

Dear Parents/Guardians of 8S,

I am excited to be teaching the French Immersion Social Studies, English and Healthy Living 8 courses for the 2020-2021 academic year!

Changes in society and technology continually influence how people use language to think, learn, and communicate., demanding that people use a wide range of skills and strategies to communicate effectively. The language arts curriculum engages learners as reflective, articulate, literate individuals. In ELA 8, students will explore short stories, poetry, and music. They will think critically, learn to look for bias, work on active listening skills, as well as reading and writing strategies, and so much more!

Social Studies 8 this year, the major themes we will be working on are:

- Unit 1: An Introduction to Canadian Identity
- Unit 2: Geographic Influences
- Unit 3: Decades of Change
- Unit 4: Citizenship
- Unit 5: Challenges and Opportunities
- Unit 6: Reflections on Canadian Identity



This deeper exploration begins with an examination of the impact of Canada's vast and diverse geography on identity. Students next investigate how historical events, trends, and peoples have contributed to the development of Canadian identity. They then proceed to analyze how notions of citizenship, as reflected in Canadian political institutions, laws, rights and responsibilities, have affected and reflected Canadian identity. The study continues as students hypothesize about how Canada's responses to various environmental, economic, social, and political challenges and opportunities may affect future Canadian identity. Finally, Social Studies 8 concludes with a unit designed to provide students with an opportunity to reflect upon the complete study, and creatively express their own personal understanding of "Canadian Identity."

This year, Healthy Living 8 aims to create a youth centered learning environment that is safe, nonjudgmental, interactive and conversation-based; students will engage in a variety of activities that will help them realize some of their values, become more informed, and give them the tools to live a healthy lifestyle as they develop, as well as to help others around them do the same. The major themes we focus on are:

- Unit 1: Healthy self
- Unit 2: Healthy relationships
- Unit 3: Healthy community



Parents/Guardians are welcomed to follow students' progress on PowerSchool and can contact me via email at melaniesmith@gnsps.ca. I also have Google Classroom set up and the codes are: *gdhi23w* (ELA) *luo7mgm* (social studies) and *7745kmm* (healthy living). Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. 😊

Mme. Smith

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