



# Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School

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Dear Future Grade 8 Falcons:

We miss you! We can't wait to welcome you back as soon as possible. Please keep working hard on all the lessons your teachers are working hard to create and stay healthy!

To help make sure we have everything ready to go for next year, please read through this information. Our plan for selecting options for next year is outlined below. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to help!

## **What you need to know and do - the short answer:**

1. Between today and May 8th – read through this information and watch the instructional PowerPoint (Option Selection Tutorial) found here: <https://sjf.lethsd.ab.ca/parents/registration>
2. Between May 8<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup> – use your parent (or student) PowerSchool login and follow the instructions from the PowerPoint on the website to select the options you'd like next year. We've simplified the choices so don't worry if you don't see the same options we've offered in the past.

## **What you need to know and do - the long answer:**

### Part 1 – Registration (The boring part)

Typically, around this time you get a pile of paperwork full of contact information and permission forms to fill out and return to the school. Not this year! Our school division is working on an online registration package that will streamline the process. We will let you know when that is up and running. In the meantime, don't worry about that part of things. We have all the important demographic information we need to get started.

### Part 2 – Option Selection (The fun part)

First, take a few minutes to talk with your Falcon about the different option classes they may want to explore. The descriptions of the courses offered are at the end of this letter. Keep in mind, this process does not prioritize preferred options. Selecting more options than required is better than selecting fewer. It helps create flexibility if some options fill up before others. Otherwise, students may be placed in options in which they have no interest. Although there are opportunities to change options at certain points throughout the year, the fewer changes we have to make once classes start, the better. Then, sometime between May 8<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>, follow the instructions from the PowerPoint and select options for next year.

# Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School

## 2020-2021 Grade 8



### General Guidelines for Options:

- Review the options descriptions and decide which ones are of interest.
- The school year is divided into 3 terms, each term having 2 option blocks. This means students could potentially have six different options each year.
- Band is a FULL YEAR option. This means Band will take up 3 of the 6 option blocks.
- Some options have a supplementary fee to cover material and supply costs.
- Option courses will be selected through parent PowerSchool logins.
- The Option selections window will be from May 8<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Detailed instructions for selecting options are on the Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School web page. ([sjf.lethsd.ab.ca](http://sjf.lethsd.ab.ca))
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**PLEASE NOTE:** Depending on student numbers, students' option selections, and teacher schedules, new courses may be created or cancelled.

## ART

“Art does not reproduce what we see; rather, it makes us see.” – Paul Klee. In this class, you will use a variety of tools, techniques and media to express your feelings, think artistically and value different art forms. Your creations will make others see, think and feel differently about the visual world. As an artist, you will study the elements and principles of design as the basis for good composition in your own work and for appreciating the work of others.

Course Fee: \$15.00 (materials and supplies)

## BAND (3 terms)

This option continues to focus and extend on the fundamentals of wind & percussion instruments. Through individual growth and co-operative group interaction, students become confident musicians. Goals of the program include learning to play an instrument, learning to read music, learning music theory and participating in public performances.

Additional costs: Most students will privately rent from a local music store (flute, clarinet, alto/tenor saxophones, trumpet and trombone). Percussion and larger instruments are rented from the school for a fee of \$90. All students pay an option fee of \$15 which includes a method book and folder that will be used for the year.

## CHORAL

Come as you are and make music with us! We'll sing a wide variety of music, including current hits you've heard on the radio...and classics your parents and grandparents might have heard too!

Course Fee: \$15.00 (materials and supplies)

## COMPUTERS

This option provides students with the opportunity to develop basic proficiencies in digital media. Students will use Adobe Photoshop to edit photographs, create amazing original content, and even learn to build professional grade web pages and YouTube banners. Students will also dabble in Adobe Premiere Pro to create amazing videos in areas of their own interest. Students will also endeavour to become good digital citizens by learning about safe social media practices to prevent loss of personal information and prevent cyberbullying.

## DANCE

We will explore a variety of styles including, Jazz, Lyrical, Bollywood, Broadway, Ballet, and more! You will improve your flexibility, balance, stamina, cardiovascular fitness, coordination and confidence. Students will have the opportunity to choreograph their own number as a solo or in a small group. *This class is suitable for all levels of dancers, from beginners to advanced.*

## DRAMA

In this class we will work together as a group to explore the joys of theatre. This will include movement, speech and acting as well as technical theatre to make props, design sets and run lights and sounds. Depending on class interests we will explore theatre through mime, clowning, children's theatre, puppetry and more! If you enjoy *any* aspect of theatre, this option is for you!

## FOODS

Do you like food? We like food! This option will introduce you to all things culinary. Learn to talk like a chef, cook like a chef, and eat like a pro! Students will work in groups to create culinary masterpieces and learn about food, kitchen safety, nutrition, simple meal planning, and food preparation techniques. By the end of this option you'll be “bacon” to be in the kitchen!

Course Fee: \$20.00 (supplies and materials)

## FRENCH

*French can be delicious!* Your teen will explore the evolution of French and see that French differs from region to region. They will write, read and speak about topics such as pets and pet care, clothing design and care, and nutrition. They will also explore Francophone food and celebrations and become more sophisticated in how they use the language.



## **MODERN LANGUAGE = GERMAN + SPANISH**

If you enjoyed learning Spanish and/or German last year or have an interest in different languages and cultures around the world, this class is for you. Explore different ways people communicate and interact based on unique cultures and histories and learn how they influence how we communicate and interact as well.

## **INTRO TO GUITAR**

This class is an “intro” to playing the guitar. No previous guitar experience required. Through individual growth and co-operative group interaction, students become confident musicians. Students will learn the fundamentals of music notation, parts of the guitar and proper playing technique leading into fundamental chords. Styles will vary from classical to rock and a bit of everything in between. The class will have performance opportunities in the school at term end celebrations.

Course Fee: \$10.00 (supplies and materials)

## **GUITAR**

The grade 8 class is a continuation of the grade 6 and 7 classes. Students will add on to their knowledge of the instrument. Students will be learning to read multiple voices and explore more complicated chords. An importance will be placed on more advanced rhythms and sight-reading. The class will perform in term end celebration concerts.

***Pre-requisite: Grade 7 guitar.***

Course Fee: \$10 (supplies and materials)

## **INDUSTRIAL ARTS - CONSTRUCTION**

Students will develop fundamental hand and power tool skills to safely build projects out of solid wood and composite materials.

Course Fee: \$30.00 (material and consumable costs)

## **SEWING**

Learn about the world of fashion, fabric and design! In this option, students will practice the basics of machine assisted sewing while completing different sewing tasks and projects. Course fee does not include fabric & supplies.

Course Fee: \$15.00