

Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School

2025-2026 Grade 8 Options



General Information for Options:

- The school year is divided into 3 terms and each term has 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.
- Students and parents should talk about which options to select ahead of time.

Reminders:

- This process does not prioritize preferred options, nor do we track who selects options or when. Once all selections are entered for all students, our software will populate as many students with their requested options as possible.
- Selecting more options than required is better than selecting fewer. It helps create flexibility if some options fill up before others.
- You will learn what options you will be taking in the fall when PowerSchool opens at the end of August

PLEASE NOTE: Every effort will be made to accommodate your choices, however, be advised that availability of options may change due to space restrictions, staffing changes, and demand. Choices are not guaranteed.



ACTING FOR CAMERA

Lights, camera, action! Live theatre is great, but there is also another completely different world in dramatic arts. The world of film. This class will teach students the skills needed to become film actors as well as film makers. We will write screenplays and will have the opportunity to direct and star in short films. There will be a goal of a public performance with this class.

Course Fee: \$20.00 for equipment upkeep

ACTIVE LIVING

In Active Living, you'll get to explore what it means to live a healthy, balanced life—your way. Whether you're already active or just getting started, this class is designed for students of all fitness abilities. You'll take part in fun, challenging and informative activities, including smart nutrition habits that help you feel your best—now and in the future. In today's fast-paced, screen-filled world, we'll slow things down and focus on Olakino Mai ka'i — "To Live Healthy" — by finding what total body fitness looks like for you

ART

In this fun and dynamic class, you'll explore a variety of artistic techniques like drawing, painting, sculpture, and printmaking while experimenting with materials like clay, charcoal, and acrylics. You'll build your skills, discover your own artistic voice, and reflect on your creative process through hands-on projects. Along the way, you'll learn about design principles, art history, and how art connects to culture and personal identity. Ready to let your creativity shine? Let's make some art!

Course Fee: \$15.00 (supplies & materials)



BAND (3 Terms)

This course continues to build on the skills developed in Band 7, focusing on further refinement of wind and percussion techniques. Students will continue to grow as individual musicians while also improving their ability to collaborate and perform as part of an ensemble. The program's goals include mastering more advanced music, expanding music theory knowledge, and participating in public performances.

Prerequisite:

Completion of Band 7 or equivalent prior experience, with a solid understanding of basic instrumental techniques. This is not a beginner band class.

Course Fee: \$25, which includes a method book, a folder for the year, sheet music played in class, and maintenance of the school's music library.

Additional Costs:

Most students will privately rent instruments such as flute, clarinet, alto/tenor saxophone, trumpet, or trombone from a local music store.

Percussion, bass guitar, and larger wind instruments (e.g., baritone, tuba) are rented from the school for a fee of \$100.

Important Note:

Students playing instruments larger than an alto saxophone (e.g., tenor saxophone, baritone, tuba) will need to arrange personal transportation for their instrument, as these cannot be transported on school buses. This will ensure they can practice at home.

Full Year Commitment:

Band is a full-year option. Students may take band along with an additional option of their choosing each term. Once enrolled in band, students are expected to remain in the class for the full year.



BASEBALL

Do you want to hit like Shohei and field like Bo? Big leaguers didn't get to the "show" by accident, they had to put in the work. Come join us so we can develop our fielding, throwing, hitting, and base running skills. Not only will we play baseball, but we will also learn the game of Slow Pitch which is one of the world's most popular sports. Mental preparation, mind-set, positional play, sport specific conditioning, learning how to umpire and score keep are other strong components of this program. Ending the semester with a World Series Playoff is also a big attraction. See you on the field.

Pre-Requisite: You have to be able to throw and catch (safety reasons).

Course Fee: \$15 for equipment replacement costs

COMMERCIAL ART

In this class, artists will examine how artwork has influenced our culture. You will examine advertising and mass production of art through the media and fashion. You will explore a variety of techniques to create works based on popular art.

Course Fee: \$15.00 for supplies and materials

CREATIVE WRITING

This hands-on course introduces students to the creative world of theatre design. From sets and costumes to lighting, sound, and props, students will explore how design elements support storytelling on stage. Through collaborative projects and design challenges, they'll develop artistic skills, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. Students will need to provide their own basic art supplies throughout (Could include: glue gun, paint, markers, cardboard, etc.). No prior experience is needed—just curiosity and a willingness to explore behind the scenes.



CULINARY ARTS

Like food? Want to learn how to make food? This option will introduce you to all things culinary. Students will work in groups to create culinary delights and complete assignments to gain knowledge about kitchen safety, nutrition, simple meal planning, and food preparation techniques. Additionally, students will look at design and artistic aspects in the culinary world. Students will have the opportunity to design and create layouts, menus, and interior/ exterior design for the food industry. By the end of this option, you will be “bacon” to be in the kitchen and have a greater understanding of the role food plays in our world!

Course Fee: \$30.00 for supplies and materials

DANCE

This class focuses on ensemble dance elements, such as learning group choreography, history and significance of cultural dances, as well as introducing a variety of dance styles; ie hiphop, lyrical etc.

Course Fee: \$15 This fee is attributed to bringing in guest dance instructors.

DRAMA 8

Missed drama class in grade 7? Don't worry, I've got you covered. Drama is all about creating and expressing, whether that is through a character or just an exaggeration of oneself. This introductory option will have students learning the basic skills needed to begin a flowering career in the dramatic arts. They will learn elements of acting, movement, stage design, theatre history, and be given multiple opportunities to create and explore. There will also be opportunities to perform in front of an audience of fellow students within this class, to further gain the experiences needed to be a well-rounded thespian.

ESPORTS

The Esports option introduces students to esports, covering its history, game types, and basic design concepts. Through team activities and competitions, students develop teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and decision-making skills. They also learn about the physical and mental needs of esports athletes, creating nutrition and fitness plans during class.

Course Fee: \$25.00 Equipment upkeep and maintenance fee.

IMPROV

Learn how to rock the improv stage! Develop skills like storytelling, teamwork, characterisation and quick thinking. Students will learn about and perform different improv forms including short scenes, long form improv, and tournament style play.



INDUSTRIAL ARTS—CONSTRUCTION

In this hands-on Industrial Arts class, students will explore the fundamentals of woodworking and learn to use both hand and power tools in a safe and structured environment. The course emphasizes building practical skills and encourages creativity through various projects. Students will gain a solid understanding of tool operation, measurement techniques, and materials, while focusing on safety practices at all times. Each project will build on students' growing skills, helping them develop confidence and proficiency in woodworking. By the end of the class, students will have a portfolio of completed projects and a strong foundation for future work with tools and craftsmanship.

Course Fee: \$30.00 for supplies which include the cost of lumber, fasteners (nails, screws, glue), sand paper, clear coat, stain and any other items related to the cost of building materials.

INTRO TO GUITAR

This class focuses on the fundamentals of guitar playing and is designed as an introduction to the instrument. It is open to all Grade 8 students, regardless of prior experience. Previous music experience is an asset. Through individual growth and cooperative group interaction, students will develop confidence as musicians. The class will focus on expanding skills in music notation reading, TAB (tablature) reading, and proper playing techniques, leading to fundamental chords. The styles explored will range from classical to rock, with a variety of genres in between. Expect to play music daily in this class.

In Term 1, there will be an opportunity for students to participate in our entry to the CBC Music Class Challenge 2025.

Course Fee: \$10.00 includes use and upkeep of guitars

MUSICAL THEATRE

In the world of acting, it is great to be what is known as a triple threat; singer, dancer, and actor. Musical Theatre helps build those triple threat skills. This class will be working on the elements needed to put on a musical production, as well as preparing an audition for one. Students will be cast in and perform in the Fairbairn Spring Musical. There will be a goal of a public performance with this class.

Course Fee: \$30.00- includes the purchasing of the rights to perform our musical



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Outdoor Education is a student-centered program designed to enhance the participant's knowledge and skill in an outdoor setting, while prompting growth in student learning ability, self-confidence, and self-discipline. This activity centered course will help forge personal connections between course content and future career opportunities through unique challenges, discussions, and exposure to lifelong hobbies.

Course Fee: \$30.00 The course fee for Outdoor Education falls in three streams. Maintenance of equipment (Archery, Disc Golf and fly fishing). Field trips (Bussing, facility entrance fees). Classroom supplies (Paracord, Survival shelters and fire starting).

SEWING

Learn about the world of fashion, fabric, and design! In this option, students will gain basic hand sewing and machine sewing skills while learning how to work with different fabrics, follow pattern instructions, sew basic stitches, and explore garment design.

Course Fee: \$20.00 includes consumables such as iron-on adhesive, poly-fill stuffing (which I provide because I can source it for cheaper and it prevents storage issues), thread and fabric used for teaching/practice purposes in addition to their personal projects that they take home, classroom-provided supplies (students do not have to purchase their own tools if finances are a barrier as I have a classroom supply of scissors, seam rippers, measuring tapes, pins, etc.)

STAGE MAKEUP

This option focuses on the learning and applying of certain make up effects used in stage productions and film. Students will look at techniques used for ageing, creating wounds, and creating unique monster or creature effects.

Course Fee: \$20.00 for purchasing of make-up and materials



STEM 8

STEM 8 builds on the foundations of STEM 7 and challenges you to take your skills to the next level through dynamic, hands-on exploration. In this course, you'll apply scientific inquiry, engineering design, and mathematical reasoning to solve complex, real-world problems. Dive into projects like designing and testing prototypes, programming with logic and precision, exploring the physics behind structures and motion, and investigating the impact of emerging technologies on society and the environment. You'll work collaboratively, think critically, and use tools like coding platforms, sensors, and design software to bring your ideas to life. Get ready to explore deeper connections between science, technology, engineering, and math—this is where innovation gets real!

Course Fee: \$10 for materials and equipment

STREET HOCKEY

Wanna shred some asphalt and learn mad hockey skills at the same time? Street hockey is where it's at. When we aren't outside tearing up the pavement, hitting "Michies", or working on our toe drag releases, we will be competing in a hockey draft and learning all about the game. A student favourite is mini-stick Mondays which really get the juices flowing. Twice during the semester, we will go to Nicholas Sheran for an on-ice scrimmage (full gear). This class ain't "dust", we guarantee it.

Course Fee: \$20 for

TECH

Tech 8 provides students with a solid foundation in computers, photography, videography, coding, and drone flight. Using Adobe Photoshop students learn green screen techniques, photography skills, filters, effects, and text. Students then record their own videos and use Adobe Premiere Pro to cut, sequence, and add effects to produce high quality short films. Students use BBC Micro:bits to learn simple python and block coding. Finally, each student will complete a Drone Flight Project where they learn to safely take off, maneuver, record video, and land a school-owned drone. Drones include: DJI Mavic Air, Spark, Mavic Mini, and Mini-2 models. If you have any interest in technology, this is the class for you!



WORLD OF DRUMMING

Ready to explore your inner drummer? Join this dynamic percussion ensemble class designed for Grade 8 students! This program introduces students to playing percussion-based music in a group setting. We will study and perform world music from Africa, Brazil, North America, Trinidad, and beyond. The music will feature African drums like Djembes and talking drums, Surdos, Caixas, and Tamborims, and Trinidadian Steel Drums. This class is unique—Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School is one of the few schools in Canada to offer such a robust World Percussion Program, giving students an exceptional opportunity to explore diverse percussion instruments from around the world. Students will generally be performing music daily as part of this ensemble.

Music experience is an asset, but beginner musicians are welcome. In Term 1, participants will have the opportunity to participate in the 2025 CBC Music Class Challenge with this group. Other performance options may also arise throughout the year.