

MATTHEW MCNAIR SECONDARY SCHOOL

GRADE 8 PROGRAM PLANNING GUIDE

2019 -2020



Principal:
Vice Principals:
Counsellors:

Mr. J. Leslie
Ms. D. Ten-Pow Mr. T. Irani
Ms. C. Bagnall Ms. D. Ozla

Matthew McNair Secondary School

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Purpose of this Booklet	1
Principal's Message	2
Grade 8 Requirements	3
Course Descriptions	
Grade 8 Courses.....	5
Mini School	8
Complementing the Curriculum	9
Student Services	10
Resource	11
Dates to Remember	12

PURPOSE OF THIS BOOKLET

The purpose of this booklet is to provide students and parents with an overview of the course offerings at Matthew McNair Secondary School. It is intended to help students and their parents choose the most appropriate courses for the coming school year. Some courses must be taken to meet the graduation requirements of the Ministry of Education, while others will be chosen to meet individual future interests and goals.

Due to timetable and staffing considerations, course changes will be very difficult after initial selections and therefore it is very important that the selection of courses be done thoughtfully. Students and parents should examine this booklet carefully and then discuss the choice of courses.

Please note: courses will be offered if there is sufficient enrolment to justify a class. If a student selects a course for which there is insufficient enrolment, the student will be placed in the first alternative course identified by the student. Therefore, please choose alternate courses with care.

Matthew McNair Secondary School

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Matthew McNair Secondary School, home of the Marlins! As the Grad class of 2024, this is the first time for you to connect with each other and experience what life is going to be like over the next 5 years. High school is a very exciting time in a young person's life, and McNair is a great place to experience all that a fantastic school can offer.

There are many opportunities here that will be of interest to you. We offer a comprehensive program of school sports (Basketball, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Soccer, Rugby to name just a few), we have very strong Theatre and Music programs, we also have excellent Fine Arts classes, Business and Technology Education programs, Modern Languages, Home Economics, Metal and Wood shops, an Automotive shop, a Culinary Arts program, and a comprehensive Mini-school program (comprised of enriched learning experiences with an outdoor education component). This is all above our standard complement of Academic courses (Math, Science, English, Social Studies and Physical Education), all of which offer our students a first-rate education from our friendly, dedicated and professional teaching staff.

We are very much looking forward to working with you over the next five years and want to encourage you to get involved and make positive connections, memories and relationships with both teachers and other students as you move through your high school years.

I am proud to be the Principal of this school because McNair is a great place to learn, and we are happy to have you join our community

Sincerely,
Mr. Jason Leslie

COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH COURSES

Please note: Basic supplies required to fulfill learning outcomes in all courses will be provided to students free of charge. Should students wish to use other or additional supplies, these may be purchased directly or through the school on a cost-recovery basis. Students wishing to take home or consume completed project work may do so on a cost-recovery basis. Students will be asked to pay costs in connection with optional field trips. Please contact Mr. J. Leslie , Principal, for any further information. Thank you.

Matthew McNair Secondary School

GRADE 8 REQUIREMENTS

Students will be enrolled in eight (8) required courses each year.

French 8
Humanities 8: English 8 & Social Studies 8
Mathematics 8
Physical Education 8
Science 8

Wheel: Combination of Art, Drama, Music,
Home Ec. And Tech. Ed
Band 8 (optional)

Matthew McNair Secondary School General Information

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Grade seven students living in McNair's catchment and attending a McNair feeder school will automatically be registered in the Spring to enter Grade 8 at McNair in September. Grade seven students living in McNair's catchment who are attending other elementary schools will be contacted by our counsellors. A letter will be sent to the home in August explaining back-to-school procedures and dates.

TRANSFER APPLICATIONS

Students who are not residing in the McNair catchment area must apply to attend McNair by submitting a transfer form by February 28, 2019.

Counsellors will be available in the school to assist students with course planning and timetable adjustments during the last week of the summer. An appointment is necessary.

BELL SCHEDULE

8:15 Warning Bell
8:20 - 9:34 Period 1
9:39 - 9:57..... Silent Reading
9:57 - 11:15..... Period 2
11:15 - 11:32..... Break
11:37 - 12:51..... Period 3
12:51 - 1:31..... Lunch
1:36 - 2:50..... Period 4

McNair's Silent Reading Program is school wide and occurs at the beginning of Period 2.

COURSE LOAD

All grade 8 students carry a full schedule of classes - 4 courses every day. Any exception to the above

schedule requirement must be approved by the principal.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is an essential element of success. Holidays should be taken during the scheduled breaks in the school year. Absences at other times cannot be authorized and the loss of time may have serious consequences.

REPORTING AND EVALUATION

Report cards are issued in November, February, April and June (at the end of each quarter). Interim reports may be requested from and, in some instances, will be initiated by the teacher at any time during the school year.

Students should always know how they are progressing in all subjects. To help in this process, students are issued agenda books in September so a record of achievement in each class can be maintained. The breakdown of letter grades used by teachers on midterm reports and final reports follows:

<u>Midterm</u>	<u>Final</u>
A	A
B	B
C+	C+
C	C
C-	C-
I	F

*I – In Progress or Incomplete

Matthew McNair Secondary School

GRADE 8 COURSES

GRADE 8 WHEEL

This is a full year exploratory course in which all grade 8 students will gain experience in the applied skills subjects: Art, Business Education, Drama, Home Economics, Music and Technology Education for 6 weeks each.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING (ELL)

Students who do not have English as their first language must acquire the learning outcomes of Levels One to Three in the ELL program before commencing the regular English program. Students in Level Three can take their regular Social Studies course concurrently with Intermediate ELL. Students in Level Four can take their regular English course concurrently with ELL English. Students will receive the following number of blocks of support per year for each level:

Level 1 - 3 Blocks

Level 2 - 3 Blocks

Level 3 - 2 Blocks

Level 4 - 1 Block Level

5 – non-enrolling

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & MARKETING 8

This is the 6 week introductory course to the world of Business Education. Students will touch upon the units of Marketing, Entrepreneurship and Promotion by participating in a Barter Economy, creating a product advertisement and a print ad, participate in a Dragon's Den/Shark Tank unit by creating a prototype product and analyzing and preparing sales pitches for (staff) Dragons/Sharks. The Technology unit will introduce students to online presentation software such as Prezi. The Digital Citizenship unit will look at internet safety and protocol with discussions on cyber-bullying, identity theft, phishing etc. The final project is a video message to their Grade 12 selves presented upon Graduation.

Students are highly recommended to continue with the Grade 9 level course in this area.

FINE ARTS 8

This is a 6 week exploratory course in which all grade 8 students will gain experience in the fine arts subjects:

Art, Drama, and Music. Students will spend one-third of a semester in each of the above areas of study. The music portion of Fine Arts will focus on guitar performance, basic music theory, rhythm, and listening.

FRENCH 8

Learn to communicate in French!

This course is an introductory level of French, in which situations and themes familiar to students are used. Emphasis is equally placed on oral communication, reading, writing, and listening. Workbooks may be used in this course. Copies from workbooks are supplied to students to supplement thematic work,

Students wishing to write in the workbook will be charged \$2 for each booklet. Several workbooks may be used.

HUMANITIES 8 (XAT--08)

Humanities 8 integrates the study of English and Social Studies and is a course that runs for the whole year. It is designed to develop students' skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking and will emphasize both comprehension and composition skills. Course content includes concentrations on the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, mapping, and basic geographical concepts. A wide range of literature is studied and a workbook supports grammar and composition lessons.

HEALTH AND CAREER EDUCATION 8 & 9

The Health and Career Education 8 and 9 curriculum address education and careers, healthy living and relationships, safety and injury prevention and substance misuse prevention. Learning outcomes for Health & Career Education 8 & 9 are covered within grade 8 and 9 required courses and through assemblies, guest speakers and special events.

JUNIOR CONCERT BAND

In this course students will have the opportunity to continue their music studies progressing from an elementary band class or from private study. Various performance, listening, and music creation activities will be introduced through a rich selection of band literature. Beginners are welcome in this class, but should consult with the teacher before selecting an instrument. We meet one lunch time and one after school per week. **Any students electing to take Band 8 must take it in addition to the required grade 8 course load.** See our website: mcnairmusic.ca for more information.

Matthew McNair Secondary School

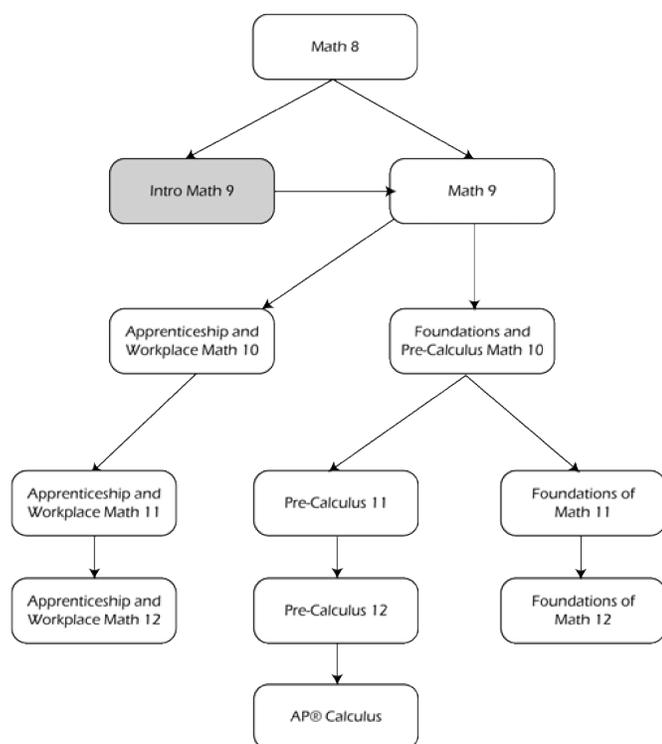
PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8 (PE 8)

The PE 8 program will review and develop the basic movement skills developed through the elementary physical education program. Students will be exposed to a broad spectrum of physical activities selected from team sports, individual sports, dance and active health and fitness. Skill progression will be evaluated in the psychomotor (skills), cognitive (written test), and affective (attitude) domains.

MATHEMATICS 8 (MA 8)

In Math 8, students will improve their understanding of proportional reasoning, number operations, measurement, geometry, algebra, and financial mathematics through the ongoing development of the curricular competencies: reasoning & analyzing, understanding & solving, communicating & representing, and connecting & reflecting. Developing these curricular competencies will be the instructional focus in the course.

WNCP Pathway Progression



ORCHESTRAL STRINGS 8 - 12 (MOS 10, IMOS 11 and IMOS 12)

Violin, viola, cello and string bass players are welcome. Bowing techniques, orchestral ensemble

playing and performance techniques will be studied through a wide variety of music. Listening skills will be strongly emphasized through organized school field trips and study of famous string players. Performances by orchestra will be an important element of the class. This course is open to beginners. One auditioned piano player will be accepted into this course.

SCIENCE 8 (SC 8)

Topics to be covered: safety, the scientific method, life processes within cells, behavior of matter, energy transfer, and the plate tectonics. Students will have the opportunity to gain science skills and explore scientific literacy by regularly completing: practical laboratory experiments and lab reports, inquiry projects, group presentations and tests. Students will be assessed based on the new core and curricular competencies.



Matthew McNair Secondary School

McNAIR MINI-SCHOOL FOR HIGHLY MOTIVATED STUDENTS

The McNair Mini School is a five-year program beginning in grade 8. The selection process for this exciting program begins each January.

PHILOSOPHY

The McNair Mini School is designed to challenge academically able, motivated students with an enriched course of studies in a cohesive setting. The curriculum will be compressed and enriched to develop critical thinking skills, creativity and independence. McNair Mini School graduates have an enviable record of achievement. They have won many scholarships and been accepted to many prestigious post-secondary institutions.



Just as intellectual progress is vital to each student's future; so too is the social aspect of each student's development. There are three major field trips each year designed to foster the acquisition of essential attitudes: leadership, responsibility, initiative, cooperation and mutual respect. Service to the community will be encouraged. Although the students remain together for their core courses, they retain access to all the elective courses, facilities, clubs and teams of McNair. We believe that these students should play an important part in the environment of the school. Grade 7 students must apply by the mid-February to be eligible for this program in Grade 8.

COMPLEMENTING THE CURRICULUM

LIBRARY

Matthew McNair Secondary School has a large fully computerized library facility located in the center of the school. Teachers often book their entire subject-area classes into the library to begin research projects or get instruction/lessons on certain aspects of research work. Teachers also send small groups of students to the library for a variety of reasons (e.g. to get books for silent reading, individual research work, special help from the librarian, reading guidance,

ATHLETICS

The objectives of Matthew McNair's Athletic Program are:

- 1) to contribute toward the improvement of the health, fitness and general welfare of the student athlete;
- 2) to engage a maximum number of students in both the administrative and activity areas of the program;
- 3) to stimulate all participants to progress academically and to make a contribution to the general education program of the school; and
- 4) to encourage the development of leadership, sportsmanship and citizenship in each student athlete.

The athletic program offers the students of Matthew McNair a wide and varied selection of team and individual activities:

FALL SEASON

Cross Country	All Grades
Field Hockey	Sr. Girls
Rugby	Gr. 8, Jr. Boys
Soccer	Sr. Boys
Swimming Jr. & Sr.	
Volleyball	Gr. 8, 9, Jr. & Sr. Girls, Sr.

WINTER SEASON

Basketball	All Grades
Table Tennis	All Grades

SPRING SEASON

Badminton Jr. and Sr.	
Golf	All Grades
Rugby	Sr. Boys
Soccer	Sr. Girls
Tennis	All Grades
Track & Field	All Grades
Ultimate	All Grades
Volleyball	Gr. 8, 9, Jr. Boys

Matthew McNair Secondary School

STUDENT SERVICES CENTRE

The major goal of the Student Services Centre is to support and enhance the academic, personal, social and vocational development of students.

COUNSELLING CENTRE

Counsellors will assist students to check their records as they progress towards graduation and advise individuals of any problems that might hinder graduation. The alphabetic breakdown of students assigned for each counsellor is

A– K	Ms. D. Ozla
L– Z	Ms. C. Bagnall

**For purposes of checking records and interviewing, students are assigned to specific counsellors. Students are welcome to work with either counsellor regarding personal concerns.

Counsellors provide support in the following areas:

Personal:

- Crisis counselling involving home or school problems.
- Resolving problems arising from difficulties related to class and/or school routines and policies
- Inter-community referrals to qualified specialists who may offer additional assistance.

Educational:

- Course planning leading to graduation, post-secondary education, and employment.
- Arranging assistance for students experiencing academic difficulties
- Providing scholarship information and applications.

Career:

- Referring students to prospective employers who have contacted the school
- Exploring career alternatives and checking for prerequisite courses and requirements for various occupations

Students may make appointments with the counsellors during school hours before or after school, and at lunch. Parents are also welcome to phone counsellors if they have any questions or concerns or to make an appointment.

RESOURCE

Resource teachers provide assistance to students who are experiencing significant difficulties in all or most areas of their learning. Most students in the Learning Strategies Program are enrolled in core academic and elective programs but receive direct support from resource teachers. Support is also provided by working with the student and teachers in their classrooms. Teachers, counsellors, parents and students can make referrals for support. Students in Learning Assistance will develop skills to help promote learning success in all classes

HEALTH SERVICES

Health promotion services are provided by a community health nurse from the Richmond Health Department. In the school, the nurse acts as a resource person to counsellors, staff and students on health issues. To contact the nurse, a message may be left at the office.

SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM

Matthew McNair Secondary participates in the school police liaison program in conjunction with the Richmond R.C.M.P. Detachment. The purpose of this program is to enhance the working relationship between the police force, school and community.

Matthew McNair Secondary School

DATES TO REMEMBER

STUDENTS COMING INTO GRADE 8

- January 24, 2019 **Showcase Night and Parent Programming Meeting**
All students currently in grade 7 and their parents are welcome to come visit Matthew McNair Secondary School for more information on the programs offered to not just grade 8 students, but students in all grades.
- February 2019 **Feeder School Visits**
Counselors, teachers and current students will visit all elementary schools that feed into Matthew McNair Secondary School. The team will introduce all that McNair has to offer, both academically and socially. The counselors will start programming the grade 7 students for the Fall Semester by giving them course descriptions and option sheets that will be completed by all grade 7 students and their parents.
- February 6, 2019 **McNair Mini-School Info Meeting for Grade 7 Parents**
- February 14, 2019 **Course Selection Sheets due for all Grade 7 Students**
- February 28, 2019 **Round 1: Transfer Application Deadline**
- February 15, 2019 **McNair Mini-School application deadline**
- February 26-27, 2019 **McNair Mini-School Interviews**
- February 25-
March 8, 2019 **McNair Spring Play**
- March 5, 2019 **Grade 7 basketball Tournament at McNair**
- April 2019 **Grade 7 Transition Meetings**
A team of educators from Matthew McNair will visit elementary schools to discuss the progress of incoming grade 7 teachers.
- May 24, 2019 **Grade 7s visit McNair - 9 AM to 1 PM**
