

January 4, 2023

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

As you may be aware, course selection for your child's Grade 9 year will take place shortly. I am sending this letter out to all grade 8 families in order to make parents aware of an amazing opportunity for next year. Socials and Science Experiential 9 (SASE 9) is a one-semester integrated experiential program of study. Students in the program are part of a cohort of 16 students who work with one teacher for the entire semester. Students take 4 courses – Social Studies 9, Science 9, Physical and Health Education 9, Outdoor Education 10. Academic content is integrated across a variety of activities and trips including cross-country skiing, telemark skiing, shelter building, winter camping, avalanche awareness, cycle touring, indoor rock climbing, outdoor rock climbing, canoeing, sea kayaking and more. In addition to a number of day outings, students participate in at least 4 overnight trips as part of the SASE 9 semester, ranging from 2 to 6 days in length.

The SASE 9 program is designed to challenge students academically, physically and personally. Particular emphasis is placed on character development through challenge and diversity of experience. Students are exposed to a wide variety of outdoor activities and professionals in a diverse array of fields. Positive mentoring, "big picture" connections and stewardship are focuses of this program as students develop character and personal strength through challenge and experience. Active living and positive life skills are emphasized as students gain a heightened awareness of nutrition, health and fitness choices.

Due to the nature of the program, time devoted each day to a particular subject area will vary. Some trips may take place on weekends. Students must be flexible and willing to work hard in a variety of learning structures. It is imperative that students be voluntary, willing participants in this program.

Students will require a certain amount of personal gear for outdoor pursuits activities but all technical equipment is provided. The cost of the program to students is \$300. This fee covers a variety of activities including avalanche instruction, Canada Games Centre passes, ski passes, technical gear purchase and maintenance, site entry fees, transportation fees as well as offsetting the cost of hiring certified assistant leaders for extended out-trips. SASE 9 is a very busy semester and a great deal of commitment is expected of the students with respect to making school a priority. Students must be organized and responsible in their trip preparation and classroom learning duties.

Although SASE 9 may appeal to a large number of students, enrollment is limited to 16 students per semester for safety reasons. The SASE 9 program is run in much the same way as the experiential programs at Wood Street School, with the exception that SASE 9 is exclusively for PCSS Grade 9 students. Students must apply for SASE 9 and suitable candidates (as determined by application quality and teacher input) will be accepted. Successful SASE applicants will be notified of their acceptance into either the fall or spring semester.

If this program interests your child, they should fill in the attached application form as soon as possible and return it to Ms. McDade via the school office. Applications will be accepted until **February 10, 2023**. Following this deadline, applications will be reviewed and teachers will be consulted for feedback. Successful applicants will be notified in person and by mail.

Sincerely,

Kathleen McDade
SASE 9 Program Instructor
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