



New Westminster Secondary School  
**COURSE SELECTION 2011/2012**  
**- GRADE 8 -**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Counsellor: Ms. C. Gabel (604) 517-6225  
Name of Current Elementary School: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle if applicable:      ESL\*

*For Office Use Only*  
Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

(\*ESL students are scheduled based on their ESL Assessment – students should still complete the course selection below\*)

*A typical Grade 8 program includes the following:*

**6 REQUIRED COURSES:**

- ❶  English 8 (#100)
- ❷  Socials 8 (#110)
- ❸  Science 8 (#130)
- ❹  Mathematics 8 (#124) or  Mathematics 8/9 Honours (#123)\*\*
- ❺  Physical Education 8 (#122) or  Annual Physical Education 8 for Band Students (#119)
- ❻  French 8 (#140)

**\*\*Note:** Students who have indicated an interest in Math 8/9 Honours above will write the entrance exam on **Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**. Only registered students will be able to write the exam.

**7 AN APPLIED SKILLS ELECTIVE CHOSEN FROM:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Home Economics 8 (#170)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Technology 8 (#175)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Keyboarding 8 (#180)
- Label your preferences 1, 2 and 3**

**8 A FINE ARTS ELECTIVE CHOSEN FROM:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Art 8 (#150)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Band 8 (#152)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Choir 8 (#159)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Drama 8 (Acting) (#162)
- Label your preferences 1, 2, 3 and 4**

**9 Z BLOCK**       192 Leadership 8 (XLS 8) must meet frequently at lunch and after school

*I understand that my course selections are final and that I may not be able to make adjustments to my choices once I have submitted my form.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
✍ Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
✍ Parent Signature

**IMPORTANT:** Completed forms are collected by Grade 7 Teachers and must be returned to **NWSS** by **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011**. Late submission may result in adjustments to elective selections.

## REQUIRED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – Grade 8

**English 8 (EN)** – Students in English 8 are required to read novels, short stories, poems, plays, and a variety of non-fiction material. Students will acquire some understanding of basic grammatical and literary terms; writing will focus on both narrative and expository. Students will also work on developing listening and speaking skills.

**Socials 8 (SS)** – This course surveys the history and geography of several different regions of the world. Areas of focus may include the early civilizations of China, the Middle East, Africa, Japan, India, Medieval Europe, and Renaissance Europe. Students will learn skills associated with critical thought, reason and logic, cartography, and argument development and presentation. There is also a current events component to the course.

**Science 8 (SC)** – Science 8 is intended to stress a student-centered personal and practical approach to the study of Science. Topics include Processes and Skills of Science; Life Science (Cells & Body Systems); Physical Science (Optics & Fluid Dynamics) and Earth and Space Science (Water Systems on Earth)

**Mathematics 8 (MA)** – This course includes the following content: Number and Number Operations, Data Analysis, Probability, Geometry, Algebra, Measurement and Problem Solving. A calculator is required and basic use will be taught.

**Mathematics 8/9 Honours (MA 8/9H)** – This course is designed for strong math students to allow them to enrich their existing mathematics concepts and complete Math 9 in grade 8. An entrance exam is required for acceptance into this course.

**Physical Education 8 (PE)** – The concepts taught are active learning, wellness, fitness, and lifetime/leisure activities with an emphasis on full participation in the following activities: Active health/nutrition, basketball, Canada Fitness Testing, drug and alcohol education, family life education, first-aid, gymnastics, minor games, rugby, skating, soccer, track and field, touch football, volleyball (indoor/outdoor) and wrestling.

**French 8 (FR)** – Students will be using a programme that focuses on communication. Through a variety of approaches, they will develop skills in communicating in French in four areas – reading, writing, listening and speaking.

## ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – Grade 8

**Home Economics 8 (HE)** – learn to cook and sew in this exciting combination course. Foods will cover basic food preparation, nutrition, safety and sanitation. Clothing and textiles will cover basic sewing techniques and information. Sewing machines will be used to construct three projects.

**Technology 8 (TE)** – this is an exciting introductory course to the Technology Education program. Students will work on interesting projects in: Electronics, Metalwork, and Woodwork. Students will also have the opportunity to get involved in some challenging design competitions. The major focus will be on the safe use of hand and machine tools. This is an excellent course for students planning future courses in the technology areas. Essential skills training from the ITA will be taught.

PREREQUISITE: None

**Keyboarding 8 (KB)** – this personal use course is designed as an introduction to touch typing and key familiarization. With the increasing frequency of computer use in today's society, keyboarding has become a necessary life-time skill.

**Art 8 (AR)** – this fun course lets you learn how to develop and design pictures. Learn how to use colour, lines, perspective, and many ways to draw exciting projects you will be proud to hang on your wall!

**Choir 8** – students in this course will learn vocal techniques through rehearsal and performance of a variety of styles including pop, R&B, gospel, jazz, classical and traditional folk in 2, 3, or 4 part harmony. This class generally participates in a tour in the spring.

**Drama 8 (DR)** – an introduction to developmental drama. The course includes activities in movement, speech, concentration, mime, and improvisation through a “games” approach. Once confidence has been instilled, the student must be prepared to put a lot of energy into participation since this is a “doing” class. Evaluation is based on participation and development throughout the term with some supplemental written assignments.

**Band 8** – students enrolled in this course should have participated in Grade 7 band. The course will further develop basic instrumental techniques through rehearsing concert repertoire. Electric bass players must be willing to learn acoustic bass as well.

PREREQUISITE: Grade 7 band or band instructor's permission. While students who have not completed band 7 may enroll in Band 8, the understanding is that they are one year behind and will have to put in additional effort to be successful.

**Leadership 8 (XLS)** – Leadership 8 is an individualized program for students who are interested in becoming active citizens in the school community. An opportunity for students to receive training and mentoring in organization, communication and team-building skills, it also prepares students to take on leadership roles in the NWSS Student Leadership Council. **Leadership is a “Z” block course. Students must be able to meet and to commit to 60 Leadership service hours at lunch and after school. This is an annual program. “Z” block courses are in addition to your regular course load of 8 courses.**