



HWDSB
BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.



Getting Ready for High School

November 13, 2025

A graphic of a target with three concentric rings. The innermost ring is red, the middle is yellow, and the outermost is blue. To the right of the rings, the numbers "7", "8", and "9" are written in a large, bold, red sans-serif font, partially overlapping the rings.

GRADE 7 & 8 INFORMATION NIGHTS

Welcome to Ancaster High School

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Principal

Mr. J. Monteith

Vice-Principals

Ms. C. Mills & Mr. B. Monkley

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Land Acknowledgement

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board acknowledges our presence on ancestral Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Confederacy land as determined by the Dish with One Spoon treaty.

The intent of this agreement is for all nations sharing this territory to do so responsibly, respectfully and sustainably in perpetuity.

We respect the longstanding relationships with the local Indigenous communities, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River.

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TONIGHT'S PLAN

- Meet the Principal and Student Success Teacher
- Grade 9 Ambassadors
- How is High School Different?
- Electives at Ancaster High School
- Special Programs

*Please return on **January 15, 2026** from 6-7 pm for “Grade 9 Course Selection Information Night”!*

Follow the Crowd!

- Meet Department Leaders (Gym A/B)
- Visit the Club Fair (Cafeteria)

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Student Success Teacher

(Student Achievement & Well-being, Progressions)

Ms. Adams

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Grade 9 Ambassadors

HWDSD

Mana Mansoor

Carly Oakes

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GRADE 7 & 8 INFORMATION NIGHTS

How is Grade 9 different from Grade 8?

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Guidance Counsellors

(Well-being & Career Planning)

Ms. O'Sullivan (A-F)

Mr. Nicholson (G-M)

Ms. Turner (N-Z)

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LEARNING RESOURCE TEACHERS

(Individual Education Plans, Resource Room)

Ms. Baker

Ms. Crowe

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OTHER HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORTS

- Social Worker
- Alternatives for Youth (AY) Counsellor
- College in Motion
- Peer Tutors
- Peer Counselling
- Positive Space Club
- Alternative Education Teachers

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How is high school different?

- Two semesters (five months each)
- Four courses every day, 75 minutes each
- Students get to *choose* courses
- Students are granted “credit” for passing a course
- Final exams
- No recess ☹....but students are free to go outside at break and at lunch!

Sample Grade 9 Timetable

Period and Time	Semester One (Sept. - Jan.)	Semester Two (Feb. - June)
Period 1	English*	Math*
Period 2	French	Visual Arts
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
Period 3	Technological Education	Science*
Period 4	Geography	Family Studies

***Maximum of two per semester for a good balance**

How is high school different?

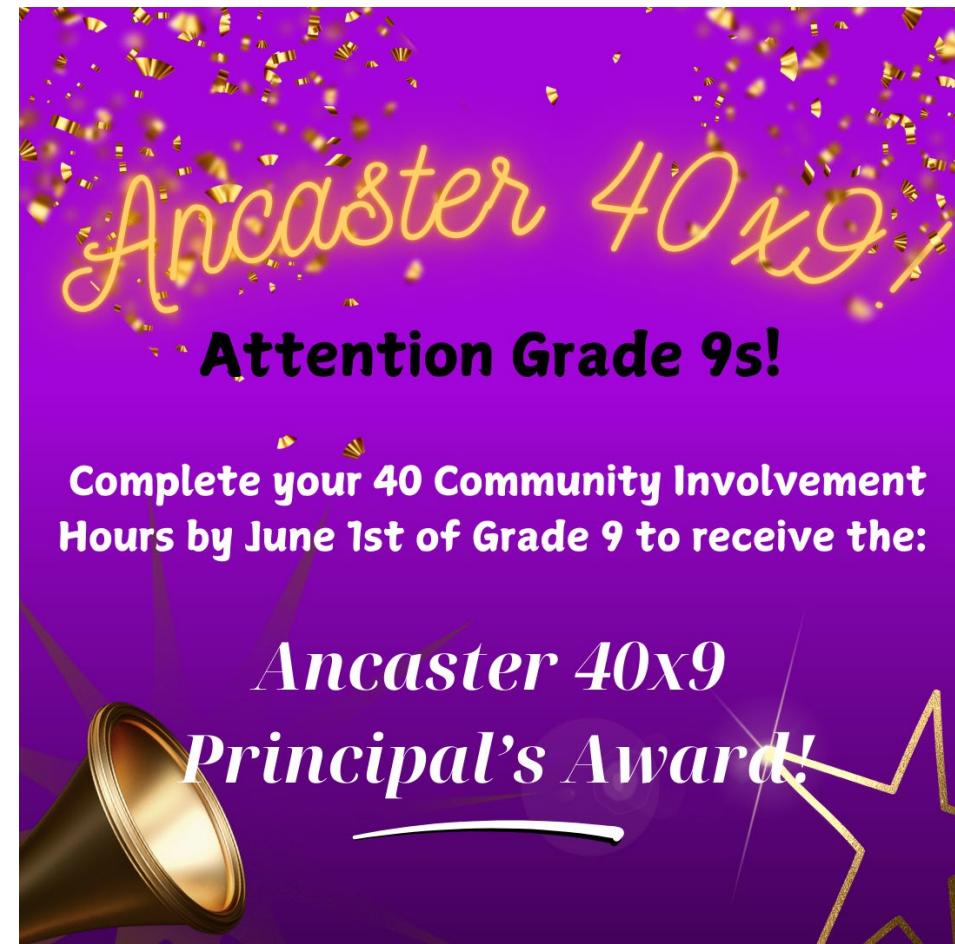
Graduation depends on:

- **30 credits**
 - 17 compulsory, 13 elective
- **40 volunteer hours**
- **Passing the Grade 10 Literacy Test**
- Achieving **70%** on the Financial Literacy Test in Grade 10 Math
- **Two e-Learning** courses (opt-out option)
- <https://www.ontario.ca/page/earning-your-high-school-diploma>

*Details on
January 15!*

Ancaster 40x9 Award!

- Complete 40 hours of community service by the end of Grade 9 (40x9)
- Start volunteering in your community as early as July 1, 2026



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Grade 9 Compulsories

Everyone takes these five courses:

- English
- French
- Geography
- Math
- Science



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Grade 9 Electives* (Choose 3)

Drama

Family Studies

Music

Technology

Repertoire Music

Healthy Active Living (Phys-Ed)

Visual Art

Sport Performance (Phys-Ed)

Non-Traditional Art

Hockey (Phys-Ed)

Business

**Most satisfy one of the 17 compulsories – more information in January. Please come back!*

Special Programs Start in Grade 11

Specialist High Skills Majors

Arts & Culture, Healthcare, Hospitality, ICT, Manufacturing,

- Students will graduate with specialized skills, knowledge and certifications relevant to their chosen industry
- Students take a 2-credit co-op and a bundle of 5 credits in addition to English and Math
- No special preparation is needed in grade 9 or 10

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

- Students prepare by taking Grade 11 math early
- Recommended that students take Grade 10 French

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International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

- A challenging two-year curriculum (Gr 11 & 12)
- Includes studying six subjects
- Provides a global perspective with cross-cultural understanding
- Leads to a qualification recognized by the world's universities
- Students graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma AND the IB Diploma



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I.B. Information Night

This presentation will be most beneficial for students in grade 9 or 10 and their families. Grade 7/8 families are welcome too!

HWDSB

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

6 to 8 p.m.

HWDSB Education Centre

20 Education Court, Hamilton, Ontario L9A 0B9

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PLEASE COME BACK!

HWDSDB

GRADE 9 COURSE SELECTION NIGHT for FAMILIES

- January 15, 2026 from 6 – 7 p.m. in the auditorium
- Graduation requirements and recent changes
- Detailed information on high school courses, special programs, and pathways
- Out-of-catchment application process, transportation
- Q & A

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Over 30 Clubs – Visit the Library!

Academic Clubs

Business & Investment Strategies Club
DECA
Homework Club/OSSLT Prep
HOSA
Math Club
Peer Tutoring Club
Robotics Club
STEAM

Athletic & Active Clubs

Ancaster Athletic Executive Council (AAC)
Dance Team
Sports Teams

Altruistic & Social Clubs

Aerospace Club
Announcement Crew
Automotive Safety Club
Best Buddies
Blood Drive Heroes
Chess Club
Dungeons & Dragons Club
Grad Committee
Healthy Action Team (HAT)
Knitting & Crocheting Club
Make-A-Wish
MedLife
Positive Space
Prayer Group
Royal Gazette
Student Council

Arts & Creative Clubs

Auditorium (Aud) Squad
Concert Band
(NST) Drama Festival Club
Musical Theatre Cast & Crew
Photography & Video Club
Rock Band
Yearbook

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Sports!

Badminton

Baseball

Basketball

Cricket

Cross Country

Dance Team

Field Hockey

Football

Golf

Hockey

Soccer

Swimming

Tennis

Touch Football

Track & Field

Ultimate Frisbee

Volleyball

Water Polo

Wrestling

Our Football Coach & Phys-Ed Teacher

Mr. Dunbrack

Toronto Argonauts
Ottawa Renegades
Hamilton Tiger-Cats





ROYALS

0 ft

20

0 25

0 40

0 55

30

40

50



0 ft

10

20

30

40

50

Ancaster High's NHL and OHL Pedigree

Our Hockey teacher:

- Mr. Ryan Lounsbury, skate coach for the **OHL Guelph Storm**
- Former skate coach for the **NHL Vancouver Canucks**!



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Thank you for coming!

Follow the Crowd!

- *Gym A/B to meet our department leaders*
- *Library for the Club Fair*

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