

MAPLE RIDGE SECONDARY SCHOOL ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE MAPLE RIDGE

Creating Community, Providing Opportunity

2025-2026

MRSS is a dual track English & French Immersion school with a proud history. At MRSS we combine the best educational practices that lead to academic success. By blending traditional approaches to learning with cutting edge technology, MRSS achieves the highest scholarship totals, the highest transition to post secondary rates and the highest ranking of our district in the Fraser Institute report.

Students develop their academic and personal skills through collaborative and independent learning. They also have access to on-line learning to complement the vast options at Maple Ridge Secondary School. While it is not required, students are encouraged to bring their laptops and tablet computers to school to take advantage of the many on-line learning resources and teacher web pages available to them.

PURSUING EXCELLENCE

Extensive involvement and commitment by staff beyond the classroom creates a variety of rich experiences where students continue their pursuit of excellence. MRSS have earned many team and individual provincial championships. Fine Art students are regularly recognized both at home and abroad as representatives of their school and community. During the year our music program invites the larger community to various concerts showcasing the jazz band, concert band, concert choir, a cappella choir and vocal jazz.

PROGRAM CHOICES

English Program:

This is the standard course curriculum which follows expectations defined by the Ministry of Education.

French Immersion:

The French Immersion program leads to bilingual graduation. The purpose of the program is to offer students the opportunity to learn subjects in an immersion context in order to be able to attain a high level of fluency in the language by the end of grade 12. The program intends to offer the best available courses and curriculum to complement the studies of a student who would like to graduate with a bilingual certificate.

Special Education

At Maple Ridge Secondary we work hard to ensure the learning needs of all students are met. Special Education at MRSS covers a variety of services for students with special needs. Currently there are eight case managers who deal with students requiring adapted or modified programming.



Athletic & Club Activities

Students who attend MRSS have unlimited opportunities to become involved in the school's numerous activities. Our school features an outstanding activity program open to every student.

School teams:

Ball Hockey	Field Lacrosse
Basketball	Rugby
Cheerleading	Track and Field
Cross Country	Volleyball
Field Hockey	Wrestling

Clubs & Other Activities:

Astronomy
Board Games
CIYA
Crochet & Knitting Circle
Dungeons & Dragons
Fiction Addiction
Graphic Novel
MedUnity
Model United Nations
Physics Olympics
Rainbow Connection Scorekeeping
Student Council
Video Games Club
... and more

GRADE 8 ELECTIVES EXPLAINED

All Grade 8 students will be enrolled in the following courses: English 8, Mathematics 8, Physical Health Education 8, Science 8, and Social Studies 8. Students will also be enrolled in Explorations and Discovery and Language classes which rotate throughout the school year - each course lasts 10 weeks.

LANGUAGE ROTATIONS

Language 8 provides students with an introduction to three important world languages: French, Spanish, and Japanese. All four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) are developed through topics dealing with everyday situations. Emphasis is on oral communication.

DISCOVERY, EXPLORATIONS, AND FINE ART ELECTIVES:

Option #1: Full Rotations:

Students are exposed to a variety of electives in Grade 8, and are programmed into two different rotations, Discovery and Explorations. Discovery courses include: Digital Literacy, Foods, Indigenous Explorations, Info Tech, and Textiles. Explorations courses include: Art, Career Education, Drama, Choir, and Guitar.

Option #2: Early Morning or After School Music Course and Full Rotation

Grade 8 students can elect to take our Band and Choir courses which happen before or after school (i.e.: at 7:00am or 2:45pm). If students elect to take one of the music courses that happen outside our regular timetable, they will be enrolled in all Option #1 courses as well as the early morning or after school class. Note that students cannot pick and choose which elective courses they take.

ENGLISH COURSES

English Language Arts 8

English 8 is a compulsory academic course which focuses on strengthening communication skills. Writing is developed with a particular emphasis on the construction of expository, narrative, and descriptive paragraphs. Students are introduced to the writing process of prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. Grammar and mechanics are taught by looking at the basic parts of speech, punctuation, and sentence structure. Reading skills are practised and evaluated in literature studies, which provide the content behind the writing assignments. Students can expect to read novels, short stories, and poems, examining them all for both basic comprehension and critical analysis. In addition, oral communication skills are practised in activities ranging from informal discussions and debates, to formal public speaking.

Français Langue 8

Français Langue 8 is designed to help French Immersion students develop proficient oral communication skills, as well as listening, reading, and writing skills. Students are introduced to literature in French. Students can expect to read from a variety of materials, develop grammar skills, write compositions, and engage in oral presentations.

Languages 8

The Languages 8 course provides students with a glimpse of three world languages: French, Spanish, and Japanese. All language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) are developed through topics dealing with everyday situations. Emphasis is on oral communication.

Mathematics 8

Students will work on the following curricular competencies: reasoning and modelling; understanding and solving; communicating and representing; connecting and reflecting. These competencies will be assessed while covering the course content, such as; logic, percent, square roots, perfect squares and cubes, rates, proportions, fractions, two step equations, surface area and volume, probability, and financial literacy. Students will connect these concepts to real life problems and clearly communicate their mathematical thinking. A fundamental focus will be to increase math literacy and encourage students to become effective problem solvers in all areas of mathematics.



Physical Education 8 Education Physique 8

Physical and Health Education 8/Education Physique 8 introduces students to a variety of team and individual sports. Emphasis lies in students understanding the importance of a healthy lifestyle and having fun playing sports. Activities include badminton, basketball, field hockey, football, road hockey, rugby, dancing, softball, tennis, track and field, weight training, and wrestling, minor games and a full day hiking trip.

Science 8

The Science 8 curriculum includes content from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science. Students will develop the skills, processes, attitudes, and scientific habits that allow them to pursue their own inquiries using scientific methods. Biology examines the relationship of micro-organisms with living things, the immune system, vaccinations and the impact of epidemics and pandemics on human populations. Earth Science investigates layers of the earth, plate tectonics and major local geological events. Physical Science looks at the properties and behaviours of light, how we sense it, the Kinetic Molecular Theory (KMT) and atomic models. Using critical thinking, creative insight, and their current scientific knowledge, students work together to explore, problem solve, communicate, discover, learn, and increase their understanding of science through hands-on experiences.

Social Studies 8 Sciences Humaines 8

This course examines the areas of historical world events from 7th century to 1750, physical geography, and current events. Students will be introduced to historical thinking concepts and skills that include establishing historical significance, identifying continuity and change, analyzing cause and consequence, using primary source evidence, taking a historical perspective, and understanding ethical dimensions of historical events. Themes for study include social, political, and economic systems and structures of the past, major scientific and technological innovations, philosophical and cultural shifts in society, the impacts of exploration, expansion and colonization, the interactions and exchange of resources and ideas between different groups, and the changes in population and living standards.

EXPLORATIONS / DISCOVERY 8 CLASSES

Students have two blocks in which they will be introduced to all of the following subject areas.

Art 8 / Beaux Arts 8

This course builds basic art skills, drawing, painting, art criticism, lettering and print making. Emphasis is on art techniques and improvement of drawing skills.

Career Education 8

The role of Career Education 8 is to assist students in their personal development. Career Education 8 will introduce graduation requirements and reflective practice in relation to goal setting. Students will also examine various career options, the roles of community and school in career planning, and further their exploration of cultural and social awareness.

Digital Literacy 8

Digital literacy is essential for navigating the online landscape safely, responsibly, and effectively. This course empowers students to become informed and ethical digital citizens. Through engaging lessons and hands-on activities, students will explore key topics such as:

- **Social Media Savvy:** Understanding the benefits and risks of social platforms regarding content, creation, and screen time implications while also developing strategies for positive engagement.
- **Digital Footprints:** Learning how online actions contribute to long-term reputations and how to manage privacy settings to safeguard personal information.
- **Email Etiquette:** Mastering professional and effective communication skills, including crafting clear subject lines, proper tone, and responsible use of email.

- **AI Ethics and Responsibility:** Exploring the implications of artificial intelligence, addressing issues like bias, misinformation, and responsible use of AI tools.
- **Cyberbullying and Online Behavior:** Identifying cyberbullying, learning prevention and intervention strategies, and fostering empathy and inclusivity in digital interactions.
- **Critical Thinking in the Digital Age:** Evaluating the credibility of online sources, identifying fake news, and understanding the role of algorithms in shaping information.

By the end of the course, students will gain the knowledge and skills needed to navigate digital spaces confidently, make ethical decisions, and contribute positively to the online community.

Drama 8

When your parents ask you what you did in school today, you will have lots to tell them after a Drama class. Improvisation skills and play creation keep this class very active and fun. Be prepared to move, laugh and be a great audience.

Music 8

This class introduces music theory, singing, performing, dancing, choreography, and theatre. In an ensemble-setting, students prepare a 25-minute musical theatre production that encourages them to memorize lines, act with their peers, and perform on stage.

Home Economics

Students will develop skills in cooking and sewing. In Food Studies students learn about meal planning and simple meal preparation of things like pancakes, macaroni and cheese, and apple crumble. Personal nutrition needs are also examined. In Textile Studies, students will be introduced to basic sewing terms and techniques, and will make a simple project like a pair of shorts.

Indigenous Explorations 8

Indigenous Studies 8 is a new course which explores Indigenous cultures, beliefs, and history to help educate students about the principles of Truth & Reconciliation. Students examine topics like identity, racism, allyship, and colonialism. Students learn about the government of Canada's attempts to destroy Indigenous cultures through the Indian Act and Residential Schools, and the strength and resilience of Indigenous peoples in the face of these challenges. The class features talking circle class discussions, Indigenous storytelling, the 7 Sacred Grandfather Teachings, current Indigenous heroes in Canada, movies, and fun art projects.

FINE ARTS ELECTIVE COURSES: BAND and CHOIR

MRSS is well known in the community and the province for its high caliber music program. Ensembles from MRSS have taken top awards at festivals from Hawaii to San Francisco to Disneyland. Students in the music department develop strong leadership and communication skills and quickly become a close-knit group.

Beginner Band

Did you miss out on joining band in elementary school, and now wish you learned that instrument you've always dreamed of? Maybe you are already in band or choir, but always wanted to try out a different instrument? Well it's never too late to join band at MRSS! We are pleased to offer a new Beginning Band open to all students grade 8 - 12 who have never played a concert band instrument before. Instruments for beginners to choose from include Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, or Percussion. Experienced band students who wish to learn a more advanced instrument may also choose from Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, and French Horn. While every effort will be made to allow everyone's first choice instrument, students may need to choose an alternative choice in order to better facilitate balanced instrumentation for the ensemble. Opportunities for solo and ensemble playing, public performance, and service hours are a part of this course.

Concert Band (A.M. Block)

The Concert Band is an intermediate level ensemble for students with a minimum of 1-2 years playing experience on a concert band instrument. Students will continue to develop fundamental skills, learn music theory, and begin to branch out into more advanced techniques and ensemble playing. Opportunities for solo and ensemble playing, public performance, and service hours are a part of this course. This course is also well suited for grade 10, 11, and 12 students who are either less experienced on their instrument or need to develop their playing skills a bit further, but will also serve as peer mentors to younger musicians before moving on to the Wind Ensemble. This course provides the opportunity for students to take both band and another elective course. **The course will run Wednesday and Friday mornings from 7:00am - 8:20am.**

Concert Choir (A.M. BLOCK)

In this course you will learn how to sing with good vocal technique, learn basic music reading, and take part singing in a variety of music styles. The course is designed to develop each student's individual musical skills, learn the responsibilities and value of being a member of a musical ensemble and to continue to foster a life-long love of music. You will have two amazing privileges singing in choir: to be affected by performing music with a community of singers with the same goals and to affect; and evoke emotion of those present in your audience. Rehearsals take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:20-8:20 am.

Jazz Band

This course is for students who want to learn to play a variety of jazz styles, including swing, rock, latin and funk. Students must be enrolled in concert band if they wish to participate in this ensemble. It is open to players of saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, bass, guitar, and drums. Classes are taught from 7:00 – 8:15 am on Mondays and 2:45 – 4:00 pm on Wednesdays. Attendance is recorded and a letter grade issued, just like a regular class. This course will not appear on your grade 8 registration form. You will register for this course in September at MRSS.

Information Technology 8

This course introduces students to the keyboard, basic word processing skills, basic computing skills, and some business skills.

Music 8 - Guitar

The music component of the elective rotation introduces students to playing guitar. Students can expect to learn how to play the guitar at the basic level by singing and playing songs. Basic chords, strumming techniques and music theory are practiced regularly.