

# **MATTHEW MCNAIR SECONDARY SCHOOL**

## **GRADE 8 PROGRAM PLANNING GUIDE**

**2017 -2018**



**Principal:**  
**Vice Principals:**  
**Counsellors:**

**MR. J. Leslie**  
**Mrs. D. Ten-Pow .....Mr. M. Jaswal**  
**Ms. C. Bagnall..... TBA**

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<b>PURPOSE OF THIS BOOKLET</b>
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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 requirements of the Ministry of Education, while others will be chosen to meet individual 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.

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# Matthew McNair Secondary School

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Matthew McNair Secondary School, home of the Marlins! As the Grad class of 2022, 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, 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.

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# Matthew McNair Secondary School

## GRADE 8 REQUIREMENTS

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

Humanities 8: Combination of  
English and Social Studies  
Mathematics 8  
Science 8  
Physical Education 8

French 8  
Grade 8 Electives 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 counselors. 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 Feb 10, 2017.

Counselors 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.*

# Matthew McNair Secondary School

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## **COURSE LOAD**

All grade 8, 9, 10 & 11 students carry a full schedule of classes - 4 courses every day. Grade 12 students may apply for a study period. 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>
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A	A
B	B
C+	C+
C	C
C-	C-
I	F

I - In progress or Incomplete

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Textbooks are issued by subject teachers. There is no charge for school texts, but if they are not returned or are returned with more than normal wear, students will be billed for their replacement.

**GRADE 8 COURSES**

**APPLIED SKILLS 8 (ASK 8)**

This is an exploratory course in which all grade 8 students will gain experience in the applied skills subjects: Business Education, Home Economics, and Technology Education. Students will spend one third of a semester in each of the areas of study.

**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

**FINE ARTS 8**

This is an exploratory course in which all grade 8 students gain experience in the fine arts subjects: Art, Drama, and Music. Students will spend one third of the semester in each of the subject areas.

**FRENCH 8 (FR 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 (HUM 8)**

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, Renaissance, mapping, and basic geographical concepts. A wide range of literature is studied, including the use of an optional workbook that 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 (MU-08)**

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. **Any students electing to take Band 8 must take it in addition to the required grade 8 course load.**

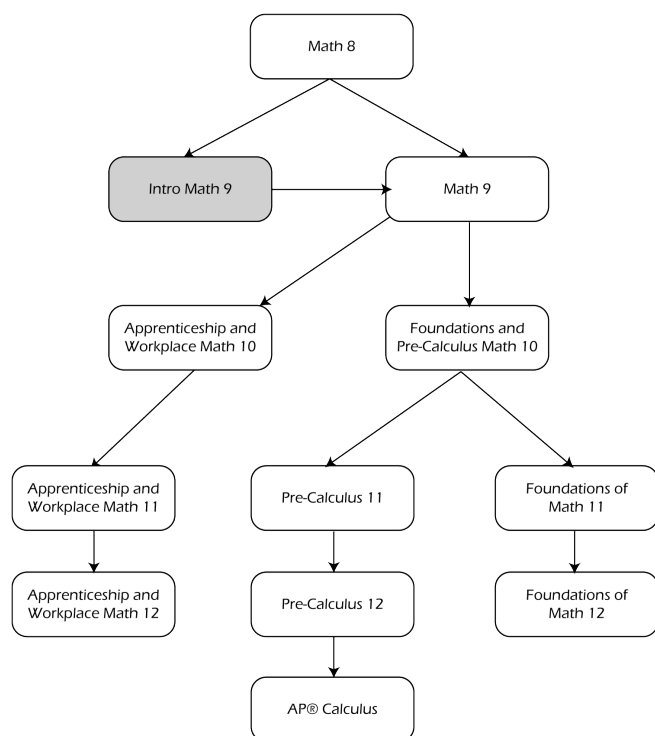
## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8 (PE 8)**

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 and the process of science, Life Sciences: cells and body systems, Physical Sciences: optics, fluids and dynamics, and Earth and Space Sciences: water systems on earth. Students will have the opportunity to explore the literacies of science by completing practical laboratory experiments and reports, homework, quizzes, and tests on a regular basis.



## **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 last Friday in 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,

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## 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

## 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  
L- Z

TBA  
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.

# Matthew McNair Secondary School

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## **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.

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# Matthew McNair Secondary School

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### STUDENTS COMING INTO GRADE 8

- January 26, 2017      **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.
- January 2017      **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 1, 2017      **McNair Mini-School Info Meeting for Grade 7 Parents**
- February 10, 2017      **Course Selection Sheets due for all Grade 7 Students**
- February 10, 2017      **Transfer application deadline**
- February 10, 2017      **McNair Mini-School application deadline**
- February 22-23, 2017      **McNair Mini-School Interviews**
- February 27-  
March 3, 2017      **McNair Spring Play "The Lion King"**
- February 27-  
March 3, 2017      **Grade 7 basketball Tournament at McNair**
- April 2017      **Grade 7 Transition meeting**  
A team of educators from Matthew McNair will visit elementary schools to discuss the progress of incoming grade 7 teachers.
- May 2017      **Grade 7s visit McNair 9am to 1pm.**
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