

A.R. MacNeill Secondary School

Grade 8 Program Planning Guide

2012/13

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Principal: Ms. Carolyn-Lyn Sakata

Vice Principals: Mr. Rob Laing and Mrs. Lynette Collins



Program Panning Timeline

First day Transfer Applications can be accepted	January 23 at 8:00am
Program Planning Information Nights	
a) For incoming grade 8 students.....	January 31 at 7:00pm
	Tours at 6:30pm
b) MacNeill students entering grade 9 thru 12.....	February 15 at 6:45pm
Program Planning for current MacNeill students	
Grade 8 – 11.....	February 7 – 8
Visits to Elementary family schools	January 17 – 19
Course Selection Sheets due by	February 3
Last day that Transfer Applications will be accepted	March 1
Letters mailed to parents regarding Transfer Applications	March 9
Program Planning for non-catchment students	April 11 at 7:00pm
	Tours at 6:30pm
School tours for all new students	May

About MacNeill Secondary

We are a relatively new secondary school in the Richmond School District, opening our doors in September 2003 with 300 students. The school began with grades 7 and 8 in the Fine Arts and Science Academies and the Incentive School with grades 8-10. A grade was added each year and we are now almost 1000 students. The class of 2013 will be the sixth MacNeill graduating class.

The school was named after Allan Roy MacNeill, a distinguished educator. Mr. MacNeill moved from Ontario to Vancouver in 1910, where he completed his schooling at U.B.C. and began his career in education with the Richmond School District. His first teaching position was in 1925 at Bridgeport School, moving on to principal of Richmond High School in 1928. In 1959 he became Director of Secondary Instruction, where he remained until he retired in 1968. Mr. MacNeill played an integral part with the growth and changes in local education. He had an active interest in high school sports and he was instrumental in making school facilities available for students' extracurricular activities.

In the spirit of Mr. MacNeill's dedication to involve students in all aspects of school, we at MacNeill expect students to participate in the many opportunities available. The enthusiasm and interests you have should be developed to their maximum. Take advantage of your school and share something you enjoy with others. Get involved and help continue to make MacNeill a great place to learn.

Principal's Message

A.R. MacNeill Secondary is proud to offer a wide variety of courses that will challenge and engage students in curricular areas. Sometimes when faced with a multitude of choices, it can be difficult to make a decision. While this resource provides an overview of graduation requirements and course selection options offered here at MacNeill Secondary, it is but one of the numerous resources students and parents should use. This is why I would like to encourage students to engage in discussions with their parents, teachers and counsellors regarding their strengths, interests and future goals.

Our timetable is created, and the staffing of this timetable is completed, based on the courses you select. It is very important that you choose courses and alternatives carefully, as course changes in September may not be possible.

With proper preparation, our school will provide you with excellent opportunities to fully develop your knowledge, skills, talents and self-confidence. Your success is a priority to us. I encourage you to ask questions and to speak to our dedicated counselors and staff who are here to assist you in meeting your goals and achieving your dreams.

Sincerely,

Carol-Lyn Sakata
Principal

Philosophy

The central goals of education are intellectual, social, and career development. MacNeill was founded on the guiding principles of effective practice, flexibility, and choice. We believe that positive relationships among students, teachers, and family coupled with a challenging academic core, are fundamental to student success. As part of a community of learners, we believe in extending learning beyond the walls of the school building. Students learn to set goals and formulate plans for healthy intellectual, physical, emotional, and social development.

We value:

1. Positive climate - Every student is known, appreciated, and included; staff and students participate in the school's decision-making process.
2. Dynamic teaching – Teachers explore and employ a large repertoire of instructional and learning strategies with their colleagues and students.
3. Engagement - Students engage in challenging inquiry with their teachers. Students work towards taking responsibility for their own learning.
4. Community experience – Student learning is extended and enriched within their community.
5. Technology - Technology is used as a tool to support students as thinkers, researchers, writers, and presenters.
6. Assessment - Teachers help students to set goals and to monitor, guide and assess their own thinking in mastering learning outcomes.
7. Professional development - Teachers as learners explore opportunities to enrich the MacNeill community.
8. Balance – We emphasize the need for balance in the lives of both our students and staff.

Our MacNeill learning community has

POWER

POSITIVE ATTITUDE– We participate enthusiastically

OWNERSHIP– We are accountable for our actions

WE NOT ME – We are safe, empathetic, and welcoming

EXCELLENCE – We strive to do our best

RESPECT– We care for ourselves, each other, and our environment

The Intermediate Program

Grade 8 students in the Intermediate Program are able to make a smooth transition to secondary school through our organization of academic classes and electives, and with additional support when needed. A core group of teachers is responsible for teaching the academic subjects. Through this organization, students and teachers have the opportunity to form strong relationships with each other.

All students in grade 8 experience elective offerings in their two scheduled elective blocks. Students have the opportunity to explore environmental issues, and applied skills in addition to multiple aspects of the Fine Arts that may include visual art, drama, music, and dance.

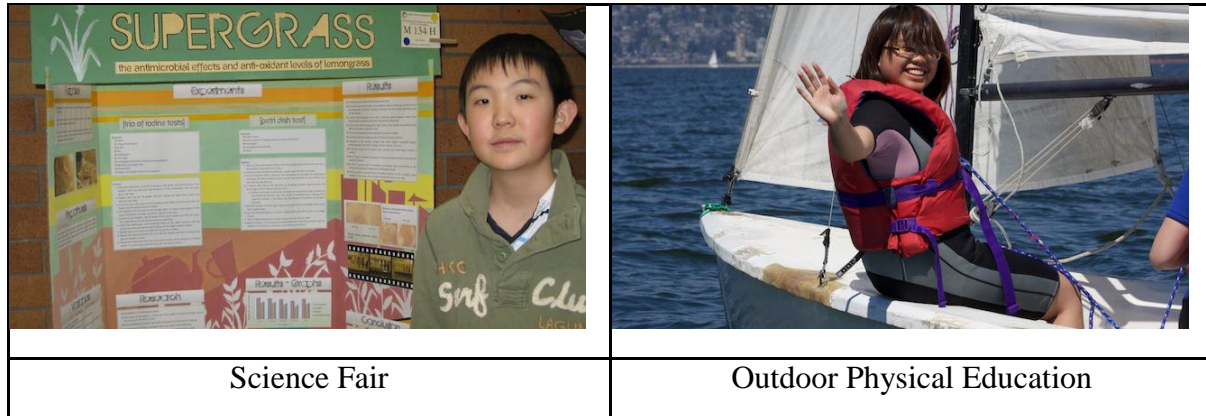
In the grade 9 year students are given the opportunity to select courses based on their own interests from a wide range of elective offerings that may include art, drama, dance, band, choir, information technology, digital photography, foods, technology, textiles, and environmental science.

All Intermediate Program students are exposed to a variety of instructional strategies that include a combination of integrated theme-based units, journals, presentations, and field trips.

One of the fundamental goals of the Intermediate Program is to help students to develop the knowledge and essential skills to become creative and critical thinkers. Students are encouraged to become active, responsible, and compassionate participants within the school community and beyond it. At MacNeill, students are provided with opportunities to help prepare themselves for an increasingly complex and dynamic future.



The MacNeill Incentive Outdoor Academy



The Incentive Outdoor Speciality Academy emphasizes academics and outdoor physical education in grades 8-10. The program has an experiential focus that develops competent, confident, and caring people with strong leadership skills in the school in the community. A number of 21st Century Foundational Skills are emphasized: critical thinking and problem solving; creativity and innovation; collaboration, teamwork and leadership; cross-cultural understanding; career and learning self-reliance; and caring for personal health and planet earth.

Outdoor Physical Education

Our focus is on nurturing well-rounded students and the key to our success is the small friendly atmosphere - 90 students are taught by only 4 teachers. The Incentive Academy has Specialty Academy status which enables it to offer a premium outdoor PE program (fees apply). During the year students enroll in six different Physical Education activities from offerings such as kayaking, sailing, mountain hiking, skiing, snow-boarding, skating, cross-country skiing and snow shoeing to name a few. In some sports, for example sailing and kayaking, official certification is possible.

In addition there are two major overnight trips. In the fall, grade 8 and 9 students attend a 3-day retreat focussed on team-building and outdoor activities, while the grade 10 students immerse themselves in a 3-day outdoor marine biology expedition to Bamfield Marine Science Centre on Vancouver Island. In the spring, all students participate in a 5-day adventure week to such destinations as Strathcona Park, sailing in the Gulf Islands, or traveling to Quebec.

Incentive Curriculum

Incentive offers an enriched accelerated curriculum in all the core academic subjects (English, French, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies) and emphasizes independent thinking within cooperative groups. Developing group and individual projects as well as presentations are key components of the program. Students are expected to take an active role in their learning. The program also includes:

- a research skills course to provide the skills needed to write a major research paper.
- Self-Directed Studies (SDS) - students learn the important fundamentals of research paper writing and oral presentation from projects of their choice.
- Fine Arts and Applied Skills Elective credit made up of 6 mini-courses throughout the year such as drama, video production, cooking, fabrics, wood working, and First Aid. These are merely examples and are not necessarily offered each year.
- Drama - as an elective choice it is possible to choose public performance of a play or musical. Past performances have included High School Musical, Sound of Music and Beauty and the Beast.
- Volunteer Work experiences (for example, Incentive students have traditionally volunteered for the Sun Run and Richmond Nature Park).
- Health and Career Education 8 and 9 and Planning 10 emphasizes time management among other goals.
- Science Fair is an enrichment to the science curriculum. Competent students are encouraged to participate in science fairs at the district and regional level (University of British Columbia) where Incentive students have won awards for over 15 years.
- Anti-racism video contest - sponsored by the federal Ministry of Heritage. Incentive students have been national winners on two occasions.

Program Fee: Incentive students participate in many activities that have a cost. The program fee is \$1,650 which can be paid in six \$275 instalments. The Outdoor Adventure week generally costs between \$600.00 and \$1500.00 depending on the activity chosen and additional costs may apply. Activity days include some activities that can be expensive and some that are inexpensive; students can budget. There are opportunities for fundraising, and we have some funds available for families who cannot afford these expenses. It should be understood that these activities are an integral part of the Incentive offerings and candidates should apply with this understanding.

Further Information

For further information consult our website at www.incentive-macneill.ca where detailed information about the program (such as lists of electives, newsletters, calendars) can be found.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students may enter Incentive in Grade 8, 9 or 10 and should:

- **have a strong desire to attend Incentive;**
- **have a strong desire to develop outdoor skills;**
- be committed to participate in the outdoor adventure week;
- enjoy developing projects;
- want a diverse education;
- have the ability to organize time and work independently;
- enjoy working cooperatively;
- want to have a say in their education;
- be intellectual risk-takers;
- have a questioning attitude.

Our curriculum is both enriched and compacted; we have found that students who have earned a “C+” or better average are equipped to handle the workload of our program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Candidates are required to submit:

Cross Boundary Submission: starting Jan. 23, 2012

Incentive Outdoor Academy Application Submission: by Feb. 29, 2012

- 1) application package: Please note that if you are living in the MacNeill catchment you only fill out the Registration Form, **if you are out of our catchment you must also fill out the transfer form.**
- 2) photocopies of their Grade 6 and 7 report cards if applying for Grade 8 or their Grade 7 and 8 report cards if applying for Grade 9;

Candidates will also be responsible for:

- 1) arranging an appointment to visit Incentive for one school day if they wish by contacting the main office. (Visitations are optional but normally occur during January/February; Monday – Friday excluding Thursday or Friday afternoon.)

Teachers will be asked their opinions concerning candidate suitability for Incentive.

Note: After applicants have been screened for suitability for the program, should the number exceed 30, a lottery will be held to determine which students will be accepted into the Grade 8 class.

Notification of acceptance into the MacNeill Incentive Outdoor Academy will be mailed by March 9, 2012.

About A. R. MacNeill Secondary School

Scheduling

- The school day begins at 8:30 am. and ends at 2:59 pm. This extended day will facilitate early dismissal one day a week.
- Wednesday is an early dismissal day at 2:00 pm. This allows time for staff to plan, and for students to receive extra help or pursue other activities.
- Individual supervised reading periods of twenty-five minutes are scheduled for grades 8 through 10 several days a week during Advisory. Educational research indicates that regular reading improves student performance and raises skill levels in many areas.



Advisory

Students have the opportunity to develop and sustain meaningful relationships with staff and peers through our Advisory Program. This program allows each student to be part of a small group with an ongoing connection to an individual teacher. In addition, the Advisory model provides opportunity for students to engage in socially responsible projects, develop their learning portfolio, Graduation Transition portfolio in grade 12, complete their Daily Physical Activity (DPA) record and Career and Personal Planning.

Athletics

The Athletics program is designed to offer students an opportunity to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular sports while representing their school. The Athletics program at MacNeill promotes sportsmanship, leadership, commitment, discipline, co-operation, and responsibility.

Research has shown that there is a strong correlation between one's physical fitness and academic performance. MacNeill Secondary has fielded teams in the following areas:

- cross-country running
- badminton
- girls field hockey
- basketball
- soccer
- table tennis
- tennis
- track and field
- golf
- volleyball
- curling
- swimming
- ultimate

Go Ravens!

Clubs

MacNeill offers clubs for students with a wide range of interests. There is something for everyone. The clubs programs at MacNeill promote diversity, tolerance, leadership, citizenship and global responsibility.

We, at MacNeill encourage students to participate in the many opportunities available. The enthusiasm and interest you have should be developed to their maximum, Take advantage of your school and share something you enjoy with others.

Some of the clubs MacNeill Secondary has run in the past are:

- ski and snowboard club
- Global Fusion (dance club)
- Amica (multicultural club)
- Green Team (environmental club)
- Raven Review (school newspaper)
- Aznec (Asian entertainment club)
- Buzz Art club
- Buzz in the kitchen
- First Responders
- Raven Readers
- Students' Council
- Cheer club
- Jazz club
- Glee club
- Hearts Group (girls group)
- Intramurals (lunch time activities)
- drama production
- ultimate club
- grad committee

Student Support and School Services

The goal of student services at MacNeill is to assist students to be successful in all aspects of their schooling. As a result of successful and meaningful experiences in school, we believe that students will be better prepared to meet the challenges after graduation.

Student services at MacNeill include the following: the Counselling Centre, Career Advising, the Learning Resource Centre, the school nurse, the school liaison program, the library and food services.

Counselling Services

MacNeill's counsellors are available to assist students and parents with many aspects of school life. The role of the school counselor is to help students resolve behavioural, personal, social, and academic concerns, plan their programs, explore career choices, and prepare for post-secondary institutions.

Students may visit the Counselling Centre before classes begin, during class breaks, at lunch, or after school to make arrangements to meet with their counsellors. With MacNeill's counselling model, students are assigned a counsellor and can self-refer to meet with a counsellor. If parents or guardians wish to make an appointment to meet with their son/daughter's counsellor, they should call the school.

Career Advising

Our Career Advisor at MacNeill is available 3 days a week to assist students with career and post-secondary program exploration, and provides important current information related to careers, district apprenticeship opportunities, post secondary education, financial aid, volunteerism, and other related topics. All students are encouraged to visit the career centre for assistance.

Learning Resource

Learning Strategies

Some students may require more intensive intervention, additional support or an alternate setting in order to experience greater academic success. After consultation with the classroom teacher, the Learning Strategies teacher, the School-Based Team, and parents, students may be placed into a Learning Strategies class. This class focuses on helping students develop and build life-long learning strategies and become self-advocates for their learning. This support may last for an entire year, for only a portion of the school year or for a particular unit of study or skill.

Focus areas may include, but are not limited to: organization, time management, study skills, and expanding reading, writing, and math strategies. Useful strategies are taught at the beginning of each class and students are encouraged to apply what they learn to other subject areas.

Individual learning goals are set each term. Students work towards meeting these goals after developing a collaborative action plan with their Learning Strategies teacher.

Support provided depends on individual student needs and interests. Students who feel they would benefit from these supports should see their counsellor.

School Nurse

Health promotion services are provided by a community health nurse from the Richmond Health Department. The nurse, who visits the school one morning a week, acts as a resource person to counsellors, staff and students on health issues. To contact Ms. Brow, our school nurse, leave a message at the office.

School Liaison Program

MacNeill participates in the school police liaison program in conjunction with the Richmond RCMP detachment. The purpose of the program is to enhance the working relationship between the police force, school and community.

Library

The library opens a world of information and pleasure reading to MacNeill students. With a wealth of print, video, and electronic resources, the MacNeill Library provides students with key information literacy skills as well as recreational fiction and research resources. The library staff is dedicated to fostering a love of reading and a familiarity with the library world. An extra-curricular Readers Club has students select and discuss books of the month, and library monitors earn service hours helping to keep the library running smoothly.

The library is a welcoming place for all students to come and read, research, or relax quietly. Outside of school hours, the library is open before school, during most lunch hours, and after school. The teacher-librarian, Ms. Phillips and the library technician, Ms. Hercus, are available to help students with school assignments or book selections during regular library hours.

Food Services

The Blue Heron Café is available in the lounge for students to purchase nutritious hot or cold breakfasts and lunches. Café service is also available during Nutrition Break.

In addition to café food services, there are vending machines to provide some items at times when the café is not open.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

ESL Levels 1 and 2 - Three blocks of ESL divided into three subject areas

ESL 1/2a	ESL 1/2b	ESL 1/2c
<i>English</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>	<i>Science</i>
- grammar - writing (paragraphs, etc...) - short stories and novels	- Canadian history, geography, politics - Canadian Culture, holidays	- areas of grade 8-10 science curriculum

ESL Level 3 – Two blocks of ESL divided into two subject areas

ESL 3a	ESL 3b
<i>English</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>
- grammar - writing (essays, paragraphs, etc...) - short stories, novels - poetry	- expands on 1/2b - focus on Canadian history and government

ESL Level 4 - One block of ESL

ESL 4
<i>English</i>
- more intensive instruction in literature and writing - more like a regular English class

ESL Level 5

- No ESL block- receive pull-out support during the year (removed from class for an ESL lesson)
- Do not receive a letter grade- only a comment on each report card
- Can receive extra support for English class as well as for assignments in other courses.
- May receive 2 years of level 5 support if still funded.

Academic Courses ESL Students can Take:

Level 1- MATH

Level 2- add SCIENCE

Level 3- add SOCIAL STUDIES

Level 4- add ENGLISH or HUMANITIES

Assessment

ESL teachers assess ESL students throughout the year on their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills to monitor language and development.

The school district requires a major assessment (to determine funding needs) every spring called the **Spring Census**. Teachers use the *Secondary Written/Oral Language Observation Matrix* to help determine levels. This includes a reading, writing and oral assessment. This assessment is ONE of the ways teachers decide the students' levels for the next year. Teachers will consider marks in the ESL and core courses before making a decision. Students generally complete one level of ESL per year.

Course Descriptions

Grade 8 Program

Humanities 8

Students will take two blocks of Humanities, an integrated English and Social Studies curriculum. This course builds upon the foundation laid in Language Arts 7 with a continued focus on the skills of reading comprehension, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and representing. The course emphasizes the writing process and explores the pleasure and satisfaction that come with the complex use of language. Students will read widely and respond both personally and critically to a variety of literature, including novels, short stories, drama, poetry, and non-fiction.

This course builds upon the strong foundation of knowledge and skills in geography and history introduced during Social Studies 7.

It covers the distinctive cultures of western and eastern civilizations, and the variety of influences that contributed to their rise. The concept of early culture and civilizations is developed through an examination of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the Reformation. Geography knowledge and skills previously acquired in Social Studies 7 are reinforced and expanded.

French 8

Course fees: Workbooks (Approx. \$8) are available to purchase or borrow.

This course will review the basic concepts presented in the elementary program through an exploration of real subjects and participation in hands-on projects. Students will develop confidence in their new language as they acquire vocabulary related to themes and gain knowledge of French language structures. Students will express ideas, experiences, and feelings on familiar topics both orally and in writing.



Mathematics 8

This course builds on skills developed up to grade 7 while introducing students to the rigorous demands of secondary mathematics. Areas covered in this program include Representing Data; Ratios, Rates and Proportional Reasoning; Pythagorem Relationship; Percent; Surface Area; Fraction Operations; Volume; Integers; Linear Relations and Equations; Probability; and Tessellations. Problem solving will be related to real-life experiences to make the application of math more meaningful, and will be integrated throughout the program.



Science 8

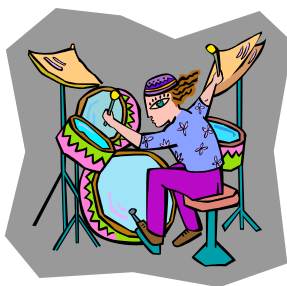
Course fees: Optional Science 8 Workbook (Approx. \$10)

This course will focus on developing positive attitudes to Science. To accomplish this, the course will equip students with the necessary scientific skills and processes, encouraging critical thinking, and increasing scientific knowledge. Grade 8 units include: Life Science (cells and systems), Physical Science (optics, fluids and dynamics) and Earth Science (water systems on Earth).

Physical Education 8

The goal of Physical Education 8 is to provide students with the knowledge, understanding, and skills to maintain physical health throughout their lives. Our aim is to have students appreciate the paramount importance of physical well being and its relationship to the intellectual, emotional, and social health of all individuals. Students will actively participate in a wide variety of physical activities and learn to understand and monitor their personal fitness level. At MacNeill, there will be an emphasis on the development of recreationally oriented and lifetime sports activities.





Music 8 – Band 8

In this Band, students will play a variety of music including – classical, traditional band repertoire, popular, movie soundtracks, rock and roll, etc. There will be selections of multicultural repertoire for students to experience diverse musical cultures as well. Traditional band instruments like the - flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophones, trumpet, trombone, baritone, bass, drums, piano, and guitar will all be included in the ensemble. Orchestral instruments like the violin, cello, and string bass are also welcome to join this ensemble. Beginners are welcome. As well as performing in concerts (which are mandatory), students will learn music theory, music history, music appreciation, and basic music composition.

All concerts are mandatory.

Fine Arts and Applied Skills Elective Wheel

Grade 8 students at MacNeill have the opportunity to explore six of seven elective offerings through our Fine Arts and Applied Skills Elective Wheel. Students will take two courses each term, enabling them to sample a variety of courses in each field. The courses offered as part of the Elective Wheel are:

Visual Arts 8

Do you love making art? Or, have you had limited experience with art making, but would love to learn some great new art skills? This course provides a foundation in art media, methods and appreciation. Students will sample both two and three dimensional art experiences in drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, and sculpture. Emphasis is placed on the development of imagery and the acquisition of the skills and knowledge necessary for a basic understanding of art. Come and join the fun!

Dance/Drama 8

This is an introduction to dance and drama required by all Grade 8 students as part of their Fine Arts rotation. Skill development in Dance and Drama supports and enhances other academic subjects. This course helps students to interact comfortably and confidently with others in class. Topics include: team building, concentration/focus during performance, proper stretching and warm-up techniques, choreography development, movement, voice, improvisation, and characterization. This is a fun elective.

Music 8 – Introduction

This class is available to all grade 8 students as part of the Fine Arts rotation.

Students will have an opportunity to learn:

Music skills – Djembe drums, guitar, singing,

Music listening – an overview of classical music appreciation plus popular music

Music Theory – basics of reading music

Music Technology – Garage Band music software (depending on availability of the computer labs)

Music Composition – opportunities for students to apply basic musical knowledge, skills and creativity to composing their own works (* ideal for students to learn legal concepts i.e. copyrights)

Technology Education 8

This class is available to all grade 8 students as part of the Applied Skills rotation.

Students will be introduced to the following disciplines:

- i) Technical drawing and design
- ii) Aerodynamics, the properties of basic mechanics and physics
- iii) The designing and building of “Mousetrap” powered cars or CO2 powered dragsters
- iv) Introduction to bike repair. The student will fully dismantle a bike and then re-assemble it for use

In this course, the students will learn to use woodworking tools as well as mechanics tools.

Environmental Science 8

Study the nature of the biomes as well as the resident species within these bio diverse environments. The emphasis of this course will focus on temperate rainforests found right here in BC as well as tropical rainforest environments. Explore how greenhouse gases are produced and study the impact they have on the biosphere. Understand how rainforests are of vital importance within the global climate system. Explore the roles that various cycles play in a number of environments.

Foods 8

This exploratory course introduces students to foods, and nutrition. Students learn about the basic principles of food preparation, cookery, and the nutritional value of a wide variety of products and simple meals. Recipes will be prepared for breakfast, lunch, snacks, dinner, and dessert.

Keyboarding 8

This course will include MS Word formatting skills, iPhoto, Photo Booth, iMovie, Garage Band, and may include an introduction to Podcasting. Students will also become familiar with the use of the Internet with respect to ethics, safety and as a research tool. Correct keyboarding skills/technique will be emphasized.