

2026-2027 Description of Options

ART

Creative expression and the exploration of art elements & principals is the foundation of the Visual Arts program. This option gives students an opportunity to develop skills in drawing, painting and three-dimensional representations. For all grades, the AJM Fine Art Program is centered around a TAB (Teaching Art Behaviours) instructional framework. This choice-centered approach regards students as artists and provides them real choices for reflecting their own ideas and interests when making art. This approach in art education supports multiple modes of art exploration & learning. The students will create, reflect upon, and respond to art using a variety of techniques & processes. In Grade 7, students will have the opportunity to experience; drawing different forms, painting, pastel and India ink work, relief composition, or sculpture. In Grade 8 students have more time to expand these processes and techniques to also explore; printmaking, and multi-media projects. In Grade 9, students will deepen their understanding through exploration of art history and contemporary artists of our time. At AJM, the art option is meant to foster a love of creativity and exploring all areas of art regardless of skill set in order to discover one's individual artistic style!

BAND

(*Language is required for all grade 7 & a language or band for all grade 7, 8, 9 EAP students, optional to continue for grade 8 & 9 students)

The Band program provides opportunities for junior high students to develop their skills and abilities in music. Students develop and improve aural, technical, theoretical, interpretive, and synthesis skills. They also learn to play with good tone and intonation as well as to interpret the repertoire studied. In Grade 7, band students learn about the instrument of their choice, how to play, listen, and how to make a critical judgment on music. They also learn to interpret rhythm, melody, harmony, and form. Grade 8 & 9 students develop aspects of these skills but at an advanced and appropriate level for the student's ability. All band students are also encouraged to express themselves creatively through improvisation and interpretation of music. In addition, social and historical aspects of repertoire are discussed to encourage growth in the value of appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment of music. Grade 7 band is a pre-requisite for Band 8 and Band 8 is a prerequisite for Band 9. To take Band 10 at the high school level, students must have completed Band 9.

COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (CTF)

Comm. Tech. students will be challenged to move beyond basic levels of computer skills and other technologies. Throughout the three years students will increase in the depth of knowledge and understanding of the various technologies. Although no prerequisites are required it is important for students to have a passion for computers and digital technologies. Throughout the three years they will explore the following areas of interest: Office & Google Suite platform exploration, typing basics, introduction to coding through the Code.Org, Scratch and Python platforms, 2D and 3D digital design, and deeper exploration depending on previous experience. Students will also have the option to choose a self-paced project in a field of interest (Photography, Robotics, Business Marketing).

CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN (CTF)

Students learn basic woodworking skills, develop safe workplace practices, learn safe operation of machinery, and learn practical solutions to solving problems when building projects. Successful completion of modules in this strand is intended to provide students with a broad base of relevant theory and practice that builds daily living and career-specific skills.

Grade 7s will be working on safety protocol, bridge construction, a letter project and basic drafting. These projects will introduce the students to the scroll saw, spindle sander and palm sander.

Grade 8s will be doing a rocket project, toolbox and charcuterie board as their main projects; through these projects, the students will learn to safely operate a bandsaw, belt sander and disc sander.

Grade 9s will build a passive speaker, chopping block, a choice of either a 3D project or CnC project. Through these projects, the students will master the main power tools in the shop.

All classes are required to complete a safety module!!!

ENTERPRISE AND INNOVATION (CTF)

In the Business Enterprise and Innovation option course the instructional platform is real life. From the moment students enter the classroom they will be immersed in the business world! As authentic entrepreneurs, our students in Grades 7-9 will have an opportunity to earn a profit and gain life-long skills through the creation and operation of their very own Marketplace business venture. This course is designed to provide all students with authentic learning experiences that will increase their “Sphere of Influence”, enable them to make connections to the world, give back to the community through charitable initiatives, and to truly see value in all aspects of academic learning/leadership.

FOODS AND FASHION GRADE 7 (CTF)

This course is intended to give an overview of two CTF (Career and Technology Foundation) paths, Foods and Fashion. The program is presented in a semester format to our grade 7 students and offers them the opportunity to develop lifelong skills in areas indispensable to everyday life. The Foods component covers safety and sanitation rules for the kitchen, basic kitchen equipment use, fundamental techniques through a series of labs, reading and following recipes. In Fashion, basic hand stitches, iron safety, machine sewing and safety techniques, and conclude with a final culminating project.

FOOD STUDIES GRADE 8 & 9 (CTF)

The Foods 8 and 9 program is presented as a semester option with entry at any grade. This option includes the development and preparation of a variety of foods inclusive of the CTF (Career and Technology Foundation) component. The course begins with Food Safety with a focus on processing, preparing, handling and serving food safely. Students will complete a variety of recipes/projects through group collaboration to develop competencies in techniques and tools when cooking. They will examine food choices in relation to Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating and other reliable guidelines.

FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

(*Language is required for all grade 7 students, and either a language or band for all grade 7, 8, 9 EAP students, optional to continue for grade 8 & 9 students)

Through the thematic study of French, students acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes to be effective global citizens. In their exploration of these cultures, they also gain respect and appreciation for all cultures. Students use French in a variety of situations and for a variety of purposes, acquiring strategies to maximize the effectiveness of their learning and communication. Coursework is largely project-based, but also requires students to complete a written, spoken, and listening component. The development of language competence varies amongst students. Because success is based on repetition, all students are encouraged to review and practice daily, such as reviewing their notes, reading texts or watching films.

RECREATION LEADERSHIP (CTF) (*Open to grade 9 students only, application required)

Students will develop skills to enable them to become independent, positive leaders, participation in various activities which promote leadership skills and independence and growth of interpersonal skills. They will learn how to successfully plan, organize and implement an intramural program and a variety of special events within our school community. Involvement in school event planning to promote a healthier, active school setting is an important goal. Students will also participate in a fitness component that is outside of the regular physical education curriculum and can include such topics as eating right, making a fitness goal and creating a plan to meet those goals, mindfulness, promotion of living a healthier life. Students will partake in a variety of field trips to learn about community and how a variety of fitness studios are run.

DRAMA (*Open to grade 7 students only)

The Dramatic Arts option at Archbishop Joseph MacNeil provides students with the opportunity to develop their skills in the four major disciplines of Drama: Movement, Speech, Acting/Improvisation and Technical Theatre. Students are first introduced to these concepts in Grade 7. A Drama class builds strong communication and collaboration skills while helping students grow in confidence, creativity, and self-expression. Students learn how to read, analyze, and mark scripts, make purposeful actor choices, and understand how character and scene analysis shape the give-and-take of dialogue. Through performance and improvisation techniques, students develop adaptability, active listening, and the ability to think on their feet. These outcomes are achieved through the four major disciplines of drama: Movement, Speech, Acting/Improvisation, and Technical Theatre, providing students with a well-rounded and practical theatre experience that extend well beyond the stage and into everyday life