

# HIGH SCHOOL **OPTIONAL COURSES** AT A GLANCE

## ABORIGINAL STUDIES 10–20–30

*I'm exploring indigenous cultures around the world.* In Aboriginal Studies 10–20–30, students explore diverse Aboriginal history, cultures and worldviews. They increase their knowledge about the past, present and future of indigenous peoples.

## ART

### ART 10–20–30

*I am exploring my artistic skills.* Students will create art by using a variety of media. They will develop their artistic, technical and critical skills as they explore visual expression; and they will discover various ways to share their thoughts and ideas with others.

### ART 11–21–31

*I want to understand what art is and how it impacts the world.* As a complement to their own creation of art, students will focus on how and why art is important. As critics and art historians, they will examine the role of art, why art is created and ways art may be appreciated.

## CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES (CTS)

*I'm developing important life skills.* Students receive career exposure through CTS courses. They develop life skills and prepare for the workplace or further learning in the industry that interests them. Students create pathways to occupations in common industries from the five CTS clusters: Business, Administration, Finance & Information Technology (BIT); Health, Recreation & Human Services (HRH); Media, Design & Communication Arts (MDC); Natural Resources (NAT); and Trades, Manufacturing & Transportation (TMT).

## FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGES

*I'm learning the language of Canada's First Peoples!* Your teen will explore Blackfoot or Cree by sharing their experiences and ideas with others who speak these languages. Through their studies, they will discover and gain respect for the Blackfoot or Cree culture.

## DRAMA 10–20–30

*I am creating, performing, studying, critiquing and consuming drama as an art form!* Students will learn to communicate in various ways and work creatively with others as they discover dramatic expression. Through eight dramatic disciplines—movement, speech, improvisation, acting, theatre studies, technical theatre design, playwriting and directing—they will develop both performance and technical skills, becoming more confident in themselves and their ability to work together.

## FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

### FRENCH 10-3Y, 20-3Y, 30-3Y

*I never thought I'd understand and speak some French!* Students with no experience in French will learn to express simple messages about familiar topics. They will explore and understand various Francophone cultures and develop language learning strategies that will help them learn a second language or additional languages.

### FRENCH 10-9Y, 20-9Y, 30-9Y

*I'm building on the French I have!* Your teen will add to the knowledge and skills developed in grades 4 through 9. They will understand, talk about and write about a variety of topics, using various sentence and language structures, while accessing a rich French vocabulary.

## INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES

*I'm preparing to work in a global society.* Students who have studied in a bilingual program or who understand another language already can study language arts in the language of their choice. Language and culture courses are another option for senior high school students. These courses present a language as a subject and can be started in Grade 10. There are several different language and culture courses for senior high school students, many of which are continuations of programs with earlier entry points, such as Grade 1 (referred to as 12Y), Grade 4 (referred to as 9Y) or Grade 7 (referred to as 6Y). Programs that begin in senior high school are identified as three-year programs (3Y).

## LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES

*I crave variety!* With topics ranging from leadership to aviation, locally developed courses allow teens to discover or dive deep into their personal interests. Contact your high school for information on what courses are available.

## MUSIC

### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC 10–20–30

*I want to become a better musician.* Students will learn to play a specific instrument and use the power of their voice. They will listen to others play, read and interpret music through their instruments, and create their own music.

### CHORAL MUSIC 10–20–30

*Let your voice soar.* Students will explore the power of their own voices, both alone and in harmony with the voices of others. They will sing, listen to others, read music and create their own songs, developing their musical abilities.

### GENERAL MUSIC 10–20–30

*Music is a universal language.* In addition to composing music, students will understand basic music structures, become more aware of what they are hearing in music and study the role of music in their lives and in the world. They will appreciate music in its many forms and will discover why music is such a big part of our individual and collective lives.

## SOCIAL SCIENCES 20–30

*What makes me tick? Why is society the way it is?* Your teen can choose from a variety of 3-credit courses in different social science disciplines, including anthropology, economics, geography, history, philosophy, political science, psychology, religious studies and sociology. They will learn about themselves, others and our world.

## OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS

### WORK EXPERIENCE

*I want to transition smoothly from school to post-secondary education or to work.* Work Experience courses provide opportunities for school and community to combine resources to further students' career development and build their employability skills. In Work Experience, your teen will explore career interests and apply their knowledge, skills and attitudes in the workplace.

### WORK STUDY

*I'm exploring a career.* Students have the opportunity to apply the knowledge, skills and attitudes they have acquired in their coursework to real-life situations through a school–community partnership. No additional credits are provided.

### CAREER INTERNSHIP 10

*I'm preparing for a career while in high school.* Career Internship 10 is a combined classroom and workplace curriculum designed to assist students in making informed decisions about their school-career transitions. Specifically, the course is designed to prepare students for further study or entry into an occupation.

### REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (RAP)

*I want to begin working in a trade while still in high school.* Students interested in one of Alberta's designated trades may be able to work as registered apprentices and take high school courses. They spend part of their time in school and part of their time in industry learning their trade and gaining valuable hours toward their apprenticeship record book (blue book).

### GREEN CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

*I want to get a head start in a career in agriculture.* Through the Green Certificate Program, Alberta senior high students can earn senior high school credits by enrolling in combinations of courses in an agricultural production specialization. Each of the Green Certificate specializations provides students with access to the first level of an agricultural apprenticeship. Learners can progress in each specialization through two levels—technician level and supervisor level—and, if their career interests expand to management roles in agriculture, to a generic third level of the Green Certificate, the Farm Manager Program.



LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR  
CHILD'S EDUCATION  
BY VISITING

**My Child's Learning: A Parent  
Resource**

<http://www.mychildslearning.alberta.ca>



### ASSESSMENT

Learning is assessed using a variety of tools and strategies within the classroom. Ask the teacher what methods they are using. The different assessment methods tell you, your teen and your teen's teacher about your teen's strengths, the areas in which they might grow and how well they are doing throughout a course. At the end of the course, your teen will be assessed and their achievement will be reported so that you know if they have achieved the expected learning outcomes for the course.

You play an integral role in your teen's education by providing the encouragement and support your teen needs to succeed.

### RESOURCES

A variety of digital and print resources, developed by publishers, Alberta Education or Alberta teachers, are available to help students learn. Teachers may select, and bring into the classroom, numerous innovative and creative resources to create rich learning experiences for your child. Visit [LearnAlberta.ca](http://www.learnalberta.ca) (<http://www.learnalberta.ca/>) to learn more about the resources your child may encounter.

### WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM SECTOR

Telephone: 780-415-6166

E-mail: [EDC.DivisionalStrategicSupports@gov.ab.ca](mailto:EDC.DivisionalStrategicSupports@gov.ab.ca)

E-mail: [FES-SEF@gov.ab.ca](mailto:FES-SEF@gov.ab.ca) (Regarding French as a second language)