

Welcome to RAM COUNTRY!

- PRIDE PASSION PURPOSE



Grade 8

What will you grade 8 year at PCSS look like?

Getting to know you...

The staff at PCSS have been working in collaboration with your elementary school to get to know you better. We began early in 2021 meeting your teachers and learning all the great things about you. We discussed your strengths and stretches and now are more familiar with your unique needs as you enter high school.

What about course selection?

Grade 8 students coming to PCSS DO NOT COMPLETE COURSE SELECTION.

Mrs. Seymour will ASSIGN all grade 8 students their appropriate classes. Before arriving at PCSS, your grade 7 teacher will ask you two questions:

1. Do you wish to take band?
2. What second language class would you prefer, French or Native Language (Athapaskan)? You usually take both in elementary school, but this is not the case in high school, you choose one or the other.

This information will then be passed on to Mrs. Seymour who will prepare your schedule with the information.

PCSS runs on a semestered system.

What does this mean ?

A semestered system basically divides the year into two halves.

At the grade 8 level, each semester contains two terms.

I know this sounds confusing, so let me explain...

Semester 1

Semester 1 will contain term 1 and term 2.
Each term runs for approximately 9 weeks.

Semester 2

Semester 2 will contain term 3 and term 4.
Each term will run for approximately 9 weeks.

What should I expect my day to look like?

You will have four periods per day and will follow a Day 1 and Day 2 format.

Your academic classes will be held in the morning, periods 1 and 2.

Your “exploratory” classes, language class or PE class will be held in the afternoons.

Well, what are “exploratory classes”?

Exploratory classes run every second day and only run for one term, so for about 9 weeks.

Only grade 8 students take exploratory classes. These classes are most often “hands on” learning opportunities and are designed to expose students to the many course offerings/options available to them as they continue through their high school career.

What if I don't want to take a particular exploratory class?

We ask that students stay registered in and try out all the exploratory course offerings even if they are not of great interest to the student.

Our thought...how do you know you don't like it if you haven't even tried?

Why do we offer the 9 week exploratory classes at the grade 8 level?

These exploratory classes are designed to give students a “taste” of what the material and course content is like prior to them committing to a course for the full semester at the grade 9-12 level.

Through exploratory classes at the grade 8 level, students are given the opportunity to discover their likes and dislikes without a semester long commitment.

So what should I expect my schedule to look like?

Your day will be broken in to 4 periods. Two in the morning, and two in the afternoon.

You academic classes will be held in the morning each semester.

You will only be required to take 2 academic classes per semester.

Sample Schedule

Semester 1

Period 1- Math 8

Period 2- English 8

Period 3 –Day 1 –Exploratory
(Term 1 & Term 2)

Period 3- Day 2- Exploratory
(Term 1 &Term 2)

Period 4- Physical Education

• Semester 2

Period 1- Socials 8

Period 2- Science 8

Period 3 –Day 1 –Exploratory
(Term 3 & Term 4)

Period 3- Day 2- Exploratory
(Term 3 &Term 4)

Period 4-Second Language
(French or Athapaskan)

What if I decide to take band?

Joining our beginner band is a wonderful opportunity to try something new and make new friends. We really encourage our grade 8 students to give band a try.

If you choose to take band, it will run all year long (semester 1 & 2), every second day.

This means instead of getting 8 exploratory classes throughout the year, you will take four plus band.

Sample Band Sechedule

Semester 1

Period 1- Math 8
Period 2- English 8
Period 3 –Day 1 –BAND
(Term 1 & Term 2)
Period 3- Day 2- Exploratory
(Term 1 &Term 2)
Period 4- Physical Education

Semester 2

Period 1- Socials 8
Period 2- Science 8
Period 3 –Day 1 –BAND
(Term 3 & Term 4)
Period 3- Day 2- Exploratory
(Term 3 &Term 4)
Period 4-Second Language
(French or Athapaskan)

Exploratory Classes

Here are a list of the exploratory classes usually offered at PCSS.

Please keep in mind these are subject to change based on staffing and other course offerings.

Metals 8, Foods 8, Woods 8, Drama 8, Textiles 8, Computer 8, HACE & FNAC 8

FNAC- First Nations Art & Culture

HACE- Health and Career Education

What about sports?

Grade 8 students are invited and encouraged to try out for all our sports teams. Grade 8 teams have a “no cut policy” which allows all students the opportunity to play on a school team.

If you sign up for a team it is our expectation that you come to practice and be respectful to all.

What sports are offered?

The sports offered at PCSS depend on the coaches available and student interest. Sports offered are subject to change, but usually we offer:

Volleyball

Basketball

Track and Field

Tell us what you are interested and we will see what we can do!

What about the cafeteria?

The PCSS cafeteria offers hot lunch specials 4 days per week. Hot lunches are \$6.00 (subject to change).

There are also sandwiches, salads, yogurt, breakfast sandwiches, etc.

You can also purchase a cafeteria punch card if you like.

The cafeteria food is prepared by students in the Foods classes once they earn their Food Safe certification.

Will I have a locker?

Lockers will be distributed by our front office and you will be assigned a lock.

You are required to use the lock assigned to you by the school, so please don't purchase your own lock.

Learning Supports

We are able to offer various formal and informal types of learning supports at PCSS. (Learning assistance, tutoring at lunch and after school, and teacher tutoring)

We typically start off all students with a full schedule and if a student has been identified as needing a learning assistance block, it will be added to their schedule.

Learning Assistance

A learning assistance block is not simply assigned by request. There are various “criteria” that must be met prior to a student being assigned a learning assistance block.

The learning assistance teachers will work with the student, guardians, past teacher’s information and information from the current teachers to determine if a student qualifies for a LA block. We do encourage all students to work with the other supports offered prior to having a scheduled LA block.

The LA blocks are assigned based on student need and are considered on a “case by case” basis.

All students will likely start out the year with a full timetable.

Extra Curricular

Extra curricular activities are offered based on student interest and teacher availability to supervise.

The extra curricular offerings will change from year to year.

Taking part in extra curricular activities will certainly add to your high school experience.

LEAD HOCKEY

Lead Hockey is a grade 8 afternoon Skills Canada Hockey Program offered by Ms. Amy Vermeulen.

Students who complete LEAD HOCKEY will earn credit for PE 8.

This program is limited in space and there is a required application.

For further information contact amy.vermeulen@yesnet.yk.ca

CELC's

Porter Creek Secondary is fortunate to have access to the supports and services of three CELC's.

KDFN- Ms. Evelyn Troy

CAFN- Ms. Anya Braeuner

332-0646

abraeuner@cafn.ca

TKC- Mr. Ben Monkman

Starting high school is a big deal!

- The transition to high school is a big deal for the student, parents and for our team as well. We want to assure you that this is an in-depth process that we take very seriously. I hope this power point answers some of your questions.
- Information will be shared with you as it becomes available and the “time is right” in terms of balancing the needs of our current students with the needs of our incoming Rams.
- PCSS will be in contact with the elementary schools to arrange class visitations to PCSS.
- You will receive an information package over the summer with additional information.

Contact Information

- The staff in charge of your transition to high school are:
- Nicole Cross- Vice Principal nicole.cross@yukon.ca
- Joanne Seymour- Guidance Counsellor joanne.seymour@yukon.ca
- Porter Creek Secondary office staff can be reached at 667-8044