



Introduction

Wow! The last year of junior high! In Grade 9, all students take the following required subjects: English language arts, health and life skills, mathematics, physical education, science, and social studies. Students in Francophone schools or French immersion programs take a mandatory French language course. Additional optional subjects are also offered.

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.

At the end of this course, your teen will write a provincial achievement test (PAT). These tests determine if students across the province are learning what they are expected to learn. For more information, view the [Grade 9 Provincial Achievement Test Parent Guide](#).

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

I'm 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.

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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.

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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.

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Optional Subjects

Optional subjects give students the chance to explore their interests. These subjects also reinforce learnings in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Optional subjects can vary from school to school. Students should be encouraged to continue in Grade 8 and Grade 9 with at least one of the optional subjects selected in Grade 7.

- Art
- Career and Technology Foundations
- Drama
- Environmental and Outdoor Education
- Ethics
- First Nations Languages
- French as a Second Language
- International Languages
- Locally Developed Courses
- Music

How Your Teen Is Assessed

Your teen's learning is assessed using a variety of tools and strategies within the classroom. Ask your teen's teacher what methods they are using. The different assessment methods tell you and your teen's teacher about your teen's strengths, areas in which your teen requires support, and how well your teen is doing throughout each course. Your teen's teacher can then change or refine their teaching plans to ensure that learning activities better meet the needs of your teen. At the end of each course, your teen is assessed and their achievement is reported so that you know if they have achieved the expected learning outcomes for their

grade.

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Resources to Help Your Teen

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 teen. Visit [LearnAlberta.ca](https://www.learnalberta.ca) to learn more about the resources your teen may encounter.

Where can I get more information?

Learn more about your child's education by visiting <https://curriculum.learnalberta.ca/parents/>.