



NORTH SURREY

S e c o n d a r y S c h o o l

Dear Parent/Guardian of Current Grade 7 Students,

My name is Mr. Stefan Stipp and I am the principal of North Surrey Secondary. We are excited to begin the new year planning for our future Spartans. Although it is February, the next few months will fly by and before you know it September will be here. Grade 7 students are enjoying their last year of elementary school and we are looking forward to welcoming them soon. The first two years of high school are designed for students to acquire a deeper understanding of a variety of learning areas and to begin to explore the Arts and Applied Design Skills and Technology (ADST) modules. We refer to our grade 8 and 9 years as the Exploration Years at North Surrey. After grade 9 students enter the Graduation Years and begin to refine their learning pathways as they approach graduation.

Beginning high school can feel overwhelming but our hope is to provide you with a timeline (backside of this letter) of the various steps and opportunities to connect with our staff here at the school prior to September. Many of you might have children currently attending North Surrey or have students that are part of our alumni, or this might be the first time you attend our school. Regardless, we are excited to begin the learning journey with you. Below you will find a timeline and a description of what you can expect at each step along the way.

Exploration Years – Grade 8

In the Exploration Years (Grade 8), students are immersed in both Arts Learning and Design Learning

The **Arts Learning** courses are:

- Humanities (Integrated English and Social Studies)
- Languages (French or Intensive French)
- Arts Learning
 - The Arts module(s) will include the following:
 - Visual Art, Choir, Dance and Drama, **or**
 - Band

The **Design Learning** courses are:

- Science
- Math
- Physical Health Education
- Design Learning
 - The ADST module(s) will include the following:
 - Intro to Technology Education (Wood/Metalwork)
 - Intro to Home Economics (Foods/Textiles)
 - Intro to IT/Web 8 (Computers)



Timeline of Articulation

February 26-28, 2024

- North Surrey Principal, Mr. Stipp, will visit elementary schools
- The [North Surrey Learning Guide 2024](#) is available for additional information and descriptions of all the courses we offer.
- Go to the [school website](#) learn more about our school.

February 29, 2024

- Grade 7 Parent Night and Tours 6:00pm at North Surrey Secondary
- Review the Exploration Years Planning Tool/Course Options listed below and on the [website](#)

March 5, 2024

- Prior to this date, Grade 7 students will let their teachers know if they are interested in Band and Intensive French (available only for students currently in Intensive French)
- Grade 7 teachers will inform North Surrey of choice

April 11-14, 2024

- North Surrey staff visit elementary schools (virtual visits where necessary)

May 7 & 9, 2024

- Grade 7 Student Visits to North Surrey

August 30 to September 1, 2024

- Students receive opening package via email

September 2, 2024

- First day of school



NORTH SURREY

Secondary School



North Surrey Secondary Exploration Years 2024-2025

The Exploration Years (Grades 8 & 9) provide students an opportunity to explore a variety of learning areas to help prepare them for different pathways, interests and passions as they approach the Graduation Years (Grades 10-12).

Courses are grouped into Learning Areas, as they share many of the same curricular competencies described in the [Ministry of Education Curriculum](#); however, students will be scheduled into courses across learning areas in a semester system.

Humanities 8 and 9 is a yearlong course and provides an opportunity for students to build positive relationships and a strong foundation in the Exploration Years. Check [Learning Guide 2024](#) or descriptions of courses in all Learning Areas. **Students will receive the following courses (checks) and choose from the circles.**

Grade 8	Grade 9
<p>Arts Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Humanities 8 (<i>Yearlong course</i>) ✓ Language 8 (<i>choose one</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ French 8 <i>or</i> ○ Intensive French 8 ✓ Arts Learning 8 (<i>choose one</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Band 8/PHE <i>or</i> ○ Arts Learning 8 (4 modules) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Art 8 ✓ Choir 8 ✓ Dance 8 ✓ Drama 8 	<p>Arts Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humanities 9 (<i>Yearlong course</i>) ✓ Language 9 (<i>choose one</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ○ French 9 <i>or</i> ○ Intensive French 9 <i>or</i> ○ Spanish 9 ✓ Arts Learning 9 (<i>choose one</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Art 9 ○ Band/PHE 9 ○ Choir 9 ○ Vocal Jazz 9 ○ Dance 9 ○ Drama 9 ○ Musical Theatre 9 ○ Stagecraft 9
<p>Design Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Math 8 Science 8 ✓ PHE 8 ✓ Design Learning 8 – (3 modules) ✓ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intro to Tech Education ○ Intro to Home Economics ○ Intro to IT/Web 8 (Computers) 	<p>Design Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Math 9 ✓ Science 9 ✓ PHE 9 <i>or</i> PHE 9 (non-competitive) ✓ Design Learning 9 (<i>choose one</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ○ Info Tech 9 ○ Business Ed 9 ○ Media Arts 9(Animation) ○ Robotics 9 ○ Power Tech 9 ○ Drafting 9 ○ Woodwork 9 ○ Metalwork 9 ○ Foods 9 ○ Textiles Fashion 9 ○ Textiles Art & Design 9

Grade 9

Students in grade 9 who wish to participate in more in-depth study of the arts can also audition for an afterschool X-block as a 9th course:

Theatre Company 9 Polaris 9 Jazz Band 9