



What are options classes?

Option classes are classes that grade 7 and 8 students join for an entire year for two 45 minutes blocks in a five day schedule. Students will be asked for their top two choices and we will do our best to give students their top choice but depending on requests this may not be possible.

Band

Grades 7 & 8 band is for students that enjoyed and were successful in band in previous grades. Students have the opportunity to participate in several performances throughout the year, such as our Remembrance Day Ceremony, the Festival of Trees, Christmas Concerts, our annual Fine Arts Showcase, and the Lac La Biche Music Festival. A highlight for most students is our annual 2-day field trip to Edmonton. Students work with professional musicians at the Grant MacEwan Conservatory of Music, and perform on stage at West Edmonton Mall. We experience fine arts culture by going out for a nice supper and attending a musical production. In the past we have also incorporated team building activities on this trip such as going to The Rec Room or Jump 360 Trampoline Park, and the Waterpark or Galaxyland. If you love music and want to share your love of music through performing, then grade 7 & 8 band is for you!

Extensive music training improves the ability of the nervous systems to integrate sensory information from sight, sound and touch. Other rewards include better motor coordination, pitch perception, auditory memory and linguistic abilities, as well as greater empathy and increased emotion recognition. Learning music can also improve self-confidence and help students remain in school and excel in science, reading and math, according to the Toronto-headquartered Coalition for Music Education.

Active Living

Active Living Class is geared to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy choices now and lead healthy, active lives in the future. Through participation in a wide range of physical activities, monthly healthy food distribution, and leadership activities students develop knowledge and skills related to movement competence and personal fitness that provide a foundation for active living. Students also acquire an understanding of the factors and skills that contribute to healthy development and learn how their own well-being is affected by, and affects, the world around them. Students build their sense of self, learn to interact positively with others, and develop their ability to think critically and creatively.

Creative Exploration

Creative explorations class will be a workshop based class where students will have both teachers and guest presenters teach a series of creative workshops. Once they have gained the skills required they will have the opportunity to engage with their choice of drawing, painting, indigenous arts, fabric arts (hand sewing, machine sewing and weaving), printmaking, tile Mosaic, Digital Media Arts, 3D printing, and pottery and ceramic hand building.

How is this different from Fine Arts?

Grade 7 and 8 Fine arts at Aurora Middle School closely follows the Alberta Education Curriculum. This class is an opportunity for students to explore different creative mediums in a relaxing and self paced environment.