



SEMAIHMUO SECONDARY  
**GRADE 8**  
2023-24  
COURSE BOOKLET

**Our Mission is to educate every student to meet the challenges of a changing global society.**

**"Semiahmoo... We are the future"**



# Welcome to Semiahmoo Secondary

The courses offered at Semiahmoo Secondary follow guidelines set out by the Ministry of Education and the Surrey School Board. Programs consist of a combination of required courses and elective courses. The courses you choose may help you to learn life skills, explore new fields, and discover capabilities and interests of which you may have been unaware.

Selecting elective courses is an important process and should be carried out in consultation with parents and counsellors. Courses with insufficient enrolment to justify a class grouping will not be offered. It is important, therefore, that you make thoughtful and careful decisions. Certain elective combinations will influence future pathways as well. For example, if French is dropped in Grade 10, students are unable to enroll in French class in Grade 11. Student course requests determine what courses will be offered the next school year. It takes several months to build the master timetable and requests for changes are not usually accommodated. Please take care when requesting your courses for the coming year!

It is recommended that students and parents review the contents of this booklet. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to a school counsellor.

We wish all our students a rewarding and positive school year. Happy planning!

## Administration

Mr. Baljit Ranu	Principal
Ms. Jana White	Vice Principal
Mr. Zack Lund	Vice Principal

## Department Heads

Ms. Ramirez	International Languages	Ms. Poelzer & Cross	Physical & Health Education
Mr. Clunas	Math	Ms. Nelson	Home Economics
Ms. Correia	LST	Mr. McGimpsey	Culinary Arts
Mr. Cox	Technology Education	Ms. Ross	CLE/CLC
Mr. Brown	BASES	Ms. Blackwell	Counselling
Ms. Fernandes	ELL	Mr. Yeung	Science
Mr. Memmott	Visual Arts	Ms. Slater	Communicating Student Learning
Ms. Burwash	English		
Mr. Kenny	IB		
Mr. Hoven	Info Tech/Business Ed		
Mr. McCallum	Social Studies		
Ms. Pajic	Careers Education		
Mr. Lowe	Music		
Ms. McDonough	Learning Commons		

## Counsellors

Ms. Hamilton	(A – Dativas)
Ms. Wilson	(Dag - Hibbert)
Ms. Jamieson	(Higgs - Liao )
Ms. Barclay	(Lin – Sran)
Ms. Blackwell	(Stahl – Z)

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# *GRADE 8 Required Courses*

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Each Grade 8 student is required to take the following courses:

1. English 8
2. Social Studies 8
3. Science 8
4. Math 8 **or** Numeracy 8
5. General Explorations 8 A (Food Studies, Textiles, Metalwork, and Woodwork)
6. French 8
7. PHE 8
8. Band 8 **or** General Explorations 8 B (Visual Arts, Drama, Careers, and Computers and Communication devices)

## **ENGLISH 8**

English Language Arts 8 equips students with the language and literacy skills for success in school, community, career, and life. It provides students the opportunity to become effective communicators, to develop and express their own ideas, and to think deeply and critically about the ideas of others.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES 8**

(7<sup>th</sup> Century -1750) Focuses on the interconnectedness of global society; discoveries and innovations; the pace, pattern and directions of historical change; intercultural contact and conflict. Students will make personal, local, global, and interdisciplinary connections between past, present and future while being introduced to the complexity of Civilizations, World Religions, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the English Civil War.

## **SCIENCE 8**

Grade 8 science is an introduction to the skills of studying science and lab work. The big ideas of this course include life at the cellular level, how matter is made from atoms, wave behavior and Earth's tectonic plates. Classes explore and inquire into science around us. Students develop in their core competencies of communication, social responsibility, and critical thinking in a science environment.

## **MATHEMATICS OVERVIEW**

The mathematics program at Semiahmoo Secondary School is designed to provide all students with opportunities to make progress towards achieving their intellectual, social and career goals. As students explore their mathematics course options, they need to keep in mind their career objectives and identify the courses required to fulfill their goals. It is also important that both parents and students maintain regular contact with their mathematics teacher to review appropriate course placements.

The main goals of mathematics education include:

- Using mathematics confidently to solve problems
- Using mathematics to better understand the world around us
- Communicating and reasoning mathematically
- Appreciating and valuing mathematics
- Making connections between mathematics and its applications.
- Becoming mathematically literate and using mathematics to participate in and contribute to society.

## **MATHEMATICS 8**

The Mathematics 8 curriculum is designed to encourage a deeper understanding of the following key concepts through concept-based learning.

- Fractions and fraction operations are powerful tools for understanding and exploring the world around us.
- Proportional reasoning using rates, ratios and percents helps to reveal the essential relationship between quantities so that we can solve problems and make informed decisions.
- Recognizing and extending patterns allows us to make generalizations and accurate predictions. Discrete linear relations can be represented in many connected ways.
- Geometry and measurement empower us to understand and to interact with the world in ways that are beneficial to individuals, societies and the planet.
- Representing complex relationships using algebraic expressions and equations can help us solve problems with greater accuracy and speed.

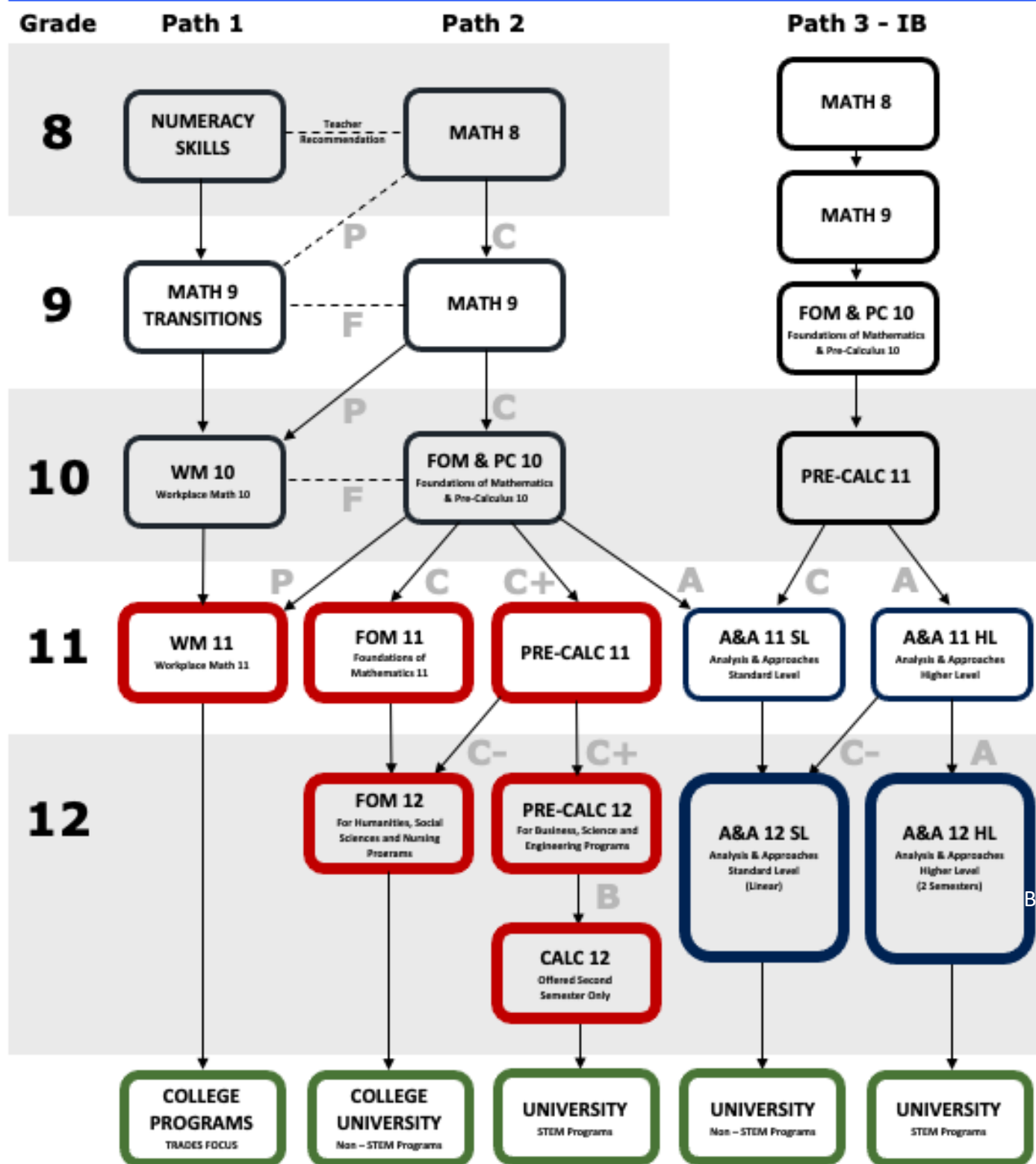
At the successful completion of this course, students select their future mathematics program: Mathematics 9 or Mathematics 9 Transitions.

## **NUMERACY 8**

Numeracy 8 is designed for students who have encountered significant challenges in elementary school math. By narrowing the focus and slowing the pace, students have the chance to develop confidence in learning math. At the successful completion of the course, students will proceed to Math 9 Transitions in Grade 9 and from there to Apprenticeship and Workplace Math 10 and 11. This course will not satisfy the prerequisite for the Mathematics 9 course. However, if a student has made significant progress by the end of the course, then upon their teacher's recommendation, they may enroll in Mathematics 8 and after successfully completing Mathematics 8, they may enroll in Mathematics 9.



# Math Paths at Semiahmoo Secondary School



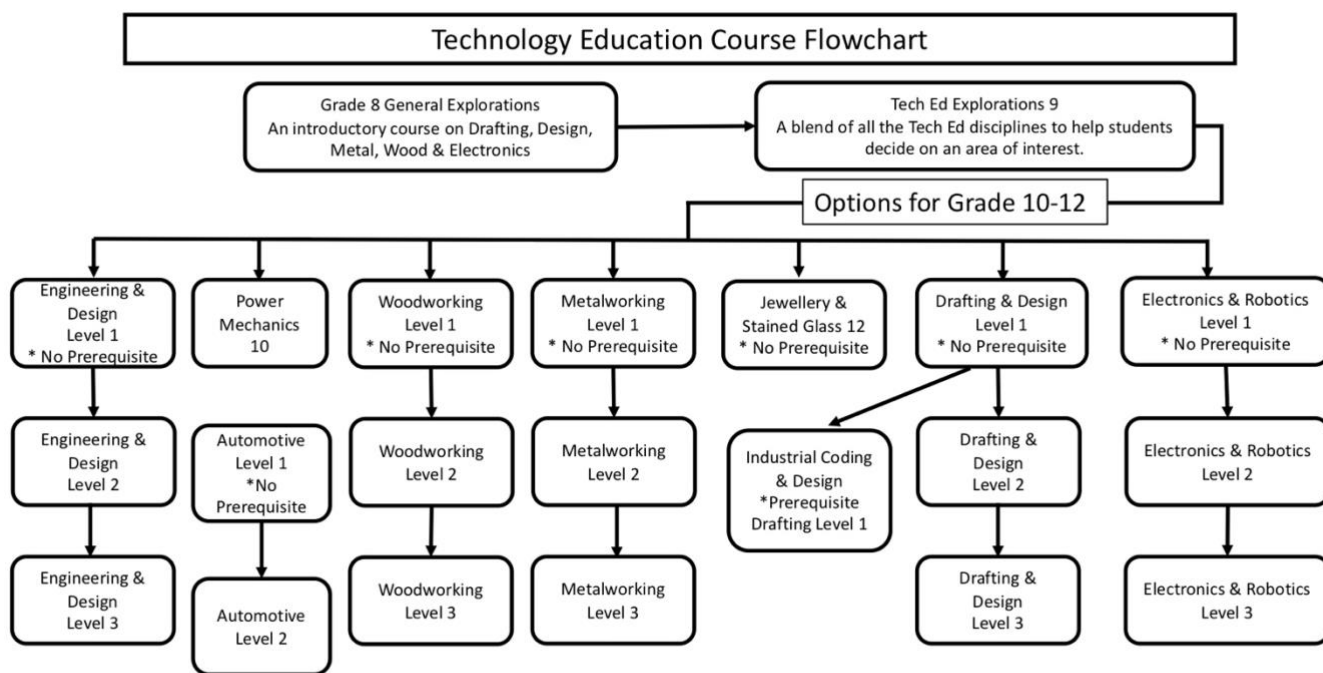
- The purpose of the above chart is to provide general guidelines. There will always be exceptions.
- Grades represent recommended minimum marks for successful transition to the next course.
- The bold boxes indicate "terminal" courses where no further study is required, except for the purpose of entering a college or university program.

## GENERAL EXPLORATIONS 8 A – ADST

General Explorations 8 A is a required course for all Grade 8 students. This is an introductory course, which provides experiences in the following areas:

1. **Home Economics** – Learn how to make Semi’s famous cinnamon pinwheels and macaroni pizza casserole. What can be better than getting credit for learning how to cook and eat? In the textiles section, you will learn how to sew a fabulous pair of shorts and the world’s cutest frog.
2. **Technology Education** – Students will get a chance to experience drafting and design principles as they get to build projects from wood and metal. They will be asked to use their creativity to guide them as they design and build various projects over the ten weeks. Students will learn about shop safety and the proper use of hand tools and machinery.

Students will complete projects and learn to work cooperatively. Emphasis is on developing good work habits.



## **MODERN LANGUAGES OVERVIEW**

The principal goal of the language program at Semiahmoo is to develop communication skills so that students will have the desire and ability to express themselves in real-life situations. According to the B.C. Ministry Language Education Policy, it is mandatory to study a second language for four consecutive years (Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8). In Surrey, that language is French. Students should be aware that a Grade 11 language course is a prerequisite for most post-secondary institutions, and that a Grade 12 language course is required for certain post-secondary programs.

### **FRENCH 8**

This course builds upon acquired knowledge and skills from elementary school, to offer students an opportunity to increase their level of competence in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will learn French through Comprehensible Input methodologies, like storytelling, story-asking, Movie Talk, Picture Talk, among others. Students will be immersed right from the beginning in a communicative environment, that resembles the way we learned our first language: a relaxed, fun and caring environment that focuses on acquiring language not learning about it. Due to the cooperative nature of this course, regular attendance is very important.

### **PHYSICAL HEALTH & EDUCATION 8**

The goal of our physical education program is to instill an appreciation for and an understanding of the benefits of an active, healthy lifestyle. The program will provide students with the opportunity to fulfill the following objectives: 1. To participate and enjoy a variety of performance and leisure-oriented activities. 2. To develop positive attitudes towards physical activities. 3. To be able to work cooperatively in group activities. 4. To acquire skills and knowledge necessary to develop an active and healthy lifestyle and set personal fitness goals.

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## *Grade 8 Elective Courses*

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### **CONCERT BAND 8**

Prerequisite: One-year experience on primary instrument or director's permission.

Concert Band 8 is designed to introduce students to the Secondary School Music Program. Concepts emphasized include theory, technique, tone production, and rhythm. Students will receive instruction on their instrument and will listen to and perform music in a wide variety of styles. Concert Band 8 is taken in conjunction with Physical Education 8. Students will study Concert Band 8/Physical Education 8 on alternating days for the entire school year.

Note: Guitar and piano players are welcome to enroll, but they must also play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument in Concert Band 8. Electric bass is acceptable.

### **JAZZ BAND 8**



Prerequisite: Minimum one-year experience on primary instrument or permission of director. Student must be registered in Concert Band 8 or have the Director's permission to participate.

This course builds on concepts developed in Concert Band 8 and introduces students to modern big band jazz. Included in this course is an introduction to playing the blues and improvisation based on chords and scales. Ear training and playing varied styles such as swing, Latin, rock, fusion, funk, and bebop are also part of the curriculum.

## **GENERAL EXPLORATIONS 8 B - ADST**

This is a foundation course including study in both arts, technology, media arts, and career education.

**Visual Art 8** - Art students will experience work in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional forms. Many of the skills in art foundations will be explored, including color theory, elements and principles of design, and basic areas of visual expression.

**Drama 8** - Drama students will participate in a variety of creative, introductory activities. Mime, movements, improvisation, and basic stage knowledge will be highlighted. Emphasis will be on individual participation and working cooperatively with others.

**Computer Studies & Communication Devices 8** – The two goals of this course will be: (A) Developing skills for using a computer in an academic / business setting (Microsoft Word and PowerPoint). We will learn how to use: Tables, Heading Formats, Images & How to wrap text around them. (B) Multimedia (video editing in Adobe Premiere). We will learn how to put together: photos, videos, sound effects, background music to make small videos.

**Careers 8** - Students are given the opportunity to meet the present BC Curriculum requirements for Career Education 8 in class through a rotation in ADST 8. Those students who cannot fit this course into their timetable will be contacted and asked to complete some on line assignments and reflections in teams.

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# *Student Support*

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## **ACADEMIC SUPPORT (LST)**

The purpose of academic support is to promote success in academic subjects through tutorial instruction, assist students' efforts to develop organization and study skills and provide skill-building strategies/support for areas of learning difficulty. Classrooms equipped with technology and resources serve as tutorial centers where students receive subject support, participate in one-on-one and group tutorials, and work on skill-building activities. In addition to the academic support room, learner support team staff members may also support students in the subject classrooms. LST teachers communicate students' academic needs to classroom teachers and advocate and design relevant accommodations that will promote success.

Access to support through the LST program is based on academic needs and the availability of space. Students who are having academic difficulties should see their school counsellor to explore options.

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL) DEPARTMENT**

ELL courses enable English language learners to develop oral and written English so that they can fully participate in the regular school program. We help students adapt to and function more successfully in the culture of the school and the community.

Selection into the program is based on assessment results and/or teacher reports. ELL students are enrolled in both ELL classes and regular classes, depending on their English proficiency. Students with proficiency at or approaching grade-level English are typically enrolled in a regular academic program and their progress is monitored. They can access support from ELL teachers when needed.

### **Levels of Proficiency for the Assessment of ELL students:**

Beginning, Developing, Expanding, Bridging, Consolidating

### **ELL Courses:**

**ELL Level 1** is a year-long course for students who do not yet have the English skills to successfully participate in academic courses. This program teaches the basic skills of reading, writing, listening, and, in particular, speaking.

**ELL Level 2** is a year-long course for students with some proficiency in English. This program helps students develop their skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

**ELL Level 3** is a year-long course that focuses on improving the students' reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Students at this level of proficiency should be able to comfortably converse in English, and are prepared *and* ready to broaden their skills in more academic structures.

**Introduction to Academic English 10** is for focused practice and instruction in sentence structure, academic composition, and analysis. Students will work with a wide range of materials designed to help them prepare for the demands of the English curriculum. This is a 4-credit course.

**ELL Support** is a class that may be provided to help ELL students meet the learning goals of their mainstream academic courses.

## **COUNSELLING**

Counselling services are a personal, educational, and career service for students and a resource for teachers and families. Counsellors act as advocates for students and their families. Seeing a counsellor is facilitated by a simple appointment system within the school. In particular, the counsellors provide the following services:

Personal Counselling - confidential discussion of personal concerns.

Educational Counselling - selection of courses, program planning, graduation requirements, post-secondary entrance requirements, and reference materials.

Career Counselling - exploration of values, interests, abilities, needs, establishing career goals, and exploration of related occupations.

Referrals - after consultation, counsellors will provide appropriate referrals to other school services or community resources.

## **LEARNING COMMONS**

Semiahmoo's library boasts over 17,000 titles, over 15 magazines, and one daily newspaper subscription. Access to the internet and the school network are also available. The teacher-librarian will help students locate materials, use computers, write bibliographies, and take and/or organize research notes.

## **BUILDING ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, AND EMPLOYMENT SKILLS (BASES) PROGRAM**

The program provides school-based categorical services for students with high and low incidence special needs, including severe learning disabilities and mild to moderate intellectual disabilities. Placement of students is by district referral based on Ministry of Education criteria. For further information on programs and services, please contact the BASES Program teachers directly.

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# *Extra-Curricular Activities*

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## **SPORTS**

Grade 8 students have an opportunity to participate in many extra-curricular sports at Semiahmoo Secondary. Here is a list of all the sports offered at the school:

Fall: Soccer (Boys), Volleyball, Cross Country, Swimming, Weight Lifting

Winter: Basketball, Table Tennis

Spring: Badminton, Rugby, Tennis, Ultimate, Track & Field, Golf, Soccer (Girls)

For more information visit: <http://www.semiahmooathletics.ca>

## **CLUBS**

Our school community boasts over 35 student led clubs from a variety of different interests. Students can join clubs such as the Globalizers, Toastmasters, Model United Nations, MedHopeful, Sew Let's Share, etc.

Our goal is to provide an array of clubs to meet the needs of our students and to provide an opportunity for students to collaborate to meet their club's mandate.

All clubs have a teacher sponsor overseeing the club and providing guidance and mentorship to students. Clubs meet regularly, often weekly, and maintain high expectations of their members. More information on our clubs can be found at this link:

<https://www.surreyschools.ca/schools/semi/Extra-curricular/Clubs/Pages/default.aspx>