



# Spruce Grove Composite High School

[sgchs.psd.ca](http://sgchs.psd.ca)  
780-962-0800

## Open House FAQ

What students and parents need to know in order to be successful in high school.



### What requirements are needed for an Alberta High School Diploma?

100 credits including the following:

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 30 Level (15 Credits)**

(English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2)

**SOCIAL STUDIES - 30 level (15 Credits)**

(Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2)

**MATHEMATICS 20 Level (10 Credits)**

(Math 20-1, 20-2, 20-3)

**SCIENCE - 20 Level (10 credits)**

(Science 20, Science 24, Biology 20, Chemistry 20 or Physics 20)

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION 10 (3 credits minimum)**

**CAREER AND LIFE MANAGEMENT (CALM) 3 Credits**

**10 credits in any 30 Level Course** in addition to English 30 and Social Studies 30

**10 CREDITS IN ANY COMBINATION FROM:**

- \* Career and Technology Studies (CTS)
- \* Fine Arts
- \* Second Languages
- \* Physical Education 20 and or 30
- \* Locally developed courses in CTS, Fine Arts or Second Languages
- \* Registered Apprenticeship Program

**PLUS: minimum of 24 other credits of your choice**

# Frequently asked questions:

**1. When does registration for the current grade nine students begin?**

The Administration and Counsellors from SGCHS will visit all feeder schools in beginning of the year. Grade 9 students and their families will complete their registration via the Parent PowerSchool portal. Course selection will happen in April at their current school.

**2. How do students and parents know which academic courses to register in?**

The current grade 9 core teachers will make suggestions to you and your students.

**3. How do the grade 9 teachers determine which courses to register students in?**

The grade 9 teachers will look at current grades/work ethic, and in consultation with grade 10 teachers, determine the recommended courses.

**4. What are the programs available for core subjects in their grade 10 year?**

Diploma Route			Certificate of Completion (K & E)
English 10-1	or	English 10-2	English 10-4
Math 10C	or	Math 10-3 (or Math CT)	Math 10-4
Science 10	or	Science 14	Science 10-4
Social Studies 10-1	or	Social Studies 10-2	Social Studies 10-4

**5. What does Seminar look like at SGCHS?**

Seminar is self-directed learning time which is built into our daily schedule from 2:27 pm - 3:07 pm. Students have access to their teachers for one-on-one or small group support. It is expected that students are in attendance at this time. Students, who utilize this time effectively, reduce the amount of time they need to spend on homework. They also have the opportunity to ask their teachers for support in areas where they need it. Teachers and/or Grade Coordinators have the ability to assign students, who fall behind in their schoolwork or who are ineffective in their use of this time, to Seminar using the FLEX Add-On in PowerSchool. This assignment to seminar can be viewed using the Student and Parent Portals on a computer; unfortunately, students and parents who use the app will not be able to view the assigned block, but they will still get the absence notification if they asked for notifications to be pushed through. We have advised staff to take attendance early so that when students receive the notification, they are absent, they still have time to get to Seminar, complete the work and have their attendance changed. When Seminar has been assigned by a staff member and the student has chosen not to attend, they will be marked absent, and the regular phone notification will take place

**6. What if the course is too difficult or too easy?**

The high school programming is flexible enough to allow for movement between courses as students need change. The grade administrator and counsellor work closely with you and your child as needs arise.

**7. How many credits are required for a High School Diploma?**

A minimum of 100 credits is needed for graduation however it is recommended that students take 110 credits in their high school career to keep all possibilities open to them.

NOTE: For the Knowledge & Employability Program (K & E) the requirement is 80 credits.

**8. How can I obtain more information about SGCHS registration, programs and courses?** On the school's website [sgchs.psd.ca](http://sgchs.psd.ca), explore *For Newcomers* to learn about registration information and *Our Programs* to see what courses are offered.

**9. Does my child have any course choices in their grade 10 year?**

Yes, students can choose the complementary courses (options) that they wish to experience.

**NOTE:** Please visit these areas and speak with the teachers during Open House. Information can also be found on the school's website [sgchs.psd.ca](http://sgchs.psd.ca) under *Our Programs*.

**10. How can I keep track of my child's attendance and grades?**

Parents and students have access to PowerSchool and are able to access the above information as required. **NOTE:** Go to the school website [sgchs.psd.ca](http://sgchs.psd.ca) and click on *For Parents* and then select *PowerSchool*.

**11. Do I need to report a student absence?**

Yes. An automated phone out with student absences occurs daily. Parents are required to call the school or email ([sgchs.absence@psd.ca](mailto:sgchs.absence@psd.ca)) to avoid an unexcused absence. Please phone ahead of time if possible. School phone number is 780-962-0800, extension 1. The voice mailbox has 24 hour access.

**12. What happens if my child misses an assignment or exam?**

Students are expected to make up missed assignments and exams to prevent falling behind. Your child is to meet with their teacher upon returning or prior to an absence if possible, to make arrangements to complete missed work. Assignments are to be completed in a timely manner as determined by the teacher.

**13. What is the process in place for students to complete missed work?**

\* Parents report the absence to the school.

\* The student meets with the individual teacher.

\* A date, time and place will be established for make-up work/assignments.

**NOTE:** Students may be directed to the after-school Directed Learning Room (DLR).

**14. How can I get in touch with my child's teacher if I have a question?**

The easiest way to contact a teacher is by email. Email addresses are found on the school website. Teachers also have voice mail. SGCHS also has Twitter, a blog account and daily announcements are posted on our website.

**15. When are Parent Teacher Interviews?**

We have two Parent Teacher Interviews scheduled throughout the year. One occurs in November and one in March or April. Parents and students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of PowerSchool to stay on top of student attendance and grades.

**16. Who does my child see if they have any concerns?**

Each grade has an Assistant Principal and Counsellor working with the cohort of student as they make their way through SGCHS. Your Grade 10 team will move up with you to Grade 11 and 12.

**17. What do high school students need to do to be successful?**

\* Regular and consistent attendance is essential.

\* Students are required to complete assigned work.

\* Students need to be advocates for their learning ... "ask questions".

\* Students need to be engaged, cooperative and interactive in their learning.

\* Students need to be prepared and on time for classes.

**18. What can parents do to help their child be successful?**

- \* Be involved and interested in your child's learning.
- \* Limit (if possible) the amount of hours your child works during the week.
- \* Support learning, attend School Council meetings and parent teacher interviews.
- \* Check PowerSchool regularly, communicate with teachers and let us know how we can continue to support your child.
- \* Encourage your child to get involved in activities, sports and clubs at the school.

**19. What extracurricular activities or clubs does the school offer?**

Badminton, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Rugby, Soccer, Swimming, Track and Field, Students' Union, Band, Drama, Choral, Robotics, GSA, Volleyball, Wrestling, Dungeons and Dragons, and more!

**20. What role does the School Resource Officer play?**

The purpose of the Resource Office is to build bridges between the community, the school and the police. The primary role of the Officer is to be a law educator followed closely as a law counsellor.

**21. What time is the school open?**

The school is open from 8:00 am until the last school activity/game is completed. Only the south and north doors are open during the school day.

South Doors 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

North Doors 8:00 a.m. – (last activity within the school)

**22. What are the hours in the General Office?**

The hours are 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Phone number 780-962-0800).

**23. How do I obtain a school calendar that indicates non instructional days (ie: Professional Development days, holidays, etc.) and school activities?**

This information is placed on our school website [sgchs.psd.ca](http://sgchs.psd.ca).

**24. What time are classes throughout the school day?**

There are four scheduled blocks each day with block 1 and 2 occurring before lunch hour and block 3 and 4 occurring after the lunch hour. The fifth block is Seminar, which allows students to choose where they need to spend their time learning.

Monday – Friday: Lunch 11:09 – 11:44 am

Monday – Friday: Seminar 2:27 – 3:07 pm

**NOTE:** A complete bell schedule is also posted on the school website.

**25. When will we receive confirmation of student timetables, start date for semester 1, pictures, lockers, fees and additional start-up information for September?**

Please check our website for the most up-to-date information regarding start of classes and additional start up information. Please also ensure your current school has your correct mailing address.