

# Aldergrove Community Secondary School

## COURSE GUIDE BOOKLET

**GRADE 9**

**2025 - 2026**



26850 29<sup>TH</sup> Avenue, Aldergrove, BC

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<http://www.acsstotems.ca/>



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# WELCOME TO ACSS

This guide is designed to help you and your parents feel at home at Aldergrove Community Secondary School. It provides basic information about our school and culture, and how you can make the most of your schooling at ACSS.

**Contact:** 26850 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Aldergrove, BC V4W 3C1  
604-856-2521 (phone)  
604-856-9648 (fax)

**School website:** [www.acsstotems.ca](http://www.acsstotems.ca)

## **Social Media**

**Instagram** @ACSS.totems  
**Twitter:** @ACSSTotems  
**Career Ed:** @ACSS\_GradTrans  
**Facebook:** @Aldergrovecommunitysecondary

## COMMUNICATION

### SCHOOL MESSENGER

Our District has always been committed to improving communications with our students, staff, and parents/guardians. It is critical to have accurate and timely communications to help keep our school communities healthy and safe. As you may be aware, our District will be rolling out SchoolMessenger, a notification service for parental outreach. More details will be communicated soon.

### SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

School announcements are read over the PA every day when deemed appropriate (and to minimize disruptions). We do not interrupt classes during the day with student messages.

### SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

The school newsletter is sent home via EMAIL.

### MYSCHOOLDAY

**MySchoolDay** is a free app for iOS and Android devices. This App shows students the year-long schedule, as well as provides news and notification updates on a daily basis.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Keep up to date about important dates and events at ACSS and please follow us on our school website [www.acsstotems.ca](http://www.acsstotems.ca) , our Twitter feed @ACSSTotems, our Instagram account @acss.totems, and our Facebook account @aldergrovecommunitysecondary.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### MAIN OFFICE

The Office Staff is always ready to assist you from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Please call 604-856-2521. Please leave messages for teachers via email. A list of all staff emails is available on the website under top tab “Our School” and “Staff Connections”.

### SAFE ARRIVAL - ATTENDANCE

Please log student absences using SafeArrival.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A comprehensive calendar of events is posted on our website and is available in the MySchoolDay App. Please refer to this calendar for school closure dates, early dismissals, bell schedules, etc. Always check the ACSS social media accounts for any changes or updates.

### VISITORS

All visitors are required to report to the office upon arrival. Parents should not drop off items directly to classes; please bring items to the main office. Students may not bring non-ACSS students to our school without prior approval by a Vice Principal at least 48 hours in advance. *Generally, ‘guests for a day’ will not be approved.*

# GRADE 9 COURSE SELECTION

How to use this guide:

**Course descriptions for CORE REQUIRED COURSES are first, ELECTIVE COURSES are second.**

## Required Courses for Grade 9 Students:

- English 9
- Social Studies 9
- Mathematics 9
- Science 9
- Physical Health Education 9\*
- French 9 or Japanese 9
- Life Education 9 (Outside Timetable, done with other classes)

\*Students have the opportunity to earn their PHE 9 through Hockey Academy

\*\*Some students may choose not to continue with their language learning. ACSS offers Japanese and French to fulfill post-secondary entrance requirements (Language 11)

\*\*\* Life Education 9 is a course that fits outside students' regular timetable. The Life Education teacher works with students periodically throughout their Grade 9 year to reflect on school experiences, set short and long-term goals for the future, and gain greater self-awareness of personal interests and strengths. Life Education 9 has an emphasis on student advocacy and involvement in their personal life and school community. Students are encouraged to develop their own skills and knowledge by participating in events like Take Our Kids To Work Day, Lunch and Learn career information sessions, extra-curricular teams and clubs, and volunteering. Learning, reflecting on, and sharing core competencies is also a central aspect to the course.

Additionally, Grade 9 students have the opportunity to choose 2-3 electives (depending on whether they take French 9 or have learning support blocks in their schedule). Our music department also offers two courses outside the timetable; Jazz Band 9 and Concert Choir 9.

## Elective Courses for Grade 9 Students

- Computers 10
- Computer Systems 11
- Game Creations 11
- Concert Band 9
- Drama 9
- Foods 9
- Media Arts 9
- Woodwork 9
- Video Production 9
- Visual Arts 9
- AVID 9 (by application only)

## GRADE 9 CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **English 9** (MEN- -09)

The Big Ideas of Grade 9 are: Language and story can be a source of creativity and joy, understand self and making connections with others and the world, worldviews and perspectives influence identity, social, culture and history influence self too, questioning leads to educated and engaged citizens.

This course is designed to expand on the range of concepts covered in previous grades. Students will explore essential questions concerning individual identity and the factors that influence it by analyzing and interpreting literary, informational and graphic texts, and creating spoken, written, and digital texts for various purposes. Reading strategies, language features, and conventions will be used to inspire growth in student comprehension and composition of diverse texts. Students will think critically and creatively in grappling with their sense of individuality and connectivity to others and the world. Throughout these explorations, students will be led to experience the joy and inspiration characteristic of language and story.

### **Mathematics 9** (MMA-09)

Students will extend many of the topics and ideas studied in Mathematics 8. Students will continue a contextual approach in the investigation of mathematical concepts and work towards understanding in numeracy. This course prepares students for both grade 10 Mathematics courses. Course Content: scale factors and similarity, surface area, rational numbers, powers and exponents, polynomials, linear relations, data analysis and probability.

### **Physical and Health Education 9** (MPHE-09)

Grade 9 PHE will include an introduction and exposure to a wide variety of physical and health practices. Classes may include sports offered by our Totems Athletics program, weight training/fitness sessions, goal setting, nutrition, mental and social health, field trips, and guest speakers. There will be a strong focus on developing a holistic view of health and wellness, including an emphasis on developing students' social responsibility.

### **Physical and Health Education 9 Hockey Academy** (MPHE-09I)

The Aldergrove Hockey Academy has been offered at ACSS since 2001. We are the longest running Hockey Academy in the Province! This co-ed program focuses entirely on the development of hockey skills and is open to all students that play hockey of any skill level. Specialized, professional instruction is offered for players and goalies on and off the ice. We have former Abbotsford Heat captain and ACSS grad Matt Keith and Paul Whintors of Complex Hockey as our lead on ice instructors. For goaltenders we also offer specialized training and have even had, when available, Wade Flaherty of the Winnipeg Jets join us on the ice.

Approximately 35-40 ice times are offered during the first semester. The cost of the course is \$750 per student that can be divided into four equal payments of \$187.50, (less than \$20 per session!)

which covers the cost of the ice and specialized instruction. For more information please contact Mr Dan Renaud at [drenaud@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:drenaud@sd35.bc.ca) or Mr Nelson Spring at [nspring@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:nspring@sd35.bc.ca).

### **Science 9** (MSC-09)

Students enrolling in Science 9 will have the opportunity to learn about four major fields of science: cellular reproduction, atomic theory as it relates to the Periodic Table, the production and distribution of electricity and Earth's major spheres. Within these studies, there will be a closer look at DNA, mitosis and an introduction to inheritance, an introduction to chemical reactions and lab procedures, circuitry, methods of generating electricity (emphasis on BC's role in this), and how the water and carbon cycles are related, particularly within the scope of current climate issues. While exploring these big ideas, we are also focusing on helping students learn the science skills of questioning, predicting, planning, conducting, processing, analyzing, evaluating, applying, innovating and communicating.

### **Social Studies 9** (MSS-09)

What divides and unites us? Students completing Social Studies 9 will be able to tell a more complete, more inclusive story about Canada and have a sense of their own place in Canada's past, present and future. Students will analyze disparities in power, the creation of nations, the impact of revolutions and understand more about the balance between individuals and society.

## **GRADE 9 ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Modern Languages:**

#### **French 9** (MFR-09)

French 9 is an introductory course for beginning learners. Students will become familiar with basic sentence patterns and pronunciation through familiar conversation topics. There will be an emphasis on spoken French. Students will explore the Francophone cultures and practices in various regions.

**Note:** *A Grade 11 or 12 second language is an entrance requirement into some post-secondary institutions; for others it is recommended.*

#### **Japanese 9** (MJA-09)

Japanese 9 is an introduction to Japanese language and culture open to grade 9 students. Students will be introduced to Romaji (Japanese phonetics), Hiragana (the Japanese phonetic alphabet), and some Kanji (traditional Chinese characters). Students will build a foundational knowledge of basic conversational skills, everyday vocabulary, and be introduced to a variety of Japanese traditions, cultural perspectives, traditional stories, and social nuances.

### **Fine Arts & Applied Design Skills and Technologies:**

#### **Concert Band 9** (XBA - - 09)

This course is designed for band students who have had two to three years' of experience at the elementary or middle school level. Students will continue to develop their musical skills and knowledge while participating in class and in performance. This is a performance-oriented class and students are expected to participate in concerts and festivals.



### **Drama 9** (MDR-09)

Drama 9 is a continuation of a students' introduction to dramatic exploration. Students are given the opportunity to develop the basics for understanding and performing characters, as well as the self-discipline to control their bodies and voice while in the role. Interpersonal communication and self-confidence are developed through numerous theatrical activities ranging from improvisation scenes to the introduction of basic script work. Student evaluation is carried out daily, depending on the student's positive class participation and creative growth. There is some written work involved, including a bi-weekly journal entry.

### **Video Production 9** (MADM09G)

If you are curious about how various forms of film media are produced, from Hollywood films to digital shorts, this course will offer a window into the methods and tools that filmmakers use during video production. By watching example films, and by learning to utilize various types of film technology, students will learn more about the basics of video production and what tools they already have at their disposal to create video projects. The projects students undertake will take the form of short experimental films, or larger projects such as music videos or short films. The hope is that students become creators and not just consumers of film media, and that they begin to critically examine how film media affects an audience.

### **Food Studies 9** (MADFS09)

In this course, students will learn and develop basic cooking and baking skills that are required to make a dish or a meal. Recipes that students will make will include breakfast, lunch, dinner, and dessert menus. As a result, students will be able to plan a daily meal.

### **Computer Studies 10** (MCSTU10)

This introductory computers course will introduce you to various things that can be done with computers. We will learn about animation, coding, computer logic, 3D design spaces, and game design. Throughout the course, students will work with industry-standard programs and equipment as they solve problems, create their own designs, and gain important transferrable skills with technology.

### **Media Arts 9** (MADMA09)

This introductory Media Arts course will focus on developing the skills needed to design, create, and publish different types of media. The goal of the course is to explore communicating and storytelling through the principles of design, and assessing trends in traditional, digital and social media. This course will act as an introduction to mediums used by today's graphic designers and media artists, using a variety of tools and software, including Adobe Express & Photoshop, MS Office (PowerPoint, Word, Excel), Minecraft Education, video editing, and web design applications.

### **Visual Arts 9** (MVA-09)

*"We don't make mistakes, just happy little accidents."* Bob Ross

Do you enjoy drawing, painting, and sculpture? Do you want to improve your skills in visual arts? Are you a doodler, hobby artist or interested in a possible career in the arts? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then Visual Arts 9 is for you! Sign up now and be prepared for a semester of creativity! **Please Note:** Students will be required to purchase a sketchbook for this course.

### **Woodwork 9** (MADW-09)

This course is designed to build on previous experiences in a technology shop setting with the

exploration of technologies and production methods that affect your everyday life. We will continue to explore the traditional methods of construction in the woodwork shop, while being introduced to some new technologies; vinyl plotters/cutters, laser cutters, and 3D printers. Students' progress from teacher directed projects that introduce new skills to self-designed projects as the semester progresses.

### **Physical and Health Education ACSS – Hockey Academy – (MPHE-09I)**

The Aldergrove Hockey Academy has been offered at ACSS since 2001. We are the longest running Hockey Academy in the Province! This co-ed program focuses entirely on the development of hockey skills and is open to all students that play hockey of any skill level. Specialized, professional instruction is offered for players and goalies on and off the ice. We have former Abbotsford Heat captain and ACSS grad Matt Keith and Paul Whintors of Complex Hockey as our lead on ice instructors. For goaltenders we also offer specialized training and have even had, when available, Wade Flaherty of the Winnipeg Jets join us on the ice.

We have had many graduates move from House to Rep Hockey and from Rep Hockey to MML and the Junior ranks. As long as your goal is to improve your skill at whatever level you are at, this is the program for you! Approximately 35-40 ice times are offered during the first semester. The cost of the course is \$750 per student that can be divided into four equal payments of \$187.50, (less than \$20 per session!) which covers the cost of the ice and specialized instruction. For more information please contact Mr Dan Renaud at [drenaud@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:drenaud@sd35.bc.ca) or Mr Nelson Spring at [nspring@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:nspring@sd35.bc.ca). **This is 2 blocks of course time (1 instead of PHE; 1 Elective space)**

### **Leadership 9**

This course allows students to develop lifelong leadership skills through a balance of theory, personal growth, and hands-on experience. Students will explore leadership principles and apply them by organizing and executing a variety of school-wide initiatives designed to build school spirit and foster a sense of community. Projects may include planning pep rallies, spirit days, and holiday-themed events such as candy grams for Valentine's Day and giving trees during Christmas. Students will actively contribute to the school's culture by designing and running initiatives that promote school pride and identity. The class will meet during regular school hours, with some additional volunteer commitments during lunch or after school to support event execution. This course is ideal for students who are enthusiastic about creating a positive school environment, developing collaborative skills, and making meaningful contributions to their school community. **APPLICATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED.**

### **Outside Timetable Courses:**

#### **Concert Choir 9** (XC - - - 09)

Choir is made up of students from grades 9 to 12. Choir students will learn to read music, use their voices correctly, and appreciate good music in any style. They can expect to sing in many musical styles, including pop, folk, classical, gospel and jazz. Intermediate choir students will build on their previous skills by developing their solo capabilities, demonstrating leadership and preparing music on their own. Since this is a performance-oriented class, choir students will participate in 2 or 3 concerts or festivals per term.

#### **Jazz Band 9** (XBA- - - 09J)

This course is designed for band students who have had two to three years experience at the elementary or middle school level. Jazz band requires three hours of rehearsal each week, a variety of performances during the year, and entry into competitive festivals.

# AVID PROGRAM

## **AVID 9** (XLDCC-09)

**Prerequisite: Students must formally apply for and be accepted into AVID before they can enroll in the course.**

AVID's core principles include developing a growth mindset to equip students to achieve academic success through developing writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and readng skills (WICOR). In AVID 9 students will be introduced to several strategies for success.

Acceptance as an AVID candidate will be determined by a committee of teachers who will consider your record of achievement, attendance, citizenship, personal circumstances, and desire to make the personal commitment to using the strategies promoted in the AVID program to maintain a high academic standard. **Corequisite:** Since AVID's goal is for students to take the most rigorous courses to keep as many opportunities open for post-secondary consideration, a second language like French 9 is recommended.

- Learn to use proven academic strategies for success, participate in discussions and project work that challenge you and deepen your understanding of various topics while helping you improve your performance in other courses as well.
- Gain a competitive advantage by building your scholarship portfolio early by learning the importance of volunteering in your school and community, and developing leadership skills, and completing required service hours.
- Participate in class field trips to post-secondary institutions.

**Application forms can be obtained from the Counselling office or the main office and must be submitted by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

Contact Ms. Luteijn ([nluteijn@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:nluteijn@sd35.bc.ca)) for more information.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***What supplies do I need for school?***

For the first few days bring pencils, pens, erasers, and a binder. Do not buy supplies until you have received specific instructions from each subject teacher.

### ***What school fees will I have to pay?***

Student Activity Fee is \$20 (subject to change), which covers many direct and indirect services provided to students throughout the year and helps to fund co-curricular activities.

### ***What if I need extra help with my courses?***

Ask your subject teachers about how to get extra support in the classroom. Also, Aldergrove Community Secondary may have a Homework Club available to students after school a couple of days a week. Details to be determined.

### ***Where do I eat lunch?***

You can bring your own lunch or buy lunch in the school cafeteria. There are a variety of items and prices are reasonable. We also have a breakfast program daily from 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast is free for all students!

***What if I'm away from school?***

If you are absent, your parent/guardian must phone the school to excuse your absence.

***What if we go on a family vacation during school?***

Regular and punctual attendance for students is expected. Students and parents should connect with the teachers of classes they will miss in order to find out what work will be covered in their absence. Remember to inform the office of your absence before you leave on your vacation.

***What are semester and linear classes?***

Semester 1 classes run from September to the end of January. Semester 2 classes run from February to the end of June. Semester classes meet every day, while linear (or year-long) classes run from September to June (and students attend them every second day).

***What does a typical day look like?***

There will be 4 classes per day, and the order of classes will rotate. The rotation will be available on our school website and on the 'My School Day' app.

***How many classes do I take in Grade 9?***

All grade 9 students are enrolled in eight (8) courses (or more if they choose to take Choir /Jazz Music). Career Education 9 is completed throughout the year and is embedded within a course..

***Where do I keep my books at school?***

Before the beginning of the school year in August, each student will use the online locker assignment system and will be assigned a locker with a lock attached. It is mandatory that all students use the lock provided by the school.

***Do I have to pay for any textbooks?***

Some classes require students to purchase a workbook, and some classes provide textbooks. Students will be responsible for paying for lost or damaged books.

***What am I expected to wear when I attend Physical & Health Education?***

Grade 9 students are encouraged to wear "Totem PHE Gear", which consists of shorts and T-shirt with the Totems logo. There will be a \$20 fee attached to all grade 9 student accounts payable on-line or by cash or cheque. Running shoes or athletic type shoes are encouraged. Students should lock their belongings in a PHE locker with their own lock. A lock is available for purchase at the office for \$10.

***Does ACSS have a Student Council?***

The Student Council provides a valuable dimension to high school life and to promote positive school culture. All students are welcome to attend meetings and help with the planning of school activities such as spirit days, school-wide activities and environmental awareness.

***What kinds of extra-curricular activities may be available at ACSS?***

Depending on interest, we offer the following athletic and intramural opportunities: cross country, volleyball, basketball, hockey, soccer, rugby, golf, soccer, track & field, curling, and swim club. This list may change due to student interest and availability of coaches. School functions and clubs such as concerts, festivals, drama productions, GSA , and other initiatives will be offered based on student interest.

