

**L. A. MATHESON**  
**Secondary School**

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**GRADE 8**  
**Course Selection Handbook**  
**2024-25**

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# **Mission Statement**

At LA 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.

## **Grade 8 Courses**

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

1. Humanities (English Language Arts 8 & Social Studies 8)
2. MASC (Math 8 & Science 8)
3. French 8
4. Physical & Health Education 8
5. Arts Education Rotation: Art, Drama, Choir, Band
6. ADST (Applied Skills Rotation): Metalwork, Woodwork, Foods, Computers, Textiles

**Outside the Timetable Courses** – Students have the option of taking Jazz Band (only if you're in concert band already), and Yearbook, all of which run before or after school. These are extra courses in addition to the 8 above.

### **Humanities (English Language Arts 8 & Social Studies 8) MEN—08/MSS--08**

Humanities 8 is a linear course comprised of the curricular goals for English Language Arts 8 and Social Studies 8. Students will focus on improving their reading, writing and critical thinking skills to have a strong base of foundational skills to be successful in their high school career. Students will explore different genres of texts, learn to clearly communicate ideas in a variety of ways, use evidence and think critically.

### **Math 8 MMA—08--Y**

This course represents the foundation for the learning that will follow in Math 9 and beyond. Students will learn about different ways to represent numbers (fractions, decimals, percents), ways to apply proportional reasoning in various ways, how to represent discrete linear relationships, algebraic reasoning with linear equations and spatial reasoning through exposure to the Pythagorean Theorem and problems involving length, area, and volume. Students will also work to bolster their capacity for reasoning, problem-solving and communicating mathematical ideas.

### **Science 8 MSC—08--Y**

Science 8 focuses on the three main branches of science: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

Topics in Science 8 include:

- Life processes in cells
- Kinetic Molecular Theory to explain the behaviour of matter
- Energy is transferred as a particle and a wave
- Theory of Plate Tectonics explains Earth's geological processes

Each unit will prepare you for Science 9.

### **Physical & Health Education 8 MPHE-08--Y**

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 and Health Education 8 is an introduction to movement and athletic skills. Through a combination of activities, games and light weight training, students will develop the strength to ensure the ability for lifelong health.

**APSL (Academy of Premier Soccer and Leadership) MPHE-08--APSL**

This is a replacement for the PHE 8 course. Application and fees are required for this course. Previous club experience is also required. Students will be contacted to confirm enrolment. This is a linear course combined with Recreational Leadership 8 & 9.

**Grade 8 Rotations**

There are two types of Grade 8 Rotations.

1. ARTS - Course combinations may include Art, Drama, Dance, and/or Choir.
2. ADST (Applied Design, Skills & Technology)  
Course combinations may include Foods, Textiles, Woodwork, Metalwork, and/or Computers.

ADST (Applied Design, Skills & Technology)					
Business Education		Home Economics		Technology	
Computer	Yearbook	Foods	Textile	Metalwork	Woodwork

**Arts Education Rotation**

This is a one semester course that may include art, drama, dance, and/or choir.

**Art 8 MAE—08--T**

Visual Arts teaches the foundations of drawing, painting, sculpture, visual language, and art history.

**Drama 8 MDR—08--T**

Students are introduced to the basics of voice and movement for the stage.

**Dance 8 MDNC-08--T**

Students get an introduction to movement.

**Choir 8 MMU—08-CHR**

This course is offered to grade 8 students who wish to develop their vocal skills and general musicianship within a choral ensemble. Students will learn about techniques associated with tone production, basic theory, and harmony singing. Performance material will be selected from popular folk and classical music. Performances are considered part of the course curriculum.

**Concert Band 8 MMU—08CB—Y**

Prerequisites: NONE. This is a year-long course in conjunction with PHE8. Band 8 replaces the Arts Rotation.

This course is designed for Grade 8 students who have 1 year – or no experience at all – with a band instrument. Students will learn instrumental techniques and musicianship skills. Attention will be devoted to developing range, articulation, tone, and sight-reading skills. This course will introduce students to many different styles of music in the concert band repertoire. Performances are considered part of the course curriculum.

### **Jazz Band 8 MMU—08—Y-JAZZ**

Prerequisites: NONE. Co-requisite: CONCERT BAND 8. This is a year-long course that runs off-timetable.

This course is for Grade 8 students who are interested in jazz and big band idioms. Students will be learning their instruments at a quicker pace. Students will learn the basics of the jazz medium, including interpretation and improvisation. The students must be simultaneously enrolled in Concert Band 8. Students often play a second (or third) instrument in Jazz Band, differing from Concert Band. Performances are considered part of the course curriculum.

## **Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies Department (ADST)**

This is a one semester course that may include Computers, Metalwork, Woodwork, Foods, Textiles.

### **Business and Computer Education**

#### **Computers Studies 8: Introduction to Information Technology MADCC08**

Students will develop basic computer and digital skills that will help them do well in high school and in the digital world. Concepts covered will include keyboarding, digital citizenship, e-mail, website design, and basic tools of Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Other units will likely include video production, sound development, photo editing and manipulation, drawing, simple 2D animation, and computer programming. This course is entirely project-based.

#### **Yearbook 8 XYB—08--Y**

**Please note that this course is offered after school only.**

In this design course, students will work as part of a team to produce our school yearbook. Students will immerse themselves into the culture of the school and become photojournalists who capture the experiences and memories of all our students. During the process, students will learn the principles of layout and design used in the desktop publishing industry, explore digital photography and editing, and will work with industry-standard software, including InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop. As deadlines are critical in this class, a mature attitude and good work ethic are a must.

### **Home Economics**

#### **Foods Studies 8 MADFS08-S**

As a part of the ADST rotation, get ready to dive into the kitchen and discover the exciting world of cooking. Spend six weeks immersed in hands-on learning experiences, developing a foundational understanding of kitchen safety protocols and fundamental cooking techniques. In addition, you'll get to collaborate with peers while you whip up some sweet and savoury treats!

#### **Textile Studies 8 MADT-08--S**

An introduction to learning the skills to use basic sewing notions, draft basic patterns, operate a sewing machine and apply basic hand-sewing techniques. You will need to demonstrate safe sewing machine practices prior to operating a sewing machine. In addition, you will be able to practice your independence, problem-solving, time management, and organization skills. You will be applying the ADST Design Model in designing and constructing your own Apron or Drawstring Bag.

## **Technology Education**

### **Metalwork 8 MADM-08**

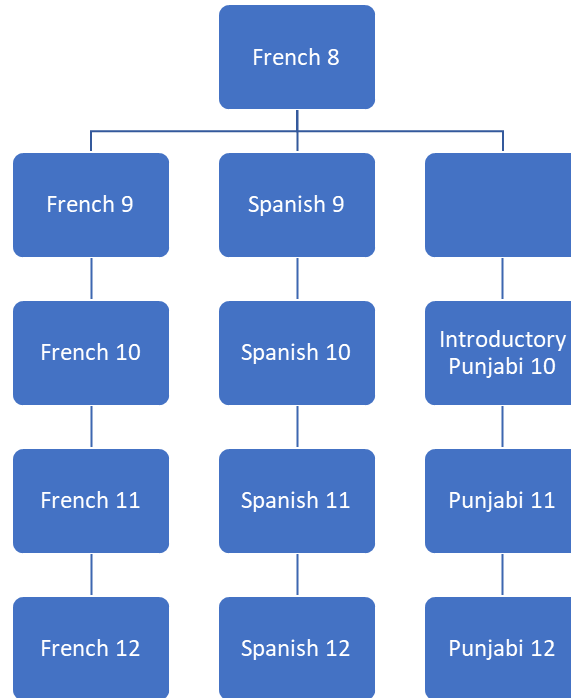
Through a variety of fun and useful projects, students will gain an understanding of some of the tools and techniques used in basic metalwork production and fabrication. Not only will students learn to use hand tools, but they will also have an opportunity to use shop tools such as saws, drills, grinders, lathes, and milling machines to cut and shape metal for their projects. A primary goal of this course is to instill in students a positive and responsible attitude towards safety that is required in all industrial shop courses, but also at home and in the workplace.

### **Woodwork 8 MADW-08**

This course offers a hands-on introduction to woodworking and drafting processes with an emphasis on the development of practical skills, problem-solving, and design work. Through several small projects, students will become familiar with the safe and effective use of various hand tools, power tools, and machines used in the woodworking process. Students will spend time in the computer lab using Auto CADD to learn the basics of computer-aided design and drafting, where they will design a project that they will later create in the woodworking shop. An emphasis will be on developing the practices and attitudes that will encourage students to work safely in school shops, at home, and in the workplace.

## International Languages Department

**\*Grade 8 students with a special education designation may not be required to take language courses. However, many have had great success in the language programs with adaptations.**



### **French 8 MFR—08--S**

French 8 is designed as an introductory course where students will review and build on skills applied in elementary school. However, no previous French experience is required! Vocabulary, speaking, writing, and grammar skills are developed in context. We will study French you can use in a Francophone environment, and the course will incorporate cultural elements and authentic documents wherever possible.

## Indigenous Department

### **Nch'u7mut – Indigenous Course XAT—08—S-IND**

Indigenous Directed Studies is offered to all LAM students who identify as Indigenous. The focus of the class is on storytelling, identity, connections, and voice. The course is led and mentored by Indigenous artists/Elders/teachers and community connections. Overall goals of the course are to nurture and explore self-identity, establish connections to Nations, create a sense of community within and outside of LAM, and mentor opportunities for students to share their experience out to class, school and community. The class involves numerous field trips and opportunities such as the creation of drums and drum making, visiting of Nations in Lower Mainland, exploring Indigenous Art galleries often with artists themselves, Moosehide campaign participation, partaking in Woman's Memorial March, viewing Kwantlen Cultural Centre artifacts collection and more. Connections with Skookum Labs will offer evening opportunities such as book clubs, pow-wow events, dressmaking, and beading.



## **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 the 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 Resources 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.

**Tutoring:** Counsellors keep a list of senior students who are available to tutor academic subjects. Please see your counsellor to receive help finding a tutor.