



*Sullivan Heights is a caring, inclusive community where everyone is a lifelong learner.*

**Entering Grade 9**  
**COURSE REQUEST HANDBOOK**  
**2025 – 2026**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Grade 9 Program Sheet .....	2
Core Course Descriptions .....	3
Understanding Gr.9 Electives .....	4
Modern Languages Course Descriptions .....	4
Fine Arts Course Descriptions .....	4
Performing Arts Course Descriptions .....	5
ADST Course Descriptions .....	6
9 <sup>th</sup> Course Offerings .....	7
English Language Learners Programs .....	7

# GRADE 9 2025-2026 Course Requests

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## CORE COURSES:

Students in Grade 9 will be assigned the following courses:

**MATH 09**

**SCIENCE 09**

**PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION 09**

## Request ONE of the following:

☐ **HUMANITIES 9**

(Full Year - containing English & Socials 9)

☐ **ENGLISH 9 and SOCIALS 9**

(Two separate courses)

## Request 3 Electives:

LANGUAGES		VISUAL ARTS		PERFORMING ARTS		APPLIED DESIGN, SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY (ADST)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	FRENCH 09	<input type="checkbox"/>	CERAMICS AND SCULPTURE 09	<input type="checkbox"/>	CONCERT BAND 09: BEGINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	FOOD STUDIES 09
<input type="checkbox"/>	SPANISH 09	<input type="checkbox"/>	VISUAL ARTS 09	<input type="checkbox"/>	CONCERT BAND 09: INTERMEDIATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	TEXTILES 09
		<input type="checkbox"/>	PHOTOGRAPHY 09	<input type="checkbox"/>	DANCE 09: FOUNDATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	COMPUTER PROGRAMMING 09
				<input type="checkbox"/>	DANCE 09: INTERMEDIATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	DIGITAL MEDIA 09
				<input type="checkbox"/>	DANCE 09: ADVANCED	<input type="checkbox"/>	FINANCIAL INVESTING 09
				<input type="checkbox"/>	DRAMA 09	<input type="checkbox"/>	ENGINEERING 9
				<input type="checkbox"/>	GUJARAT 09: BEGINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	WOODWORK 09
				<input type="checkbox"/>	GUJARAT 09: INTERMEDIATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	METALWORK 09

☐ CHOIR BAND 09 - may be requested as a ninth/tenth course.

☐ JAZZ BAND 09 – may be requested as a ninth/tenth course (only for students in Concert Band 09).

*These courses may be chosen in addition to the courses above but will be outside of the regular school day (before and/or after school)*

## Request 3 Alternate Electives:

LANGUAGES		VISUAL ARTS		PERFORMING ARTS		APPLIED DESIGN, SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY (ADST)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	FRENCH 09	<input type="checkbox"/>	CERAMICS AND SCULPTURE 09	<input type="checkbox"/>	CONCERT BAND 09: BEGINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	FOOD STUDIES 09
<input type="checkbox"/>	SPANISH 09	<input type="checkbox"/>	VISUAL ARTS 09	<input type="checkbox"/>	CONCERT BAND 09: INTERMEDIATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	TEXTILES 09
		<input type="checkbox"/>	PHOTOGRAPHY 09	<input type="checkbox"/>	DANCE 09: FOUNDATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	COMPUTER PROGRAMMING 09
				<input type="checkbox"/>	DANCE 09: INTERMEDIATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	DIGITAL MEDIA 09
				<input type="checkbox"/>	DANCE 09: ADVANCED	<input type="checkbox"/>	FINANCIAL INVESTING 09
				<input type="checkbox"/>	DRAMA 09	<input type="checkbox"/>	ENGINEERING 09
				<input type="checkbox"/>	GUJARAT 09: BEGINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	WOODWORK 09
				<input type="checkbox"/>	GUJARAT 09: INTERMEDIATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	METALWORK 09

\*\*\* Alternate electives must be DIFFERENT from the primary elective requested.

## **Core Courses**

### **MATHEMATICS 09 (MMA 09)**

The Mathematics 9 course continues to expose students to introductory algebra, statistics, and rudiments of 3-D geometry. It also starts to introduce students to financial literacy, and it deepens the study of some of the concepts introduced in school mathematics. In the following year, students will have two different options in terms of what mathematics course they will enroll into. The request of Grade 10 mathematics course will depend on the students' performance in this course. Students need to know that their effort in this course is more important for their success than their "mathematical talent". Students are expected to complete 30-45 minutes of individual mathematics practice every day when they are enrolled in this course.

### **SCIENCE 9 (MSC 09)**

Science 9 will build on the conceptual, laboratory, and critical thinking foundations which began in Science 8. Scientific inquiry continues to provide the framework for asking questions, designing, and carrying out experiments, making observations, and making sense of the natural world. The major themes investigated in Science 9 include DNA, sexual and asexual reproduction, periodic table, chemical compounds, circuits, electricity, matter cycles and the interconnectivity of the spheres of science. Students will use these concepts as a platform to investigate how to think scientifically, evaluate ideas critically, and investigate fairly.

### **PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION 09 (MPHE 09)**

The goal of our physical education program is to instill an appreciation for an active, healthy lifestyle.

The program will provide students with the opportunity to fulfill the following objectives:

- To participate and enjoy a variety of performance, fitness, and leisure-oriented activities
- To develop positive attitudes towards active living
- To acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to develop an active and healthy lifestyle
- To demonstrate appropriate social behaviour, etiquette, fair play and leadership skills related to physical activity, personal, and social responsibility.

***During Grade 9 course request, students are provided a choice. They can continue with Humanities 9, OR they can request to focus on the two subject matters (English 9 and Socials 9) separately.***

### **HUMANITIES 09: (MEN 09 / MSS 09)**

The Humanities 9 program offers students a cross curricular approach to the delivery of English and Social Studies (1750CE – 1919 CE). The focus is on deepening students understanding of the world around them by studying societies and worldviews of the past and comparing them to the world we know today through critical thinking and communication. Humanities explores literacy through mediums such as stories, novels, films, poetry, podcasts/audio, photography, primary/secondary sources, and a composition of texts. At a grade nine level, there will be a strong emphasis on multi-paragraph composition and strengthening historical thinking skills.

### **ENGLISH 09: (MEN 09)**

At this level, English focuses on strengthening foundational literacy skills through the study of text, stories, and various forms of media, such as poetry, stories, novels, graphic novels and Indigenous texts. Students work towards multi-composition writing and are provided opportunities to develop and refine their writing abilities. A focus is placed on developing skills such as active reading strategies, asking meaningful questions, broadening understanding of self and the world, quote integration: extracting accurate and quality evidence to support thinking, and composing literary, narrative, expository, descriptive, persuasive, and opinion pieces

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 09: (MSS 09)**

Social Studies 9 offers students an overview of the period of history between 1750CE – 1919 CE. The focus is on deepening students understanding of the world around them by studying societies and worldviews of the past and comparing them to the world we know today. Social Studies education approaches history and geography through the development of critical thinking skills, focusing on cause and effect, interpretation of primary and secondary sources, and analysis of historical patterns and contexts. At a grade nine level, there will be a strong emphasis on multi-paragraph compositions and strengthening historical thinking skills.

---

## **CAREER EDUCATION 09 (MCE 09)**

This is a mandatory program that is required for all students in Grade 9. This course is delivered online via TEAMS and involves 5 assignments that are submitted to TEAMS. One of these reflections is the Take Our Kids to Work activity that is Province wide in early November. These assignments involve Career and Personal Discovery topics which focus on pathways for students leading to Career Choices. Students will be reflecting on future goals and plans with an emphasis on self-discovery.

## **Understanding Electives for Grade 9 students**

As the diagram on Page 2 explains, unless your child is in a special program, all Grade 9s are assigned Math 9, Science 9 and Physical and Health Education 9. Students must also either take Humanities 9 or Social Studies/English 9 separately.

Students are then to request 3 electives (*and 3 alternate options*) from the following areas:

- Languages (French 9 or Spanish 9)
- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Applied Design, Skills and Technology

## **Modern Languages**

### **FRENCH 09 (MFR 09)**

Bienvenue à Français 9! Have you ever wanted to speak French better for the travel experiences within Canada and the world? Do you want to taste, hear, and see Francophone cultural experiences? French 9 focuses on the four pillars of listening, speaking, reading, and writing as we explore topics such as our passions, goals, holidays, and travel. Students learn the foundations of French while improving their ability to speak the language with increasing spontaneity.

### **SPANISH 09 (MSP 09)**

Come explore a language that can take you around the world to more than 20 countries. You will be able to communicate in Spanish by speaking, reading, writing, and listening. Through food, songs, art and dance we will experience the cultural activities that enhance Spanish and bring this amazing language to life.

## **Fine Arts**

### **CERAMICS AND SCULPTURE 09 (MVA 09 CS)**

Ceramics and Sculpture 9 is a beginner-level 3D specialization course in the Fine Arts program. Students are introduced to a wide range of subjects, materials, and building techniques in 3D art. They must be comfortable working with clay and demonstrate proper procedures for handling this material.

### **VISUAL ARTS 09 (MAE 09)**

Visual Arts 9 is an introductory course that encourages creativity through traditional art forms. Students respond to, create, and communicate themes using drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture. They will document, reflect, and share their personal discoveries through sketches and other mediums. The concepts and skills taught in this course establish a foundation for future visual arts courses and enhance learning in other subjects through critical and creative thinking, problem-solving, and self-reflection.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY 09 (MVA 09 PHOTO)**

Photography 9 is an introductory-level Fine Arts course designed to introduce students to the world of photography. This course provides opportunities for students to learn about composition and to express themselves through digital photography. Students will experiment with various image making methods, create photographs with a specific audience in mind, and analyze photographs in terms of compositional aspects. Students will explore a range of learning concepts, materials, and equipment. No prerequisite is required, although Visual Arts 8 is recommended.

## **Performing Arts**

### **CONCERT BAND 09: BEGINNER (MMU 09 BEG)**

Beginning Band 9 is for all students who wish to learn how to play an instrument and have not played an instrument before. Students will learn rhythm, music notation and music reading while having the opportunity to play fun music, and perform in concerts and festivals.

### **CONCERT BAND 09: INTERMEDIATE (MMU 09 INT)**

Recommended: Successful completion of Band 8 or director's permission. This course is designed for students who have reached an interim level of proficiency on a band instrument. Students will experience a significant increase in complexity and excitement of repertoire over previous band levels. Students will have the opportunity to perform in festivals and concerts.

### **DANCE 09: FOUNDATIONS (MDNC 09)**

This course is for students who have always wanted to learn to dance but may not yet had the opportunity or who have up to three years of recent experience in any genre or those who dance at the recreational level. Students will learn the basics of multiple genres including Jazz, Hip Hop and Contemporary in a fun and supportive atmosphere. This class is perfect for people of all fitness levels to learn new skills in flexibility, strength, and coordination through the learning of choreography. Students will advance at individual levels and be encouraged to challenge themselves through establishing individual dance goals. Students will have multiple performance opportunities.

### **DANCE 09: INTERMEDIATE (MDNC 09 INT)**

This course is for students with four or more years of recent dance experience, either in school or at a studio. Students will have opportunities to study many genres including Hip Hop, Contemporary and Jazz. Students will increase their dance technique and vocabularies through the regular viewing and critiquing of live and recorded performances and through the creation of choreography for stage. There will be multiple workshop and performance opportunities. **Students must be recommended or receive permission to enroll in this course. Students who have not previously taken a dance course at Sullivan should speak with Ms. Law directly prior to requesting this course.**

### **DANCE 09: ADVANCED (MDNC 09 ADV)**

This course is designed to challenge the advanced dancer and facilitate explorations of the world of dance and performance. This course is appropriate for those with five or more years of competitive and/or examinable dance experience. Students will increase their dance technique and vocabularies through regular viewing and critiquing of live and recorded performances and through the creation of choreography for stage. Students will advance at individual levels and will be encouraged to challenge themselves as dancers and choreographers. There will be multiple workshop and performance opportunities. **Students must be recommended or receive permission to enroll in this course. Students who have not previously taken a dance course at Sullivan should speak with Ms. Law directly prior to requesting this course.**

### **DRAMA 09 (MDR 09)**

Drama 9 is a performance course for both new and returning Drama students. Teamwork, confidence and creativity are the focus while connecting you with your peers and enjoying the process of making theatre. It will involve units of study such as improvisation, mime, character development, vocal exploration, movement exploration, monologue development, and one act plays. While there is little written homework, students are required to memorize lines and rehearse their assigned scenes outside of class time. Active participation and enthusiasm will help contribute to success in this course.

### **GUITAR 09: BEGINNER (MMU 09 GUI-BEG)**

This is an introductory course. No previous guitar or music experience is necessary! Students in this course will learn basic chords and strumming patterns which will enable them to play several styles of music including popular, rock and blues music. Students will also learn the basics of finger-picking and basic guitar technique, while learning to read music and tab.

## **GUITAR 09: INTERMEDIATE (MMU 09 GUI-INT)**

Intermediate guitar is designed for students who have guitar experience, and want to learn more challenging styles and techniques. In advanced guitar students will explore a variety of topics such as blues, classical guitar, scales, and advanced chording. Students are encouraged to pursue individual projects in this course.

## **Applied Design, Skills & Technologies (ADST)**

### **FOOD STUDIES 09 ADST (MADFS09)**

An introductory course to develop an interest in, and enjoyment of food. Students will learn about ingredients, equipment, and food safe practices. Skills and abilities in food preparation will be developed and students will finish the course able to cook and bake independently. Students will make recipes from a variety of cultures, and will learn about recipe design, nutrition, meal planning, ethical issues, and traditional Indigenous food practices.

### **TEXTILES 09 (MADT 09)**

Would you like to learn how to sew and make your own clothes and accessories? You will learn about different fashions, fabrics and sewing techniques. Students will study fabric selection and care, pattern design and alterations, basic clothing construction techniques including waistbands, zippers, buttonholes, facings, collars, and hems. You will master the use of the sewing machine and be introduced to the serger and other sewing related equipment.

### **COMPUTER PROGRAMING 09 (MADIT 09)**

Have you ever wanted to develop your own game or app? Learn to code and build your own software in Computer Programming! Build upon your computer skills and develop essential skills for game design, app development, and all other senior computer courses.

### **DIGITAL MEDIA ADST 9 (MADGE 09)**

Are you interested in digital imagery and graphics? Create animations, capture and edit video and design awesome graphics in Digital Media! As a part of the class, you will learn how to use Adobe Photoshop, Premiere and Animate as you plan, design and refine a variety of awesome media types.

### **FINANCIAL INVESTING 9 (MADEM09)**

Financial Investing 9 provides students an introduction to personal investment options. This course will explore topics to help students understand how can invest throughout their life to help them meet their life and career goals. We will demystify the investing process, show students how the stock market works, and take part in designing and tracking an investment portfolio based on individual financial needs and wants while recognizing and demonstrating the next generation of investment opportunities.

### **ENGINEERING 09 (MADGE 09)**

What is the Engineering Design Process? Design, Build, Test and Iterate! Come join Engineering 9 where you will be introduced to a variety of different types of Engineering including Civil, Mechanical and Electrical engineering. Build your own bridge, use mechanical advantage, and design your own electrical circuit.

### **WOODWORK 09 (MADW 09)**

Design, build, and create with wood! In Wood 9, you'll learn essential woodworking techniques, use a variety of tools, and complete your own unique projects. Plus, try out the lathe for some bonus woodturning fun!

### **METALWORK 09 (MADW 09)**

Master the art of metalworking in Metal 9! Learn essential skills, from safe tool use and precise measurement to cutting, shaping, and welding metal. Design and build your own projects and unlock your creative potential.

## **9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Course Offerings**

Note: Choir and/or Jazz Band can be requested as a ninth course and is offered outside the timetable in the mornings.

### **CHOIR 09 (MMU 09CH)**

A fun way to learn more than just vocal technique. This performing group will explore a wide variety of musical styles and repertoire, and will focus on developing sight singing and ear training skills. Discover ways to extend your vocal range, create breath energy, formulate and place vowels correctly, and perform with confidence in a choral setting. No previous singing experience is required. Participation in music department activities is expected.

**Please note that this course may be requested as a ninth course and is offered before school.**

### **JAZZ BAND 09 (MMU 09 Y JAZ)**

This course is an introduction to jazz. Students will develop their instrumental and theoretical skills through the lens of standard jazz band genres, including swing, funk, Latin, and rock. Improvisation will be encouraged. Standard jazz band instrumentation is as follows: alto, tenor, or baritone saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, bass guitar, piano or drums. However, all instruments are welcome! Because jazz band learns and performs more challenging music, jazz students must be registered in concert band. Jazz Band is an extension course that builds on the skills of Concert Band 8. Jazz students will have the opportunity to play in concerts and festivals and participation in music department events is expected.

**Please note that this course may be requested as a ninth course and is offered before school. It runs simultaneously with Jazz 10 – 12.**

## **ELL PROGRAMS**

Students are assessed upon entrance into the District and the School and are assigned one or two ELL Support blocks dependent on their individual needs.

### **ELL Beginner**

English Language Learners (ELLs) Beginner/Reception courses are offered for new students who have been assessed at the Beginner level. It is recommended that students enrol in two or three ELL courses initially to build their Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS). The ELL Beginner/Reception course will help students to develop and practice basic reading and writing skills in a variety of content areas, as well as school, community, and Canadian Culture.

### **ELL Developing**

This course is the second level of English Language Learners (ELLs) courses. Students will continue to build their oral, reading, and writing skills. Integration into non-academic courses is supported. Content areas cover general knowledge in academic areas, as well as school, community, and Canadian culture to build on foundational concepts needed for other content areas.

### **ELL Expanding**

English Language Learners (ELLs) Expanding courses prepare students with language skills to consider elective courses with some language demands but not entirely print-based. These students augment their English acquisition through a variety of strategies to enhance their cognitive, oral, writing, and reading skills. ELL Expanding students are ready for the beginning stages of explicitly developing academic English (Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency, or CALPS). Furthermore, the course will continue to cover general knowledge, but will focus mainly on English Language Arts specific content. Most students will have at least one ELL Expanding course per year; sometimes one per semester to best support the student's need.