



Complementary Courses for 2026-2027 Grade 8

Hello Rideau Families:

We hope to offer the following courses for the fall and winter of 2026 – 2027 school year. The middle years between elementary and high school are an excellent time for students to take some risks as learners and try new learning experiences. We encourage all students to take new risks, expand their thinking, and perhaps uncover a passion or talent.

Students entering Grade 8 are encouraged to think about the advantages of continuing with **Band** and **French**. Both courses offer many opportunities throughout junior high and can open doors for you in high school. Students often get to Grade 10 and wish that they had continued with Band and/or French.

We encourage ALL Grade 8 Rideau Park students to continue with Band and/or French.

Pre-requisite: Students who have not previously enrolled in Band or French at Rideau Park (or another middle school) will require previous experience or permission of the teacher / school administration to be enrolled in these courses.

As students consider their choices for the half-year courses, it is not necessary to have any previous experience for any of these courses.. Our teachers are dedicated to helping our students as new learners and to supporting our students as they grow and take risks with new experiences.

We always do our best to enrol students in the courses they have selected. Course scheduling will be based on an appropriate number of students requesting a course, teaching staff and master schedule constraints.

- Students are to **choose 2 or 4** complementary courses:
 - 2 courses if requesting Band and French
 - 4 courses if requesting Band or French, plus 3 half-year courses
- Read through the course descriptions carefully before making your course requests.
- **Consider choices carefully** as students can be enrolled in **any** of the courses requested by [entering them into PowerSchool](#).

Course selections must be entered into PowerSchool by

Thursday, May 14

Planning Course Selections – Grade 8

It is recommended that each student plan their complementary course selections before entering them into PowerSchool.

Student Name: _____

Choosing Band OR French	Choosing Band AND French
1. <u>French or Band (circle)</u>	1. <u>Band</u>
2. _____	2. <u>French</u>
3. _____	
4. _____	

Grade 8

- Band (full year)
 - (pre-requisite = Band 8 or previous instrumental music experience, or teacher permission)
- French (full year)
 - (pre-requisite = French 8 or previous French experience or teacher permission)
- Art
- CTF Construction
- CTF Design Studies
- CTF Foods Studies
- CTF Marketing & Management
- Drama
- Environmental & Outdoor Education

Complementary Course Descriptions

□ Band (Full Year Course)

The Grade 8 concert band brings together students of all experience levels and will explore exciting and challenging music including popular and movie music. Extra fun activities include band clinics with professional musicians, several performance opportunities, some off-campus experiences and a band camp. Rideau Park works with schools to accommodate instrument rental. **A student new to band at Rideau Park will require permission to enter the program.**

□ French (Full Year course)

Students gain confidence in their abilities to comprehend written and spoken French through an interactive communicative approach based on storytelling, music, games, film and cultural study. French is a three-year program beginning in Grade 7 that culminates in a Grade 9 trip to Québec for those students who have remained committed to language development in the program and allows students to earn 5 credits for French 10 in high school, enrolling immediately in French 20.

****Pre-requisite: French 7, or previous French experience, is a pre-requisite for grade 8 French. If no previous experience, students will require permission for enrollment.**

□ Art

Designed for students with various abilities who wish to develop their creative skills and express ideas through several forms of visual art. The course will begin with a study of basic drawing techniques required to draw, paint and sculpt, using a variety of artists as inspiration. More advanced mediums will be introduced, such as acrylics and 3-D media.

□ CTF Construction

Think of this course as your chance to build, design, and create like a pro. Construction is a hands-on, project-based class where you'll take your own ideas and turn them into real, usable products. You'll learn how to safely & confidently work with power tools to shape and transform wood like a skilled craftsperson.

A big part of this course is **student choice**. You'll have the freedom to design projects that reflect your own ideas, interests, and creativity. Using drafting techniques, you'll plan different views and create 3D orthographic drawings to bring your designs to life before you build. As you move through each project, you'll design, create, learn to appraise, and improve your work, just like real builders and designers. This course isn't about following a single set of instructions - it's about making something that's truly yours

□ CTF Design Studies

Design studies will focus on design practices that influence the people and environment around students. In this course, you'll learn how to take an idea and turn it into something real using the **design thinking process**. You'll explore how to research, plan, build, test, and improve your work step by step.

This class applies design and STEAM thinking—using science, technology, engineering, art, and math together to create smart, creative solutions. You'll be encouraged to try new ideas, learn from mistakes, and improve your designs as you go.

□ CTF Foods Studies

Students will examine the role of food, looking beyond consumption to production, visual appreciation, nutrition, meal planning, economics and preparation. Ultimately, they will learn tips and techniques for successful meal planning and cooking. They will apply their knowledge to plan, create and assess their own meals, keeping in mind the benefits of healthy food choices. No previous experience is required.

□ CTF Marketing & Management

Students will learn the processes associated with promotion for the sale of goods and services. Skills such as budgeting, exploring what interest rates mean, their impact and how to calculate it, benefits and consequences of using credit, services offered by financial institutions, and investing money. The exploration of careers, such as, a property or restaurant manager, a visual merchandiser and an advertising account consultant will be included.

□ Drama

Grade 8 Drama builds foundational skills as students deepen their understanding of performance through more complex acting, improvisation, and collaborative creation. Students explore a wider range of dramatic forms such as monologues, scripted scenes, and collective storytelling while developing stronger skills in character development, voice, movement, and stage techniques. Emphasis is placed on creativity, teamwork, and refining performances through rehearsal and feedback, while also introducing basic elements of production such as props, costumes, and staging.

□ Environmental and Outdoor Education

A primary goal of this course is for students to learn how their interaction with the outside world has lifelong effects on themselves, as well as the environment at large. Students will be required to assume many responsibilities for both individual and group welfare while outdoors. This course will develop skills needed for safe activity in the great outdoors consisting of first aid, outdoor cooking, shelter building and map reading. Students are encouraged to be prepared for all weather environments as each class is intended to take place outside of the school. Some off-campus experiences will be incorporated into the course. All experience levels welcomed.