



Tom Baines School  
Complementary Course  
Grade 8 Selection Form  
2026 - 2027



<b>Student Last Name:</b>	<b>Student First Name:</b>
<b>Student CBE Number:</b>	<b>Current Homeroom</b> (if at Tom Baines) <b>OR</b> <b>Current School</b> (if you are new to Tom Baines):

**Complementary Course Requests**

**Requested Courses:** Select six courses from the list below by numbering them 1 to 6. With 1 being your first choice.  
**Requests 1 to 4 must match courses registered for in PowerSchool**

	Band (Full Year) Brass/Percussion		Computer Science		Electro-Technologies		French
	Band (Full Year) Woodwind		Construction		Exploration in Film (CommTech)		Outdoor Education
	Art		Drama		Foods and Fashion		

This signature indicates that I have made an informed decision about my complementary courses in consultation with my family. I understand that I made these choices, and that there may be implications if I submit this form late.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Please be aware that all complementary courses will be offered based on student interest, enrolment and school resources. Many factors are considered in creating thoughtful course compositions. We will not be able to accommodate changes.

## Course Descriptions

**Band (Brass or Woodwind):** As a 2<sup>nd</sup> year band class, students will work together as a group to further develop their instrumental skills, reading, and writing music, with performances multiple times throughout the year. This course includes a Band Camp and a festival performance that all students should attend. Students may rent an instrument from the school or provide their own. Students that have not played in band in grade 7 must see Mr. Lewis in June to discuss joining band and instrument options.

**Brass/Percussion Class:** Trumpet, French Horn, Euphonium, Trombone, Tuba, String Bass, Percussion

**Woodwind Class:** Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Saxophone

**Art:** This course is a project-based exploration of art that stresses hands-on experience creating 2D and 3D artworks. Students will gain familiarity with a variety of artistic media such as pencil, pen and ink, watercolour and acrylic paint, ceramics, glass mosaic making and more. Through your immersion in art creation, you will learn about discipline-based concepts such as colour theory, design elements, composition and the technical use of a range of art materials. A key focal point of this class will be critically assessing artworks to refine and revise them to foster high quality artistic creations.

**Computer Science:** Students in grade 8 will build games, simulations, animations, interactive stories, and digital projects using coding languages such as Scratch, Python, and JavaScript, while also exploring creative coding and world-building through platforms like Minecraft. Through these projects, students will strengthen computational thinking, creativity, collaboration, and debugging skills aligned with the Alberta Computing Science curriculum. Students will also investigate how artificial intelligence is shaping the modern world, learning how to use AI ethically, responsibly, and effectively. In addition, the course develops foundational knowledge of cybersecurity, digital safety, and computer systems to help students become informed and capable technology users. This course is designed to prepare students for future high school Computing Science pathways while encouraging innovation, curiosity, and real-world problem solving.

**Construction:** Construction 8 is a hands-on course where students learn to safely use hand tools and basic machinery to design and build wooden home décor and small desktop furniture. Students explore materials, fasteners, and joinery techniques as they create projects such as organizers, small shelves, or decorative pieces. Through guided instruction, they plan, layout, assemble, and refine their work while building confidence in the workshop. The course emphasizes safety, creativity, and craftsmanship in a supportive environment where students can create functional and visually appealing projects.

**Drama:** Take Drama and come and play! Together we will play and make plays. Loaded with drama games and activities that push away the desks and chairs and have you laughing and learning in the drama room with Mr. D. This is an active, creative and fun class where you will make friends, get creative and escape into stories of all kinds. The five disciplines of drama; improvisation, movement, speech, theatre studies, and technical theatre, will be explored in a student-centered, active-learning program. You will have a great time exploring drama orientation, improvisation, tableau, creative movement, theatrical projects, mystery theatre, lights and sound, and speech.

**Electro-Technologies:** Robotics is a levelled, hands-on program where students learn to design, build, code, and operate robots while developing skills in engineering and mechatronics. Open to all skill levels, this course supports learners at any starting point—whether they are new to coding or have experience in robotics—through a badge-based system that helps students progress at their own pace. Students work together to solve challenges, create solutions, and apply programming and mechanical ideas to real-world problems. The course emphasizes teamwork, creativity, and problem solving, with opportunities to test their robots in fun competitions and challenges for prizes.

**Exploration in Film:** Are you passionate about movies? This is your introduction to the film industry. You will learn about pre-production (screen writing and design), production (shooting and acting for film), editing (putting the story together), and presentation (screening and responding). We will invite you to watch movies and explore the messages, meaning and methods you will “borrow” to make your films. Career opportunities will be explored. The grand finale for this course will have you sitting in one of Calgary’s movie theatres with popcorn in hand watching **your own** films. No experience required. See you in the movies!

**Foods and Fashion:** Foods and Fashion 8 carries on the learning we started in Grade 7, but fear not! You do not have to have taken the course then to take it now. In Foods, we focus on our baking skills and developing these skills to make sweet and savory baked goods. There is a continued focus on safety and teamwork. Baking, written work, and eating—who could ask for more? In Fashion, we will build skills using the sewing machine and learn new sewing techniques. Everyone in the class will make the same simple project, and then you will design and create your own!

**French:** Welcome to French 8! Whether you completed French 7 or are joining French for the first time, this course continues to build communication skills in a supportive and engaging environment. Students will strengthen their confidence through conversations, presentations, videos, music, games, and theme-based projects while continuing to explore Francophone cultures and traditions. French 8 is offered every second day in a double block for one semester. Students will also enjoy activities such as French cafés, food tasting, and multimedia projects connected to French language and culture. Take the next step in your French learning journey!

**Outdoor Education:** Come and enjoy the great outdoors! There is a wide range of planning done to ensure students fully enjoy their time outdoors from what to wear, understanding local wildlife, ecosystems, and emergency planning. This course will also increase knowledge and awareness of environmental issues. Calgary is situated on the doorstep of the Rockies and has an abundance of countless natural oases. Students will be able to enjoy the many outdoor opportunities available to us all.