



# Dawson Creek Secondary School Central Campus

Building Community, Relationships and Connections  
Leading to Successful Learning, Supports and Opportunities

## Grade 9 Program: 2017 – 2018

### Welcome to Grade 9 😊

Going into 2017-2018, we continue to make specific changes to our learning structures according to our needs and priorities at Central Campus. Having a grade 8 and 9 Campus means we are busy focusing on two transitions: one with all grade 8s being in a new school together and two, with our staff busy preparing our grade 9s for their Grad Program which starts in Grade 10 at South Peace Campus. This will be our third year with a Pod structure for classes where there is regular contact time, collaboration and a means for cross-curricular activities and community building.

We have made further adjustments to our timetable and block schedule to reflect our desire for optimal learning opportunities and to best utilize our instructional time with students. The changes create more flexibility and options with the use of our learning spaces, Prep time for teachers and what we can do for our Seminar, Exposure & Option courses. We will only have two timelines throughout the school year: 6 weeks for X1 - X6 courses and 12 weeks for Trimester 1 to 3 courses.

### CHANGES in 2017 – 2018

- **Number of blocks** – we will have **five blocks** / school day (not four blocks).
- **Block minutes** – we will have four 60 minute blocks + one 76 min block (not 80 min each).
- Our students will be in **one of two Pod groups, Pod 9A or 9B, with 80 – 90 students each** and will have their own timetable schedule for Academics, Health-PE & OE, Options and Seminars.
- **Pod Academics will be with three teachers in back-to-back blocks / day** (two on day 1; three on day 2). Each Pod will have three academic classrooms in the same area of the school, along with their lockers. Pod 9A in 200, 202 and 204; Pod 9B will be rooms 206, 207 and 210.
- Our academic courses (*Math, Science, SS & English*) will remain yearlong.
- Our Pod Academic teacher teams will have the same Prep block; getting together as needed.

Pod 9A schedule		Pod 9B schedule			
	Monday	Tuesday		Monday	Tuesday
60 min	<b>A</b> 8:45 - 9:45 <b>POD 9A Academics</b>	<b>E</b> 8:45 - 9:45 <b>POD 9A Seminars</b>	60 min	<b>A</b> 8:45 - 9:45 <b>POD 9B Options</b>	<b>E</b> 8:45 - 9:45 <b>POD 9B Academics</b>
TRANSITION 9:45 - 9:50 (5 min)		TRANSITION 9:45 - 9:50 (5 min)		TRANSITION 9:45 - 9:50 (5 min)	
60 min	<b>B</b> 9:50 - 10:50 <b>POD 9A Academics</b>	<b>D</b> 9:50 - 10:50 <b>POD 9A Options</b>	60 min	<b>B</b> 9:50 - 10:50 <b>POD 9B Seminars</b>	<b>D</b> 9:50 - 10:50 <b>POD 9B Academics</b>
BREAK 10:50 - 11:00 (10 min)		BREAK 10:50 - 11:00 (10 min)		BREAK 10:50 - 11:00 (10 min)	
76 min	<b>C (day 1)</b> 11:00 - 12:16 <b>Health-PE-Outdoor Ed 9</b>	<b>C (day 2)</b> 11:00 - 12:16 <b>POD 9A Academics</b>	76 min	<b>C (day 1)</b> 11:00 - 12:16 <b>Health-PE-Outdoor Ed 9</b>	<b>C (day 2)</b> 11:00 - 12:16 <b>POD 9B Academics</b>
LUNCH 12:16 - 12:55 (12:50 - REMINDER BELL)		LUNCH 12:16 - 12:55 (12:50 - REMINDER BELL)		LUNCH 12:16 - 12:55 (12:50 - REMINDER BELL)	
60 min	<b>D</b> 12:55 - 1:55 <b>POD 9A Options</b>	<b>B</b> 12:55 - 1:55 <b>POD 9A Academics</b>	60 min	<b>D</b> 12:55 - 1:55 <b>POD 9B Academics</b>	<b>B</b> 12:55 - 1:55 <b>POD 9B Seminars</b>
TRANSITION 1:55 - 2:00 (5 min)		TRANSITION 1:55 - 2:00 (5 min)		TRANSITION 1:55 - 2:00 (5 min)	
60 min	<b>E</b> 2:00 - 3:00 <b>POD 9A Seminars</b>	<b>A</b> 2:00 - 3:00 <b>POD 9A Academics</b>	60 min	<b>E</b> 2:00 - 3:00 <b>POD 9B Academics</b>	<b>A</b> 2:00 - 3:00 <b>POD 9B Options</b>
<b>9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 cohorts</b>			<b>9.4, 9.5 and 9.6 cohorts</b>		

Our students will be in either the **9A Pod** (9.1, 9.2 and 9.3) or the **9B Pod** (9.4, 9.5 and 9.6)

- **9A Pod** – Academics will take place in **blocks A & B + block C (day 2)**  
= Mon, Wed & Thurs mornings; Tues & Thurs afternoons
- **9B Pod** – Academics will take place in **blocks D & E + block C (day 2)**  
= Mon, Wed & Thurs afternoons; Tues & Thurs mornings



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## More CHANGES in 2017 – 2018

**Health, Physical Education (PE) and Outdoor Education (OE) 9 combined.** H-PE-OE will be every second day during the 76-minute block before Lunch. Both Pod 9 groups will be mixed into six different class groups where three groups will be in the gym at a time, while the other three groups will be out for Health and OE. A rotation schedule for all six groups will be determined.

**Option 9A-9B courses** \*Students will have **3 Trimester courses ~ one at a time everyday for 12 weeks (60 classes)**. The course choices will be: *Woodwork, Metalwork, Art, Drawing & Sketching, Foods, Music, Theatre, Photography, French and Leadership*.

## CONTINUING in 2017 – 2018

**(Year 2) Skills Seminar 9 Courses** We want our students to experience learning and skill building through all kinds of different opportunities and connections from the classroom to the community. We have additional Options classes, called *Skills Seminars*, for all our students based on specific skills. We are using the following new BC Curriculums: *Applied Design, Skills & Technologies, Arts Education, and Careers Education*, while using locally developed course curriculums.

The **purpose** of these *Seminars* is to further help our students be employable, to have a well-prepared transition to secondary school and their Grad Program; and to further gain life-long skills that are transferable to any situation or challenge as they make their way to adulthood and becoming a well-educated, contributing citizen.

\*\* Students will take **another six courses ~ one at a time everyday for 6 weeks, but for 30 classes each**. The course choices will be: *Media Arts, Coding, Engineering, Robotics, Sports Performance, Entrepreneurship, Careers & Money Smarts, Adventure, Theatre, Photography, Music, Leadership, Robotics 2 and Engineer 2*.

**Band 9-12** continues after school 3x/week (Mon-Wed-Fri) from 3:25 to 4:25pm. Band comprises of brass, wind and percussion instruments. See Mr. Dyck in the Music room if interested.

**Homeroom time** continues **most Mondays** during the first 25 minutes of Academic Pod time as needed. This is when school information is shared and school-wide activities occur such as discussions and times for collective input & feedback from students and staff.

## French Immersion 9

Grade 8 was our school year of mixing the FI students with other Academic, PE and Exposure/Seminar classes. This year, because we need to increase our instructional time spent with courses taught in French language (25% to 40%), it's difficult to accommodate the mixing with other classes. Our Fi 9 students will be together in their Academics and PE.

We will have our FI 9 students with two French Immersion teachers, along with other teachers for PE, Math/Science, Option (T2), Health-PE and Seminars. Our FI 9 students will get all six Seminars with other Grade 9s, along with one Option course in Trimester 2. French Immersion classrooms will be rooms 106 and 104. They will receive French instruction in FRAL, Sciences Humaine, Drama and Info Tech.

## Reporting Student Progress

We have **three Trimesters** for reporting home student progress. Our teachers use **FreshGrade**, both on on-line and the Apps, as our means of regularly communicating learning and achievement with students and parents. *FreshGrade* allows our parents to have access to a personalized portfolio of their son/daughter's work and progress in courses and to communicate with the teachers.

\* **Interim reporting** occurs in the first two weeks of November, February and May.

\* **Report Cards** are in December, March and June; the first two sent home with students and the T3 Report Card is mailed home in early July.

**(Year 2) BC's new Curriculum for Grades K – 9** To learn more about the new BC Curriculum, please check out the Ministry of Education's <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>



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## Revised Block schedule & timetable

We still have weekday block rotations ~ Monday to Friday. For 2017-2018, we have changed the day rotations to allow A-B and D-E blocks to alternate morning and afternoon every second day and switch to different times of AM and PM.

- **Monday, Wednesday and Friday** will be **A, B, C, LUNCH, D, E**
- **Tuesday and Thursday** will be **E, D, C, LUNCH, B, A**
- We will continue to call our school days, **DAY 1** or **DAY 2**, as we have yearlong courses every second school day (i.e. Math day 1 and Science day 2).
- Classes still start two minutes later at **8:45am** and end the same at **3:00pm**.

<b>5 Block Rotation</b>				
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<b>A</b> 8:45 - 9:45 <i>(60 min)</i>	<b>E</b> 8:45 - 9:45	<b>A</b> 8:45 - 9:45	<b>E</b> 8:45 - 9:45	<b>A</b> 8:45 - 9:45
TRANSITION 9:45 - 9:50 (5 min)				
<b>B</b> 9:50 - 10:50 <i>(60 min)</i>	<b>D</b> 9:50 - 10:50	<b>B</b> 9:50 - 10:50	<b>D</b> 9:50 - 10:50	<b>B</b> 9:50 - 10:50
BREAK 10:50 - 11:00 (10 min)				
<b>C</b> 11:00 - 12:16 <i>(76 min)</i>	<b>C</b> 11:00 - 12:16	<b>C</b> 11:00 - 12:16	<b>C</b> 11:00 - 12:16	<b>C</b> 11:00 - 12:16
LUNCH 12:16 - 12:55 (12:50 - REMINDER BELL)				
<b>D</b> 12:55 - 1:55 <i>(60 min)</i>	<b>B</b> 12:55 - 1:55	<b>D</b> 12:55 - 1:55	<b>B</b> 12:55 - 1:55	<b>D</b> 12:55 - 1:55
TRANSITION 1:55 - 2:00 (5 min)				
<b>E</b> 2:00 - 3:00 <i>(60 min)</i>	<b>A</b> 2:00 - 3:00	<b>E</b> 2:00 - 3:00	<b>A</b> 2:00 - 3:00	<b>E</b> 2:00 - 3:00

\* We no longer have 80-minute blocks. Instead, we will have **four 60-minute blocks** and **one 76-min block / school day** ~ three in the AM and two in the PM.

\* **Transition times** will be five minutes for students to move from the 1<sup>st</sup> class of day to their 2<sup>nd</sup> class and for their 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes. We will NOT use bells for these 5-minute transitions. We will only use bells to indicate the start/end of the school day and for the start/end of Break & Lunch times. We want our students to learn to time manage and move from one location to the next without a reminder bell. Also, we don't want a set of bells to interrupt Pod Academic time when classes could still be in session during their back-to-back blocks. They will have their own instructional timelines (i.e. 40-40-40 min, 60-60 min) depending on planned activities, etc.

\* Students will get a **10-minute Break** at 10:50am and we will have a later **Lunch Break**, still for 35 minutes, from **12:16 to 12:50pm** with 5 minutes to get to class.

### Coming Up

- ✚ **End of June** – Our Grade 9s will receive their **timetable schedules** (9A or 9B Pod ~ Academics, Options, H-PE-OE, and Seminars)
- ✚ **Weekly Updates & Documents** posted on our website <http://dcss.sd59.bc.ca/cc/>

Looking forward to next year ☺



Diana Lindstrom  
Principal