

# GRADE 9 AT A GLANCE



*Wow! The last year of junior high!* To prepare for high school, Grade 9 students are required to take six subjects: English Language Arts, Health and Life Skills, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science and Social Studies. They can choose from additional optional subjects to round out their curriculum.



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

*I want to develop language and communication skills and experience success in ELA!* Grade 9 students examine ideas, experiences and information from points of view that differ from their own. They discuss how different people take away different meanings from the same material. Using different sources of information, they continue to develop their own opinions and impressions.



## HEALTH AND LIFE SKILLS

*Who knew that my fun volunteering could help me get a job in the future?* Students understand how their choices today have a long-term effect. Who they choose to look up to and which group they choose to be a part of play a role.



## MATHEMATICS

*Working with powers and polynomials.* Your teen will solve problems involving powers and apply the order of operations, including exponents. They will solve problems involving operations on positive and negative fractions and decimals, and understand square roots of positive numbers. They will model and solve problems using linear equations and linear inequalities in one variable. They will also be introduced to polynomials and solve problems involving circle geometry and scale diagrams.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

*What are the benefits of an active lifestyle?* Your teen will take part in various activities that will help them to lead a healthy, active lifestyle. They will grow to appreciate the importance of physical activity, while discovering essential life skills, such as cooperation, leadership, fair play and teamwork.



## SCIENCE

*Can you make sense of the periodic table?* Students in Grade 9 Science work safely with chemicals to explain, interpret and extend their understanding of chemical theory. They also design, test and evaluate electrical devices that transfer and transform energy, and they explore the role of genes and DNA in the diversity of life. Students study space exploration and how science and technology are related.



## SOCIAL STUDIES

*How do our government and economy work? How do they affect me?* Grade 9 Social Studies focuses on citizenship, identity and quality of life. Students will examine the relationships between Canada's political and legislative processes, and they'll examine the impact of these processes on governance, rights, citizenship and identity. Students will also explore issues of economics and their impact on quality of life, citizenship and identity in Canada and the United States.

## OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

ART  
CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATIONS (CTF)  
DRAMA  
ENVIRONMENTAL AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION  
ETHICS  
FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGES  
FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (FSL)  
INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES  
LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES  
MUSIC

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**LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR  
CHILD'S EDUCATION  
BY VISITING**

**My Child's Learning: A Parent  
Resource**

<http://www.mychildslearning.alberta.ca>



## ASSESSMENT

Your teen's learning is assessed using a variety of tools and strategies within the classroom. Ask your teen's teachers what methods they are using. The different assessment methods tell you and your teen's teachers about your teen's strengths, the areas in which they might grow and how well your teen is doing throughout their courses. Your teen's teachers can then change or refine their teaching plans to ensure that learning activities better meet the needs of your teen.

In Grade 9, your teen will write Provincial Achievement Tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. These tests provide information about your teen's achievement compared with the achievement of students in the same grade from across the province. Teachers will often use Provincial Achievement Test results to reflect on how the courses have been taught and how to better assist student learning, and they may use this information to report on your teen's level of achievement. For more information about provincial assessment for Grade 9, contact the Provincial Assessment Sector at 780-427-0010 (toll-free within Alberta by first dialling 310-0000).

You play an integral role in your teen's education by providing the encouragement and support he or she needs to succeed.

## RESOURCES

A variety of digital and print resources, developed by publishers, Alberta Education or Alberta teachers, are available to help students learn. Teachers may select, and bring into the classroom, numerous innovative and creative resources to create rich learning experiences for your child. Visit [LearnAlberta.ca](http://www.learnalberta.ca) (<http://www.learnalberta.ca/>) to learn more about the resources your child may encounter.

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

### HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM SECTOR

Telephone: 780-415-6166

E-mail: [EDC.DivisionalStrategicSupports@gov.ab.ca](mailto:EDC.DivisionalStrategicSupports@gov.ab.ca)

### FRENCH EDUCATION SERVICES

Telephone: 780-427-2940

E-mail: [FES-SEF@gov.ab.ca](mailto:FES-SEF@gov.ab.ca)