



**Waterloo Catholic  
District School Board**  
Quality, Inclusive, Faith Based Education



**2023-2024**



# Entering Secondary School

A Transition Guide for Grade 8 Students & Families

Your Path • Your Choice • Your Future



## Welcome to your new Waterloo Region Catholic secondary school!

During this exciting phase of your educational journey, we hope to work closely with you as you prepare for the pathway you will follow after secondary school.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board views all post-secondary pathway destinations as worthy and valuable and will provide students with the courses, programs and supports necessary to make a smooth transition to apprenticeship training, college, community, university, or the workplace.



From the innovative Specialist High Skills Major program, University and College Cooperative Education programs and Ontario Youth Apprenticeship programs to a multitude of sports teams and clubs all underpinned by the Catholic faith and innovative teaching and learning strategies that facilitate key 21st century student outcomes, our Catholic secondary schools have it all!

With students from 110 different countries who speak 115 different languages at home, our schools truly welcome the world. At WCDSB we wish to be as responsive as possible to our many diverse students, so we want to hear from you if we can do a better job of supporting you on your journey. We want to truly live out our vision of being the heart of the community, offering success for each and a place for all.

Our goal is to ensure our graduates go on to be contributing, productive and engaged members of our society. We are here to assist you along the path of fulfilling the **Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations**. When you graduate, you can expect to have become a *Discerning Believer • Effective Communicator • Reflective, Creative & Holistic Thinker • Self-directed, Responsible, Lifelong Learner • Collaborative Contributor • Caring Family Member • and a Responsible Citizen*.

Please be sure to approach any guidance teacher, student success teacher, special education teacher or school administrator with questions you have about the right programs to help you meet your future goals.

And most of all have fun meeting new friends and broadening your horizons -- because it is your path... your choice... your future!

May God bless you in making all your dreams come true!!

Sincerely,

**TYRONE DOWLING**  
Director of Education



# Our Mission

2023-24

## Our Mission:

“As disciples of Christ, we educate and nurture hope in all learners to realize their full potential to transform God’s world.”

## Our Vision:

“Our Catholic Schools: **heart of the community -- success for each, a place for all.**”

## Catholic Graduate Expectations

Catholic education views human life as an integration of body, mind and spirit. Rooted in this vision, Catholic education fosters the search for knowledge as a lifelong spiritual and academic quest. Embrace our Catholic Graduate Expectations as you work towards your diploma. These expectations define what students are expected to know, do and value when they graduate from our Catholic schools. A graduate is expected to be:

- † a discerning believer formed in our Catholic Faith Community
- † an effective communicator
- † a reflective, creative, and holistic thinker
- † a self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner
- † a collaborative contributor
- † a caring family member
- † a responsible citizen



*"I can do all things through the  
one who strengthens me"*

Philippians 4:13

*We are the People of God, listening and  
responding, strengthened to share the Gospel*

## Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather today is the land traditionally cared for by the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe and Neutral people. I also acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge, laws and philosophies of the Indigenous people with whom we share this land today.

*The Waterloo Catholic District School Board reserves the right to alter information in this publication after the date of print. For up to date information please visit: [www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca)*

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# Are you Proud to be Indigenous?

## We want to hear your Voice!



### JOIN OUR INDIGENOUS STUDENT GROUP

#### Leadership Opportunities

Your student perspective is important. Lead others in your school and consult for the WCDSB. Earn volunteer hours. Participate in student conferences. Connect with colleges and Universities.

#### Cultural Experiences

Engage in cultural experiences with Knowledge Keepers on and off our campuses. Learn about traditional practices and participate in experiential learning opportunities.

#### Fun with New Friends

Join us for food and fun as we explore our talents and listen to each others' stories. Make valuable life-long connections.

### INDIGENOUS SELF-IDENTIFICATION

#### The Benefits

##### Information will be used to:

- Respond to the cultural and learning needs of First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) students to improve student achievement

#### Ways to Self-Identify

- Check the FNMI self-identification box on your student registration form
- If your child is already registered, update the data registration form distributed to every household in the fall



**NOTE:** All data collected is kept secure and confidential and is protected by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA).

### For more information

Contact Jennifer Staats, WCDSB Indigenous & Equity Consultant K-12 - [jennifer.staats@wcdsb.ca](mailto:jennifer.staats@wcdsb.ca) to Join

# Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging

## EQUITY

Equity means every student receives what one needs to develop to one's full academic and social potential



## HUMAN DIGNITY

We respect the rights and human dignity of all and care with empathy and compassion.



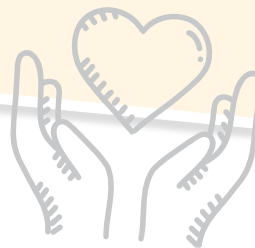
## EMBRACE EVERYONE

We know we are at our best when we embrace the full spectrum of humanity, regardless of what we look like, where we come from, or who we love.



### *Inclusion for all*

Our commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging is woven throughout our values and vision — our schools are the heart of their communities, providing a place for each and place for each.



## For more information

Contact Lynn Garrioch, WCDSB Senior Manager of Equity – [lynn.Garrioch@wcdsb.ca](mailto:lynn.Garrioch@wcdsb.ca)

# Catholic Education: We Are Many, We Are One

**We are the People of God, diverse yet united, awakened to heal in Community!**

Religious Studies is an integral part of each student's high school journey. Students are enrolled in Religion courses each year where they encounter themes that reveal to them their inherent dignity and worth - as they meet the challenges of today's society and culture - and echo the invitation from Christ to **"Come, follow me."** (Matthew 4:19)



## Religious Education

- Grade 9 Discipleship and Culture
- Grade 10 Christ and Culture
- Grade 11 Faith and Culture: World Religions
- Grade 12 Church and Culture

*"I can do all things through the one who strengthens me."*

Philippians 4:13

Each of our high schools has a Chaplaincy Leader who helps to create a community rooted in compassion, hospitality, and inclusion. Community worship, prayer, retreats, and social justice outreach initiatives in our schools are all regularly coordinated by our **#WCDSBAwesome Chaplaincy Leaders.**



# Your Journey to Success

## Your Path to Secondary School

Moving from elementary school to secondary school is a very exciting time. The Path can also be a little stressful because you don't always know what to expect. WCDSB hosts a number of events throughout the year to keep you and your family informed so that this transition is as smooth as possible.



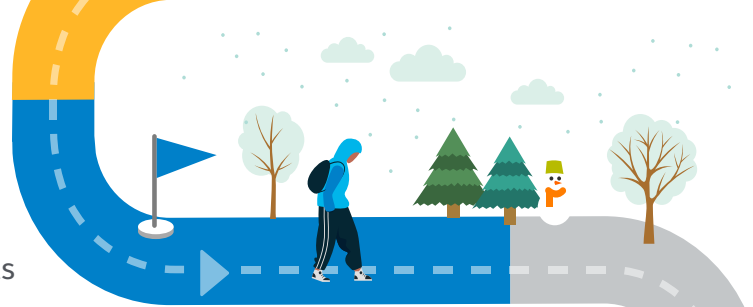
### Fall

- Optional programs offered by WCDSB and St. Louis: Saturday Skill Builders and Homework Clubs
- Visits to Secondary Schools
- Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) activities in myBlueprint

### Winter

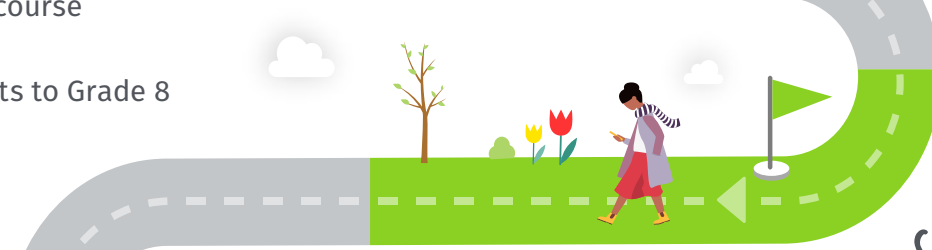
- Secondary School and Pathway Information Nights
- myBlueprint course selection
- Guidance visits to Grade 8 classes

Start here



### Spring

- Transition meetings for our Multilingual Learners (ML) and students with an IEP
- Register ONLINE for optional summer programs offered by WCDSB and St. Louis (see page 30 for details)



### Summer

- Start your Community Involvement hours
- Purchase your uniform
- **July** - watch for School Startup Information (Student fees, Forms, Schedules, Transportation)
- Attend optional summer programs
- **Late August** -schedules available on Aspen
- attend optional HeadStart and NOW programs (see page 31)



# Grade 8 Information Nights

## Secondary School Transition and Pathway Information



 A great opportunity to gather information and ask questions

### ● GRADE 8 INFORMATION NIGHTS

Join us for a short presentation followed by the opportunity to tour the secondary school, visit classrooms and explore extracurriculars. Teachers, administrators and students will be available to answer your questions.

### ● Multilingual Learner GRADE 8 INFORMATION NIGHTS

We also offer grade 8 information nights for multilingual learners and their families. These information nights are offered with the support of Arabic, Spanish and Tigrinya speaking interpreters. ESL/ELD educators, guidance teachers and Settlement Workers (SWIS) are available to answer questions for newcomer youth and their families.

**NEW!**

Check out our Website Links for more information on Entering our WCDSB Secondary Schools.

School	Website	Evening Event	Save the Date
St. David CSS	<a href="http://stdavid.wcdsb.ca">stdavid.wcdsb.ca</a> *Future Celtics	● Grade 8 Information Night	November 22, 2023
St. Mary's HS	<a href="http://stmary.wcdsb.ca">stmary.wcdsb.ca</a> *Future Eagles	● Grade 8 Information Night ● Multilingual Learner Night	November 30, 2023 May 16, 2024
Resurrection CSS	<a href="http://resurrection.wcdsb.ca">resurrection.wcdsb.ca</a> *Future Pheonix	● Grade 8 Information Night	November 29, 2023
St. Benedict CSS	<a href="http://st.benedict.wcdsb.ca">st.benedict.wcdsb.ca</a> *Future Saints	● Grade 8 Information Night ● Multilingual Learner Night	December 7, 2023 May 30, 2024
Monsignor Doyle CSS	<a href="http://doyle.wcdsb.ca">doyle.wcdsb.ca</a> *Future Mustangs	● Grade 8 Information Night	December 12, 2023

## Career Discovery News and Events

Upcoming Events | Videos | Resources



**Experiential Learning**  
Your Path • Your Choice • Your Future

Check our WCDSB calendar for the latest Experiential news and events available to our students and families. Explore the many exciting career paths and options.

Visit: [el.wcdsb.ca/news-events](http://el.wcdsb.ca/news-events)



# Graduation Requirements

## OSSD Ontario Secondary School Diploma



**30** CREDITS  
IN TOTAL



**40** HOURS OF  
COMMUNITY  
INVOLVEMENT



COMPLETION OF  
THE LITERACY  
REQUIREMENT



**2** ONLINE  
LEARNING  
CREDITS

Students must earn the following compulsory credits to obtain the Ontario Secondary School Diploma:

19 Compulsory Credits	Credits
English (1 credit per grade)	4
Math (1 credit in grade 11 or 12)	3
Science	2
Canadian History	1
Canadian Geography	1
The Arts	1
Health and Physical Education	1
French as a Second Language	1
Technological Education (1 credit in gr 9 or 10)	1
Career Studies	0.5
Civics and Citizenship	0.5

11 Elective Credits	Credits
Students are required to take: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 4 Religious Education courses, one each year in grades 9-12.</li> <li>✓ 7 Optional credits that match their interests or develop their skills.</li> </ul>	11

Other Requirements	Credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Community Involvement completed over 4 years. <i>Note: Grade 8 students can start their involvement hours in July and August before grade 9.</i></li> </ul>	40 hrs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Online Learning * Students must earn at least two online learning credits. For information on opting out of the online learning requirement please see your guidance teacher. *visit: <a href="http://www.wcdsb.ca/programs-and-services/onlinelearning/">www.wcdsb.ca/programs-and-services/onlinelearning/</a></li> </ul>	2 credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The Provincial Literacy Requirements OSSLT or OSSLC Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC)</li> </ul>	

Plus ONE credit from each of the following groups:

Subject	Credits
<b>Group 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English or French as a second language</li> <li>• a Native language</li> <li>• First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Studies</li> <li>• a classical or international language</li> <li>• social sciences and the humanities</li> <li>• Canadian and world studies</li> <li>• guidance and career education</li> <li>• cooperative education</li> </ul>	1
<b>Group 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• health and physical education</li> <li>• the arts</li> <li>• business studies</li> <li>• French as a second language</li> <li>• cooperative education</li> </ul>	1
<b>Group 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• science (Grade 11 or 12)</li> <li>• technological education</li> <li>• French as a second language</li> <li>• computer studies</li> <li>• cooperative education</li> </ul>	1



Please note that OSSD requirements for the 2024-2025 school year may change after the date of printing. Please check the Ministry of Ontario website for the most accurate information: [www.ontario.ca/page/high-school-graduation-requirements](http://www.ontario.ca/page/high-school-graduation-requirements)

# The **NEW** Grade 9 De-streamed English Course (ENL1W)

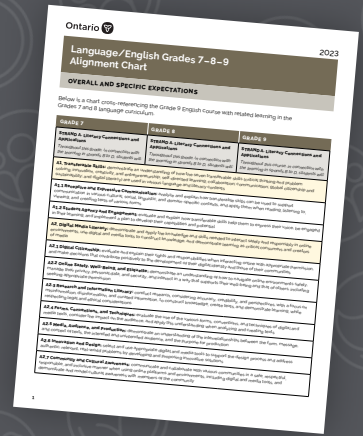
The Grade 9 English course (ENL1W) is built upon the recently updated language curriculum (2023) for Grades 1-8, aiming to empower students with the essential knowledge and skills required to become confident communicators.

The Grade 9 English course (ENL1W) allows students to further develop and solidify their foundational knowledge and language abilities, with a specific focus on enhancing their oral communication, reading, writing, digital media literacy and transferable skills. Throughout the course, students actively engage in language and literacy learning by connecting their own experiences with those of others.

Teachers implement the curriculum through effective assessment and high impact instructional practices

deeply rooted in culturally responsive and relevant pedagogy (CRRP). They employ various assessment and instructional strategies that offer students numerous entry points to access language and learning while providing multiple opportunities to showcase English proficiency.

This course serves as a seamless continuation of the learning journey from Grade 8 and prepares students for success in all senior Secondary English courses across various educational pathways. Upon successful completion of the Grade 9 English course (ENL1W), students are eligible to progress to Grade 10 English classes.



## Support & Preparation for EQAO & OSSLT

Students are provided with a wide range of support within the classroom and outside class time to ensure they are well prepared for these evaluations.

Check out the EQAO website for sample tests and answers to help prepare.

[www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com)



## Literacy

**OSSD** Ontario Secondary School Diploma

### Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

All students are required to successfully complete the OSSLT requirement to earn an OSSD. This test is based on the literacy expectations up until the end of Grade 9, and is administered in the second semester of Grade 10.

The OSSLT is now completely online. Schools will help students become familiar with the EQAO testing platform prior to the test date.

Students who are unsuccessful on the test can either retake the test in the following year, or enroll in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC). Successful completion of the OSSLC satisfies the student's OSSLT requirement for graduation. Exemptions may be granted to students NOT working towards an OSSD. In certain circumstances, students may be deferred until a later administration of the test. Students with an IEP may write this assessment with the accommodations provided in their IEP.

# Numeracy

## Grade 9 EQAO Assessment of Mathematics

Students in the grade 9 de-streamed math course, MTH1W, participate in the Grade 9 EQAO Assessment of Mathematics in either January or June. The assessment results are used to inform each student's final grade. In 2020-21 EQAO changed to a digital version of the assessment. Students will complete the entire assessment in-class on computers. The assessment uses adaptive testing technology that adapts to a student's performance as they complete the assessment.

Grading of the assessment will be completed by the digital software and made available to teachers. Students can get their results from their teacher a few days after the completion of the assessment.

## Grade 9 Math Prep - GLE 10M

GLE10M is optional preparation course that has been created to support a successful transition into secondary school mathematics. Students would take GLE10M first semester to help prepare them for MTH1W, which they would take second semester. After completing GLE10M and MTH1W, students would have access to all grade 10 math courses.

## Who Is GLE10M Math Prep for?

- ✓ Students debating between de-streamed math and locally developed math
- ✓ Students who have been struggling to understand grade level math concepts
- ✓ Students who have low confidence in math

## What are the benefits of GLE10M Math Prep?

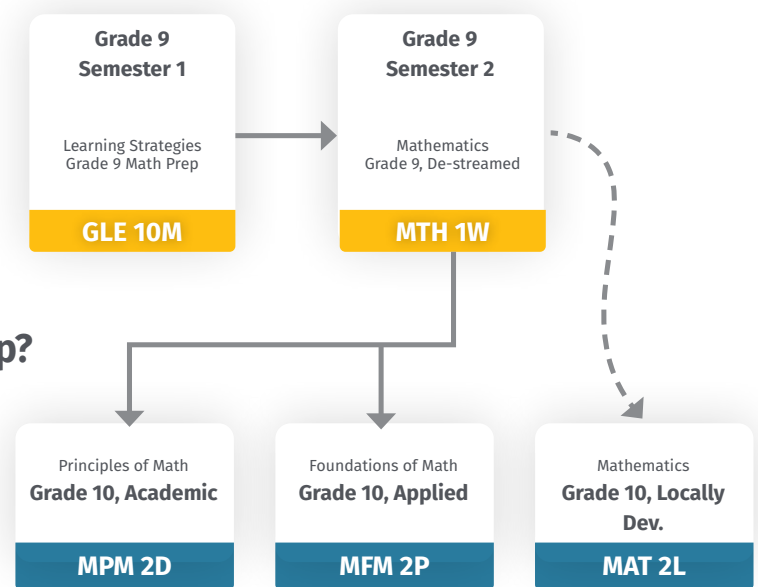
- ✓ Full year of math instruction will help with retention
- ✓ Greater success in MTH1W de-streamed math
- ✓ Access to all grade 10 math courses

\*Please check with your local secondary school and/or your child's grade 8 teacher if you are interested in this course.

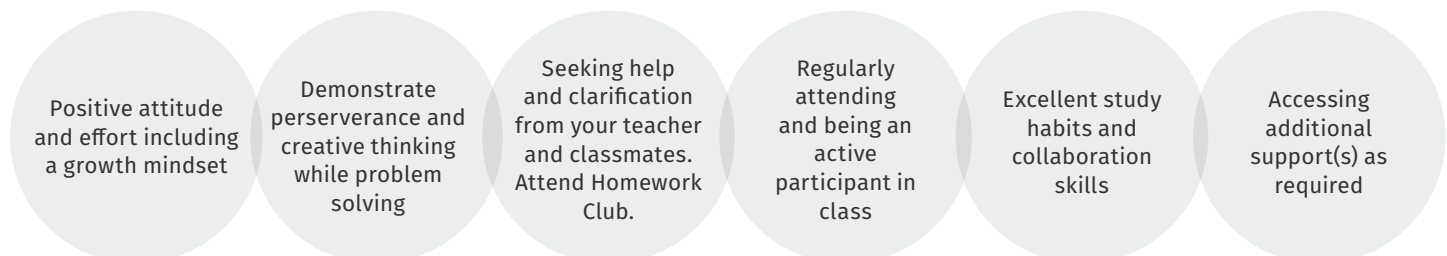
## Quick Facts



- Historically, scores for WCDSB math students have met or exceeded the provincial average.
- In the grade 9 de-streamed math course students will learn coding, financial literacy, mathematical modelling, and data literacy.
- In addition to the math content and skills, students in MTH1W will also develop transferable skills such as communication, collaboration, problem solving, and innovation.



## Keys to Success In Secondary School Math Classes



There are a number of programs and people to help you along your journey

## Your Support System

Entering secondary school is an important milestone in your life as a student. Supports within the school help students to feel connected. Every student is assigned a guidance teacher and administrator who are available to answer concerns and questions. There are also other caring adults – subject teachers, student success teachers, special education teachers and chaplain, child youth care workers (CYCW), educational assistants, and coaches.



### The Chaplain

The Chaplain provides opportunities to experience the risen Lord by sharing with students and staff in liturgical celebrations, retreats, social action, small faith communities, support groups and walking with individuals and groups on their faith journey.



### Administrators Principals/Vice Principals

Administrators, Principals and Vice Principals are responsible for ensuring safe and secure schools. They are available to assist students and families with concerns.



### Families

Your family plays an essential role in the transition to secondary school and is encouraged to remain involved in all aspects of your education.



### Teachers

Teachers are role models and sources of valuable information for many students. They play an important role in developing student awareness of various career paths.



### Student Success Teachers

Student Success Teachers are an additional support to students who are struggling at school and who may be thinking of leaving school early. They work with students to help them be more successful and stay in school.



### Social Worker

School social workers provide service on an urgent basis to students, families and schools in situations of risk.



### Special Education Teachers

Special Education Teachers support the implementation of Individual Education Plans. They conduct diagnostic assessments, directly support students, teach learning strategy and alternative courses, and work with subject teachers to deliver accommodations and modifications.



### Guidance Teachers

Guidance Teachers are available to assist students with planning their educational pathways, personal career plans and course selections. They are also available to assist students with personal concerns and guide them to other professionals for specific assistance.



### ML Monitor Teacher

Multilingual Monitor Teacher supports newcomer students in the ESL/ELD programs with course work, course selection and liaises with classroom teachers, administration and guidance to support student success.

# OSSC Ontario Secondary School Certificate

## For Students & Families

The Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC) will be granted, on request, to students who are leaving secondary school upon reaching the age of eighteen without having met the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. To be granted an OSSC, a student must have earned a minimum of 14 credits, distributed as shown.



**14** CREDITS  
IN TOTAL



7 Compulsory Credits	Credits
English	2
Math	1
Science	1
Canadian History or Geography	1
Arts or Technological Education	1
Health and Physical Education	1

7 Elective Credits	Credits
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Students are required to successfully complete an additional 7 credits (Religion courses included) that match their interests or develop their skills. 7

Students are **not** required to complete:

- 40 hours of community involvement
- the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)
- the online learning graduation requirements

## C of A Certificate of Accomplishment

Students who are leaving secondary school upon reaching the age of eighteen without having met the requirements for the OSSD or the OSSC may be granted a Certificate of Accomplishment. This certificate recognizes achievement for students in the Community pathway who will go on to participate in further education, engage in volunteer/paid work, or participate in community programs.

Students working towards a Certificate of Accomplishment may take K- courses, which are alternative, non-credit courses for students with special education needs. These courses are designed to support the growth of fundamental skills, independence and self-care.



# Special Education Programming

## Many Paths To Success



Our schools are the *heart of the community*, where there is *success for each and a place for all*, providing a positive and supportive environment.

All students who require accommodations and/or modifications for learning have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Transition meetings are held in Grade 8 for every student who has an IEP.

Families and students are invited to meet with elementary and secondary school staff (Teachers including Special Education, ML Monitors, Guidance, Student Success and Administrators) to discuss courses, levels of study and pathway selections based upon student strengths, needs and academic achievement. Unique accommodation needs (instructional, environmental and assessment) are also reviewed. Ongoing IEP development and implementation continues in secondary school.

### Your Neighbourhood Catholic Secondary School offers:

- Inclusive School Community
- Assistive Technology
- Services for Students with Autism
- Opportunities for Students who are Gifted
- Remediation Programs
- Accommodations for Physical Disabilities
- Experiences Beyond the Classroom
- Support for Social/Emotional Needs
- Learning Strategies Courses
- Program/Learning Support
- Hearing and Vision Support
- Transition Planning

# ACTIVE/Community Living

## ACTIVE Program

The **ACTIVE Program** is for students entering Grade 9 with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) focusing on modified expectations for the Ontario Curriculum that are below grade level and may be reduced in number and complexity. This pathway can be explored during the Gr. 8 Transition Meeting.

### The ACTIVE Program supports students to:

- Enhance skills for independence
- Develop communication and employability skills
- Identify volunteer and work interests and talents
- Prepare for transition from school to volunteer or paid work, community programs, and/or post-secondary study

### Highlights:

- Earn a Certificate of Accomplishment\* (non-credit)
- Potentially complete requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Certificate\* (OSSC -14 credits)

\*See page 11

## Sample ACTIVE Schedule

### Grade 9, Grade 10 and Grade 11

Course	Mode of Delivery
Language & Communication Development Numeracy & Numbers	Congregated 1 period each semester
Personal Life Skills (recreational skills, vocational skills, social skills)	Congregated 1 period each semester
Religion	Integrated
Plus 3 courses from: other subject areas of interest	Integrated

### Grade 12 and Year 5, 6, 7

Course	Mode of Delivery
Language & Communication Development Numeracy & Numbers	Congregated 1 period each semester
Exploring the World of Work	In school and community/workplace experience
Religion	Integrated
Plus courses of interest from other subject areas	Integrated

## Community Living Program

The Community Living Program is for students entering Grade 9 with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) focusing on modified expectations for the Ontario Curriculum that are modified significantly below grade level and reduced in number and complexity. The student may also be working on individualized alternative expectations. This pathway can be explored during the Gr. 8 Transition Meeting.

### The Community Living Program supports students to:

- Continue to develop life skills to achieve their fullest level of independence within the school and wider community
- Identify volunteer, recreation, and community involvement interests and abilities
- Prepare for the transition from school to work, ongoing learning opportunities and community programs

### Highlights:

- Earn a Certificate of Accomplishment (non-credit) \*See page 10

## Sample Community Living Schedule

### Year 1, 2, 3 and 4

Course	Mode of Delivery
Language & Communication Development Numeracy & Numbers	Congregated 1 period each semester
Personal Life Skills (recreational skills, vocational skills, social skills)	Congregated 1 period each semester
Religion	Integrated
Plus 3 courses from: other subject areas of interest	Integrated

### Year 5, 6, 7

Course	Mode of Delivery
Language & Communication Development Numeracy & Numbers	Congregated 1 period each semester
Personal Life Skills	Congregated
Exploring Our World	Congregated
Religion	Integrated
Plus courses of interest from other subject areas	Integrated

# Multilingual Learners

## Supporting English Language Learners (ESL/ELD)



All students who require ESL or ELD Programming will be brought forward at annual Transition Meetings which take place near the end of Grade 8. The ESL teacher will work with the classroom teacher, the student and the family to ensure the best possible starting point. These students will have access to an ML Monitor teacher as well as typically smaller class sizes. Check out page 7 for details about the Multilingual Learner Grade 8 Information Nights being held in May.

### English as a Second Language (ESL)



The ESL Program is for students who are adding English to their skillset and who require support for English language acquisition.

Students in Grade 8 to Grade 9 can have varying starting points: ESL A, B, C or D. These are credit bearing courses and count toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).



### English Literacy Development (ELD)

- ELD courses can be recommended for students who have experienced gaps in their formal education and are adding English to their skillset. These courses support students' literacy and language development in English.
- Students can enter ELD programming at ELD A, B, C, D or E. These are credit bearing courses that will count toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).
- ELD programming is offered at Resurrection Catholic Secondary School, and St. Mary's High School. Transportation to one of these schools will be provided if eligibility requirements are met.
- **Resurrection CSS** welcomes students from their boundary as well as St. David's CSS for the ELD Program.
- **St. Mary's HS** welcomes students from their boundary, as well as St. Benedict CSS and Monsignor Doyle CSS for the ELD Program.



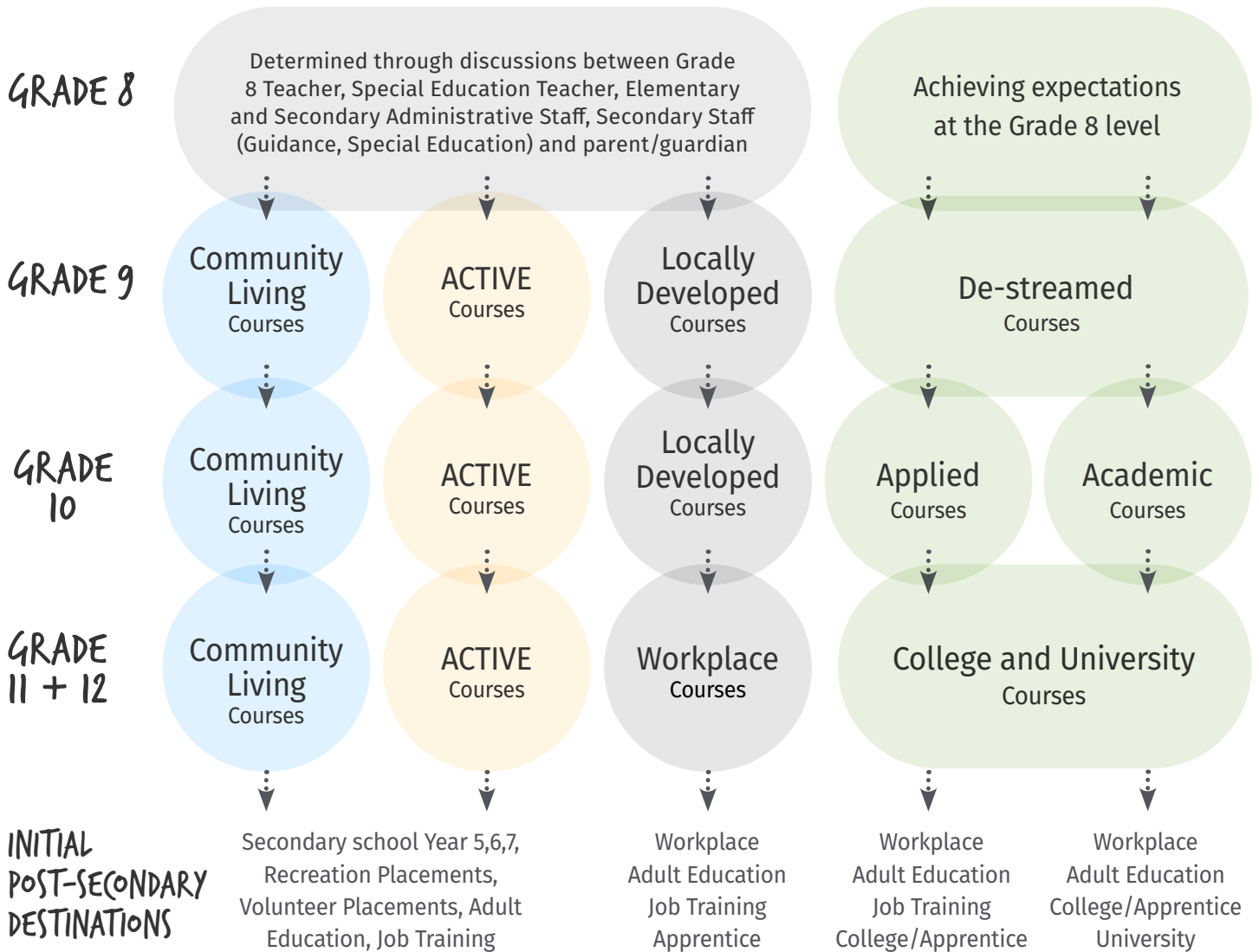
### Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS)

The Settlement Workers In Schools (SWIS) team is committed to linking newcomers with the school system and the community as part of the Settlement and Education Partnership.



# PATHWAYS - there are many pathways to success

This map is a guideline of pathway options, movement between the pathways is possible. Consult your teacher, parent/guardian and guidance teacher to review the option(s) that best meet your individual pathway plan for success.



## Q&A

Your Guidance Department is an excellent source of information on pathway choices.

### Can a student change course types?

**YES!** Students can change course types. Speak to a Guidance Teacher if this is something you are considering.

### Do all of the courses that a student selects have to be the same type? (i.e. all at the academic pathway?)

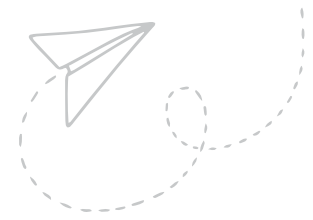
**NO!** Students are encouraged to take the type of course that best suits their interests, pathway plan and learning style. Students may select a variety of course types.

### Is there somewhere I can go for help if I have questions about course selection?

**YES!** Grade 8 teachers are available to assist with selecting courses for grade 9. All secondary schools offer information evenings to assist with the planning for the transition from grade 8 to 9 (see page 7). Secondary School Guidance Teachers are also available to help with any questions.

# Choosing for Success!

## Course Types - Grade 9 and 10



**Course Types for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)** As part of a broad strategy to provide equitable opportunities and positive outcomes for all students schools in Ontario will no longer stream students into Academic and Applied courses in Grade 9. This is called de-streaming. Students will continue their experience of learning together with peers and all students will have the same learning experience to be prepared for the senior program in secondary school, and to pursue any post-secondary pathway they choose.

The de-streaming of Grade 9 will hopefully alleviate the pressure of choosing a stream and allow students more time to explore areas of interest before deciding on a post-secondary pathway.

*Success for each, a place for all.*



★ **De-streaming Frequently Asked Questions:** <https://www.wcdsb.ca/de-streaming-faq/>

### Grade 9

**De-streamed (W)** courses equip all students with the knowledge, skills and work ethic to be successful in academic or applied courses in Grade 10.

A de-streamed course provides a single course that covers the foundations of applied and academic courses providing both theoretical and application based learning.

### Grade 10

**Academic (D)** courses focus on the key concepts of the subject (discipline) and explore related concepts as well. Academic courses develop students' knowledge and skills by emphasizing theoretical, abstract applications of the key concepts while incorporating practical applications.

**Applied (P)** courses focus on the key concepts of the subject (discipline) area. In applied courses, familiar, real-life situations will be used to illustrate ideas and students will be given more opportunities to experience hands-on practical applications of the concepts being studied.

**Advanced Placement Preparation (AP)** is an enrichment program that extends beyond the Ontario curriculum for motivated learners looking to be challenged. AP Prep courses are offered starting in Grade 10. For specific secondary school AP Prep offerings please contact the guidance department.

**Locally Developed (L)** courses are designed to focus on core knowledge and skills to meet individual student needs for compulsory subjects. Locally developed courses may review and reinforce elementary curriculum expectations to give students a stronger foundation necessary for further study at the secondary level. Locally developed courses should only be selected after consultation with parents/guardians, teachers and guidance.

**Open (O)** courses are appropriate for all students and are designed to broaden students' knowledge and skills in subjects that reflect their interests and prepare them for active and rewarding participation in society. They are not designed with the specific requirements of university, college, or the workplace in mind. For example, open courses are offered in Grade 9 and 10 arts, music, health and physical education as well as religion.

# Decoding a Course Code

## Courses use a 6-Character Course Code for Identification

The first 5 characters of the course code are set out by the Ministry of Education. The sixth character is used by school boards to identify a specific characteristic of the course. For example, French Immersion is identified in the WCDSB with an "F".



**CGC 1 D I**

Geography Grade 9 Academic

These three letters identify the subject. Subject Codes - the first letter in the course code denotes the course's department area.

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A = Arts                         | L = International Languages      |
| B = Business                     | K = Special Education Non-Credit |
| C = Canadian & World Studies     | M = Mathematics                  |
| E = English                      | P = Physical Education           |
| F = French                       | S = Sciences                     |
| G = Guidance & Career Educ.      | T = Technology                   |
| H = Humanities & Social Sciences |                                  |

This indicator is used to distinguish specific/specialized school programs.

This letter identifies the course type.

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>GRADES 9-10</b>        | <b>GRADES 11-12</b>    |
| D = Academic              | C = College            |
| L = Locally Developed     | E = Workplace          |
| N = Non-credit            | N = Non-credit         |
| O = Open                  | M = College/University |
| P = Applied - Grade 10    | O = Open               |
| W = De-streamed - Grade 9 | U = University         |

This number identifies the Grade/Level

- CREDIT COURSES**
- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1 = Grade 9  | 3 = Grade 11 |
| 2 = Grade 10 | 4 = Grade 12 |

This letter identifies the Grade/Level.

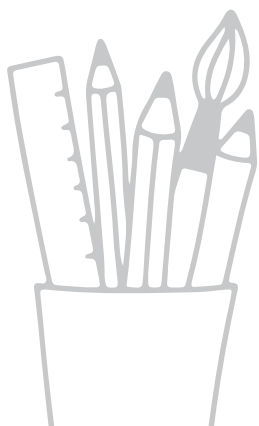
- ESL/ELD COURSES**
- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| A = Level 1 | D = Level 4 |
| B = Level 2 | E = Level 5 |
| C = Level 3 |             |

**NON-CREDIT COURSES (K-CODE):**

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| A = Grade 9  | E = Year 5 |
| B = Grade 10 | F = Year 6 |
| C = Grade 11 | G = Year 7 |
| D = Grade 12 |            |

**ESL A O 1**

English as a Second Language  
Level 1 Open



# Course Selection

Use the high school planner in myBlueprint to select your courses for grade 9

Seek advice from your teachers and family members when making these choices. There are opportunities throughout secondary school to move between course types if necessary, based on your skill development and post-secondary goals.

## Step 1 Add Courses:

Students choose **eight** courses for grade 9.

**Six or Seven\*** of your courses are **compulsory**: English, Math, Science, Geography, French and Religion.

**One or Two** of your courses will be **electives**.

Electives can include courses in the arts, business, physical education, and technology. Can't decide? Don't worry!

All these electives and more are also available for you to take in grade 10.

For those students entering the ACTIVE or Community Living programs there will be transition meetings with parents to discuss course selection in the early Spring.

*\*Students can choose to take their compulsory technological education credit in grades 9 or 10.*

## Step 2 Review and Submit Courses:

When you're satisfied with your eight course selections, click **Review Course Selections**. You'll have an opportunity to look over the courses you've chosen one last time. Check carefully: **Once you click the Submit Course Selections you can't make changes.**

## Step 3 Send Parent/Guardian Approval Email:

The last step is for you to send the Parent/Guardian Approval Email. Enter your Parent/Guardian's email so they can receive a copy of your course selections for online approval.

## Congratulations!

You've planned your courses for grade nine!

Mathematics  
Grade 9 • MATIL1 • 1 Credit • Locally Developed

Mathematics  
Grade 9 • MTH1W1 • 1 Credit • Destreamed

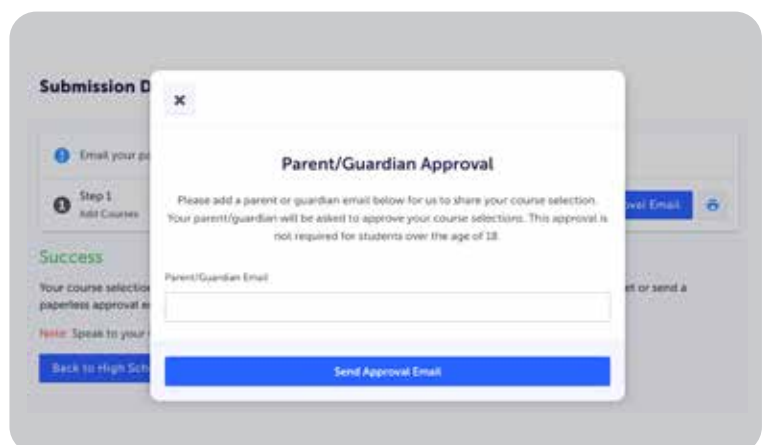
Visual Arts: Open  
Grade 9 • AV11O1 • 1 Credit • Open

Exploring Technologies: Open  
Grade 9 • TIJ1O1 • 1 Credit • Open

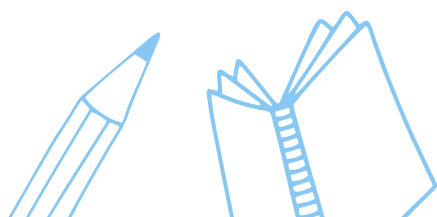
Completed

- + English
- + Mathematics
- + Science
- + Geography
- + French
- + Religion
- + Elective
- + Elective

Online Parent/Guardian Approval



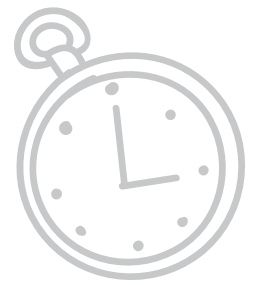
The screenshot shows a web interface for course selection. A modal window titled "Parent/Guardian Approval" is open, displaying the following text: "Please add a parent or guardian email below for us to share your course selection. Your parent/guardian will be asked to approve your course selections. This approval is not required for students over the age of 18." Below the text is a text input field labeled "Parent/Guardian Email" and a blue button labeled "Send Approval Email". In the background, a "Submission D" window is partially visible, showing a "Success" message: "Your course selection paperless approval is complete." and a "Note: Speak to your" followed by a "Back to High School" button.



# Decoding a Schedule

## Access your Student Schedule in the Aspen Student Portal

On your 'My Apps' page look for this Aspen icon.



## Student Schedule

Your Name

Student ID	123456789
YOG	2028
Homerroom	219

*Year of Graduation*

*Room Number*

*Teacher's Name*

### Schedule

**Period No./Cycle Day**

3(1) = Period 3/Cycle Day 1

• Each period is 75 minutes

Course	Description	Room	Teacher	Term	Schedule	Credits
FSF1DI-03	Core French	219	Sauve, Jeanne	S1	1 (1)	1.0
ADA1OI-01	Drama	118	Reynolds, Ryan	S1	2 (1)	1.0
CGC1DI-04	Issues in Canadian Geography	216	Suzuki, David	S1	3 (1)	1.0
MTH1WI-04	Mathematics	205	Einstein, Albert	S1	4 (1)	1.0
SNC1WI -05	Science	109	Nye, William	S2	1 (1)	1.0
PPL1OF-01	Healthy Active Living Education	GYM2	Andreesca, Bianca	S2	2 (1)	1.0
HRE1OI-08	Religious Education	203	Crosby, Douglas	S2	3 (1)	1.0
ENL1WI-02	English	219	Atwood, Margaret	S2	4 (1)	1.0

### Course Code and Section

CGC1DI -04  
Geography, Academic - Section 04

PPL 1OF - 01  
Phys. Ed., Open, Female - Section 01

SNC 1WI - 03  
Science, De-streamed - Section 03

### Term

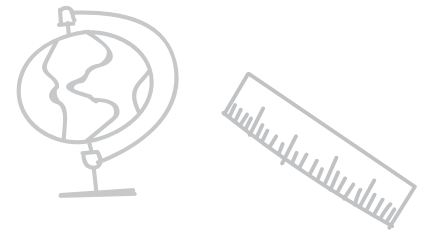
S1: Semester 1 Sept.- Jan.  
S2: Semester 2 Feb.- June

### Course Credit

Students take 4 credits in each semester

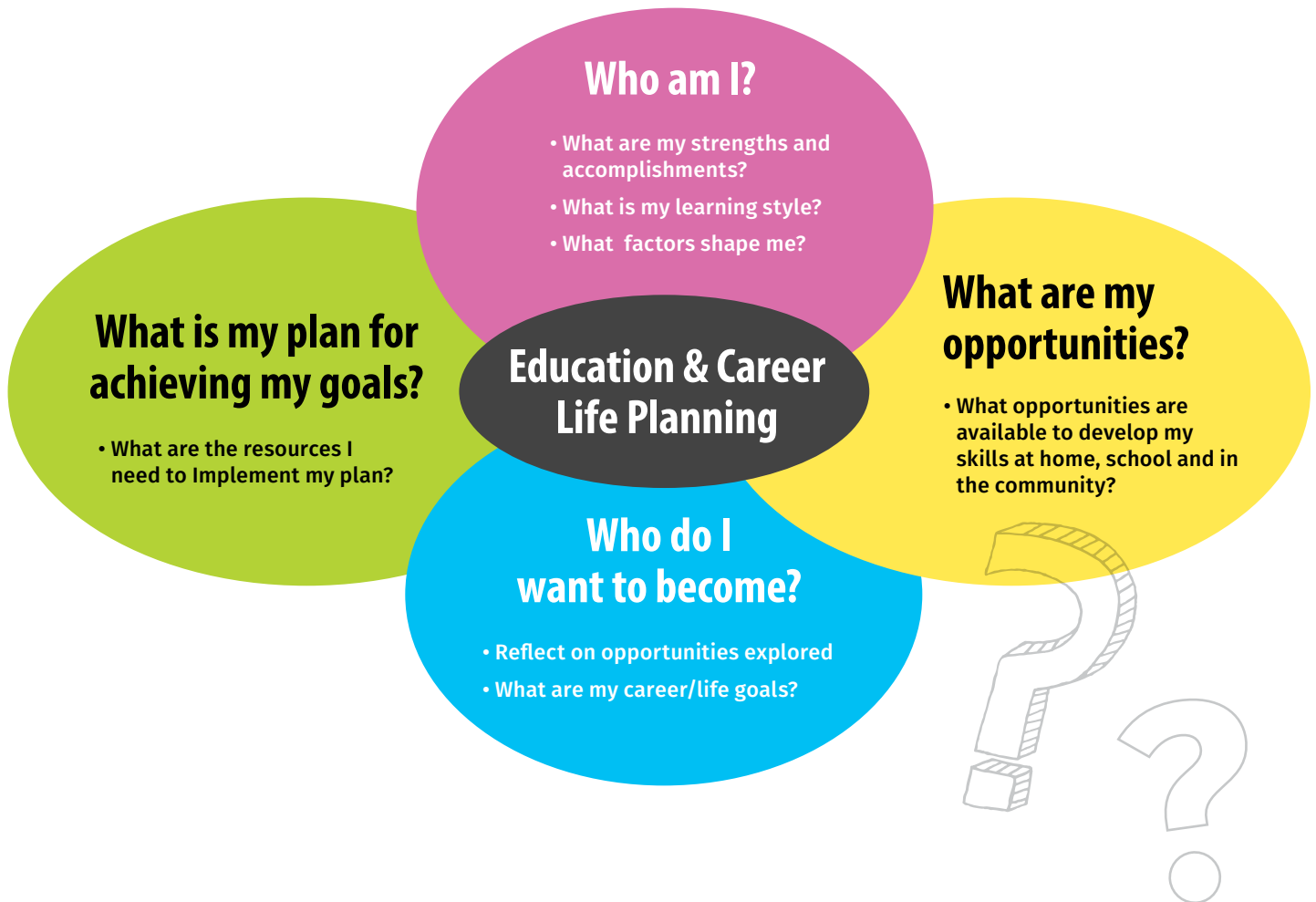
# Education & Career Life Planning

Your Path • Your Choice • Your Future



Your journey to success starts with your **Individual Pathways Plan (IPP)**.

Starting in elementary school students are encouraged to discover themselves, explore opportunities, pursue their passions and design their personal pathway to success. Students will capture evidence related to their learning in their IPP (Individual Pathways Plan) using a web-based program called myBlueprint. Together students and parents can explore career and education options.



## Who am I?

- What are my strengths and accomplishments?
- What is my learning style?
- What factors shape me?

## What is my plan for achieving my goals?

- What are the resources I need to implement my plan?

## Education & Career Life Planning

## What are my opportunities?

- What opportunities are available to develop my skills at home, school and in the community?

## Who do I want to become?

- Reflect on opportunities explored
- What are my career/life goals?

## Pathways

Create your Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) with myBlueprint



myBlueprint is a web-based interactive program used by WCDSB students, parents and teachers to facilitate career exploration, pathways planning, post-secondary research and portfolio development.

**Pathway planning activities are completed by all students in Grades 7 to 12 in myBlueprint.**

# Your Individual Pathways Plan

Starting Your Journey with myBlueprint

GRADE

8

WHO AM I?

#### ASSESS YOUR INTERESTS AND SKILLS

- Complete the Personality Survey
- Add Skills and Abilities

WHAT ARE MY OPPORTUNITIES?

#### EXPLORE CAREERS - Keep an open mind to ALL Pathways

- Search for Careers based on your interests
- Favourite one occupation

WHO DO I WANT TO BECOME?

#### PATHWAYS PLANNING

- Write two goals to help you achieve your plans
- Create a Portfolio to capture what you have learned and write a reflection

WHAT IS MY PLAN?

#### POST SECONDARY RESEARCH

- Select your secondary school courses for grade 9

#### PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT

- Use myBlueprint as your personal filing cabinet, upload files

## Plan & Select your courses

All students plan and select their courses online using myBlueprint. (see page 18)

FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

## Getting Started Students - 3 options:

1

Visit your WCDSB secondary school's website and click the **myBlueprint** icon on the home page

OR

2

Go to [www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic](http://www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic) and click the green "School Account Log In" button

OR

3

Log in to D2L. Select the Pathway logo at the top, and then select the myBlueprint icon

D2L



**Parent Portal** - Keep in touch with your child's Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) and together explore career and education options. Use the Parent Portal from anywhere you have access to a computer.

## Creating a Parent Account

- 1 Visit [www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic](http://www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic)
- 2 Click **Sign Up** in the top right corner
- 3 Select the secondary school your child would attend
- 4 Select Family/Advisor
- 5 Select student's grade range: Grade 7-12
- 6 Click Create My Account
- 7 Fill out personal information



Apprenticeship  
College  
Community  
University  
Work

## Pathways

Your Path • Your Choice • Your Future

Pathway destinations include: Apprenticeship, College, Community, University and Work.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board views all five post-secondary pathway destinations as worthy and valuable. In our secondary schools we provide students with a wide range of course types, programs, supports and learning opportunities to meet the needs of all learners and prepare students for success in secondary school and beyond.

Pathways are flexible and may be combined and changed. As students begin to know themselves,



their interests, strengths, values and skills they are better prepared to select related opportunities for learning and work.

In collaboration with guidance teachers, teachers and peers, students will develop an Individual Pathways Plan (IPP), make decisions, set goals and develop and implement the steps needed to successfully complete secondary school and proceed to their initial post-secondary pathway destination.





# Apprenticeship

## Pathway

Gain **85%** of your training **on the job**  
spend **15%** of your time **in the classroom**

Apprenticeship is a practical method of learning, providing hands-on training in over 150 skilled trades.

Apprentices are paid while gaining work experience and wages increase with skill level.

### How long does an Apprenticeship take?

Becoming a certified tradesperson requires a combination of on-the-job training and in-school training done at the local college, adult education, or training centre. Training lasts 3 to 5 years depending on the trade or occupation.

### Apprenticeship sectors

**include:** Motive Power, Service, Construction and Industrial.

### Apprenticeship leads to:

Apprenticeships give you the skills you need to pursue careers such as: carpenters, chefs, horticulturists, information technologists, educational assistants and hairstylists.

### Consider an Apprenticeship if:

- You enjoy hands-on learning and have good mechanical and spatial abilities.
- You enjoy fixing things, assembling and disassembling structures.
- You are able to solve problems, determine why something does not work and how it can be done better.
- You are interested in earning while you learn.



This Employment Ontario program is funded by the Government of Ontario.

## For more information on Apprenticeship, Visit:

[www.oyap.com](http://www.oyap.com)

[www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic](http://www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic)

[www.tcu.gov.on.ca](http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca)

[el.wcdsb.ca/programs/](http://el.wcdsb.ca/programs/)

<https://careersintrades.ca/>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/start-apprenticeship>



# College Pathway



College programs provide an effective combination of real life skills with quality education. Colleges are more interactive, more instructive and project based to facilitate faster learning.

### College leads to:

College programs give you the skills you need to pursue a variety of careers such as: journalists, police officers, dental hygienists, website technicians, paralegals and chemical technologists.

### How long does College take?

Colleges have certificate, diploma, graduate certificate, applied degree, or joint college/ university programs, that take 1 to 4 years to complete

Cooperative education programs may also be offered which provide paid work experience related to a field of study.



### Consider College if:

- You find success in hands-on learning.
- You are looking to get in, get out, and get to work, as most college programs are a shorter term.
- You enjoy smaller classes and the personal approach to instruction.
- You have specific career goals that require a college education.
- You are interested in developing technical and occupational skills required for your chosen career area.

### Also consider:

- Entrance requirements
- Tuition costs
- Location
- Experience
- Job prospects

## For more information on College, Visit:

[www.ontariocolleges.ca](http://www.ontariocolleges.ca)

[www.gotocollege.ca](http://www.gotocollege.ca)

[www.tcu.gov.on.ca](http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca)

[www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic](http://www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic)

[www.transitionresourceguide.ca](http://www.transitionresourceguide.ca)

[el.wcdsb.ca/programs/](http://el.wcdsb.ca/programs/)

[www.osap.gov.on.ca](http://www.osap.gov.on.ca)





# Community Pathway

From the Community Pathway programs (Community Living and ACTIVE), students transition to adult life incorporating activities and pastimes chosen to reflect an individual's interests, skills and needs.

**The Community Pathway leads to adult life that can include participation in:**

- Paid and/or volunteer work placements
- Recreation and sports activities
- Ongoing learning opportunities
- Arts and hobby enjoyment
- Social experiences

**Making plans for this Pathway?**

- Students may participate in the Community Living or ACTIVE Programs at secondary school until June of the calendar year in which they turn 21 years of age.

- Transition Plans are reviewed and updated yearly as part of the IEP process.
- Students, parents/guardians, special education teachers and community support agencies work together to plan for a student's life after secondary school.

**Consider the Community Pathway if:**

- You will graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC) or a Certificate of Accomplishment.
- You will enjoy learning, vocational, social and recreational activities.
- You would benefit from community agency support for your life planning.



**For more information on  
Community, Visit:**

[www.dsontario.ca](http://www.dsontario.ca)

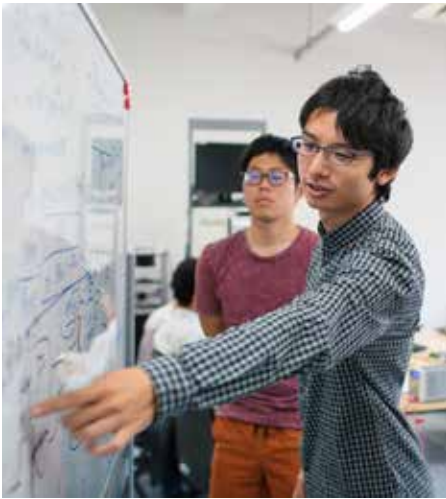
[www.dscwr.com](http://www.dscwr.com)

[www.wrfn.info](http://www.wrfn.info)

[www.wcdsb.ca/programs-and-services/special-education/](http://www.wcdsb.ca/programs-and-services/special-education/)

[www.communitylivingontario.ca](http://www.communitylivingontario.ca)





# University

## Pathway

University offers a broad comprehensive education in general areas (sciences, humanities and business).

### University leads to:

University programs give you the skills you need to pursue careers such as: engineers, musicians, financial analysts, registered nurses.

### How long does University take?

- Students in university obtain bachelor degrees, masters degrees, and doctorate degrees, ranging from 3 to 10 years of study.
- Universities also offer continuing education and certificate programs, as well as collaborative joint degree programs and cooperative education offering a paid work experience related to a field of study.

### Consider University if:

- You enjoy abstract concepts associated with course material and academic or theoretical learning.
- You enjoy independent, self-directed learning.
- You have specific career goals in mind that require a university education.

### Also consider:

- Entrance requirements
- Tuition costs
- Location
- Experience
- Job prospects
- Program length

## For more information on University, Visit:

[www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca](http://www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca)

[www.ouac.on.ca](http://www.ouac.on.ca)

[www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic](http://www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic)

[el.wcdsb.ca/programs/](http://el.wcdsb.ca/programs/)

[www.osap.gov.on.ca](http://www.osap.gov.on.ca)

[www.degreetocareer.uwo.ca](http://www.degreetocareer.uwo.ca)

[www.transitionresourceguide.ca](http://www.transitionresourceguide.ca)

[www.oua.ca/](http://www.oua.ca/)



# Work Pathway

A wide variety of careers require a secondary school diploma, followed by specific on-the-job training or entry-level positions from secondary school including: real estate agents, animal care workers, bank tellers, photographers, website designers and construction labourers.

Some students who choose direct entry into work may later pursue an Apprenticeship, College and/or University.

### Consider direct entry into the Workplace if:

- You have been successful in Workplace pathway courses and wish to explore workplace opportunities.

- You have developed practical workplace skills that have prepared you for a specific career without needing to pursue an Apprenticeship, College or University first.
- You want to gain workplace experience before continuing post-secondary education.
- You have specific career goals in mind that allow you to go directly to the workplace for on-the-job training.
- Reach out to your Guidance counsellor about Credits@Work or Summer Co-op opportunities. In some instances, your summer or part-time job while in school could be used toward a secondary school credit.



## For more information on direct entry into the Workplace, Visit:

[www.lutherwood.ca](http://www.lutherwood.ca)

[www.cambridgecareerconnections.com](http://www.cambridgecareerconnections.com)

[www.jobbank.gc.ca](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca)

[www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic](http://www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic)

# Looking Ahead

## Explore the Pathways

### Education and Career/Life Exploration Activities



**Experiential Learning**

Your Path • Your Choice • Your Future

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board offers a wide variety of programs and activities to support education and career/life exploration. These activities give the students an opportunity to connect what they learn in school with the world beyond school. Experiential learning is particularly helpful in developing self-knowledge and awareness of opportunities. The majority of the programs noted are for students in Gr. 11 or 12.

NOVEMBER



## Take our Kids To Work Day

- Grade 9 students step into their future for a day and get a glimpse into the working world. The day involves students spending the day in the workplace of a parent, relative, friend or volunteer host, where they experience and learn about the world of work.



## SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR (SHSM)

SHSM students focus their grade 11 and 12 education on a career path in a chosen sector. Students will meet the requirements of their OSSD by taking courses related to their sector, participating in a Cooperative Education experience and develop skills through industry recognized certifications. Successful students receive an SHSM red seal on their diploma and gain important skills on the job with employers.

Visit: [www.highskills.ca](http://www.highskills.ca)

## COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

Cooperative education is a learning partnership that provides senior students with valuable work experience while earning secondary credits. Co-op is a great way to try out a career and gain valuable skills and experience in a field that interests you.

Visit: [el.wcdsb.ca/programs/co-op/](http://el.wcdsb.ca/programs/co-op/)

## ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (OYAP)

OYAP is a school-to-work program. Students can start their apprenticeship while in Co-op. OYAP students gain experience, skills, and apprenticeship qualifications while earning credits towards an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Visit: [www.oyap.com](http://www.oyap.com)

Visit: [el.wcdsb.ca/programs/oyap](http://el.wcdsb.ca/programs/oyap)



This Employment Ontario program is funded by the Government of Ontario.



# Looking Ahead

Explore the Pathways  
Education and Career/Life Exploration Activities



**Experiential Learning**  
Your Path • Your Choice • Your Future



## St. Louis Adult & Continuing Education Programs

Various youth and adult programs available including 60 credits courses and 3 skilled certificate programs as transition options from Secondary.

**Visit:** [www.stlouis.wcdsb.ca](http://www.stlouis.wcdsb.ca)

### COLLEGE APPRENTICESHIP PREPARATION PROGRAM (CAPP)

Secondary students attend college for free! Students take tuition free Apprenticeship Preparation courses at Conestoga College. Students receive secondary school credits for each college course successfully completed as well as earning two Co-op credits while working in a placement related to their program.

**Visit:** [el.wcdsb.ca/programs](http://el.wcdsb.ca/programs)



### COLLEGE COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM (CCEP)

Senior students attend Conestoga College to take tuition free college courses. Students receive secondary school credits for each college course successfully completed as well as earning two Co-op credits while working in a placement related to their program.

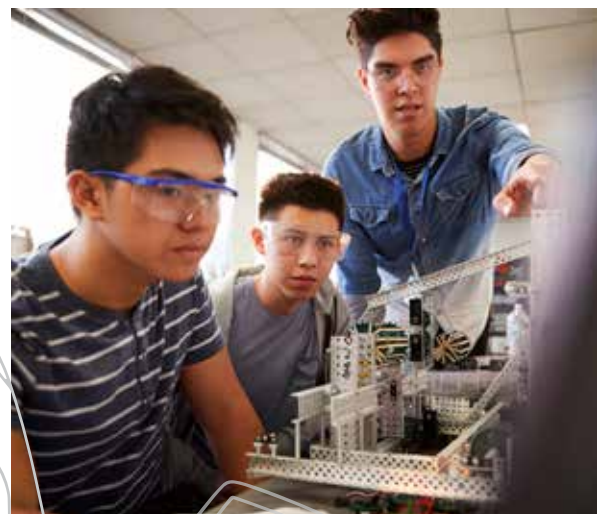
**Visit:** [el.wcdsb.ca/](http://el.wcdsb.ca/)



### UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM (UCEP)

This University transition program offers students the opportunity to experience learning in a University setting in their Grade 12 year. Learning typically includes taking one university course, two secondary courses delivered on campus and a Co-op placement.

**Visit:** [el.wcdsb.ca/programs/ucep](http://el.wcdsb.ca/programs/ucep)



### EXPLORING THE WORLD OF WORK AND EXPLORING OUR WORLD

Senior students in the Community Living and ACTIVE programs explore potential work or volunteer placements.

**Visit:** [el.wcdsb.ca/programs/](http://el.wcdsb.ca/programs/)



# Planning & Getting Ready for Secondary School

★ Things you can do in the summer before Grade 9

## BRIDGE TO SUCCESS (Reach Ahead)

July – Full days Summer School Gr. 9 CREDIT

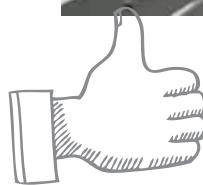
HIF 101: Exploring Family Studies. Students learn how individuals relate to others, how to manage resources, and how to become responsible members of society.



## EXPLORING ENGINEERING

July – Full days Summer School Gr. 9 CREDIT

TDJ 101: Students will be introduced to Engineering Design fundamentals, Automotive and Architectural/Civil Engineering.



"Our son thoroughly enjoyed the program and took the initiative to work on projects on his own time."  
PARENT

## SUMMER EXPEDITION

Locations to be determined

July - 15 Half days non-credit

FREE 3 - week FUN learning journey to improve numeracy and literacy achievement. Lessons leverage use of new technology and math tools to decrease learning gaps, develop vocabulary and increase confidence.



For the latest updates on all summer programs  
Visit: [www.wcdsb.ca/summer-learning/](http://www.wcdsb.ca/summer-learning/)





# Planning & Getting Ready for Secondary School

★ Things you can do in the summer before Grade 9

## NOW

### Newcomer Orientation Week

Offered at St. Mary's HS and Resurrection CSS

End of August - 3 Full days

Teachers, YMCA School Settlement Workers (SWIS) and Peer Leaders provide a range of information, fun activities and sharing experiences for newly arrived youth. This orientation programs runs for 3 days during the week leading up to the first day of school and helps with a smooth entry into school.



"The teachers were very encouraging and our son was highly engaged and keen to learn."  
PARENT

### HeadStart to Grade 9

Offered at every WCDsb secondary school

End of August - 4 Half days

Prepare for those first few weeks/ months of Grade 9. HeadStart is a fun, free, practical support program offered just before school begins. This transition includes school orientation, games, timetables, lockers, study tips, D2L and a chance to reunite with and meet new peers. **Online Registration is required.**



"This is a valuable program. I've had 3 kids attend over the years and I tell all the parents I know to sign up their kids."  
PARENT



For the latest updates on all summer programs  
Visit: [www.wcdsb.ca/summer-learning/](http://www.wcdsb.ca/summer-learning/)



# Planning & Getting Ready for Secondary School

★ Things you can do in the summer before Grade 9



## Remember!

Post-Secondary Scholarships often consider extracurriculars and community involvement.

### Helpful Hints...

- ✓ Purchase your uniform before September
- ✓ Plan your travel to and from school in advance

### Once School Starts:

- ✓ Get involved in activities or clubs that interest you
- ✓ Develop good study habits and organizational skills
- ✓ Attend class and complete assignments on time



## Start your Community Involvement Hours

**40**  
HOURS

The summer leading up to Grade 9 is an excellent time to start accumulating hours towards the 40 you must have to graduate with an OSSD.

Community Involvement Hours are important learning opportunities for students to explore career options, develop their skills and interests, and promote community values.

## How to Document and Submit Your Hours

For additional information including a copy of the Community Involvement Submission form

Visit: [www.el.wdcsb.ca/volunteer](http://www.el.wdcsb.ca/volunteer)



# Giving Back with Community Involvement Hours

## ★ A Secondary School Graduation Requirement

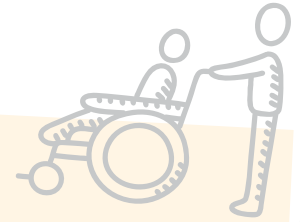
Every secondary school student must complete a minimum of 40 hours of Community Involvement activities as one of the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Early completion of the 40 hours of Community Involvement is strongly recommended.

Students may complete one activity of 40 hours, or several activities which add up to 40 hours. The requirement must be completed outside of scheduled class time:

- ✓ during the lunch hour
- ✓ in the evening
- ✓ during the summer
- ✓ on the weekends
- ✓ during school holidays
- ✓ during school
- ✓ suspensions/expulsions



Students may complete the requirement at any time starting in the summer before they start Grade 9 and finishing before May of their graduation year.



### Purpose

- to develop awareness and understanding of civic responsibility
- to gain satisfaction supporting and strengthening their community
- to develop a greater sense of identity within the community



## Suggestions of Volunteer Opportunities

- Contact the Region of Waterloo's Volunteer Action Centre for current activities (including Virtual):  
**Volunteer Action Centre**  
1454 King St. E. Unit 3 Kitchener, ON N2G 2N7  
519-742-8610 | volunteerwr.ca
- Check volunteer opportunities in **Guidance/Student Activities Departments**
- Contact **Public Institutions**
- Contact **Regional or Local Government**
- Contact **Service Clubs** to assist with some of their projects
- Contact **local library and Information Centers** for a list of agencies in the community

# Mental Health & Wellbeing

Good mental health is something we all want for ourselves, our friends, our family and others in our community. Just like we care for our physical health, there are things we need to do to stay mentally healthy.

## About your Mental Health



We all have mental health, and we need to do our best to take care of it. But, just like physical health, our mental health changes now and then, and we go through periods when we don't feel as well mentally.

## Staying Well



We can't take our mental health for granted. Learn some strategies for caring for your mental health, in good times and not-so-good times.

## Signs to Watch For



There are times we may need more support to help us maintain our mental health. Learn the signs that you or a friend may need help.

## Get Help Early



All of us experience problems with our mental health from time to time. When you think you need help, you need to know where to turn. Reach out early, and get the help you need.

## Help a Friend



We're all in this together. Find out what you can do to support your friends and classmates.

## Understanding Social-Emotional Learning



Maintaining a positive outlook, building healthy relationships and making responsible decisions are social and emotional skills that help us to thrive. Social-emotional learning is the process of learning and practicing these skills.



School  
Mental Health  
Ontario

[SMHO-SMSO.ca](http://SMHO-SMSO.ca)

We work together with Ontario school districts to support student mental health

Visit:

<https://www.wcdsb.ca/mental-health/>

 @WCDSBWellness

# FAQ's

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Where do you buy a uniform?

Uniforms can be purchased at R. J. McCarthy, 44 Saltsman Dr Unit #1, Cambridge, ON.

Visit: [www.rjmccarthy.com](http://www.rjmccarthy.com)

### How do you get to school?

The following website has been developed to provide information about school locations, boundaries and transportation eligibility.

Visit: [www.stswr.ca](http://www.stswr.ca)



### Can I complete my 40 hours community involvement at any time?

Students may start accumulating community involvement hours in the summer before entering grade 9. Visit: [www.wcdsb.ca/our-schools/student-community-involvement/](http://www.wcdsb.ca/our-schools/student-community-involvement/)

### Can course types be changed during or after grade 9?

Yes. Course types can be changed in consultation with teacher, parent and guidance teacher and is dependent upon availability.

### Do all compulsory courses have to be taken at the same level?

No, students are encouraged to take the courses that best suit their interests, academic ability, goals and learning styles.

### How do you get involved in a club or team?

School activities are communicated to students in a variety of ways.

Listen and look for school announcements for details about getting involved. Many clubs and sports begin the first week of school.



### Where do you go to get important dates and information about your secondary school such as report cards, PD days, parent nights, exam schedule, student activities?

Check the school's website for details or sign up for the school newswire to receive the most up-to-date information.

### How do you get your locker and schedule?

You will receive your registration information the summer before you begin grade 9. Locks must be purchased through the school and are a part of your registration fee.

### What if you can't find a class or open your locker?

Link Crew or Phoenix Friends are senior student mentors who can help answer any questions you have as you adjust to life in secondary school.

### How do you find information about summer learning programs?

Updated information and registration forms for HeadStart, Summer Expedition, Bridge to Success and other programs are available at: [stlouis.wcdsb.ca/summer-programs/](http://stlouis.wcdsb.ca/summer-programs/)



# Terms & Definitions



## Compulsory Course

Refers to a specific course students must take and which fulfills part of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or the Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC) requirements.

## Course Calendar

Course calendars are available on secondary school websites and in myBlueprint. The calendar describes courses and diploma requirements.

## Credit

A credit is what you earn after successfully completing a course with a minimum of 50%. A one-credit course is scheduled for a minimum of 110 hours.

## Credit Recovery Programs

Credit recovery may be offered to a student who has not been successful in demonstrating all of the curriculum expectations in a specific course.

## Credit Rescue

Credit Rescue may be offered to a student who is at risk of not successfully completing course expectations that he/she is presently enrolled in.

## Elective Courses

Students will select courses that are of specific interest to them and will count towards the OSSD/OSSC requirements.

## Individual Education Plan (IEP)

IEP is a written working document describing the special education program and/or services required by a particular student, based on a thorough assessment of the student's strengths and needs.

## Individual Pathways Plan (IPP)

Throughout your school years, students will explore and assess their opportunities, goals and plans for their future careers. Individual Pathways Plans (IPP) will be saved online in myBlueprint.

## Prerequisite

A prerequisite course is a course that you must pass before moving on to the next level. For example, you must pass Grade 10 Applied English before you take Grade 11 College English.

## Semester

The school year is divided into two semesters; September - January & February - June. A student will take 4 courses in each semester.

## Schedule

You will receive a schedule that will indicate the courses you take, the period number, the room number and your teacher's name.

## Transition Plan

Is a component of the IEP that assists students to identify goals and actions necessary for successful transitions.



# Our Catholic Secondary Schools



## Quality, Inclusive, Faith Based Education

The following chart represents the Catholic associate elementary schools for each of the Catholic secondary schools. A student's qualification for registration at a particular secondary school is based on the address of the custodial parent's/guardian's principal residence and not exclusively on the elementary school which they attended.



St. David CSS	Resurrection CSS	St. Mary's HS	Monsignor Doyle CSS	St. Benedict CSS
4 High Street, Waterloo (519) 885-1340 Principal: David Jaeger <a href="http://stdavid.wcdsb.ca">stdavid.wcdsb.ca</a>	455 University Ave. West, Waterloo (519) 741-1990 Principal: Marisa Munroe <a href="http://resurrection.wcdsb.ca">resurrection.wcdsb.ca</a>	1500 Blockline Road, Kitchener (519) 745-6891 Principal: Deanna Wehrle <a href="http://stmary.wcdsb.ca">stmary.wcdsb.ca</a>	185 Myers Road, Cambridge (519) 622-1290 Principal: Lou Bellini <a href="http://doyle.wcdsb.ca">doyle.wcdsb.ca</a>	50 Saginaw Parkway, Cambridge (519) 621-4050 Principal: Marg Ingoldsby <a href="http://stbenedict.wcdsb.ca">stbenedict.wcdsb.ca</a>

St. David Family	Resurrection Family	St. Mary's Family	Monsignor Doyle Family	St. Benedict Family
Sir Edgar Bauer St. Agnes St. Boniface St. Clement St. Luke St. Matthew St. Teresa of Avila St. Teresa, Kitchener	Holy Family Holy Rosary Our Lady of Lourdes St. Dominic Savio St. John's St. Mark St. Nicholas St. Paul	Blessed Sacrament Canadian Martyrs John Sweeney Monsignor Haller Our Lady of Grace Saint John Paul II St. Aloysius St. Anne, Kitchener St. Bernadette St. Daniel St. Kateri Tekakwitha St. Timothy St. Josephine Bakhita	Holy Spirit St. Anne, Cambridge St. Augustine St. Brigid St. Gregory St. Vincent de Paul	Christ the King Our Lady of Fatima St. Elizabeth St. Gabriel St. Joseph St. Margaret St. Michael St. Peter St. Teresa of Calcutta





## Create your Pathway to Success

Begin planning your own Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) by going to: [www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic](http://www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic)

Your Path • Your Choice • Your Future



**Waterloo Catholic  
District School Board**  
Quality, Inclusive, Faith Based Education

35 Weber Street West Kitchener  
ON, N2G 4G2 | 519-578-3660

[www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca)

*"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world."* Matthew 5:13-14