



## Introduction

*What interests me? What am I good at and passionate about?* In Grade 8, all students take the following required subjects: English language arts, health and life skills, mathematics, physical education, science, and social studies. Students in Francophone schools or French immersion programs take a mandatory French language course. Additional optional subjects are also offered.

## English Language Arts

*Analyze ends with –lyze, so paralyze, which sounds similar, likely ends the same way!* Your teen will study and create their own texts, including oral, print, and visual texts, as they develop listening and speaking, reading and writing, viewing and representing, and inquiry and research skills.

## Health and Life Skills

*I have an idea of what I'd like to do in the future. It is just a few years away!* More than ever, your teen will see who they are and what they believe. They will begin to understand what it means to keep good relationships and make choices that help them a long way into the future.

## Mathematics

*I'm understanding ratios, rates, and proportions.* Your teen will understand perfect squares and square roots, and solve problems involving percents, rates, ratios, and proportions. They will multiply and divide positive fractions, mixed numbers, and integers. Your teen will solve problems involving the Pythagorean theorem, surface area, volume, and probability of independent events.

## Physical Education

*What are the benefits of an active lifestyle?* Your teen will take part in various activities that will help them lead a healthy, active lifestyle. They will grow to appreciate the importance of physical activity while discovering essential life skills, such as cooperation, leadership, fair play, and

teamwork.

## Sciences

*How do hydraulics work and why do we have an epiglottis?* Students apply this Grade 8 Science vocabulary as they investigate machines and the human body. They experiment with liquids and gases to interpret their uses in everyday situations, they learn how light travels through different materials, and they learn how vision works.

## Social Studies

*How do people in different societies view the world and influence each other?* Contact between societies that view the world in different ways has shaped our world. Through inquiry, your teen will reflect on their own worldview and assess the influence that the past has on the present. By examining historical examples drawn from Japan, Renaissance Europe, and Spanish and Aztec societies, your teen will better understand how contact between societies can lead to change.

## Optional Subjects

Optional subjects give students the chance to explore their interests. These subjects also reinforce learnings in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Optional subjects can vary from school to school. Students should be encouraged to continue in Grade 8 and Grade 9 with at least one of the optional subjects selected in Grade 7.

- Art
- Career and Technology Foundations
- Drama
- Environmental and Outdoor Education
- Ethics
- First Nations Languages
- French as a Second Language
- International Languages
- Locally Developed Courses
- Music



### How Your Teen Is Assessed

Your teen's learning is assessed using a variety of tools and strategies within the classroom. Ask your teen's teacher what methods they are using. The different assessment methods tell you and your teen's teacher about your teen's strengths, areas in which your teen requires support, and how well your teen is doing throughout each course. Your teen's teacher can then change or refine their teaching plans to ensure that learning activities better meet the needs of your teen. At the end of each course, your teen is assessed and their achievement is reported so that you know if they have achieved the expected learning outcomes for their grade.

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### Resources to Help Your Teen

A variety of digital and print resources developed by publishers, Education and Childcare, or Alberta teachers are available to help students learn. Teachers may select and bring into the classroom numerous innovative and creative resources to create rich learning experiences for your teen. Visit [Explore Resources](#) to learn more about the resources your child may encounter.

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### Where can I get more information?

Learn more about your child's education by visiting <https://curriculum.learnalberta.ca/parents/>.