

L.A. MATHESON Secondary School

GRADE 9 Course Selection Handbook 2026-2027



At L.A. Matheson, we ...

provide a safe, cooperative and supportive learning environment that promotes social, intellectual and creative growth. We aim to help all of our students develop into informed, active and responsible global citizens.

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HOW TO USE YOUR COURSE SELECTION HANDBOOK

"BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND"

Course selection time is an opportunity to continue thinking about the path you are taking toward graduation and beyond. As a secondary student, it is not expected that you will have all your plans written in stone, but it is important to research the opportunities that are appropriate for you. With that in mind, it is essential to select courses that will keep doors open.

Course selection is a process, and this book is one of the tools to help you select your courses. It is expected that you will also take the time to dialogue with your parents, teachers and counsellors about the courses you will select. Further, it is expected that as a senior student, you will also be consulting career facilitators and post-secondary calendars (available in the Counsellor's office) and websites (www.educationplanner.ca), ensuring that prerequisites are met for post-secondary programs that you are interested in.

The course selection process at LA Matheson Secondary provides an excellent opportunity for personal growth and for exercising decision-making skills. The staff at LA Matheson looks forward to helping you make the best-informed decisions possible.

Grade 9 Courses

All grade 9 students are required to take the following for a total of 8 courses:

1. Social Studies
2. English
3. Math
4. Science
5. Physical & Health Education
6. 1-2 Arts Education: Band, Visual Art, Drama, or Dance.
7. 1-2 ADST Elective: Drafting and Design, Woodwork, Community Leadership, Foods, Textiles, Computers, or Entrepreneurship and Marketing
8. A second language (French or Spanish) or another ADST or Arts Education course

Outside the Timetable Courses – You have the option of taking Jazz Band (only if you're in concert band already), Theatre Company, Dance Company or Yearbook, all of which run before or after school. These are extra courses in addition to the eight above.

Core Courses

Social Studies 9 MSS—09--S

Social Studies 9 builds upon the critical historical thinking skills introduced in Humanities 8. Social Studies 9 is an overview of the period between 1750-1919. In this course, students will develop their critical thinking skills and analyze how people and nations around the world have been influenced by ideas, the environment, power, and identity.

English Language Arts 9 MEN—09--S

Grade 9 students take English Language Arts 9. Students can choose to take this course by itself or as part of the **Arts Integrated Module 9**, an engaging course which combines English Language Arts 9 with Drama 9 and Social Studies 9.

Math 9 MMA—09--S

This course represents a continuation of the learning in Math 8, and it represents a critically important step before the beginning of the different math pathways in grade 10. Students will learn how to carry out operations with rational numbers, exponential expressions, and polynomials. They will also solve more complex linear equations and learn to analyze continuous linear relationships, including graphing, interpolation and extrapolation. Students will also learn about spatial relationships involving scale and similarity, statistics in society and basic financial literacy (ex, budgeting). **To be successful in Foundations/Pre-Calculus Math 10, students should complete Math 9 with a grade of "Proficient" or better.**

Science 9 MSC—09--S

Science 9 focuses on the three main branches of science: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

Topics in Science 9 include:

- Life processes in cells
- Chemical Nomenclature and the Periodic Table
- Static and Current Electricity
- Water Cycles

Each unit will prepare students for Science 10.

Physical & Health Education

The mission of Physical Education at L. A. Matheson Secondary is to empower students to sustain regular, lifelong physical activity as a foundation for a healthy, productive, and fulfilling life. This is achieved through education and practice. Each activity is designed to prepare all students to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of the life-long benefits of health-enhancing activity.

Physical & Health Education 9 ~~MPHE-09--S~~

Physical and Health Education 9 increases the level of difficulty for students and helps them identify and focus on their physical goals. Healthy attitudes and emotions start with a healthy body.

Physical Health and Education 9 Non-Competitive ~~MPHE09—S--NCOMP~~

This course is the same curriculum as the above PHE 9 class, except will be delivered in a non-competitive co-ed environment and is best suited for those students who prefer to participate at a recreational level.

Soccer-High Performance & Leadership 9 ~~MPHE-09-S-APSL~~

This is a replacement for the PHE 9 course. Application and fees are required for this course. APSL 8 or previous club experience is also required. Students will be contacted to confirm enrolment. This is a linear course combined with Recreational Leadership 9 (so it counts for two courses)

Arts Education

Visual Art 9 MAE—09—S

Students will work in a variety of media to improve their skills and visual literacy. The major component of this course will consist of discovering and building skills in a variety of materials and media to communicate meaning and intent in original artworks. Students will gain knowledge of the elements and principles of design, as well as both local and international artists.

Drama 9 MDR—09—S

Drama is taught in a pod with English and Social Studies by three teachers who connect the subjects thematically. Here's how those teachers describe it: Identity! Power! Resistance! The Drama strand of the Arts Integrated Module uses acting, writing, and research to explore who we are, who controls us, and how we can fight back. This course combines Drama, English, and social Studies into one big course with three teachers. It's a collaborative adventure, full of movement and deep thinking, and you will come out of it a better performer, writer, and human.

Dance 9 MDNC-09—S

Welcome to Dance 9! This course welcomes everyone—whether you're new to dance or have some moves up your sleeve. No need to have taken Dance 8; this course is designed to get you grooving with the basics of multiple styles. We'll journey through the history, culture, and techniques of dances from around the world, with a special focus on Hip Hop and Street Dance styles like breaking and waacking. You'll also get to try out Concert Dances (think contemporary, jazz, ballet, tap), explore Cultural Dances like Bhangra and Gidha, and discover more styles based on your interests.

Through a mix of creating, performing, and discussing dance, you'll see how dance connects to history, culture, identity, and storytelling. Most of our time will be spent building unique performances in groups of all sizes, ending with a showcase at the Surrey District Dance Festival and a grand semester-end show here at LAM.

Come join us—find your rhythm, express yourself, and be part of a community that celebrates every move!

*Note: Dance 8 & 9 may run together.

Concert Band 9 MMU-09—CB

Students must have successfully completed Concert Band 8 to register for this course. If a student has Prior music experience on a Band instrument but has not taken Concert Band 8, please see the Music Director, Ms. Meadows, to register for Band 9.

Concert Band 9 is offered as a yearlong alternating with PHE 9. Students will continue to develop the elements of instrumental music, such as technique, tone, and musical style. The repertoire will consist of many music styles, including classical, rock, popular, jazz, and folk. Performances are considered part of the course curriculum.

Jazz Band 9 MMU—09—Y—JAZZ

Jazz Band 9 is offered as a linear off-timetable course outside of the regular school day. This course undertakes the study of modern music in a Jazz Ensemble setting. Students will have the opportunity to perform jazz, rock, hip-hop, funk and big band music. Performances are considered part of the course curriculum.

Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies Department (ADST)

Business and Computer Education

Entrepreneurship and Marketing 9 MADEM09--S

It's fun, it's exciting, and it's Business 9! If you dream of making a lot of money or even plan to own your own business, then this is the place to start. As you discover what business is all about, you will learn about marketing, product and idea promotion, and entrepreneurship. There will also be a focus on learning and applying the Microsoft Office Tools. Business 10 will give you the knowledge and skills you need to make it in the future and succeed in the business world.

Computers Studies 9: Introduction to Information Technology MADIT09--S

This course is a great opportunity to improve your computer skills so you can do a lot more than just surf the Internet, use social media, or send e-mail. This course introduces you to the fun and exciting world of computers, where you will learn how to use various presentation tools and software to communicate information and ideas effectively. You will learn to design your own web page using HTML, create a multimedia slide show, paint and draw some fabulous artwork, manipulate and edit photos, create simple sound and video editing projects, explore basic programming, and maybe even build your own computer game or animation. We will explore issues around the use of technology, such as effective use of information, cyberbullying, virus avoidance, and how to keep both ourselves and our information safe and protected when online or when using social media. As technology in our world is constantly changing, we work hard to try to provide our students with the skills that will help them throughout many of their high school courses but also prepare them for post graduate courses and for the workplace.

Yearbook 9 MADIT09—S-YBK

Please note that this course is offered after school only, and *students will be interviewed prior to admission to this class.*

This is a design course where students will be totally responsible for the production of the yearbook publication. Students must be willing to work as a team and be willing to put in extra hours outside of class time. As deadlines are critical in this class, a mature attitude and good work ethic are a must.

Within the course, students will learn the principles of layout and design used in the desktop publishing industry, will explore digital photography, and will work with industry-standard software, including InDesign and Photoshop. Students will gain experience with digital cameras, scanners, and photo manipulation and enhancement. Students will immerse themselves into the culture of the school and become photojournalists who capture the experiences and memories of all our students.

Home Economics

Food Studies 9 MADFS09–S

Get ready for a foodies' journey as we venture through various recipes from breakfast, lunch, and dinner with a few treats in between, all while developing an understanding of the importance of balanced nutrition and the creative possibilities within the world of food preparation. Foods Studies 9 will provide you with practical lessons and hands-on experiences as you begin to hone your design thinking and culinary skills. Expect to learn new techniques, experiment with new ingredients, and explore food-related issues and topics. It's all about being hands-on, getting creative, and becoming a food whiz!

Textile Studies 9 MADT-09--S

This course will take you beyond the basic skills. You will master basic sewing techniques, learn to interpret commercial patterns, use a serger and other time-saving tips to give a professional finish to a variety of individual sewing projects. Students will also learn about fibres, garment care, design applications, social influences on textiles and the role of textiles in First Peoples cultures.

Technology Education

Drafting and Design 9 MADD-09–S

This course covers basic drafting principles and techniques, both board drafting and computer-aided design. If you are interested in a career in design, such as interior design, architecture, engineering or fashion design, you will need to take a course in drafting. Drafting is also important in construction and manufacturing careers.

Woodwork 9 MADW-09–S

This is an introductory course covering all you need to know to make projects in the woodshop. There will be several small projects introducing the various machines used in the woodshop and one larger project with which you can bring all these skills together.

International Languages Department

French 9 MFR—09—S

French 9 builds upon acquired knowledge, skills and attitudes and offers students an excellent opportunity to experience the power of authentic interaction in French. Students increase their abilities to communicate effectively in French (listening, speaking, reading and writing) through exploration of a variety of themes such as travel, fashion, music, and sports.

Spanish 9 MSP—09—S

Spanish 9 is designed to introduce students to the basic structures of grammar and vocabulary through communication skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. There is also a cultural component where students will learn about various cultural traditions and figures of significance in Spanish and Latin Culture. At the end of this course, students should be able to communicate effectively in basic and early advanced Spanish on topics revolving around family, friends, school, and leisure activities.

International Languages Department

Grade	French	Spanish	Punjabi
08	French 08 (Introductory)		
09	French 09	Spanish (Introductory)	
10	French 10	Spanish 10	Punjabi 10 (Introductory)
11	French 11	Spanish 11	Punjabi 11
12	French 12	Spanish 12	Punjabi 12

Community Leadership 9 XLEAD09-S

In Leadership 9, students will develop their leadership and communication skills through the planning and completion of a variety of service initiatives. Leadership 9 encourages students to consider their own roles and reflect on their own beliefs and attitudes with a focus on the development of character.

Students who want to take part in leadership courses must:

- have excellent attendance
- have a C+ or better average
- have excellent work habits
- be committed to work in a team environment to complete projects
- show initiative and self-motivation
- have the ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- **recommendation from the grade 8 HUM and MASC teachers**

Support Programs

BASES Program

The BASES Program is an acronym for “Building Academic, Social & Employment Skills.” The BASES Program is available to certain students who require differentiated learning outcomes. Admission to the program is through School District #36 (Surrey) placement. Students work on individual academic, functional academic and social skill learning goals in BASES class and are integrated in electives, sometimes with Education Assistant (EA) support. During the senior grades, students prepare for and attend work experience placements in addition to their classes.

English Language Learners (ELL)

The English Language Learners program enables students whose first language is not English to learn sufficient oral and written English so that they can fully participate in the regular academic program as soon as possible.

Learning Support Team (LST)

Learner Support is provided for students who require additional help so that they can be successful in school. The Learner Support Center offers:

- diagnosis of learning difficulties
- review of mathematics and language basics
- remedial reading instruction
- assistance in improving study skills
- one-on-one teaching to help each student understand difficult concepts

The LST (Learner Support Team) program is available to students from Grades 8-12 and is designed to provide individual assistance and learning strategies to students who have recognized learning disabilities or have difficulties with school subjects. The long-term goal is to enable students to become independent, responsible learners who can be successful in their academic subjects. The program is flexible and designed to meet the unique needs of the individual student.

Counselling Services

The Counselling Department endeavours to assist students to acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to:

- Explore personal issues and develop coping skills
- Relate effectively to others
- Develop appropriate educational plans and
- Explore career alternatives

In order to meet these objectives, the following are a sample of services and programs that are offered:

Counselling: Individual counselling – Counsellors help students become aware of their own potential, make wise decisions, and deal with educational, social and personal difficulties that may confront them. A student who wishes counselling assistance may request an appointment with his/her counsellor.

Program Planning: Counsellors and Career Centre staff will assist students with short- and long-term planning of their educational and career goals. Educational and Vocational/Career Information is communicated to students by the following: scheduling student interviews, offering courses, participating in post-secondary days, arranging for guest speakers, displaying calendars and posters, providing vocational interest tests, posting information on Instagram (lam_counselling), having night and summer school information available.