

FAQs Grade 8 into 9 Transition

What will my schedule look like?

You will have your own schedule, which may look different from your friends. You will no longer be organized into a “Homeroom” class. If you have enriched or accelerated classes, they will continue. All grade 9 students will take 1 course in Math, Science, Social & Language Arts (Humanities 9), Physical Education and 3 supplementary classes (Alberta Education) in a semestered schedule.

In your grade 9 year, you will have 4 classes daily, each of 90 minutes, each term, for a total of 8 classes per year. This means that you will take 4 courses in term 1 (daily) and at semester change, you will have 4 different courses (daily). Humanities and Source classes will be year long courses. See sample below:

TERM 1	Grade 9 Student	
	Day 1	Day 2
Block		
MH1	HUM 9	HUM 9
MH2	SCI 9	SCI 9
MH3	PE 9	PE 9
MH4	Model UN	Model UN

TERM 2	Grade 9 Student	
	Day 1	Day 2
Block		
MH1	HUM 9	HUM 9
MH2	Math 9	Math 9
MH3	Art 9	Art 9
MH4	Kaboom 9	Kaboom 9

When will I find out my schedule and when can I change it?

Schedules will be released in Powerschool mid-june during the highschool exam break. Grade 8 students will get called to do schedule changes once we have completed the schedule changes for Grades 10 - 12 students. We encourage students to ensure their schedule reflects a balanced schedule, with core classes spread throughout the year, rather than stacked in one term. If students need help selecting courses for Grade 9, they are welcome to drop-in to Student Services during lunch, March 5th - 16th.

When is SOURCE and will my Source teacher be the same as my grade 8 SOURCE teacher?

You are likely to have a new Source teacher, who may not teach you in another class. In the highschool, SOURCE happens every Friday during SOURCE block.

Will I have exams?

Grade 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT's) are written at the end of the semester in which the course was taken. For example, if you complete Math 9 in term 1, you will write your PAT in January. These are written during the exam break, as determined by Alberta Education. You will not attend classes during the exam break as teachers and classrooms are used for the sitting of exams.

Can I begin earning credits?

Grade 9 courses are non-credit classes. Students in the Province of Alberta *may not* receive credits for high school course(s) completed while registered in grade 9. Thus, even though a grade 9 student takes Math 10C, for example, they are not guaranteed an awarded credit. Should they remain at Westmount and receive a mark above 50%, credits for the class will be awarded when they enter grade 10. Should students transfer to another high school program, *it is up to the receiving school to grant the credit* (should they decide to do so).