



Percy Baxter
Middle School

Percy Baxter School Grade 8 Complementary Course Descriptions 2016-2017

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

We are pleased to be able to offer a variety of complementary courses for your child in Grade 8 in the 2016-2017 school year. Students in Grade 8 are required to take the four core subjects (Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts), as well as Physical Education and Health.

Students are also enrolled in complementary courses (often referred to as "option" courses) each trimester. The introduction of the new CTF: Career and Technology Foundations curriculum has resulted in a shift in programming and assessment in many complementary courses. Students are primarily assessed on the development and demonstration of skills rather than knowledge outcomes in these classes.

Students in Grade 8 will be asked to **select 6 courses from the categories** that follow and will be registered in 5 of those choices, as Physical Education and Health are not optional. We will do our best to give students their choices for complementary courses however course availability is not always guaranteed. **Please CHOOSE CAREFULLY!** Any complementary courses with insufficient student enrollment will be cancelled. If a course is cancelled, students will be moved to another course.

We are encouraging parents/guardian(s) to sit down with your child and discuss the options best suited to their interests and abilities. The attached option form needs to be submitted to your child's homeroom teacher by Friday, June 10th, 2016. If this form is not returned, complementary course selections will be completed by school administration.

Fine Arts Course Descriptions

All students **MUST** select a **minimum of one course** from the following list of Fine Arts courses. (Students may select all courses in the Arts section should they choose.)

Art – General

The emphasis in the program is for students to explore as many different art techniques and media as possible. The program consists of the study of art elements and principles through demonstrations, observations, viewing and discussion of artistic works.

Drama - General

Drama requires a positive attitude and loads of energy! Students will have the opportunity to be involved in all aspects of theatre focusing on individual and collective creation. Specifically, they will explore topics and themes of interest while also developing the skills involved in improvisation.

Band (Full year course)

The Grade 8 Band program includes an introduction to all Band instruments. Participation in the Band option does not require any previous musical experience. Students who have no previous musical experience have great success in the band program. The Band option is also a great opportunity for students who would like to learn to play a second instrument and build on their current musical knowledge. All instruments available will be introduced and students will be able to make informed choices. Students will perform in a variety of concerts and festivals throughout the year. **(Fee \$100.00)**

Complementary Course Descriptions (CTF and Other)

These courses focus on the process of learning through hands on project work. Students will be problem solving, designing, creating, reflecting, and communicating about their projects they've developed in a team atmosphere.

CTF Business – Computing Science (CSE)

Students explore hardware, software, and processes to write or create structured algorithms and programs that input, process, and output data while developing their own websites. Possible careers explored in this program include web developer, web master, and program manager.

CTF Business – Entrepreneurship (ENT)

Students study the area of business that deals with the organization and management of a project, an undertaking or an innovation. Students will also take an opportunity to examine workforce essentials including, resume writing and interview skills, relationships, and responsibilities. Possible careers explored in this program include business owner, and life skills coach. (Any person running his or her own business)

CTF Communication – Photography (COM)

Students discover and develop skills for relaying a message effectively using various forms of media including animation, print, photography and audio/visual. Possible careers explored in this program include social media specialist, photographer, and editor.

CTF Communication – Project Science (DES)

Students learn about the creative process from conception through development in architecture, industrial design, engineering, interior design and landscaping. Possible careers explored in this program include architect, civil engineer, and engineer.

CTF Communication – Fashion Studies (FAS)

Students design, manufacture and market clothing and other textile products as well as study the history, sociology, and economics of clothing and textile arts. Possible careers explored in this program include fashion designer, fashion illustrator, fashion model, and exhibit designer.

CTF Human Services – Foods (FOD)

Students examine the role of food, looking beyond consumption to production, visual appreciation, nutrition, meal planning, economics and preparation; learn the various human pursuits on species and ecosystems. Possible careers explored in this program include baker, chef, cook, kitchen helper, and dietician.

CTF Human Services – Recreational Leadership (REC)

Students develop skills useful for coaching, fitness leadership, sport performance, athletic therapy and leading recreational activities. Possible careers explored in this program include personal trainer, recreation coordinator, sports instructor, and recreation facility operator.

CTF Resources – Outdoor Education (ENS)

Students will enjoy a mixture of physical activities and hands on learning to get them out into the fresh air safely. Some of the activities *may* include first aid training, orienteering, hiking/back packing, rock climbing, emergency preparedness, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and various other activities. Possible careers explored in this program include paramedic, survivalist, camp director, outdoor adventure guide and park warden.

CTS Technology – Construction (CON)

Students develop skills in the use of tools and materials used in construction processes, and safely transform common wood materials into useful products; learn the various skills of the respective trade. Possible careers explored in this program include carpenter, civil engineer, floorcovering installer, insulator, roofer, and tile setter.

French As a Second Language (FSL)

The primary objectives of the French language program in Grade 8 are to help students to improve their proficiency in the French language through the four language skills of listening, talking, reading, and writing, and to instill in students a better understanding and appreciation for the French language and culture around the world. The course is an integration of oral and written activities leading to the complete language development. It is designed to accommodate all students by appealing to a variety of learning styles.

**Percy Baxter School
Grade 8 Complementary Course Selection Form
2016-2017**

Student Name:	
Date:	

Section 1	Compulsory Courses
✓ Physical Education	As per Alberta Education requirements, all students must be enrolled in Physical Education.
✓ Health	As per Alberta Education requirements, all students must be enrolled in Physical Education

Sections 2	Fine Arts	
All students MUST select a <i>minimum of one course</i> from the following list of Fine Arts courses. (Students may select all courses in the Arts section should they choose.) Please select course(s) by checking off the box(es) of the chosen fine arts courses.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Art 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Drama 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Band 8 (Full Year)

Sections 3	CTF and Other	
These courses focus on the process of learning through hands on project work. Students will be problem solving, designing, creating, reflecting, and communicating about their projects they've developed in a team atmosphere. Please select course(s) by checking off the box(es) of the chosen courses.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurship 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo 8
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Science 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Fashion Studies 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Foods 8
<input type="checkbox"/> Rec Leadership 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Ed 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction 8
<input type="checkbox"/> French 8		

Section 4	Course Totals and Parent Signature
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	I have read the complementary course selection information pages and assisted my child in making the best selections possible. I have reviewed the course selection form and ensured there is a total of six options selected.
Parent Signature	

Please ensure this form is signed and returned to your child's homeroom teacher by Friday, June 10th, 2016

