

Grade 9 Electives OUTSIDE of the Timetable *optional not required

Choir

Concert Choir is a core ensemble that is open to all students, regardless of prior singing experience! The Concert Choir is a Grade 9–12 ensemble that meets twice a week outside of the regular timetable, offering a welcoming space to explore and develop vocal skills. Students will learn vocal technique, music notation, and ensemble singing through a variety of musical genres. Throughout the year, the Concert Choir participates in workshops and performances, providing opportunities to grow as musicians and performers. The focus of this group is to improve as singers, build connections, and have fun in a supportive and inspiring environment!

Strings

The String Orchestra, featuring Violin, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass, welcomes students with at least two years of experience on their instrument. This ensemble offers the opportunity to refine technique, enhance musical skills, and improve rehearsal techniques, while exploring a diverse repertoire ranging from classical masterpieces to lively fiddle tunes and popular music. Rehearsing twice a week, students engage in a vibrant learning environment with opportunities to participate in masterclasses led by professional musicians, perform at local festivals, and showcase their talents at school concerts throughout the year.

Concert Band

Junior Concert Band is a core ensemble dedicated to developing music literacy and instrumental performance skills. This year-long course meets twice a week outside of the regular timetable, providing a supportive environment for students to enhance their musical abilities. The ensemble performs diverse repertoire, including traditional concert band pieces, music inspired by various cultural and social contexts, and popular genres. While prior experience in middle school band is recommended, admission may also be granted through consultation with the teacher.

Leadership

The Leadership class at EHS is dedicated to the service and support of our school, local and international communities. Students who are motivated, dependable and supportive develop interpersonal and leadership skills through organization of and involvement in a wide variety of recreational activities.

Junior Jazz Band

Junior Jazz Band is an engaging course that introduces students to a variety of musical styles, including Funk, Swing, Latin, Rock, Shuffle, and more. Meeting twice a week outside of the regular timetable, this ensemble provides a focused environment for students to develop their jazz skills. Members have the opportunity to participate in concerts, school events, workshops, and festivals throughout the year. To enhance their musical growth and leadership skills, all Junior Jazz Band students are required to participate in the Esquimalt Concert Band (or String Orchestra for basses).

Vocal Jazz

The Vocal Ensemble is a dynamic, year-long course open to students in Grades 9 to 12. Meeting twice a week, this ensemble focuses on building strong vocal techniques through an engaging repertoire of vocal jazz and contemporary music. Students will have the opportunity to participate in vocal clinics and perform at various events throughout the school year. Students will learn to sing with microphones and collaborate with a rhythm section. As this is a small ensemble, prior singing experience—such as participation in choirs or private lessons—is required, as students must confidently perform individual parts. Students are also strongly encouraged to join the Concert Choir to further support their participation in this ensemble.

Musical Theatre

The Vocal Ensemble is a dynamic, year-long course open to students in Grades 9 to 12. Meeting twice a week, this ensemble focuses on building strong vocal techniques through an engaging repertoire of vocal jazz and contemporary music. Students will have the opportunity to participate in vocal clinics and perform at various events throughout the school year. Students will learn to sing with microphones and collaborate with a rhythm section. As this is a small ensemble, prior singing experience—such as participation in choirs or private lessons—is required, as students must confidently perform individual parts. Students are also strongly encouraged to join the Concert Choir to further support their participation in this ensemble.

Media Arts 10 (Linear) *New for 2026-2027

This course is focused on the creation of media content, with a particular emphasis on making videos. As well as planning and making, students will learn to interpret and analyze media artworks. Ultimately, the goal is to create artistic work that reflects their personal voice and convey story, all while keeping in mind a given audience.



Welcome to Esquimalt High School
Bienvenue a École Secondaire Esquimalt

GRAD 2030

Welcome to Esquimalt High School!

We are excited for you to join Esquimalt High School! We will work with you to make steps towards achieving your short-term and long-term goals. We have a diverse range of programs to choose from which allows you to explore your interests, and to develop your skills, knowledge and understanding in many areas.

Our school also offers many options outside of the timetable to contribute to your learning and the Esquimalt community; these include Rugby Academy, sports teams, clubs, musical theatre, band and more!

Teachers, support staff, administration, alumni and current students all look forward to working with you to ensure your success.

We hope you find this information helpful in planning your first year at Esquimalt High School. Please ask us any questions and visit our website at <http://esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca>. Welcome!!



Our programs provide students with opportunities to reach their potential, strive towards excellence and make full use of their unique combinations of energies, talents and interests. In doing so, students at Esquimalt High School are encouraged "to be rather than to seem" or as the school motto says, in Latin, "esse quam videri."

Student Athletics

(run outside timetable throughout year— teams vary year to year)

Badminton

Basketball

Rowing

Rugby

Soccer

Golf

Track and Field

Volleyball

Ultimate Frisbee



Student Clubs

(run outside timetable throughout year)

Art Club

Chess Club

ESCAPE

(Esquimalt Students Caring About Peace and the Environment)

EYCI

(Esquimalt Youth For Change and Inclusion)

Bike Club

ESQ Ink
(School Newspaper)

Robotics

Improv

Interact (Rotary Youth)

GSA

Outdoors Club

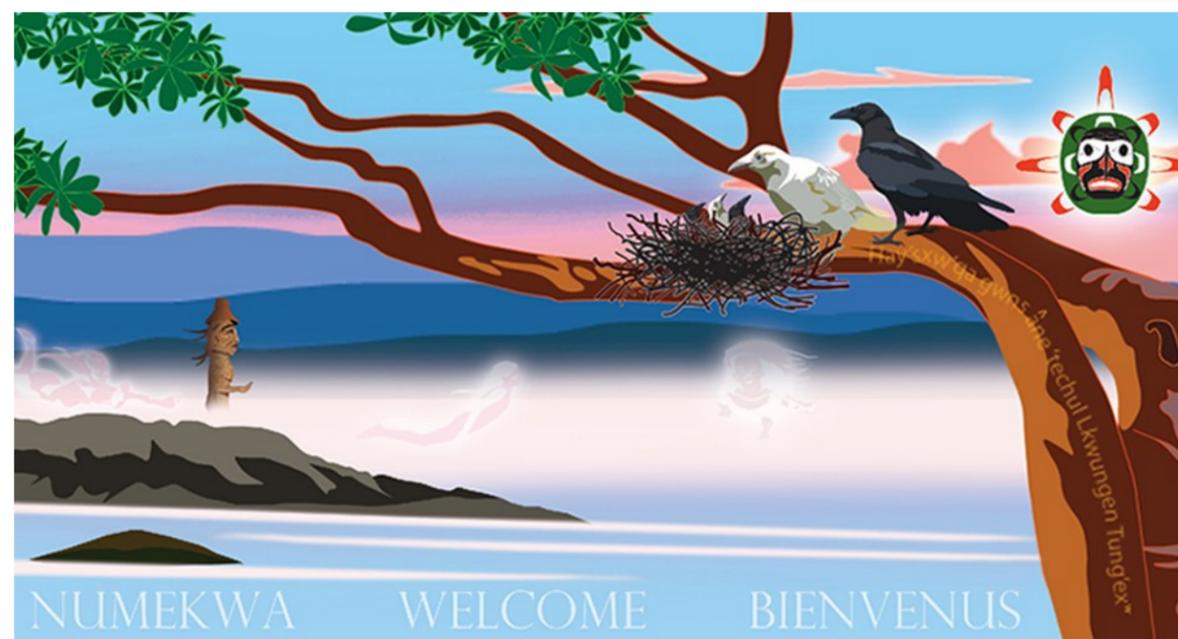
Writing Club

Ceramics Club

Math Club

Garden Club

Women in STEM



This guide is meant to help you in grade nine course selection. More information can be found in our full course guide found on our website at esquimaltcourses.sd61.bc.ca.

Counsellors are available to assist in course selection and special programming:

Ally Hoffman (A-K) ahoffman@sd61.bc.ca
Anastasia Andrews (L-Z) aandrews@sd61.bc.ca



All grade 9 students must select eight (8) courses within the timetable. Please select an alternate elective should your first choice not be available.

Grade 9 Required Courses* (all take place within the timetable)	
English Language Arts 9	Social Studies 9
Mathematics 9 <i>Linear option available</i>	Science 9
Physical and Health Education 9 Two options: PE 09, PE Volleyball NOTE: Rugby meets PE requirement	*students in our Challenge, French Immersion and Rugby programs have additional requirements

Grade 9 French Immersion Courses in addition to required courses (all take place within the timetable for students in the FRIM program)	
Français Langue 9	Sciences Humaines 9 *replaces Social Studies 9
Cinéma 9	

Rugby Academy in addition to required courses (for students accepted into Rugby Program; these courses replace PHE 9) Rugby Academy runs INSIDE of the timetable—see website for application
Principles of Rugby
Human Performance *counts as PHE9 credit

Grade 9 Challenge Program (these courses are for students who have been accepted into the Challenge program; they replace the non-Challenge versions)	
English Language Arts 9 CHALLENGE	Science 9 CHALLENGE
Math 9 CHALLENGE	Integrated Studies 9

Indigenous Humanities
(English 9 and Social Studies 9)

The Indigenous Humanities course combines English Language Arts and Social Studies curriculum and takes place over two blocks across the school year.

The class is grounded in Indigenous Ways of Knowing and incorporates multiple paths of learning while exploring historical and contemporary Indigenous themes. In this course, students will develop their academic resilience, study habits and literacy skills which are necessary to successfully reach the English and Social Studies learning outcomes of this course, and future courses.

Some of the topics investigated in this course are: identity, worldviews and perspectives, and the influences of power, culture and the physical environment on shaping society. Students will learn through exploring various texts, media, outdoor learning and community connections, while developing their reading, writing and oral communication skills.

Our goal is for students to develop a strong sense of place and self within the broader community. Indigenous Humanities is open to all students.

Physical Education
two options

Physical Education 9: The course reviews and refines all the basic movement skills developed during the earlier grades. It presents all students with a wide variety of activities in competitive, individual and team sports.

Physical Education 9 Volleyball: We provide specialized instruction, opportunities, and feedback within the sport of volleyball and a class that creates focused learning opportunities. Students learn how to compete, collaborate, and persevere; ultimately, learning to understand the joy of hard work through participating in sports.

Ongoing Supports to Assure Student Success

We have a number of supports and programs in place to make sure our students have the resources, learning and help they need. Some of the supports we offer include: Peer tutors, Linear/Adapted Math 9, ELL in-class assistance and courses, literacy support, homework help, community connections and a Foundational Skills class.

Grade 9 Electives Inside the Timetable

Art 9

This course will introduce students to the language of 2-D and 3-D art forms and image development. They will complete work in drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking and graphic design and have an introduction to contemporary and traditional Indigenous world views and art forms.

Photography 10 or Yearbook 10

Photography 10 is designed for students who are interested in learning about the art of photography. Students will explore basic skills of digital photographic capture and editing. The students will explore photography through history, the art of photography through an understanding of design and aesthetics and explore the expressive and thematic elements of this medium. Yearbook 10 is for students who wish to contribute to the creation and marketing of our school yearbook.

Dance 9

Dance 9 is for those who have never stepped foot in a studio to those who have danced their entire lives. We look at how dance offers a unique way of exploring one's identity and sense of belonging, allows one to express aspects of self, culture, history, and community, and how growth as a dancer is dependent on perseverance, risk taking, reflection, and resilience.

Drama 9

Students will use drama elements, techniques and vocabulary to create mood and convey ideas including character, time, place, plot, tension, mood, focus and contrast using a variety of drama forms and drama conventions. There will be a focus on personal and social responsibility associated with creating, performing and responding through drama.

Explorations in Trades 10

This course is part of a career exploration pathway that prepares students for senior classes in woodwork, metalwork, power technology, electronics & robotics, and automotive.

Food Studies 9

Impress friends and family with your cooking skills! You will prepare breakfasts, lunches and dinners that are healthy, fast and delicious. Explore the connections between food and the global community including social and environmental impacts. Also, gather and dry indigenous plants to enjoy tea flavours of the Salish Coast.

French 9

Communication in French is the main goal of this course. Students will spend time reading, listening, speaking, and writing in French. Students are evaluated on their ability to make use of what they have learned, with the main focus being on communication and not on grammar. This class uses music and stories as the central focus of communication.

Spanish 9

The oral and cultural aspects of the language will be emphasized, and communication in Spanish is the main focus. Students will interact constantly with both the teacher and each other in Spanish. Writing is introduced from the outset, and students are evaluated on their ability to make use of what they have learned to communicate effectively in Spanish. No prior Spanish language knowledge is necessary.

Guitar 9

This semester-long class is open to students with or without guitar experience. Students will learn the basics of playing through studying music notation, chord symbols, tablature and peer modeling. The main objective of this course is to create an enhance appreciation for music through playing guitar. Students will also gain a better understanding of musical genres including blues, rock, jazz, pop and more.

Textiles 9 Arts and Crafts

Textiles is a hands-on class that provides students with the basic skills to sew by hand or with a sewing machine. In addition to sewing, students can choose to learn to crochet, knit, weave, make jewelry, felt with wool, upholster or learn various other crafting skills. Students can learn to use the Cricut machine to add vinyl to fabric or design cards. Students learn at their own pace and many supplies are available for students to use. If you enjoy creativity and hands-on learning then Textiles is the class for you.

Entrepreneurship and Marketing 9

Students in this course will investigate the risks and benefits of entrepreneurship and the role of social entrepreneurship in Indigenous communities. Marketing strategies will cover market segmentation, and evolving consumer needs and wants. The course wraps-up with finding sources of financing for a new venture or a start-up business and measurement of financial success and failure.

Explorations in Computer Technology 9

This course will serve as a solid introduction to computer science and technology and the skills that will help you to thrive in the digital world. Students will use a variety of online and school-based software programs to solve problems and to research, organize and present information.

Athletic Leadership 10 (Application Required)

Athletic Leadership is a course designed for students with an interest in school sports. If you are a student-athlete, a coach, a team manager, or a team trainer, or would like to develop your skills in these areas, then this course will have something to offer you.

General Music 9

This semester-long music course is open to students of all grades who have a passion for exploring music. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced musician, this class offers a wide range of musical opportunities. Students could choose to: learn a new instrument, improve on an existing one, experiment with music composition, form a rock band or chamber group, or delve into music from diverse genres and cultures.