



May 24, 2022

Dear Families of current Grade 10s,

As part of the Province of British Columbia's commitments to truth, reconciliation, and anti-racism, the Ministry of Education has updated the BC Graduation Program requirements. Moving forward, the Ministry is implementing an Indigenous-focused graduation requirement for all students in British Columbia. Under the new model, **students who are currently in Grade 10 will be the first group to complete this updated course credit requirement by graduation.**

The change requires that all students complete at least one 4-credit course with an indigenous focus prior to graduation. It does not change the number of credits required for graduation which remains at 80.

As this information was not available at the time of course selection, we want to give our students the opportunity to plan for meeting this new graduation requirement now, as we know that the grade 11 and 12 course selection is critical for post-secondary institutions.

To ensure that Argyle's current grade 10 students will meet the new graduation requirement, Argyle will be running a Social Studies and two English courses next year that each meet this requirement. The three course options being offered at Argyle next year are:

- [BC First Peoples 12](#)
- English First Peoples 11- [Literary Studies & Writing](#)
- English First Peoples 11: [Literary Studies and New Media](#)

It is important to note that English First Peoples 11 meets the Language Arts 11 (English 11) requirement for graduation. In addition, the BC First Peoples 12 course meets the Social Studies 11/12 requirement for graduation.

Students who do not fulfill this new graduation requirement in their Grade 11 year must then complete it in their grade 12 year. Careful course planning and consideration will need to take place to ensure students meet this requirement, while also considering timetable constraints/conflicts and post-secondary entrance requirements. We recommend students complete this requirement in grade 11.



PROCESS FOR COURSE CHANGES

1. We will be holding an assembly with all grade 10 students at 11:30am on Thursday, May 26th.
2. We will share this information with students
 - a. Students will be asked to use a QR code to fill out a MS form indicating their course choices. Please note, if students choose to take English First Peoples 11, this will replace their current English 11 selection
 - b. If students choose to take BC First Peoples 12, they will need to indicate which course this replaces.
 - c. We will ask students to rank their choices in order of priority. Final course offerings are subject to enrollment. We will endeavor to provide students with their first choice but cannot guarantee that due to constraints in the timetable and the other courses your child is taking.
3. Students must indicate a choice by the end of this week – **Friday, May 27th at 3pm.**

Should you have further questions, please contact Ms. Sarah Gordon, grade 10 counsellor sgordon@sd44.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

We have included descriptions of both the courses below to help students determine where their interests lie:

BC FIRST PEOPLES 12: This course examines the place and roles of Indigenous people in shaping the past and future of British Columbia and Canada, how contact and colonialism continues to affect the lives of B.C. First Peoples, and the ways in which colonialism has been resisted and challenged. Using critical thinking, creative insight, and their current knowledge, students will be provided with opportunities to collaborate, investigate, problem-solve, communicate, discover and increase their understanding of the history and culture of BC First Peoples through conversation, story, and experience.

Topics included in the course: the vital role of oral tradition as well as an ongoing connection to the land; traditional territories and ways of life; the diversity, richness and resiliency of BC First Peoples revealed through cultural expressions; the political, social and economic impact of contact and colonialism; and the ways in which BC First Peoples have challenged and resisted ongoing



colonialism through self-governance, leadership, and self-determination. This course is available to students in grades 11 and 12 and meets the graduation requirement for a senior social studies course as well as the graduation requirement for a course with an Indigenous Focus.

ENGLISH 11 FIRST PEOPLES Literary Studies + Writing 11: This course is designed for students who are interested in studying First Peoples literature and using writing for self-expression and communication in a variety of contexts. Students delve deeply into First Peoples oral and written literature in a range of media to explore various themes, authors, and topics. This provides a foundation for them to think critically and creatively as they continue to explore, extend, and strengthen their own writing. Within a supportive community, students work individually and collaboratively to explore oral and written literature and create powerful, purposeful compositions.

ENGLISH 11 FIRST PEOPLES Literary Studies + New Media 11: This course is designed for students who are interested in studying First Peoples literature and examining the evolving role of technology in today's society, especially the increasing importance of digital media in communicating and exchanging ideas and engaging in social advocacy. Students delve deeply into First Peoples oral and written literature in a range of media to explore various themes, authors, and topics. This provides a foundation for students to think critically and creatively as they continue to explore, extend, and strengthen their own writing and communication. Students examine the increasingly complex digital world and have opportunities to demonstrate understanding and communicate sophisticated ideas through a wide variety of digital and print media.

The new 4-credit graduation requirement will provide all BC students with the necessary time and opportunity to develop deeper understandings of the experiences, cultures, and histories of Indigenous peoples in Canada, in support of the K-12 mandate to develop Educated Citizens.

For more information on the new Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement please refer to the BC Ministry of Education document [Indigenous-Focused Grad Requirement Overview](#).

Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation is one of the core pillars of North Vancouver School District's Strategic Plan and is echoed in the Provincial Government's passing of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. We look forward to working with our grad class of 2024 to spearhead this new graduation requirement which will have an impact on our province for years to come.

Sincerely,

Argyle Administration