

Vegreville Composite High School

Junior High Registration Guide

2023-2024

Welcome to VCHS - Home of the Cougars!

On behalf of the Vegreville Composite High School staff, welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. We extend a very special welcome to students new to our school and particularly to our grade 7 students who are just starting their junior high school careers. Our focus is on academic excellence, outstanding career and technology foundations experiences and our ability to offer first-rate fine arts, performing arts, and athletic opportunities.

As we begin a new school year, we have an opportunity as staff and students to set goals to maintain a culture of academic excellence and a safe, caring and welcoming environment that embraces diversity, equity, and the opportunity to participate in many extracurricular activities for everyone.

Our students are held to a Code of Conduct exemplified by the virtues of Cougar Pride; **commitment, empathy, and enthusiasm**, which guide us in our day-to-day conduct.

Commitment:

Making a commitment involves dedication and the obligation to take steps to make it happen.

Empathy:

Empathy means "treating others as you would have others treat you." Be sensitive to the struggles of others.

Enthusiasm:

You are demonstrating a good attitude, great eagerness, and putting your heart into your work.

Commitment Empathy Enthusiasm



School Programs

Athletics

VCHS athletics delivers a dynamic program catering to individual and team sports. Students participate in a program that develops the whole athlete in year-round competitions. Athletes receive quality opportunities in an environment fostering sportsmanship, leadership, fitness, and team building through the competitive league and tournament play. Student-athletes can participate in badminton, basketball, cross-country running, curling, football, golf, and track and field. The availability of coaching expertise determines the ability to offer competitive athletic programs.

Cafeteria

Nutritious meals can be purchased in the cafeteria during the lunch break. Our spacious cafeteria also provides ample space for students to eat their homemade lunch.

Cougar Council Leadership

Leadership opportunities allow students to develop and expand their communication and teamwork skills planning activities promoting school pride.

Clubs

A variety of clubs are available for student interest and involvement. Examples include eSports, Spectrum GSA, Yarn Club, Culture and Race Engagement, and other clubs based on student interest and staff availability.

Fine Arts

VCHS's Fine Arts program develops students' self-awareness and allows them to express creativity through art, drama, and instrumental music.

Learning Commons (Library)

The school library is an integral part of the school-wide instructional program in which students engage in research activities as part of their class work. Learning activities allow students to develop information literacy skills critical in today's dramatically evolving world. The skills of accessing, evaluating, applying and sharing information will help students function effectively as individuals in a media-rich society. The Learning Commons's collection includes resources in various formats for information and reading pleasure. Students can access newspapers, magazines, non-fiction, fiction, reference materials, and online resources.

Open Gym Sport and Fitness (Lunch)

The open gym sport and fitness program serves those students who want to participate in a recreational activity where competition is a secondary feature. The program offers various activities for all abilities and all grades.

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Student Services

A guidance counsellor can assist students with social and emotional support, academic programming, registration, career exploration, and special program placements. Information about post-secondary programs, scholarships, loans, awards or bursaries is maintained in the Student Services area. The counsellor coordinates special writing provisions for provincial and diploma exams. Students may see the counsellor by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Our school also hosts the MHCBC (Mental Health Capacity Building Initiative) program and has a Family School Liaison Worker. These professionals work with students and families through group facilitation and refer students and parents to community agencies and other appropriate resource people.

Technology

Students gain experience using information technologies such as the automated catalogue, word processing, multimedia presentation, Internet databases, and searches in three full-size computer labs. Students have their login to their networked file folder and access to a division-based Gmail account.

Program of Studies

<p style="text-align: center;">Grade 7 Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Year-Long (4 Quarters)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Grade 8 Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Year-Long (4 Quarters)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Grade 9 Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Semester (2 Semesters)</p>
<p>Ab. Ed. Required Courses English Language Arts 7 Mathematics 7 Science 7 Social Studies 7 Health and Life Skills 7 Physical Education 7</p> <p>Complementary Course Rotation (Quarters) Learning Strategies CTF (see below) Art, Drama, Music</p> <p>Elective Courses Band, French or Ukrainian (dependent on teacher expertise)</p>	<p>Ab. Ed. Required Courses English Language Arts 8 Mathematics 8 Science 8 Social Studies 8 Health and Life Skills 8 Physical Education 8</p> <p>Complementary Course Rotation (Quarters) CTF (see below) Art, Drama, Music</p> <p>Elective Courses Band, French or Ukrainian (dependent on teacher expertise)</p>	<p>Ab. Ed. Required Courses English Language Arts 9* Mathematics 9* Science 9* Social Studies 9* Health and Life Skills 9 (Year-long) Physical Education 9 (Year-long)</p> <p>Complementary Course Choices (Semester) CTF (see below) Art, Drama, Music</p> <p>Elective Courses Band, French or Ukrainian (dependent on teacher expertise)</p> <p>*Alberta Education Provincial Achievement Tests</p>

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Ab. Ed. Required Courses

English Language Arts 7,8,9

The English Language Arts program aims to enable students to understand and appreciate language and use it confidently and competently in various situations. The focus is on exploring thoughts, ideas, feelings and experiences, comprehending and responding personally and critically to print and other media, managing ideas and information, enhancing the clarity and artistry of communication, and respecting, supporting, and collaborating with others.

Mathematics 7,8,9

Mathematics prepares students to use math confidently to solve problems, communicate mathematically, and appreciate and value mathematics. Junior High Math focuses on number systems, powers and exponents, solving equations, polynomials, surface area and rational numbers, transformations, statistics and probability. Junior High Math focuses on number skills, algebraic reasoning and mastery of basic skills.

Science 7,8,9

The Junior High Science curriculum ensures students can develop scientific literacy and knowledge and understand the nature and role of science. Grade 7 Science studies interactions and ecosystems, plants for food and fibre, heat and temperature, structures and forces, and planet Earth.

Social Studies 7,8,9

Social Studies helps students gain the basic knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to become responsible citizens and contributing members of society. Grade 7 students study Canadian history and pre- and post-Confederation.

Health and Life Skills 7,8,9

Health provides students with information to make responsible and informed choices to maintain health and promote safety for themselves and others. Students will develop positive interpersonal skills demonstrating responsibility, respect and care to establish and maintain healthy interactions and use resources effectively to manage and explore life roles, career opportunities and challenges. The curriculum focuses on wellness, relationship choices, life learning choices and human sexuality.

Physical Education 7,8,9

Physical Education aims to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to lead a healthy, active life. Students participate in various units and have access to a large gymnasium. Junior high physical education courses include soccer, volleyball, basketball, badminton*, and track and field. The emphasis is on sportsmanship and teamwork. *Students are required to supply a badminton racquet for physical education.

Commitment Empathy Enthusiasm



Complementary and Career and Technology Foundation Courses

Complementary and Career and Technology Foundation Courses are offered each year depending on the teacher expertise, experience and skills of current staff. Grade 7 and 8 students complete a compulsory rotation of eight complementary courses each year, two per quarter. Grade 9 students choose three complementary semester-long courses per year. Please note that some courses have a fee to cover consumable items.

Art 7,8,9

Tentative Fee is \$21.00.

The junior high Art curriculum introduces and reinforces basic art concepts by studying the elements of art. Art class provides hands-on learning opportunities by working with materials in new and creative ways.

CTF: Community Action and Awareness 9

Students passionate about helping others, animals, and the community can practice empathy by raising awareness about an identified cause through CTF Challenges. This course encourages students to view themselves as citizens who can actively positively impact those around them (school community or broader).

CTF: Computer Science 9

Tentative Fee is \$10.00.

In this course, students will develop an understanding of basic computer science concepts and programming languages to support their journey of becoming ethical and confident creators and consumers of digital technologies.

CTF: Construction Technologies 7,8,9

Tentative Fee is \$40.00.

The Construction Technologies strand provides opportunities for students to investigate and develop knowledge and skills related to the building and manufacturing trades and occupations.

CTF: Design Studies 7,8,9

Tentative Fee is \$10.00.

Design studies will focus on design practices that influence the people and environment around students. In this course, students will develop an understanding of the design thinking process through research, planning and creating from start to finish.

Drama 7,8,9

Tentative Fee is \$10.00.

The junior high Drama program aims to develop an appreciation for drama and theatre. Students will be introduced to the basics of acting through theatre games, pantomime, using the voice effectively on stage, improvisation and scripted plays.

Commitment Empathy Enthusiasm



CTF: Environmental Stewardship 7,8,9

Tentative Fee is \$21.00.

This course aims to foster an appreciation of the land by exploring sustainable practices to enhance ecosystem resilience and human well-being. Students will examine the interactions between the environment and humans by participating in learning activities and challenges focusing on the outdoor environment.

CTF: Foods 7,8

Tentative Fee is \$35.00.

Food Studies is an exciting hands-on course where you work in a group setting learning new skills, making new friends and eating your assignments at the end of the class. This course will provide the basic skills and abilities for planning, preparing and presenting foods, developing teamwork, managing time, and learning safe food practices. You will develop an understanding of the relationship between wellness and food as it relates to nutrition.

CTF: Food Preparation & Presentation 9

Tentative Fee is \$40.00.

Students will learn, understand and experience the basics of preparing food for others, product development, and service performance. This course exposes students to the commercial foods industry and the careers associated with the culinary arts profession.

CTF: Leadership 9

Students will plan for personal and group leadership development and demonstrate practical teambuilding skills while participating as a school-based leadership team member. Students will develop a plan for their personal growth as leadership team members and examine the various behaviours, skills, and roles of team members that contribute to team effectiveness and positive school culture.

Learning Strategies 7

This course promotes student awareness of the benefit of student organization and teaches effective work habits and study skills. This course provides students with the skills to develop independence in an academic setting. Encourages students to become active learners and discover their best learning, thinking, and working styles. It is an opportunity to learn how to prepare for assessments and apply and demonstrate their knowledge and skills. Explicit instruction in literacy, numeracy, information literacy, and computer skills will occur.

Music 7,8

This dynamic course focuses on developing musical skills, knowledge and an appreciation of music through being a listener, performer and composer.

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CTF: Personal Style and Image Design 9 (Formerly Cosmetology)

Tentative Fee is \$31.50.

Personal style is an important tool to help students reinforce their personal and professional attributes. In Personal Style and Image Design, students will learn about their style and how it reflects what they do, who they are, and what they value.

CTF: STEM Challenge 7,8,9

Tentative Fee is \$21.00.

Through STEM-based challenges, students will use the scientific method, math strategies, computational thinking and engineering principles to generate and evaluate ideas to solve problems. Students will apply theories, skills and techniques to apply creative solutions to solve problems.

Elective Courses (Dependent on the availability of a qualified teacher)

These classes are combined classes of Grade 7, 8, and 9 students and occur concurrently with the complementary courses above. Grade 7 and 8 students are pulled from the complementary rotation to participate in these elective courses. Only one language course can be selected, as French and Ukrainian courses coincide in the timetable.

Band 7/8/9 (Subject to availability of teacher expertise in instrumental music)

Tentative Fee is \$26 plus a \$75 Instrument Rental Fee.

This course is for students interested in playing a musical instrument as part of a team in a fun, hands-on concert band setting. Previous music experience is optional for Band 7, but any background in music is beneficial. Through playing woodwind, brass and percussion instruments, students will learn everything from assembling the instrument, reading, creating music, and playing as part of a band.

French 7/8/9 (Subject to availability of teacher expertise in this language)

Tentative Fee is \$10.

Learn Canada's official language. Students can extend their knowledge of Canada and the world. Language learning provides students with the competitive edge needed to succeed in today's Canada and global economy. Besides learning French, students appreciate French culture, cuisine, film, and music. Much of the learning is oral language and activity based.

Ukrainian Culture and Language 7,8 (Subject to availability of teacher expertise in this language)

Tentative Fee is \$10.

Learning Ukrainian is accomplished through individual and group activities. Cultural celebrations related to holidays, foods, traditions, and songs are essential to the Ukrainian program.

Commitment Empathy Enthusiasm

