

# FAQs *Commonly Asked Questions About Entering High School*

## **What dates do I need to know?**

- Deadline for course selections in Career Cruising-Course Planner
- Grade 8 Parent Information/Orientation nights
- School registration day
- First day of school and holiday dates
- Examination schedule
- Professional development days
- Parent, teacher, student interviews

**Don't worry, an information package with all you need to know will be sent to you in the summer!**

## **Where do I get a Bus Pass?**

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board provides transportation or Grand River Transit bus passes to eligible students. Bus passes are issued in late August for Semester 1 and in late January for Semester 2. Students pay only for the Transit I.D. Photo Card. For more information regarding bus eligibility, bus passes or school transit, consult the school website, student handbook, or contact your school directly.

## **Why do I need to wear a uniform?**

The school uniform is a visual symbol that has been part of the tradition of Catholic high schools in Ontario for over a century. Its purpose is to eliminate competition and to develop a unique school spirit. The uniform adds greatly to school unity and pride and allows staff to easily identify visitors to the school.

## **Dress Code Policy**

Students who choose to attend WCDSB Secondary Schools are agreeing to abide, unconditionally, by the uniform regulations established and reviewed periodically by the school community. You may also require a uniform for physical education.

## **Uniform Attire**

Please check your student handbook, your school website, or the school directly for school-specific regulations.

## **If I have a question, where should I go?**

Every student is assigned a Guidance Counsellor, Administrator, and a Chaplain. Some students may also receive special assistance from Learning Resource teachers or the Student Success teacher. Don't be afraid to ask questions. All of these teachers are there to help you!

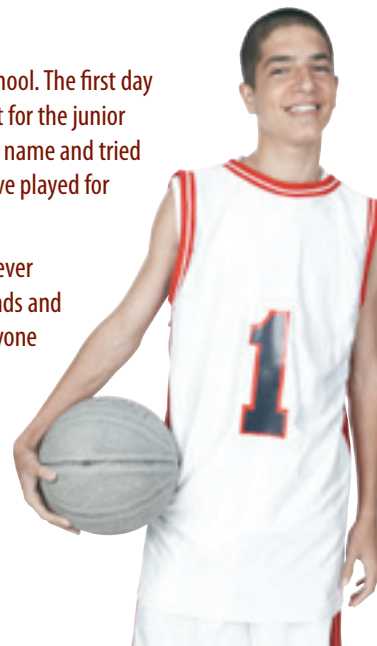
## **My elementary school was pretty small... What if I get lost?**

It will probably take a couple of days for you to get used to the school at first. Try to get to school early and look around for the classrooms. If you can't find a room, teachers and other students will be happy to help out. Just ask someone!

Most high schools organize a Grade 8 open house. Try to attend this Grade 8 night to see what the high school is like.

“I was so scared to go to high school. The first day of school, I noticed a sign-up sheet for the junior basketball team. I wrote down my name and tried out for the team. I made it and have played for the past three years.

The team was the best thing that ever happened to me. I made new friends and we have so much fun. I think everyone should find something they really love in high school and use their skills. I'm so glad I signed up that first day!”



# **Thriving in Grade 9** **Get Involved & Get Ready...**

Make sure you get involved in extra-curricular activities. Explore the opportunities at your school and get involved in activities that interest you. This is a great opportunity for you to build friendships, develop skills and grow as an individual. Each school offers a wide variety of opportunities including Student Council, Faith Leadership, Liturgical Involvement, Athletics, Yearbook, Drama, Cooking, Music and many more. Check out the activities that interest you!

## **Helpful Hints...**

To ease your transition from grade 8 to 9, each school has transition activities and supports to assist you. Here are some tips to help you get started:

- ✓ Attend the grade 8 information/orientation night at your secondary school (see page 12)
- ✓ Discuss the information that you receive with your parents when the high school Guidance Counsellor visits your grade 8 class.
- ✓ Ask questions about courses, the different levels, and the different pathways that are available.
- ✓ Get involved in grade 9 orientation activities in late August or early September
- ✓ Purchase your uniform in advance
- ✓ Plan your travel to and from school in advance
- ✓ Get involved in activities or clubs that interest you
- ✓ Develop good study habits and organizational skills
- ✓ Check out St. Louis Summer School - HeadStart elementary literacy & numeracy program for grade 8 & 9
- ✓ Enjoy your transition to secondary school, it is one of the most exciting times of your life!