



RE: Junior High Complementary Courses

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

As you may be familiar, in previous years, junior high students were able to take up to two options each semester. Those students who selected band, which is an all year course, were only able to make one choice each semester. Recognizing that students often had to make difficult choices between courses they wanted to take, and remain in others they did not enjoy for a full semester, OJSH has revamped the options program to provide more opportunities for our students.

Starting in the 2020-2021 school year, students in junior high will have term-based *complementary courses*. This means that students will have new courses in September, November, January, and April - four times over the year rather than twice. This allows our junior high students to experience more variety and assist them in discovering where their passions may lie.

Here is how it will work for grades eight and nine:

Grade Eight

- All students will take a complement of courses that include CTF and fine art offerings. For example, students in grade eight will all get the opportunity to take construction, foods, music, and several others, rather than having to choose. By doing this, all grade eights gain experience in what OJSH offers, and are better prepared to make selections in later grades.
- Over the year, students will get to take **NINE** complementary courses as some will be 40 minutes, others will be 80.
- Grade eight students do NOT have any course interest forms to complete - *they get to take everything!*

Grade Nine

- Grade nine students are invited to select courses from the inventory list that interest them. This list will be emailed to current grade eight students in late-May.
- All of the complementary courses at the grade nine level will be 80 minutes.

- Students end up taking up to 8 different courses over the year. If music is selected, they will have four (music runs all year).

Fees:

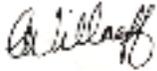
- Complementary course fees are set at \$20 per year per student.
- Band 9 is the only course that has an additional fee (\$40) as there are additional costs associated with it.
- Students who require materials over and above what the standard \$20 fee covers (for example, they choose an expensive hardwood for a construction project rather than plywood) will be billed for that special item cost.

We are very excited to have a new and revamped complementary course program for our students. We feel confident that by being able to offer more courses, students will find they are more engaged and able to explore more interests.

Again, if your child will be joining us in the fall as a grade eight student, they do not have any difficult decisions to make for this year. If your child will be coming to us for grade nine, however, they will be emailed a complementary course inventory form in May to respond to. The form will include a short description of complementary courses we may offer.

We are hopeful we will see you in the fall for an exciting start to the new school year, and a fun variety of courses!

Sincerely,



Mrs. A. Villneff, Assistant Principal