Grade 8 Electives | 2026-27

Model United Nations (MUN) 8 develops students' ability to research global issues, construct well-reasoned positions, and engage in structured debate and negotiation as representatives of nations in an international forum. The ability to advocate for a position, listen to opposing views, and work toward compromise is among the most valuable skills a student can practice, and MUN offers an authentic context in which those skills have real stakes. Students develop diplomatic communication skills while working toward resolutions that address complex global challenges, with consistent emphasis on perspective-taking, evidence-based argumentation, and respectful discourse. Preparation involves research into current international affairs, the writing of position papers, and participation in formal debate. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate stronger research and argumentation skills, greater confidence in formal speaking and negotiation, and a deeper understanding of the complexity of global decision-making.

Visual Arts 8 develops the capacity to create and communicate by examining how cultural symbols, photographic perspectives, and optical perception shape visual meaning. Building on foundational skills, this course challenges students to investigate identity, culture, and viewer experience -- recognizing that artistic choices always carry meaning. Through scaffolded instruction, students develop technical skills and conceptual depth across four units: Cultural Identity through printmaking, Stories in 8 Frames through photography with digital cameras, Op Art Illusions through precision and value, and a final sculpting unit using armature and plaster gauze. Each unit combines technical discipline with imaginative risk-taking. By practicing the habits of artists -- observing, questioning, and reflecting -- students develop artistic sensibility, the conviction to pursue their own ideas, and the stamina to refine their work through to completion.

Sport & Exercise Science introduces students to the science, strategy, and creativity behind physical fitness, health, and athletic performance. Through hands-on investigations and real-world challenges, students explore how the body responds to exercise while applying design thinking to areas such as training programmes, performance analysis, sports equipment, and game design. Connections to science, health, and visual design help students understand how movement, data, and communication work together in the world of sport. Throughout the course, students engage in performance testing, experimentation, data collection, and creative problem-solving while developing skills in collaboration, analysis, and communication. Projects may include designing fitness plans, analyzing athletic performance, or creating branding and visual materials connected to sport and wellness. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate a stronger understanding of exercise science principles, greater confidence in independent inquiry, and the ability to communicate evidence-based ideas and solutions in meaningful, real-world contexts.

Formula-1 challenges students to think and work like designers, engineers, and innovators as they explore aerodynamics, digital fabrication, coding, and branding through hands-on design projects. Grounded in the MYP Design Cycle, students learn how to research problems, develop ideas, build prototypes, test solutions, and refine their work through feedback and evaluation. Inspired by the F1 in Schools program, students design and create their own 3D-printed Formula 1 cars while also exploring web development and visual branding to communicate their ideas and identity. Throughout the course, students engage in CAD modelling, prototyping, performance testing, coding, and physical computing using tools such as Tinkercad, HTML/CSS, and the BBC micro:bit. They develop technical skills alongside creativity, resilience, collaboration, and critical thinking as they learn to improve designs through experimentation and reflection. By the end of the course, students will be able to independently move a project from concept to working solution while confidently communicating their design process through technical, visual, and digital media.

Glee 8 develops students' vocal technique, ensemble performance skills, and musical expression through singing and choral performance. The voice is one of the most direct and personal instruments we have; learning to use it with skill and intention builds confidence, emotional intelligence, and the ability to communicate through sound in ways that go beyond words. Students explore how the voice can communicate emotion, story, and identity while preparing performances for school and community audiences. Reflection and refinement are central to the rehearsal process, helping students understand what it means to grow as performers over time. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate improved vocal technique and ensemble awareness, greater confidence in performance, and a deeper understanding of how music functions as a form of human expression and connection.

Brainworks 8 explores how learning, memory, attention, emotion, and motivation actually work, helping students better understand the “operating system” behind their own minds. Drawing from psychology, cognition, and human behavior, students investigate why procrastination happens, how habits form, how technology affects attention, and what strategies genuinely improve learning and performance. Through experiments, self-tracking, reflection, and collaborative challenges, students explore topics such as memory, neuroplasticity, attention,decision-making, stress, and sleep. They learn to analyze how routines, environments, and digital systems influence behavior while developing personalized approaches to learning and productivity. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate greater self-awareness, stronger learning habits, and a deeper understanding of how the brain learns most effectively.