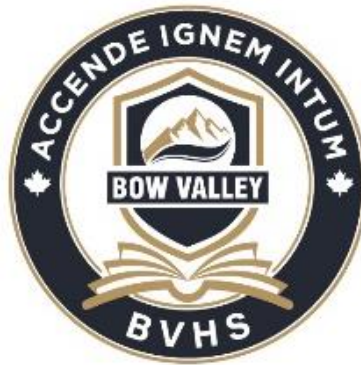


Bow Valley High School



Grade 9

Course Description Guide

2025-2026

Email:

bowvalley@rockyview.ab.ca

Website:

<http://bowvalley.rockyview.ab.ca>

Rockyview Schools



Grade 9 Core (or Compulsory) Courses

NOTE: Students in Grade 9 do not receive credits.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 9	Duration: One Semester (S1)	Fee: N/A
Postrequisite: English Language Arts 9 - Literacy		

English Language Arts are designed to concentrate on the development of language arts strategies and skills to strengthen the students' use of language and understanding texts. Through the study of various literary genres, English Language Arts integrate reading, writing, speaking, listening, representing and viewing skills into curriculum planning. There are several texts covered, which may include novels, drama, poetry, short stories and film and media pieces.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 9 – LITERACY	Duration: One Quarter (S2)	Fee: N/A
Prerequisite: N/A		

The aim of the one quarter ELA 9 Literacy course is to further focus on building student reader and writer identities. Students will develop daily reading and writing habits through focused silent reading, the analysis of a variety of texts and notebook writing. Through this repeated focus on the craft of writing, students will improve their abilities to identify the nuances of a text, thereby improving their literacy in all disciplines.

HEALTH & LIFE SKILLS 9	Duration: One Semester	Fee: N/A
Prerequisite: N/A		

A series of topics will be covered that will assist the students in recognizing their potential and in becoming more aware of the alternatives available to enhance their personal lifestyle. Course topics include Depression and Suicide Prevention, Stress, Personal Health and Wellness, Decision Making, Self-Awareness and Acceptance, Alcohol and Substance Abuse, and Study Skills. *Note that the Human Sexuality component is now offered in the CALM (Career and Life Management) course.*

MATHEMATICS 9	Duration: One Semester (S2)	Fee: N/A
Prerequisite: Numeracy – Mathematics 9		

Students will solve problems involving powers and apply the order of operations, including exponents. They will work with positive and negative fractions and decimals, and gain an understanding of square roots of positive numbers. They will also model and solve problems using linear equations and linear inequalities in one variable. Additionally, students will be introduced to polynomials and tackle problems related to circle geometry, surface area, similar polygons and scale diagrams. **A scientific (non-graphing) calculator is required for this course.**

MATHEMATICS 9 – NUMERACY	Duration: One Quarter (S1)	Fee: N/A
Prerequisite: N/A		

Math 9 Numeracy is designed to review key concepts from Math 8 and introduce some concepts from Math 9. Upon entering the course, students will be assessed to identify areas for improvement, and the course will be tailored to address these areas. The primary topics covered include Number Sense, Patterns & Relations and Shape & Space. At the conclusion of the course, students will be reassessed on these topics to demonstrate their progress. **A scientific (non-graphing) calculator is required for this course.**

LIFESTYLE PHYSICAL EDUCATION 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: N/A
Prerequisite: N/A		

Lifestyle Physical Education is intended to provide students with an opportunity to engage in active living, improve fitness and develop skills through a variety of physical activities. The program is designed to allow students to perform at their own levels of proficiency, with the goal being to help them move along the continuum of both self-confidence and performance, relative to physical activity. Emphasis is placed on developing the following components of fitness: cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility. The Lifestyle PE class follows the same program of studies as the Traditional PE class, but with greater emphasis on lifelong physical activity and less on competitive traditional sports.

TRADITIONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: N/A
Prerequisite: N/A		

Traditional Physical Education 9 is intended to provide students with an opportunity to engage in active living, improve fitness and develop skills through a variety of physical activities. The program is designed to allow students to perform at their own levels of proficiency, with the goal being to help them move along the continuum of both self-confidence and performance, relative to physical activity. Emphasis is placed on developing the following components of fitness: cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility.

SCIENCE 9	Duration: One Semester	Fee: N/A
Prerequisite: N/A		

Science 9 is designed to provide diverse learning experiences that give students an opportunity to explore, analyze and appreciate the interrelationships among science, technology, society and the environment, and develop understandings that will affect their personal lives, their careers and their futures. The five units of study are Biological Diversity, Matter and Chemical Change, Environmental Chemistry, Electrical Principles and Technologies, and Space Exploration.

SOCIAL STUDIES 9	Duration: One Semester	Fee: N/A
Prerequisite: N/A		

Students will analyze the relationship between Canada's political and legislative processes and their impact on issues pertaining to governance, rights, citizenship and identity. Related studies include Collective Rights, Immigration, and the Youth Criminal Justice Act. Students will also explore issues of economics and their impact on quality of life, citizenship and identity in Canada and the United States.

Grade 9 Option (or Elective) Courses

NOTE: Students in Grade 9 do not receive credits.

ART 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: \$55.00
Prerequisite: N/A <i>The fee includes basic art supplies and a starting art kit. Students may be required to supply additional materials beyond the fee allotment.</i>		

The Art 9 program focuses on visual learning and artistic skills through sketchbook and studio projects. Students will participate in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional art explorations including traditional drawing, painting, sculpture and design. Within these study areas the student will explore art criticism, media handling and techniques, art theory and expressive skills. In addition, the students will learn to organize and present their work in a portfolio and presentation format. Discover the possibilities in Art!

BAND 9 – INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC	Duration: Full Year	Fee: \$35.00
Prerequisite: Band 8 <i>This option runs all year long and fills 2 out of 4 option choices.</i>		

This course continues to develop a student’s instrumental music abilities by playing/singing, listening, reading and creating music. This program consists of three general areas of learning: Performing (how musical skills are developed and how to build knowledge and awareness); Listening (how music is understood and how to appreciate musicians throughout history); and Composing (how musical compositions are created and how to organize elements of music). Students will showcase their skills in a setting that encourages public performance.

CHORAL MUSIC (CHOIR) 9	Duration: Full Year	Fee: \$25.00
Prerequisite: You like to sing! Previous choral experience is beneficial but not necessary! <i>This course is offered <u>outside of the timetable (and in addition to a full timetable).</u></i>		

Vocal ranges will be assessed for placement in sections (soprano, alto, tenor, bass). If a student cannot read music, they will learn as the course progresses! This is a touring ensemble and includes some clinic time. Through the singing of “pop” songs, concert choir selections, “show tunes” (musicals) and vocal jazz, students will learn fun, safe, comfortable vocal and choral (choir) singing techniques. If you like to sing and would like to sing even better, this class is for you! As part of the course, students will perform as a group (details TBA).

CONSTRUCTION 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: \$75.00
Prerequisite: N/A		

In this class, students learn that design can be responsive to identified needs; that complex tasks require the acquisition of additional skills, and may require multiple tools and technologies. Students will learn to use both power and hand tools through demonstrations, theory and hands-on experience, with a strong emphasis on safety. Students will learn a variety of cutting, shaping and joining techniques in the production of construction projects. As well as practical woodworking skills, students will practice transferable life-skills such as problem solving, work ethic, perseverance, hand-eye coordination, and following verbal instruction and demonstration.

DIGITAL LIFE 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: \$40.00
Prerequisite: N/A		

In this class, students will learn to employ fundamental elements and principles of design and gain a strong foundational multi-disciplinary experience in preparation for other technology courses. Students will be intro-

duced to the basics of Computing Science, Information Technology and Game Design through a variety of programming (coding) environments and techniques.

DRAMA 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: \$35.00
Prerequisite: N/A		

Drama plays a major role in the development of the whole person, emotionally, intellectually, imaginatively, aesthetically and socially. It fosters positive group interaction, and students are able to work together to reach common goals. While developing dramatic skills, students are able to assume roles and thus explore life. The overall goal is to foster a positive self-concept. The environment in Drama classes is non-competitive, supportive, cooperative and exciting, yet challenging in the constant striving to develop the whole person.

ESTHETICS 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: \$60.00
Prerequisite: N/A		

This hands-on course explores Skin Care Technology which consists of units that focus on nutrition, healthy skin care practices, basic makeup application, and an introduction to FX makeup design. Students will be required to provide their own essential basic makeup survival kit. The class fee will cover all other costs associated with nutrition, skin care, and FX design.

EXTENDED PHYSICAL EDUCATION 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: N/A
Prerequisite: N/A		

This course takes place primarily outdoors. Extended Physical Education 9 will provide students with opportunities to participate in group exercise, off-campus trips and team building activities that are different from our current physical education programs. This class will emphasize cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance and flexibility through new games and activities that students can play for the remainder of their lives. Assessment and evaluations will be placed on leadership in the class, and active and social participation. This class will provide students with an opportunity to engage in active living, improve fitness and develop skills through a wide variety of activities to further develop positive social interactions and get moving outside of our gym walls!

FASHION STUDIES 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: \$41.00
Prerequisite: N/A		
<i>The fee covers the basic supplies and upkeep of machinery in the sewing lab. Students may be required to supply additional materials beyond the allotment fee.</i>		

In this class, students are introduced to the world of sewing and design. In this course you learn the basics of operating a sewing machine and following patterns so that you can pursue your own fashion and textile design ventures within and beyond the course. Projects range from sewing bags and accessories, to basic clothing items. Students learn how to up-cycle clothing/textiles they currently own to bring new life to old items. Students are encouraged to add their personal twists to each project to showcase their style and creativity. The environment in Fashion 9 is lively as students collaborate amongst one another to create and share ideas.

FOODS 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: \$63.00
Prerequisite: N/A		

This course expands student knowledge and understanding of food and nutrition. Students work collaboratively to develop the skills and techniques needed to prepare and present food. Meal planning, kitchen safety, budgeting and a variety of culinary techniques are explored.

FRENCH 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: N/A
Prerequisite: N/A		

This course is designed to introduce students to the language and cultures of the vast Francophone world, in the hopes of igniting a passion for world travel and lifelong language learning. They will learn the basic building blocks of language so that they can greet others, introduce themselves and communicate basic personal information. Students will acquire language through games, songs, videos and interactive activities.

NOTE: Students wishing to take French 10 **do not** require French 9 as a prerequisite.

GUITAR 9 (GENERAL MUSIC 9)	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: \$35.00
Prerequisite: N/A... Previous experience is beneficial but not necessary!		

Students will develop and broaden theoretical understandings in relation to the guitar, and learn to read both traditional and tablature notation. Students will also focus on developing technical skills on classical guitars, and will complete a variety of activities, performance projects, playing tests and written assignments. The class may also participate in public performances outside of the timetable.

NOTE: It is recommended that students have their own guitar, as school instruments are limited.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE & CULTURE 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: N/A
Prerequisite: N/A		

This course will serve as an introduction to the language and culture of Japan. In this course, we will learn and write hiragana and katakana, the building blocks of Japanese language, grammar, and the various cultural practices and traditions of Japan. By the end of the class, students will be able to introduce themselves, describe their daily activities, and detail animals, interests and more. If you have ever had any interest in the unique culture and language of our neighbors in Japan, this course is for you!

JAZZ BAND 9	Duration: Full Year	Fee: \$35.00
Prerequisite: Band 8 Corequisite: Band 9		
<i>This course is offered <u>outside</u> of the timetable (and in addition to a full timetable). The fee includes some clinic time. If you need to rent an instrument, rental fees are set by Rockyview Schools (and will be approx.-imately \$210.00).</i>		

This is a touring ensemble that rehearses outside of the “regular day” timetable. Enrollment is by audition and/or invitation only. Previous Jazz experience is recommended.

LEADERSHIP 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: \$35.00
Prerequisite: N/A		

Development of skills in Leadership are those that will be valuable for life. Students will foster awareness of the principles and practices of leadership and develop, implement and assess a personal leadership plan. As well, students will compare basic theories and styles of leadership and demonstrate leadership in a school, work-place or community context. Finally, students will extend and enhance competencies cultivated in this area by proposing, writing, executing and evaluating their own leadership projects. Skills such as effective communication, critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, goal setting, time management, planning and organizing, all of which are lifelong skills applicable to the workplace, will be explored in this course. This course contains a community service component. Students may need a teacher reference to be accepted into this program.

MECHANICS 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: \$45.00
Prerequisite: N/A		

This course provides students with a foundational understanding of vehicle systems, maintenance and repair. It is designed for those interested in pursuing a career in the automotive industry, as well as for students seeking practical knowledge to confidently maintain and care for their own vehicles. Throughout the course, students will explore a range of topics including vehicle diagnostics, basic repairs and maintenance of vehicle systems, with opportunities to gain hands-on experience in tasks. Whether aiming for a future in mechanics or simply looking to become a more informed vehicle owner, this course offers valuable skills for all.

PERFORMING ARTS 9 (FINE ARTS 9 – PA)	Duration: Full Year	Fee: \$47.70
Prerequisite: N/A		
<i>This course is offered <u>outside</u> of the timetable (and in addition to a full timetable).</i>		

All students in Performing Arts (PA) are involved in the entire process of producing two extra-curricular stage productions. Students will be focusing more on the performance aspect of each production (i.e., perhaps in supporting performing roles). The instructional hours may occur during lunch hours, after school and on week-ends. This is a full year course.

PERFORMING ARTS BAND 9 (MUSICAL THEATRE 9)	Duration: Full Year	Fee: \$35.00
Prerequisite: Band 8 Corequisite: Band 9		
<i>This course is offered <u>outside</u> of the timetable (and in addition to a full timetable).</i>		

Students who have a passion for unique instrumental playing can be enrolled in Performing Arts Band 9 (aka Musical Theatre 9) with the teacher's recommendation and permission of the principal. ***Auditions for this course are typically held shortly after the beginning of the school year.*** The Musical Theatre program aims to provide an interactive environment of integrated study in Drama, Technical Theatre, instrumental Pit Orchestra music, and vocal music for students who seek the challenge of working through the creative process to performance. This ensemble will act as the "Pit Orchestra" for our productions. Students who join us will improve their musical abilities and expand their repertoire and musical folder. The Pit Orchestra will meet as an "X-Block" course (outside of the timetable).

PHOTOGRAPHY 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: \$36.00
Prerequisite: N/A		

In this class, students will learn to employ fundamental elements and principles of photography and movie making. Students will explore photography through a variety of fun and challenging projects however, taking pictures is just one facet of this program. Students will also learn the design process and will work on graphic design projects that require critical thinking skills, creativity and the ability to effectively communicate in a variety of mediums. In the Audio/Video portion of the course, students will learn how to shoot, edit and produce films, animations, special effects and other interactive visual media.

ROBOTICS 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: \$40.00
Prerequisite: N/A		

This course introduces students to electronics and robotics. Students will learn how basic components can be used to control the flow of electricity and assemble various circuits. Throughout the course, students will develop a basic understanding of computer programming. They will then apply their understanding to build a basic robot which they will program to complete a series of challenges.

SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE 9	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: N/A
Prerequisite: N/A		

This course is designed to introduce students to the language and cultures from the vast and diverse Spanish-speaking populations around the world, in hopes of igniting a passion for world travel and lifelong language learning. Students will learn the basic building blocks of language, so that they can greet others, introduce themselves, and communicate basic personal information with others. Each class, students will acquire more and more language through interactive activities such as listening to songs, viewing and talking about videos and, of course, games!

NOTE: Students wishing to take Spanish 10 **do not** require Spanish 9 as a prerequisite.

TECHNICAL THEATRE 9 (FINE ARTS 9 – TT)	Duration: Full Year	Fee: \$47.70
Prerequisite: N/A		
<i>This course is offered outside of the timetable (and in addition to a full timetable).</i>		

All students in Technical Theatre (TT) are involved in the entire process of producing two extra-curricular stage productions. Students in this class will be focusing more on the setup/stage dynamics of each production (i.e., building props, makeup, lighting, etc.). The instructional hours may occur during lunch hours, after school and on weekends. This is a full year course.

WILDLIFE 9 (OUTDOOR EDUCATION 9)	Duration: One Quarter	Fee: \$41.00
Prerequisite: N/A		
<i>The fee covers the basic costs. Students will be responsible for extra costs for trip participation.</i>		

This is an activity-based course that introduces students to the fun and adventure of the outdoors. Students will develop foundational skills and will be exposed to a wide variety of trips. Students will be expected to go mountain biking, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, or any other trip offered in their course. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in a downhill ski trip as well as a camping trip.