



Welcome to Kindergarten to Grade 9

In this information package you will find:

1. Overview
2. Creating a learning plan
3. Observing for Learning
4. Our B.C. certified educators
5. What to expect
6. Learning at home, online, and in community
7. Support Services





Overview

With support and resources to help learners succeed every step along the way, our kindergarten to Grade 9 educational program places your child at the centre of their learning journey.

You and your child work one-on-one with a B.C. certified educator who supports your family in all aspects of learning.



Creating a learning plan

At the beginning of each learning year, your learning consultant will help your family craft an individualized learning plan for your child, taking into account their interests, goals and activities.

You'll collaborate with your learning consultant to plan for activities, learning experiences, and resources that fit your child's needs. SelfDesign does not send you a specific curriculum to engage with but supports your child's learning in a personalized way.

We also give you access to our Learning Experience Library which includes more than 150 curated resource offerings to explore. These Learning Experiences contain videos, book suggestions, articles, hands-on activities and more, and each is linked to the B.C. curriculum in a cross-curricular way.

Observing for Learning

At SelfDesign Learning Community, our B.C. certified educators participate in an ongoing weekly conversation with you and your child. We call this type of communication and dialogue "Observing for Learning". It's led by your educator and is at the core of our kindergarten to Grade 9 program.

In the Observing for Learning process, you observe and reflect on your child's learning during the week. Reflections include describing learning activities as well as the learner's engagement or emotional response. Your educator responds, reflects and shares the observing, and also matches your child's learning with B.C. Ministry of Education requirements.

Your educator will coach you in how to observe daily activities and assists you in noticing learning as it unfolds in everyday moments.

As your child becomes a youth, they begin to collaborate directly with the educator in the Observing for Learning process, with parent or educational assistant as needed. This fosters and allows your child to form a deepened awareness of their own integrated learning, goals, interests, and skills related to learning to learn, such as time management, flexible thinking, and organizational skills.



Our B.C. certified educators

You and your child choose from one of nearly 170 B.C. certified educators, called learning consultants, to guide learning in your home environment. They work with you and the learner one-on-one to co-create individualized goals, interacting on a weekly basis with curiosity and inspiration. They provide direction and resources to the learner while validating learning for academic credit.

The role of the educator evolves as the learner develops, from providing direct educational support for parents/guardians of younger learners to being a mentor and guide for youth as they enact their personalized learning.

Our educators work with you and your child one-on-one to co-create individualized goals, interacting on a weekly basis with curiosity and inspiration.



What to expect

KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 5



- Our B.C. certified educational program allows the unique spirit of your child to evolve naturally today and into the future. Our offerings speak both to the playful spirit of the child and the emerging maturity of the young person.
- You and your child will work with your B.C. certified educator to create a personalized learning plan. The plan maps your child's interests and curiosities, specifying resources and activities that will be used to facilitate learning and meet B.C. educational requirements.
- You'll work one-on-one directly with your educator, who will guide you through your child's learning plan. As your child grows older, their direct relationship with the educator grows as well.

GRADES 6 AND 7



- Grades 6 and 7 at SelfDesign Learning Community follow a similar program to kindergarten to Grade 5 with the addition of online live offerings that are theme-related:
 - These optional drop-in real-time meetings offer playful, low-pressure opportunities for your child to enter into a collaborative online learning environment, to develop foundational skills to support them in their growing independence as an online learner at SelfDesign.
 - Your child can participate in the real-time meetings as observers or actively participate in sharing stories, laughter, and sharing perspectives on their themes.
- Learners in grades 6 and 7 begin to grow independence by collaborating more often alongside their parent/caregiver in the Observing for Learning communications with their learning consultant.

GRADES 8 AND 9

Grades 8 and 9 at SelfDesign Learning Community follow a similar program to Grades 6 and 7 with the addition of workshops that are either theme-related or personal development-related:

- These optional drop-in workshops offer playful, low-pressure opportunities for your child to enter into a collaborative online learning environment, to develop foundational skills, and to interact with the curriculum through the themes.
- Your child can participate in the workshops as observers or actively participate in sharing stories, laughter, and sharing perspectives on their themes.
- In addition to live offerings, learners in grades 8 and 9 have access to a variety of resources and prompts for artifact creation available throughout the learning year through the SelfDesign learning platform.
- Seeds are planted for learners to introduce them to the development of a personalized learning portfolio.

In grades 8 and 9, your child will start to take on more responsibilities, engage in deeper Observing for Learning with their educator, and may explore connections with their peers online. These Observing for Learning communications provide evidence of learning that is validated by the educator for academic credit, and creates rich documentation for your child and your family about the breadth of learning that has occurred over the year.

You and your child will start to look towards grades 10 to 12 and what path to completion may suit them best: B.C. Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma), Adult Graduation Diploma or School Completion (“Evergreen”) Certificate. Decisions about which [pathway to completion](#) is appropriate for your learner are supported by your learning consultant, unique learning team and our Support Services and Guidance teams.

Learning takes place in a variety of environments — at home and in communities as well as in SelfDesign-organized offerings, from camps to community events to online forums and special interest groups (optional).



Learning at home, online, and in your community

We provide you and your child with digital technologies and resources to complement their real-world learning. This includes access to subscriptions such as Discovery Education and BrainPop, which we provide free of charge.

Your child will have the option to access real-time online connections with their peers and B.C. certified educators using web conferencing technology. They use our digital learning platform for communication with their learning consultant as well as access resources and extend their learning through the SelfDesign Learning Experiences Library.

The SelfDesign Learning Experiences Library is a dynamic collection of resources, questions, suggestions and inspirations sparked by the curiosity of our learners and offered in integrated interest-based experiences.

We also support learning through relationships and in the community by providing various optional group learning opportunities and in-person events such as:

- Online workshops for grades 6 to 12
- Online forums for learners and parents
- Guest speakers and facilitators
- Seasonal, fun-filled in-person camp opportunities for grades 9 to 12, when offered
- Opportunities for families and youth who identify as Indigenous to be in community with one another
- Opportunities to explore and connect with learners with common interests



Ways to connect

GENIUS HOUR

These optional sessions offer learners an opportunity to showcase what they are doing in their learning lives, ask questions, share ideas, and deepen their understanding about various topics, using online video conferencing.

Genius Hours are usually filled with laughter, sharing, creativity, and exploration. Learners are encouraged to bring their ideas, innovations or projects and an encouraging voice as they share and learn from each other. Learners can also join and simply listen in.



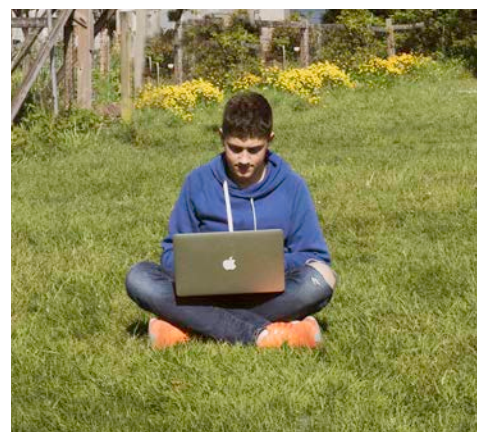
GRADE 6/7 and 8/9 THEMES

These drop-in theme workshops consist of curated resources and optional activities that are intended to inspire and deepen learning. They are offered as a platform-based learning experience to explore at a learner's own pace with educator-facilitated real-time meetings using online video conferencing. Themes are open to all learners in grades 6 to 9 are included at no additional cost and participation is optional. Come for one workshop or attend them all.



GRADE 8/9 CIRCLES

Learners in grades 8 and 9 have the opportunity to participate in Circle workshops. Circle is a committed group of learners who gather in a real-time weekly meeting using online video conferencing to expand their study skills, practice group presentations and build learning connections with peers. Topics include community, job, active citizenship and so much more. There is no cost and participation is optional.



Support Services

In SelfDesign Support Services, we provide inclusive support for learners with disabilities/diverse abilities with various levels of need, including: autism, vision needs, deaf and hard of hearing, physical dependencies, mental health, behavioural needs, learning disabilities, ADHD, and physical and chronic health needs. Learners enrolled in SelfDesign will receive the support they need based on their unique profile, as determined by the learning team.

The education of learners with special needs, as for all learners, is a shared commitment with SelfDesign educators, parents and community support services. The purpose of education for learners with special needs is the same as that for all learners – to provide for their optimal development as skilled and purposeful individuals, able to reach their fullest potential as members of society.

For more information visit our webpage for [Support Services](#).

*Your child is unique so
we adapt our programming to them*





selfdesign.org | info@selfdesign.org