

**L. A. MATHESON
Secondary School**

**GRADE 9
Course Selection Handbook
2012-2013**



**The information contained in this handbook can also be accessed from
our school website.**

<http://www.sd36.bc.ca/lamath/index.html>

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Principal's Message

At L. A. Matheson Secondary, we believe that all students can learn. Success at school requires regular attendance, good planning, and hard work. Time management and organizational skills also play a major role in students' success. Fundamental to our belief system at L.A. Matheson is the connection that all learners make with their studies, the goals they set for themselves, and, most importantly, the connections they make with one another.

This booklet outlines the course choices that are offered to students at our school. Choosing wisely is dependent on a number of factors and involves the planning skills and personal connections we accentuate at L.A. Matheson. While it is advisable to keep one's options open, it is necessary to narrow the focus at times to ensure a manageable course load. Keep in mind that the choices made at the graduation program level (Grades 10-12) will impact on the path a student can follow after graduation. As a school, we highly encourage our students to explore a variety of courses in order to discover where their interests and talents lie. Cooperation and support between home and school are good predictors of effective student learning. Students are advised to seek guidance and advice from parents, teachers, counsellors and peers when making decisions about the courses they choose.

We look forward to the contributions that each student will make to the culture of our school, and we are certain that the secondary school experience will be both enjoyable and rewarding at L.A. Matheson.

Mr. P. Sarmiento
Principal

Mission Statement

L.A. Matheson provides a safe, cooperative, and supportive environment to promote social, intellectual and creative growth for staff, students and parents. This environment fosters healthy, productive, responsible citizens of the global community.

HOW TO USE YOUR COURSE SELECTION HANDBOOK

"BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND"

Course selection time is an opportunity to continue thinking about the path you are taking towards graduation and beyond. As a secondary student, it is not expected that you will have all your plans written in stone, but it is important to research the opportunities that are appropriate for you. With that in mind, it is essential to select courses that will keep doors open.

Course selection is a process and this book is one of the tools to help you select your courses. It is expected that you will also take the time to dialogue with your parents, teachers and counsellors about the courses you will select. Further, it is expected that as a senior student, you will also be consulting career facilitators and post-secondary calendars (available in the Counsellor's office) and websites (www.educationplanner.ca), ensuring that prerequisites are met for post-secondary programs that you are interested in.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN MAKING YOUR DECISIONS

As you think about choosing your courses for next year, you should ask yourself:

1. What courses **MUST** I take for graduation?
2. What courses **MUST** I take to meet post-secondary and/or apprenticeship entrance requirements?
3. What courses **MUST** I take to prepare for the work place?
4. What will be the total time demand of the courses I select?

The course selection process at LA Matheson Secondary provides an excellent opportunity for personal growth and for exercising decision making skills. The staff at LA Matheson looks forward to helping you make the best informed decisions possible.

REQUIRED GRADE 9 COURSES

English 9

Science 9

Principles of Math 9

Social Studies 9

Physical Education 9

ELECTIVES

Students will select three electives and two alternate (second choice) courses.

Grade 9 students may move directly into some grade 10 level electives (see the choices below), and earn credits towards their Graduation requirements.

Business Education

Business Education 10

It's fun, it's exciting, and it's Business 10! If you dream of the making a lot of money, want to learn how to manage your money and make it go further, hope to make it big in the world of high finance, or maybe even plan to own your own business, then this is the place to start. As you discover what business is all about, you will learn about business communications, consumerism, economics, finance, accounting, marketing, law, entrepreneurship and international business. Business 10 will give you the knowledge and skills you need to make it in the future. It is a jam-packed class with interesting information about how to succeed in the business world.

Computers 10: Introduction to Information Technology

This course is a great opportunity to improve your computer skills so you can do a lot more than just surf the Internet, chat with your friends on MSN, or use e-mail. This course introduces you to the fun and exciting world of computers where you will learn how to type quickly without looking, browse the Internet effectively to find the information you are looking for, and communicate effectively through word processing and presentation software. You will learn to create spreadsheets in Excel, create a database where you can keep track of large amounts of information, design your own web page using HTML, create a multimedia slide show, paint and draw some fabulous artwork using graphics programs, use photo editing software to manipulate photos, and maybe even build your own computer game. Advanced students will have the opportunity to design interactive web pages using Flash and Dreamweaver, and explore simple sound and video editing.

Yearbook 10

Note: Students will be interviewed prior to admission to this class.

Students will be totally responsible for the production of the yearbook publication. Students interested should have a B or better in their English courses. Students must be willing to work as a team and be willing to put in extra hours outside of class time. As deadlines are a critical reality of this class, a mature attitude and good work ethic are a must.

Within the course, students will learn the principles of layout and design used in the desktop publishing industry and will work with industry-standard software, including PageMaker and PhotoShop. While moving towards creating a completely digital book, students will gain

experience with digital cameras, scanners, and photo manipulation and enhancement. Interested students can also become involved in the creation of our first Interactive Yearbook CD-Rom.

Fine Arts – Music, Performing, Theatre and Visual

Art 10

Students will be working towards improving the basics that they have mastered in art classes. More advanced techniques will be taught within the drawing, painting, printmaking and three-dimensional areas of expression. New mediums and techniques will be introduced. Students in Art 10 will develop their water colour skills and try their hand at multi-colour lino block printing and mono printing. Artwork will be analyzed in written form by responding to works of art. Students will also become familiar with the great masters in art history in order to develop an appreciation of style, technique and skill.

Concert Band 9

Recommended: Band 8 or teacher approval

This is a continuation of Band 8, generally for students in Grade 9 with two years' experience. Students may be expected to perform at local, regional, national or international festivals. Tours have included destinations such as California and Cuba.

Dance 9

This course will provide students with opportunities to express themselves through movement, and gain awareness of the body in relation to space. Students will use the elements of movement (body, space, time, dynamics and relationship) with increasing degrees of refinement, complexity and variety. Some types of dances covered in this course may include jazz, modern, bhangra, bollywood, and hip hop. Students will learn choreography and will be expected to create and compose their own dance routines. No previous dance experience is required.

Drama 10

This course is preparation for the intense work of Acting 11. Students in Drama 10 will continue to build on creative drama while covering the following areas:

- Character development and monologues
- Scriptwriting
- Vocal and physical expression

Guitar 10

Guitar 10 is designed for the beginner and will have students at various levels learning and improving the basic skills associated with playing the guitar. Students will be evaluated on playing posture, tuning, reading music, different strokes, chords, and scales with a focus on modern music. This class will also have a public performance component and will give students an introduction to composition and basic recording skills. Students will also demonstrate knowledge, use, and care of selected instruments.

Jazz Band 9

Recommended: Any level Concert Band 8, 9, or Director's approval. It is recommended the student be enrolled in a concert band in addition to the jazz band.

An excellent class to learn and play musical styles such as swing, jazz, blues, rock and funk. This is also one of the premier ensembles of the school. This class meets outside the regular timetable.

Visual Arts and Media 10

This course is an introduction to designing, analysing, and creating images. The focus will be on mixed-media techniques and students will be expected to create a final portfolio showing a range of visual arts mediums. They will have opportunities to work with multiple techniques and processes like digital photography, sketching, collage, contact printing, typography, and Photoshop. Students who excel in these areas may be given the opportunity to work with traditional photographic techniques in the darkroom.

Media Services 9

Media Services is intended for students who have good leadership skills and an interest in using media to impact their school environment. The focus of the course will be the creation of media productions within the school. The most prominent of these is the “*Matheson on the Move*” weekly news program, but will also include slide presentations, educational video resource development, technical media support for staff development, and special media events. Students will be required to work at lunch and after school on occasion.

Students who want to take part in media services course must:

- have excellent attendance
- have a C+ or better average
- have excellent work habits
- be committed to work in a team environment to complete projects
- show initiative and self-motivation
- have the ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- provide two written recommendations from teachers

Home Economics

Foods & Nutrition 10

Why do some people study nutrition? After all, you’ve been eating food all your life. With a little more skill and knowledge you can create plans for preparing healthy, delicious multi-course meals. Dazzle your friends and family with dishes of homemade pasta and wontons. Learn cooking techniques that will make simple meals much more appealing. You’ll be amazed that you can produce such appetizing and nutritious food. Evaluation is based on labs, written assignments, tests, and projects.

Textiles 10

Enhance your understanding of clothing construction and design. Go beyond the basics! Explore the use of new and specialty fabrics. Investigate the impact of culture on clothing. Apply the elements and principles of design in creating clothing to suit your body type and style. Accessorize! Learn how to enhance and personalize your clothing image. Develop your skills by exploring the use of sergers and computerized machines.

International Languages

French 9

French 9 builds upon acquired knowledge, skills and attitudes and offers students an excellent opportunity to experience the power of authentic interaction in French. Students increase their abilities to communicate effectively in French (listening, speaking, reading and writing) through exploration of a variety of themes such as travel, fashion, music, and sports.

Spanish 9

This course is designed to introduce the student to basic Spanish grammar structures and vocabulary; and to develop communication skills through listening, speaking, reading and writing. The audio-visual Spanish program, “*Dime Uno*”, provides many varied activities which put the student in a “communicative” situation, and rapidly increasing the student’s ability to speak Spanish. Students may purchase the “*Dime Uno*” workbook that will be used for Spanish 9 and Spanish 10 (the second half of the workbook). At the end of this course, students should be able to communicate effectively on topics such as family, friends, school and leisure activities.

Leadership

Community Leadership 9

Leadership is everyone’s business – it is open to everyone in the school community. Leadership can be demonstrated and learned at all levels of an organization and in your personal life. This course deals with the theory and practice of human leadership. The time in class will be split between classroom instruction, using and applying the basic knowledge of leadership and peer relationships. The students will develop leadership skills and teamwork skills, practice public speaking, plan, promote and run events, run meetings, and work on school and community relations. Students and teachers will assess their progress through a comprehensive portfolio that will contain samples of student work and accomplishments, self, peer and teacher evaluation and analysis of personal leadership styles. This course is designed to:

- Develop positive self-esteem.
- Help individuals become effective leaders and helpers.
- Acquire and use basic organizational and meeting skills
- Develop individual listening and communication skills

Students who want to take part in leadership courses must:

- have excellent attendance
- have a C+ or better average
- have excellent work habits
- be committed to work in a team environment to complete projects
- show initiative and self-motivation
- have the ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- provide two written recommendations from teachers
- students may also qualify for this course by special permission from the teacher

Technology Education

Drafting and Design 10

Mechanical and architectural drafting are covered using both board drawing and CAD. A greater emphasis will be placed upon the use of drafting skills in the areas of modeling and problem-solving. Career exploration may also be included.

Metalwork 10

The course is intended as an introductory course to develop the students’ ability in the use of hand tools for working and forming metals, while at the same time meeting the prescribed learning outcomes. A primary objective will be to instill in the student, a positive and responsible attitude towards safety in the metalworking shop. An ability to demonstrate specific practical and

critical thinking skills as they relate to metalworking will be encouraged. In addition, students will demonstrate an understanding of efficient use of scarce resources.

Woodwork 10

This course encourages students to expand their skills and knowledge and to design and problem-solve using wood and related machinery. Individual design of a project is emphasized.

Support Programs

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 students 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 endeavors to assist students to acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to:

- Know and appreciate themselves;
- 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 imparted to students by the following means: scheduling interviews, offering courses, participating in post-secondary Liaison Days, arranging for guest speakers, arranging student field trips to educational institutions or vocational sites, acquiring and displaying calendars and bulletin board displays, providing vocational interest tests, organizing Career Days, making available night and summer school information.

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.