



R. E. Mountain Secondary School

7755 202A Street
Langley, B.C. V2Y 1W4
604-888-3033

Grade Eight Booklet



2012/2013

Principal
Vice-Principal
Vice-Principal
Counsellor

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Principal's Message

R.E. Mountain Secondary School provides a wide range of outstanding programs for its students. Complementing the fine academic programs, including International Baccalaureate and Honours Track, are Visual and Performing Arts programs, Athletic Programs, Career programs and programs for International Students and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

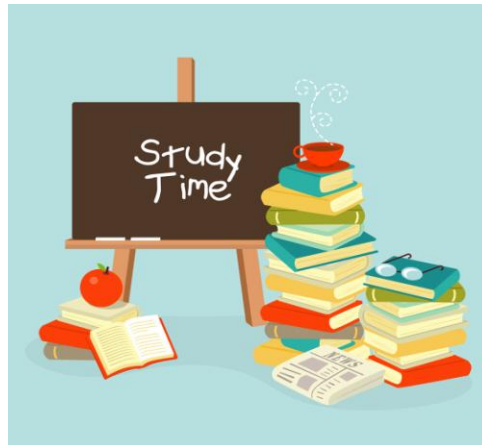
Programs such as Learning Assistance and Homework Club support students in junior and senior grades and ensure academic success. Students have opportunities to provide service to the school and community through the very active Students Council and Grad Council.

Students graduating from R.E. Mountain Secondary School are awarded numerous Ministry of Education and other post-secondary scholarships each year. REMSS students have enjoyed considerable success at universities, colleges and technical institutions throughout North America.

The positive learning atmosphere in the school is a direct result of students, staff and parents working together to provide the very best opportunities for student success. Thoughtful course planning is a critical ingredient of this success. There are a large number of options available to students at this school and the school has worked hard to retain these options to meet the needs of students.

Parents and students should take time to read this book carefully to ensure that all options are considered and that the very best choices are made. Administration, teachers and the counselling staff are available to provide assistance whenever necessary.

Mr. M. Ghobrial
Principal



CALENDAR

- Week of January 16-18 Mountain visits Langley Meadows, R.C. Garnett and Willoughby Elementary
Mrs. Docherty (Counsellor) and Mr. Palichuk (Vice-Principal) along with a group of grade 8 student ambassadors will be visiting grade 7 classes to prepare them for the transition to high school.
- January 23 International Baccalaureate Parent Information Night at the Langley Events Centre, 7:00 p.m. Everything you want to know about our university preparation program and all of the pre IB honours classes in grades 8 to 10.
- January 31 Grade 7 Student/Parent Night 7:00 p.m. at R.E. Mountain. Everything you need to know about our programs, athletics, services and registration.
- February 6,7,8 Mrs. Docherty visits R.C. Garnett Elementary, Willoughby Elementary and Langley Meadows Elementary for course planning and registration
- February 24 Deadline for registration and course selection to ensure placement.
- March 1,5,6 Grade 8 Honours Placement Exam 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. in the library. Bring a couple of pencils, and a well-rested mind. Calculators are not permitted.
- March 9 *Buddy Day visits for Cross-boundary students to be arranged by appointment. Please contact Mrs. Docherty (Counsellor) at sdocherty@sd35.bc.ca*
- April 27 Grade 7 Indoor Track Meet for all of next year's Grade 8's from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. in the gym. Transportation will be arranged by Mountain for feeder schools only.
- September 4 First day of school. **Grade 8's only attend.**
12 noon BBQ
1:00-2:30 p.m. Grade 8 student orientation

GENERAL INFORMATION
SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

R.E. Mountain Secondary School is a “learning-centered” school. Our main purposes are:

- To help students acquire knowledge and skills
- To help students develop specific personal abilities, and,
- To help students mature into healthy, responsible citizens

R.E. Mountain is intentionally a conservative school. The educational experience is intended to be high quality and purposeful. Five all too brief years here should be challenging and should produce a lifetime of memories.

EXPECTATIONS

At R.E. Mountain we want ALL students to reach their potential in the classroom as learners, and in day-to-day life, being positive contributors in and around the school.

TAKE *PRIDE* IN YOUR SCHOOL

BE *ON TIME* FOR CLASS

BE *PREPARED* TO LEARN

TREAT EVERYONE WITH *RESPECT*

FOLLOW *INSTRUCTIONS*

CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

USE APPROPRIATE *LANGUAGE*

GRADE 8 CURRICULUM

Humanities 8 Honours – Enriched*
English 8
Social Studies 8
Mathematics 8 Honours – Enriched*
Mathematics 8
Math 8 Essentials
Science 8 Honours – Enriched*
Science 8
French 8
Mandarin 8
Physical Education 8 (Recreational or Competitive)
Life Skills 8
Fine Arts 8 (Art & Drama)
Band 8 – Beginner & Advanced
Choral Music 8
Supported Learning
English as a Second Language

*Humanities English 8 Honours, Humanities Socials 8 Honours, Math 8 Honours, French 8 Honours and Science 8 Honours are a cluster of enriched honours courses that are usually taken together.

R.E. Mountain's Honours program is designed to prepare students for the challenges of the International Baccalaureate Program offered in Grade 11 and 12. Honours and IB teachers in each subject area work cooperatively to identify the skills and knowledge that will help students to succeed in IB. Honours teachers then introduce, develop and reinforce the skills and knowledge at grade appropriate levels. By the time Honours students are completing Grade 10 Honours, they should be well prepared to adjust to the academic rigour of the IB program.

For the most part, our model of "honours" is one based on enrichment rather than acceleration. Honours students will have the opportunity to work with their teachers to explore subject content on a deeper level, with an emphasis on critical and creative thinking. Honours shares with IB a focus on criterion referenced assessment.

Both IB and Honours are District programs which means that students from all over Langley are welcome to apply and will be considered equally for the program regardless of catchment area.

Langley students are welcome to apply to the Honours Program. Applications are available online at sd35.bc.ca or in the Counselling Office. Each year, we receive more applications than we have seats available so applications are screened by a team of Honours teachers and counsellors. We rely on academic achievement, teacher recommendations, student self-evaluations and interviews to select Honours candidates. There is an entrance exam at Grade 8 level only.

The Honours track is open each year which means that students must re-apply and be re-screened at each grade level.

-Priority is given to students who qualify for all 4 Honours Classes. Placement in a partial Honours Program is offered only if space is available.

CORE REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

Title/ BCESIS Code/ Option Number	Description	Recommended Prerequisite?	Notes?
<p><i>English 8</i></p> <p><i>MEN--08--Y</i> <i>2100</i></p>	<p>This provides a balance of language and reading. Minimum language essentials include vocabulary, spelling, sentence structure, punctuation, grammar and composition. Studies in literature include novels, short stories, poetry and drama. On completion of grade 8 English you will be able to know and use basic spelling rules; recognize the basic parts of speech; compose a narrative paragraph; recognize basic literary devices found in novels, short stories, poetry and drama; use word attack skills; use effective study skills.</p> <p>Final exams will be given in each of the curriculum areas.</p>		
<p><i>English 8 Honours (Humanities)</i></p> <p><i>MEN--08-HY</i> <i>2102</i></p>	<p>This course combines the learning outcomes from the Integrated Resource Packages {IRP} for English 8 and Social Studies 8. All outcomes from each course will be covered. Because many skills listed in each IRP are similar {writing skills, critical thinking, etc.}, we are able to provide time in class to examine themes in both courses in depth. While the topics are integrated into both English and Socials, marks will be given for English 8 Honours and Socials 8 Honours separately.</p> <p>The English novels and short stories that integrate with that chronology include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mythology of various cultures through time • <u>Sword in the Stone</u> by T.H. White • the stories of King Arthur and the Round Table • <u>Cue for Treason</u> • <u>Romeo and Juliet</u> <p>As we cover the topic listed above, students will develop a variety of skills on an ongoing basis, which will include critical thinking, geography skills, poetry and figurative language, paragraph writing skills and mechanics.</p>	<p>Admission to Grade 8 Honours Program</p>	

SOCIAL STUDIES

Title/ BCESIS Code/ Option Number	Description	Recommended Prerequisite?	Notes?
<p><i>Social Studies 8</i></p> <p><i>MSS--08--Y</i> <i>2110</i></p>	<p>This is divided into two parts: History and Geography. The history content {75% of the course} includes the Heritage of India and China, Middle Ages in Western Europe, Golden Ages Outside Europe and Europe in Transition. History skills include locating and organizing information, critical thinking, oral and written communication. The development of skills is emphasized in the geography {25% of the course}. These skills</p>		

	include working with maps, graphs and charts and locating and organizing information.		
<p><i>Social Studies 8 Honours (Humanities)</i></p> <p><i>MSS--08-HY 2112</i></p>	<p>This course combines the learning outcomes from the Integrated Resource Packages {IRP} for English 8 and Social Studies 8. All outcomes from each course will be covered. Because many of the skills listed in each IRP are similar {writing skills, critical thinking, etc.}, we are able to provide time in class to examine themes in both courses in depth. While the topics are integrated into both English and Socials, marks will be given for English 8 Honours and Socials 8 Honours separately.</p> <p>The year's work is organized around the chronology of Social Studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the Rise of the Middle Ages in Europe and Asia -the Decline of the Middle Ages {focus on Europe} -the Renaissance and the Reformation -the Age of the Explorers -current justice issues <p>As we cover the topic listed above, students will develop a variety of skills on an ongoing basis, which will include critical thinking, geography skills, poetry and figurative language, paragraph and essay writing skills and mechanics.</p>	Admission to the Grade 8 Honours Program	

SCIENCE

<i>Title/ BCESIS Code/ Option Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Recommended Prerequisite?</i>	<i>Notes?</i>
<p><i>Science 8</i></p> <p><i>MSC--08--Y 2120</i></p>	<p>This is the introduction to secondary school science. Emphasis is placed on the development of skills necessary for the gathering and treatment of information and the proper use of laboratory equipment. Activities are selected from the following:</p> <p><i>Measurement</i> – metric system and the gathering and treatment of data. <i>Chemistry</i> – classification of matter and the development of the kinetic molecular model of matter. <i>Earth Science</i> – characteristics of the Earth's surface and the causes and effects of change over time. <i>Physics</i> – study of heat and light. <i>Ecology</i> – global ecosystems, social issues and diversity.</p>		
<p><i>Science 8 Honours</i></p> <p><i>MSC--08-HY 2122</i></p>	<p>Science 8 Honours is part of our cluster of honours courses for Grade 8. Students will complete the curriculum requirements for Science 8 (see below), with the opportunity to explore concepts at greater depth. As with all of the honours courses, Science 8 Honours specifically prepares students for the International Baccalaureate program by working on thinking skills, knowledge, research skills and work</p>	Admission to the Grade 8 Honours Program	

MATHEMATICS

<i>Title/ BCESIS Code/ Option Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Recommended Prerequisite?</i>	<i>Notes?</i>
<p><i>Mathematics 8</i></p> <p><i>MMA--08--Y 2130</i></p>	<p>Mathematics 8 is the first course in the secondary school mathematics program. In this course students will develop numeracy skills in four broad curricular areas: Number, Patterns and Relations, Shape and Space, and Statistics and Probability. With its focus on problem solving and communicating mathematical reasoning, Mathematics 8 encourages students to develop a clear understanding of mathematical concepts, recognize the inter-disciplinary nature of mathematics and appreciate its contributions to the world around us. This course will help prepare students for Mathematics 9. A scientific calculator is necessary for this course.</p>		
<p><i>Mathematics 8 Honours</i></p> <p><i>MMA--08-HY 2132</i></p>	<p>Mathematics 8 Honours is designed for students with superior ability and enthusiasm for math. It is recommended for students who wish to pursue studies in mathematics and science at the IB level. In this course, students will cover the grade 8 curriculum with a focus on enrichment. Students will explore concepts at a deeper level as well as complete more challenging problems for homework. Additional topics beyond the curriculum are explored as time permits. Mathematics 8 Honours will help prepare students for further honours mathematics courses as well as IB Math courses in grades 11 and 12. Students are expected to achieve a "B" prior to moving to Mathematics 9 Honours. A scientific calculator is necessary for this course.</p>	<p>Admission to Grade 8 Honours Program</p>	
<p><i>Mathematics 8 Adapted</i></p> <p><i>MMA--08EMY 2131</i></p>	<p>Mathematics 8 Adapted is designed for students who struggle with mathematical concepts and/or reasoning. In this course students will develop an understanding of the essential learning outcomes in four broad curricular areas: Number, Patterns and Relations, Shape and Space, and Statistics and Probability. In addition to developing basic numeracy skills, Mathematics 8 Adapted continues to focus on problem solving and communicating mathematical reasoning. A scientific calculator is required for this course.</p>	<p>Recommendation from School-Based Team</p>	

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

<i>Title/ BCESIS Code/ Option Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Recommended Prerequisite?</i>	<i>Notes?</i>
<p><i>Physical Education 8 (Recreation)</i></p> <p><i>MPE--08--R 2140</i></p>	Physical Education 8 recreational is the first course in our progression of the physical education curriculum material. The course includes sequential development of fitness, skills, rules and strategies, with an emphasis on fun, and lifelong fitness levels. There will be less emphasis on competing at high levels versus trying your best and succeeding!		One of these courses is required.
<p><i>Physical Education 8 (Competitive)</i></p> <p><i>MPE--08--C 2141</i></p>	Physical Education 8 is the first course in our progression of the physical education curriculum material. The course includes sequential development of fitness, skills, rules and strategies, with an emphasis on higher compete levels. Students should be prepared to maximize their potential as an athlete with drills and conditioning principles that will improve their athletic and leadership abilities.		

MODERN LANGUAGES

<i>Title/ BCESIS Code/ Option Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Recommended Prerequisite?</i>	<i>Notes?</i>
<p><i>French 8</i></p> <p><i>MFR--08--Y 2150</i></p>	This course is intended for Grade 8 students. It provides an introduction to the French language, based on the skills of comprehending, speaking, reading and writing. You will master basic grammatical structures and everyday vocabulary. Evaluation is based on oral classwork, home assignments, projects, tests and exams.		
<p><i>Mandarin 8</i></p> <p><i>MMAN-08--Y 2155</i></p>	This is an introductory course to the Mandarin Language and Chinese culture. This course is designed to help students to develop conversational skills, to build useful vocabularies, and to grasp a basic knowledge of Pinyin (the Chinese phonetic system). Emphasis is placed on practical and communicative language in everyday life. The Chinese tradition, its culture, and the Chinese writing system will also be introduced. This course will provide a good foundation for future studies of the Mandarin language. Students who have successfully completed Beginners Mandarin 9 can apply for intermediate placement into Mandarin 11.		

ELECTIVE STUDIES

HOME ECONOMICS/TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION/COMPUTERS

<i>Title/ BCESIS Code/ Option Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Recommended Prerequisite?</i>	<i>Notes?</i>
<i>Life Skills 8 XLDA08--Y 2199</i>	Lifeskills 8 is offered as an integrated course combining content for both Technology Education and Home Economics. It is a required survey course for all Grade 8 students with applications in woodworking sewing, cooking, and computers. The course serves several purposes. Firstly, it teaches basic skills in the designated areas. Secondly, it introduces students to the various disciplines, so that they may make better choices for electives in subsequent years. Thirdly, it assists students in developing an education plan with career objectives.		All students in grade 8 take this course.

MUSIC

DRAMA/VISUAL ARTS

<i>Title/ BCESIS Code/ Option Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Recommended Prerequisite?</i>	<i>Notes?</i>
<i>Fine Arts 8 (Drama) XAT--08FAY MDR--08--S 2189</i>	Drama 8 is an introductory course designed to involve you in the basics of drama and theatre. The course includes developmental drama, mime movement, improvisation and vocal production. The main purpose of this course is to allow you an overview of skills, which will be focused on, and expanded on, in the higher levels.		Take this pair OR a Band 8 course (below)
<i>Fine Arts 8 (Visual Arts) XAT--08FAY MVA--08--S 2189</i>	Art 8 is an introductory course, which will focus on several different mediums; drawing will be the main focus, which will then lead to introducing other mediums in art. Some of these areas could be painting, clay work, printmaking, papier-mâché and figure work.		
<i>Title/ BCESIS Code/ Option Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Recommended Prerequisite?</i>	<i>Notes?</i>
<i>Band 8 MMU--08BAY 2190</i>	This is a continuation of Grade 7 band. Students with one year of playing experience or less should enroll in this course. Also, beginners may enroll in this band, but extra help (private lessons) is usually required to "catch up." Band instruments include flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French	Band 7	Take one of these OR Fine Arts 8 (above)

	horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, bass, or percussion. A combined Band 8 and Advanced Band 8 will participate in concerts, trips and festivals.		
<i>Band 8 Advanced</i> <i>MMU--08BVY</i> <i>2191</i>	This is a continuation of Grade 6/7 band. Students must have <i>at least one year of band</i> , or have permission from the teacher. Students will have challenging music sooner than in Band 8. A combined Band 8 and Advanced Band 8 will participate in concerts, trips and festivals. As with all the bands, a variety of musical styles will be taught throughout the year.	Band 6 and/or 7	
<i>Jazz Band 8</i> <i>"Jazz Lab"</i> <i>MMU--08JBY</i> <i>2192</i>	This extra-mural course is designed to introduce students of any grade to jazz and its various forms: swing, blues, Latin, funk and rock, and more. Students must be enrolled in any concert band course (except piano & guitar players), and be able to read/play easy music. Rehearsals are usually 1 day/week. Students will participate in jazz concerts and festivals. (There are no tests, and no letter grade is given).		Runs outside timetable
<i>Concert Choir 8</i> <i>MMU--08CHY</i> <i>2193</i>	This course is a non-auditioned Choral Ensemble class that meets off of the timetable. While it is not expected that each student will have the same previous vocal training, it is expected that each ensemble member will develop the following areas: Musicianship – artistry, interpretation, expression, musicality, literacy; Technique – breathing, tone production, resonance, phrasing, support, tuning; Style – understanding of musical styles, genres, musical periods through a variety of Concert Choir literature. Students will perform at all concerts, tours, and festivals.	No prerequisite	No audition needed Runs outside timetable
<i>Jazz Choir 8</i> <i>MMU--08VSY</i> <i>2194</i>	The Intermediate Chamber-Jazz choir is an auditioned Choral Ensemble class. Please note that singers accepted into this ensemble will also be taking the co-requisite Concert Choir class. Intermediate Chamber-Jazz members will be learning challenging repertoire and a lot of home practice will be required. Each ensemble member will develop the following areas: Musicianship – artistry, interpretation, expression, musicality, literacy; Technique – breathing, tone production, resonance, phrasing, support, tuning; Style – understanding of classical styles as well as Jazz styles, such as blues, swing, rock, funk, bossa nova, samba, and more; Soloing--each member will have opportunities to audition for solos, both ad lib and written. Students will perform at all concerts, tours, and festivals.	Co-requisite is Concert Choir	Auditioned Runs outside timetable

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *What supplies do I need for highschool?* For the first few days, bring pencils, pens, erasers, and a notebook. Do not buy supplies until you have received specific instructions from each subject teacher.
2. *What school fees will I have to pay?* School Fee - \$25.00, P.E. Strip (shirt/shorts) - \$25.00, PAC Fee - \$5.00, Lock - \$5.00 (optional), Project fees for Life Skills {depending on project}, Yearbook - \$50.00
3. *What if I need extra help with my courses?* Ask your subject teacher. Your teacher may also recommend help from the Learning Assistant teacher and/or after school homework club, Monday through Thursday, or access a tutor. See Mrs. Docherty for either a volunteer student peer tutor, or for a list of professional tutors operating in the area.
4. *Can I join teams?* Yes. We have many sports teams {basketball, volleyball, rugby, soccer, etc.} as well as intramural sports at noon. Being involved is the best way to make your time at Mountain fulfilling and memorable.
5. *Where do I keep my books at school?* You will be issued a hallway locker for books and coats. It is mandatory that your locker has attached a combination lock to be supplied either by you or purchased from the school. Students are not allowed to share lockers.
6. *What if I am away from school?* Get your parents to phone the school first thing in the morning to let us know how long you will be absent. We can arrange for homework to be picked up at the office from our Homework Drawer, if you are going to be absent for more than 3 days.
7. *What if I have a problem?* There are counsellors available (Mrs. Docherty) who can provide personal, group or family help in dealing with issues.
8. *Where do I eat lunch?* You can bring your own lunch or buy a nutritious lunch in the excellent school cafeteria. No food is allowed to be eaten in the upstairs halls.
9. *What are the school colors?* Royal blue, black and white.
10. *Is there an Honour Roll?* After every report card an Honour Roll is computed one week after the Report Cards have been sent home. To be included in the B Honour Roll a student in any grade must obtain at least 6 B's in a reporting period; to achieve First Class Honours (A Honour roll) you must attain a minimum of 6 A's. The highest level of academic award is called the Principal's List of Distinction which is awarded to students who have earned an A in English, plus 5 additional A's at each report card for the entire year. For all of these awards it is a requirement that you must not have a failing mark or an Incomplete mark on your report card.

OTHER PROGRAMS AT R.E. MOUNTAIN SECONDARY

International Baccalaureate Program {University Preparation}

R. E. Mountain Secondary has been offering the International Baccalaureate Program to senior students for over 20 years. I.B. is considered to be the best preparation in the world for students going on to university. It is based upon an international curriculum taught in over 2000 schools in 240 countries around the world. Students may elect to take certificates in individual courses, but it is recommended they pursue the full diploma option, involving the study of 6 courses. The world's leading universities recognize the full diploma student and award advanced placement, advanced credit and priority registration to successful IB Diploma Candidates.

Honours Program {grade 8-10}

Honours classes are designed to prepare students for the International Baccalaureate Program in grade 11. English, social studies, math, science and French classes provide an enriched learning environment with a focus on higher level thinking skills and subject specific skills (research in social studies, lab skills in science, essay writing and critical analysis of literature in English) to help students make a successful transition to the rigorous demands of the IB Program.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program

The Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program has existed at R.E. Mountain since 1986. As a student here, you will have opportunities to get to know Deaf and Hard of Hearing students through your integrated classes, as well as through sports, student council, clubs and other activities.

International Students Program

This program provides international students with an opportunity to learn English in a regular school setting while at the same time becoming familiar with the Canadian culture. Students usually live with Canadian families. International students are offered a complete curriculum including a variety of university preparation subjects as well as assistance in gaining the English language skills necessary to pass exams at the university entrance level.

R.E. MOUNTAIN SECONDARY



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