their previous French language experience. Students learn about clothing, food, animals, and create projects to demonstrate their learning through the use of presentations, videos, scripts, posters, and brochures. In this interactive class, students will integrate listening, speaking, reading and writing, and be exposed to French culture throughout the term.



French 9 (full year course)

Students explore topics such as sports and sports injuries, home design, and communities (urban, rural, community businesses, services, and clubs). These units of study are covered in an interactive, hands-on environment that focuses on acquiring and perfecting language skills. Students will extend their knowledge of grammar, verb conjugations and tenses, as well as enhancing their vocabulary. French culture will continue to be a focus, as well as holidays and celebrations.



Locally Developed Courses

Power Up Your Learning 7, 8, 9 (one semester course)



This class is ideal for students who require extra time and support to complete assignments from their core classes. Students will identify and strengthen the focus of their learning goals. They will learn how to use their learning preferences and strengths as a learner. Students participate in small group and/or individual instruction of new strategies to support their personal learning style, including organizational skills, study strategies, remedial math, reading, and writing. Students learn to evaluate their own work and make adjustments to improve understanding and performance. They may also find how to access assistive technologies that can support their learning. In addition to these skills, they learn how to apply generic and subject-specific strategies to improve their learning across the curriculum.

Students will be given time for reading, studying, and polishing work from other classes. When appropriate, students are provided opportunities for deeper exploration of goal setting and creating action plans that support their goals.

Leadership / Service 7, 8, 9 (one semester course)



Student leadership and service development is integral to developing positive school culture, that teaches students the power of collaborative teams, and that focuses on the betterment of communities. These leadership and service experiences help students to understand that leadership includes both the ability to lead and to follow.

In Leadership / Service 7, 8 and 9 students will explore, apply and model leadership competencies in service of their class, school and larger communities.

