

**New Curriculum Big Ideas
Reference Document for Teacher Planning and Communicating Student Learning**

The following compilation is from the first draft of the new curriculum. It is a living document and as the Ministry of Education adds to the document this resource will be updated in the portal. Please contact kdawson@sd71.bc.ca if you notice that this reference document has not been updated.

Grade 8

Big Idea	Pop Out
Language Arts	
Language and text can be a source of creativity and joy.	(text) Oral, written, visual, or digital communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral texts include speeches, poems, plays, and oral stories • Written texts include novels, articles, and short stories • Visual texts include posters, photographs, and other images • Digital texts include electronic forms of all the above • Oral, written and visual elements can be combined (e.g. in dramatic presentations, graphic novels, films, web pages, advertisements).
Exploring text and story helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.	(story) Narrative texts that teach us about human nature, motivation, behaviour, and experience, and often reflect a personal journey or strengthen a sense of identity. They may also be considered the embodiment of collective wisdom. Stories, can be oral, written, or visual, and used to instruct, inspire, and entertain listeners and readers.
Developing our understanding of how language works allows us to use it purposefully.	
Purpose, audience, and context guide the author's choices in the construction of text.	
Language can shape ideas and influence others.	
People understand texts differently depending on their worldviews and perspectives.	
Texts are socially, culturally, and historically constructed	
Mathematics	
Numbers can be represented in many forms and reflect different relationships.	
Numeracy helps us to see patterns, communicate ideas, and solve problems.	
Patterns allow us to see relationships and develop generalizations.	
Geometry and measurement empower us to make meaning of the world.	
We can apply mathematics to inquiry questions and use it to communicate information and data.	
Data enable us to draw conclusions and make predictions in an unstable world.	

Science	
Cells are a basic unit of life.	Questions to support inquiry with students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is cell theory? • What the relationships among cell theory and the nature of and diversity of life?
The kinetic molecular theory and the theory of the atom explain the behaviour of matter.	Questions to support inquiry with students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the kinetic molecular theory work? What are its applications? • What is the relationship between the atomic molecular theory and kinetic molecular theory?
Energy can be transferred as both a particle and a wave.	Questions to support inquiry with students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the effects of electromagnetic energy behaving like both a particle and a wave? • What are the properties and behaviours of light? • How do you sense light?
The theory of plate tectonics is the unifying theory that explains Earth's geological processes.	Questions to support inquiry with students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the movement of Earth's Techtronic plates cause observable changes and effects? • How does Techtronic plate movement affect you locally?
Social Studies	
Contacts and conflicts between peoples stimulated significant cultural, social, political change.	
Human and environmental factors shape changes in population and living standards.	
Exploration, expansion, and colonization had varying consequences for different groups.	
Changing ideas about the world created tension between people wanting to adopt new ideas and those wanting to preserve established traditions.	
Career Education	
Main focus is on Exploration and Experience. Understanding deepens through Exploration and Experience of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-advocacy • Education and career options • Identification and evaluation of resources • Leadership development • Social justice • Presentation skills • Second capstone project 	
Physical and Health Education	
Daily participation in different types of physical activity influences our physical literacy and personal health and fitness goals.	
Lifelong participation in physical activity has many benefits and is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle.	
Healthy choices influence our physical, emotional, and mental well-being.	
Healthy relationships can help us lead rewarding and fulfilling lives.	

Advocating for the health and well-being of others connects us to our community.	
Arts Education	
Creative growth requires patience, readiness to take risks, and willingness to try new approaches.	
Individual and collective expression can be achieved through the arts.	(arts) Includes but is not limited to the four disciplines of dance, drama, music, and visual arts.
Dance, drama, music, and visual arts are each unique languages for creating and communicating.	(communicating) Art itself is a form of communication.
Artists often challenge the status quo and open us to new perspectives and experiences.	(Artists) People who create works in any of the arts disciplines (e.g., dancers, actors, musicians, visual artists); also means the student themselves. (challenge the status quo) Includes questioning established ideas, exploring historical perspectives and social change, and preserving enduring values.
Core French	
Listening and viewing with intent deepens our understanding of French.	
I am capable of expressing myself and making myself understood in French.	
Meaning can be conveyed in multiple ways in French.	
Stories allow us to understand and communicate ideas in a meaningful way.	
Acquiring a new language allows us to see the world from a new perspective.	
Learning about other cultural communities allows us to better understand our own cultural community.	