

LANGUAGES**English**

Spelling emphasizes learning a fixed list of words, rules of correct spelling and the meanings and usage of words. Composition involves production of written work which is neat, correctly spelled, and grammatically accurate and which is also esthetically pleasing. Students improve the quality of their writing as well as learning about the writing of reports and short essays. Grammar involves the study of the rules of punctuation, sentence structure and parts of speech. Literature units involve the study of a historical novel and an autobiography. Students are expected to understand the specific works along with related literary concepts. Reading for enjoyment is also stressed. Public Speaking emphasizes the proper methods for formulating and presenting seminars. Developing confidence and being able “to think on one’s feet” are also emphasized.

Texts: *Grammar & Composition II* (ABeka)
Bible (NIV)
The Hiding Place (Chosen)
The Bronze Bow (Houghton Mifflin)
The Horse and His Boy (Harper Collins)

French

This course reinforces and extends the grammar and vocabulary learned in grade 7. Students will learn new verb tenses and different question formats. By the end of grade 8 students will be able to understand French spoken in the classroom, and be able to express their own thoughts in French. Oral skills are developed through classroom discussions, real life situations, and skits. Upon completion of the course, the student’s knowledge of written and spoken French covers a wide variety of topics.

Texts: *Horizons 3* (Addison Wesley)

MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**Mathematics**

This course reinforces and extends the mathematical concepts learned in grade 7, moving the students from basic to higher level math in preparation for high school. During the study of fractions, decimals, ratios, rates and percent, students will be challenged to solve more difficult and complex problems. Emphasis will also be placed on furthering the skills learned in integers, algebra and geometry. In order to develop logical thinking skills that are extremely valuable in today’s employment market, problem-solving questions will also be emphasized throughout the course.

Text: *Mathematics 8* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson)

Science

The grade 8 students strengthen investigative skills and learn the effective use of scientific formulas and accurate data statistics in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Studies and Astronomy. Emphasis is placed on applying knowledge and skills to areas of daily life. In addition to the textbook material, the students will submit a science fair project.

Text: *Sciencepower 8* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson)

Computer Science

This course continues to build on typing and keyboarding skills developed in grade 7. MS Word, MS Excel, Expert Typing and other online resources are used for exercises. Accuracy and speed are emphasized with the speed goal being 50 wpm. Some Internet and Spreadsheet assignments will be submitted throughout the year with the purpose of bringing a skill set to students that is needed for success in other course work.

SELF AND SOCIETY

Geography

In this course students are introduced to human geography through an exploration of patterns and trends in population distribution, settlement, land use, employment and levels of development. Students will investigate population characteristics to identify their correlation. They will also reflect and report on various aspects of demographics in Canada and other countries, including developing countries.

Text: *Human Geography: Discovering Global Systems and Patterns* (Gage)

History

In this course students examine the major factors that led to the creation of the Dominion of Canada in 1867 and evaluate the natural and human challenges facing the advocates of the union. They investigate regional interests and other factors that led to the growth of Canada, as other provinces and territories joined Confederation. They will also extend their understanding of national issues by comparing negotiations among regional interests at the time of Confederation with similar debates in Canada today.

Text: *Their Stories, Our History* (Thomson/Duval)

Physical and Health Education

This course encourages the development of physical fitness through personalized training programs as well as through a variety of indoor and outdoor sports. Some of these include squash, diving, waterpolo, soccer, volleyball, table tennis, softball, cooperative games and basketball. Swimming has a special focus. Downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, canoeing and outdoor education are also included through various field trips. The health portion of this course deals with such topics as physical fitness, principles of training, gender roles, dating and relationships, as well as a detailed look at the systems of the body.

Text: *Total Health* (River's Edge)

Bible

This course (two periods every four days in a cycle) involves an overview of the entire bible. Going through a study guide, students will be guided through the entire bible from Genesis through Revelation. Our hope is that students will develop a view of Biblical truths that will guide them in all areas of their lives and not just on Sundays!

Text: *Route 66 Travel through the Bible* (Positive Action)

THE ARTS

At The Yorkland School Grade 8 students are instructed ½ year in Band and ½ year in Visual Arts.

Instrumental Music

While new band members will not be excluded, it will be assumed that most students in grade 8 band took grade 7 band. Consequently, they will be given higher level instruction in music theory and will continue to develop technique in the playing of their chosen instrument. The school rents the instruments to the students for a rental fee of \$75.00.

Visual Arts

The Visual Arts Course in Grade 8 progresses naturally from the curriculum of the previous year and follows the program set by the Ministry of Education. It is not very different materially as the same media are used but the students are challenged to develop their techniques more deeply and to refine their completed work. Technique and terminology become increasingly important. Art History is more formal; the study of the cultural contributions of selected historical world societies begins and informed comment, analysis, and comparison of representative art pieces is introduced. There is no formal textbook.

The Yorkland School reserves the right to alter at any time the courses and textbooks described herein to meet changing circumstances.