



Welcome, Class of 2030!

January 27, 2026

Questions?



Who Are We?

Mr. Monteith

Principal

Mr. Nicholson snichols@hwdsb.on.ca

Guidance Counsellor (Last Names G-M)

Ms. Adams daadams@hwdsb.on.ca

Student Success Teacher

BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

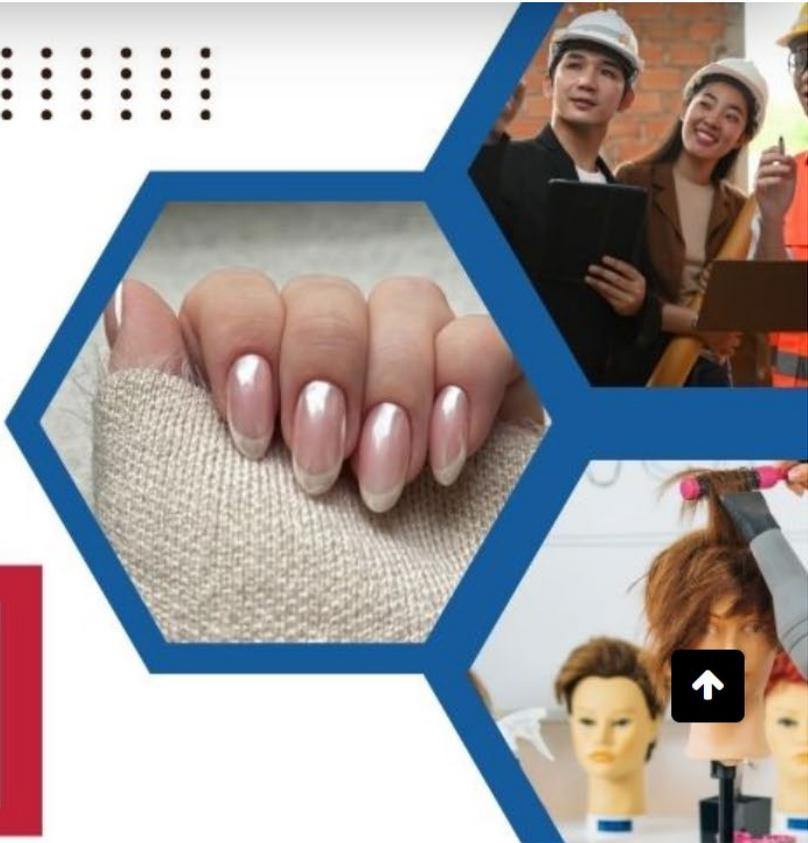
Your Student Attends Meadow, Mt. Hope, Panabaker, Spring Valley, or Tiffany Hills	Your Student Attends a Different HWDSB School	You Live in Our Catchment But Don't Attend an HWDSB School	You Live out of catchment and don't attend an HWDSB school
<p>We've already visited your student's school for information and help planning 8 courses.</p>	 <p>This presentation and our course offerings are on our website www.hwdsb.on.ca/ancasterhigh/student-services/grade8</p>	  <p>This presentation and our course offerings are on our website www.hwdsb.on.ca/ancasterhigh/student-services/grade8</p>	<p>Wait to see if AHS is open to out-of-catchment. Check here: www.hwdsb.on.ca/find/#tabs-113 <i>(Last year: ready by Feb 10)</i></p>
<p>Your student is already loaded into myBlueprint.</p> <p>We are returning in February to help upload your student's choices into myBlueprint.</p>	<p>Your student's current HWDSB school will set the Next-School-Indicator to Ancaster High and myBlueprint will update overnight. R.A. Riddell students will have help from Ms. Adams to upload their choices to myBlueprint.</p>	<p>Register with HWDSB starting February 2nd</p> <p>Please download a special version of our course offerings (.pdf fillable) and e-mail it to gillman@hwdsb.on.ca after registering. myBlueprint is not available until September.</p>	<p>Please download a special version of our course offerings (.pdf fillable) – attach it to your Out-of-Catchment application. <i>(Last year: due Feb 28)</i></p> <p>If accepted, courses will be sent to us automatically. myBlueprint is not available until September.</p>

www.hwdsb.on.ca/cce/summer

Grade 8 :::::
Summer Reach Ahead
Course Registration
OPENS FEBRUARY 2

Civics and/or Careers
Cosmetology
Construction

CLICK HERE FOR
MORE INFORMATION



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Summer School Reach Ahead *for Credit*

July 2 – 29, 2026

Grade 8 students can register for Civics (2 weeks) or Careers (2 weeks) or **both** (4 weeks). These are offered via **e-Learning only**

OR

One technology course **in-person** at one of our secondary schools

NOTE: some students qualify to take a learning strategies course for credit but need to talk to their grade 8 teacher before registering

To register, go to **myBlueprint.ca/hwdsb** and log in using your HWDSB credentials, then, click on Continuing Education on the left-hand-side.

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Summer School Programs (*Non-Credit*)

There are programs designed to help students improve their skills but do not grant a credit:

- International Languages
- Skill Builder
- ESL Literacy

Please talk to your Grade 8 teacher about these programs

TONIGHT'S PLAN

- How is High School Different?
- What are the requirements to graduate?
- Electives at Ancaster High School
- Looking ahead: special programs
- Using myBlueprint 

How is Grade 9 different from Grade 8?



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BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

Over 30 Clubs

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

Lots of Sports – Grade 9s Can Try Out!

Badminton

Football

Ultimate Frisbee

Baseball

Golf

Volleyball

Basketball*

Hockey

Water Polo

Cricket

Soccer*

Wrestling

Cross Country

Tennis

Dance Team

Flag Football*

Field Hockey

Track & Field

*These teams have special tournaments for Grade 9s only!

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!

Personalized Grade 9 Timetable

	Semester One (Sept. - Jan.)	Semester Two (Feb. - June)
Period 1	English*	Math*
Period 2	French	Arts & Crafts
<i>LUNCH</i>		
Period 3	Technological Education	Science*
Period 4	Geography	Sports & Games

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

Day 1 – Day 2 Schedule

Day 1 (Odd calendar days like February 1, 3, 5)	Day 2 (Even calendar days like February 2, 4, 6)
Period 1 – English	Period 2 – French
Period 2 – French	Period 1 – English
LUNCH	
Period 3 – Technology	Period 4 – Geography
Period 4 – Geography	Period 3 - Technology

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Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2030

Starting Grade 9 in September 2025 or After

30 Credits (17 compulsory)

40 Volunteer Hours

Pass the Gr 10 Literacy Test

Take 2 e-Learning Courses (optional)

Pass the Gr 10 Financial Literacy Assessment with 70% or Higher (*NEW*)

17 Compulsory

-4 English, 3 Math, 2 Science

-Gr 9/10 Tech (*NEW*), Geography, French, Phys-Ed, Art, History, Civics/Careers

-1 STEM (*NEW*)

STEM: Business, Computer Studies, Co-op, 4th Math, 3rd Science, 2nd Tech

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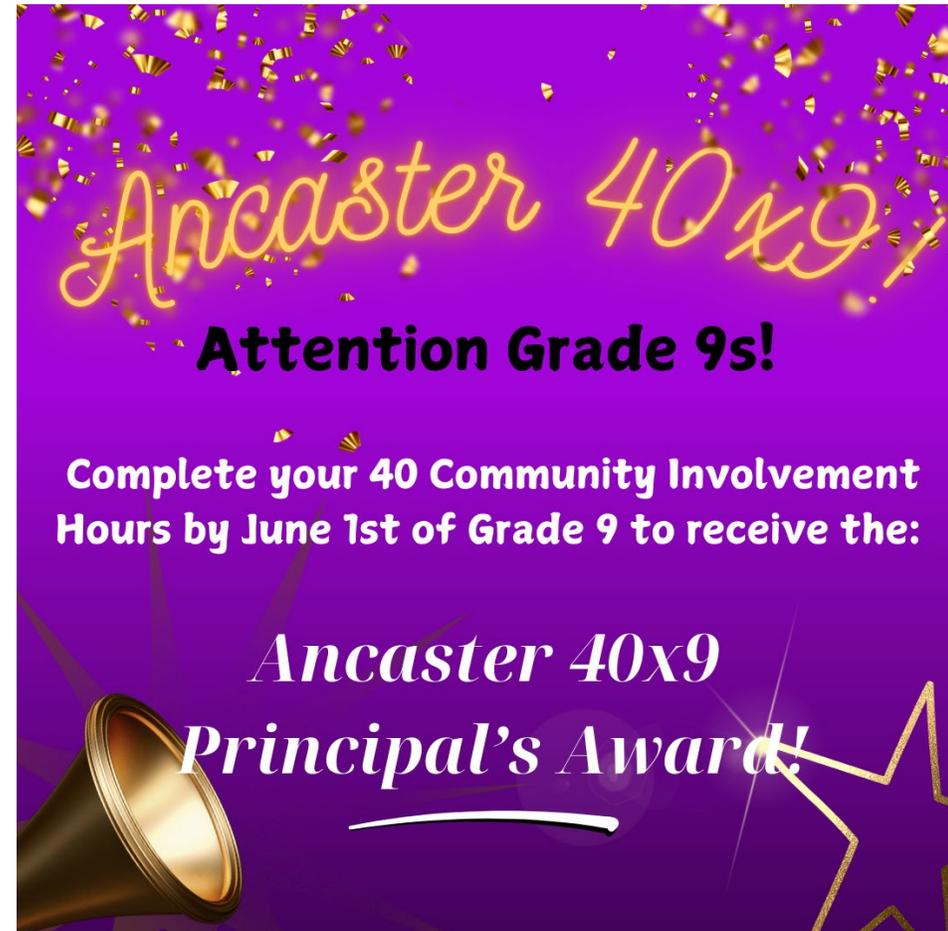
Community Involvement

- The organization should be community-based
- The activity should be something for which a person is not normally paid
- Check www.hwdsb.on.ca/cih for more information

ELIGIBLE	INELIGIBLE
Timekeeping a high school sport	Work an extra shift at McDonald's for "free"
Volunteering at a hospital	Filing at a doctor's office
Teaching language at a cultural school on Saturdays	Helping an elderly neighbour clean up their yard
Reading program at the library	Working with uncle renovating basements
Shovelling snow for a senior who is registered with "Snow Angels"	Teaching martial arts/dance to small kids who pay for lessons
Taking tickets at Hamilton WingFest	Volunteering at a pharmacy because it's a future career

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 Nine Students Take 8 Classes

Everyone Takes These 5:

- English*, French*, Geography, Math*, Science*

Choose 3 More!

- Visual Art, Non-Traditional Art, Drama, Music
- Sports & Games, Sport Performance, Hockey
- Technology and the Skilled Trades
- Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset, Exploring Family Studies

*HWDSB offers Locally Developed/Open versions of these courses. Your student's grade 8 teacher will approach you

BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

Today's Focus – 3 Electives!

- Visual Art, Arts & Crafts, Drama, Music
- Sports & Games, Sport Performance, Hockey
- Technology and the Skilled Trades*
- Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset, Exploring Family Studies



We encourage one Art, one Physical Education, and one Tech course because they are mandatory to graduate.

Grade 9 is a good time to take them!

**Technology and the Skilled Trades must be taken before Grade 11*

Drama

- Improv, directing, acting
- Stage design, costume design
- Join the Drama Club, take Musical Theatre in Grade 11!



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Visual Arts

- Sketch, paint, sculpt, use coloured pencils
- Digital and mixed media
- After grade 9, students specialize in ceramics, digital media, drawing & painting



Non-Traditional Art (**NEW**)

- **Urban Art** (graffiti & skateboard deck design)
- **Crafts** (carving, stitching, & pyrography)
- **Outdoor Art** (chalk murals & found object sculptures)
- Take any kind of art you want in Grade 10 – 12
- Special classes include Ceramics and Drawing & Painting



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Instrumental Music

Get an extra credit with
repertoire/concert band

Join the band just for fun!



Technology and the Skilled Trades

Students explore five areas in grade 9:

- Communication
- Construction
- Design
- Manufacturing
- Transportation

In Grades 10-12, students can specialize in one of the above, in addition to:

Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Healthcare, Hospitality & Tourism



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Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset

- Introduction to the world of business
- Focus on entrepreneurship
- Students will learn about making money by starting or running a businesses
- Financial risks associated



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Exploring Family Studies

- Sewing, cooking, raising a baby
- Managing your life
- Take Food & Nutrition, Hospitality & Tourism, Food & Culture, or Nutrition & Health in Grades 10, 11, and 12!



Physical Education – We Have 3 Kinds!

- Sports & Games
(Female Identifying)
- Sports & Games
(Male Identifying)
- Sport Performance *(Co-ed)*
- Hockey *(Co-ed)*



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Sports & Games

Activities

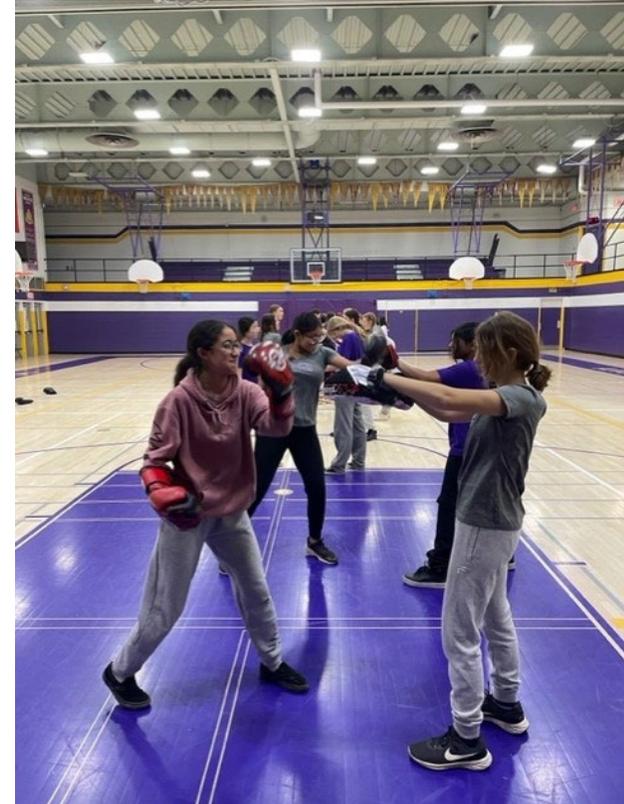
Traditional and non-traditional sports (i.e. archery, outdoor games and kickboxing)

Fitness Training

Fitness for life – daily warm-ups, weekly fitness room workouts and circuits

Health

Same in all 3 courses



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Sport Performance

Activities

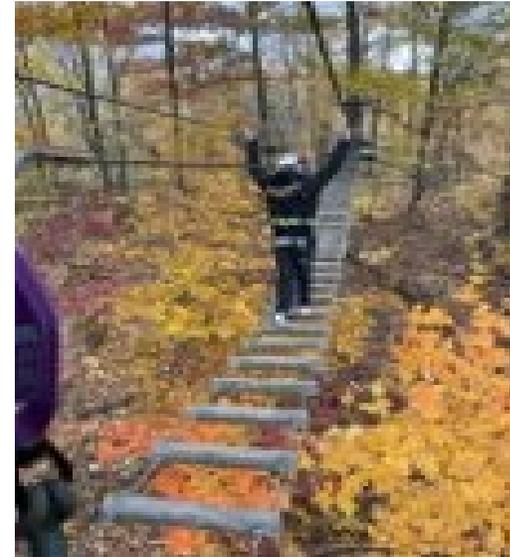
Skill development in **volleyball, soccer & basketball**. Competitive environment, skill & drill focus

Fitness Training

High level fitness cardio and conditioning and training (plyometric drills, interval training, circuit training)

Health

Same in all 3 courses



Hockey

\$\$ Fee applies + must provide own equipment

Activities

Skill development in hockey. 30 sessions on ice & specialized goalie instructor weekly. Dry land training and sports

Fitness Training

High level fitness cardio conditioning

Health

Same in all 3 courses



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!**



BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

Our Football Coach & Phys-Ed Teacher

Mr. Dunbrack

Toronto Argonauts

Ottawa Renegades

Hamilton Tiger-Cats





ROYALS



0 50

0 40

0 30

0 20

0 10

0 50

0 40

0 30

0 20

0 10

myBlueprint – Log in and Explore!

www.hwdsb.on.ca/hwdsb

Will stay "Not Submitted" until February

Your courses are **Not Submitted**

1 Step 1 Add Courses **2** Step 2 Review Courses **3** Step 3 Submit Courses **Review Course Selections**

Grade 9 Next Year	Grade 10 Plan Ahead	Grade 11 Plan Ahead	Grade 12 Plan Ahead
Grade 9 English ENL1W1 • 1 Credit	+ English	+ English	+ English
Grade 9 Mathematics MTH1W1 • 1 Credit	+ Mathematics	+ Mathematics	+ Course
Grade 9 Science SNC1W1 • 1 Credit	+ Science	+ Course	+ Course
Grade 9 Exploring C... CGC1W1 • 1 Credit	+ History	+ Course	+ Course
Grade 9 Core French FSF1D1 • 1 Credit	+ Careers	+ Course	+ Course

Graduation Indicator

8/30
REQUIRED CREDITS

8 Planned 0 Earned 8 Total

View Progress

SHSM Planner

Your school offers 5 Specialist High Skills Majors

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Planning 30 Credits

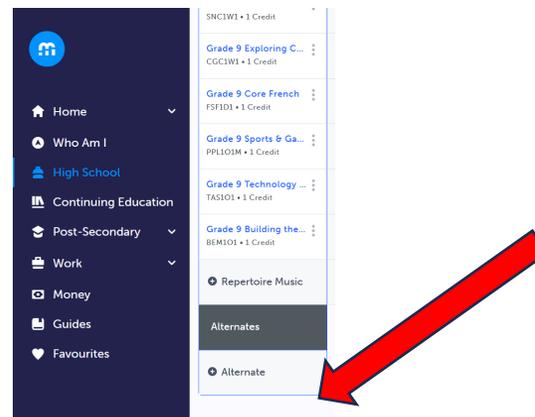
Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English	English	English	English
Math	Math	Math	Elective – full choice
Science	Science	STEM (lots of choice)	Elective – full choice
Geography	History	Elective – full choice	Elective – full choice
French	Civics/Careers	Elective – full choice	Elective – full choice
Tech	Elective – full choice	Elective – full choice	Elective – full choice
Art (4 kinds)	Elective – full choice	Elective – full choice	Elective or Study
Phys-Ed (3 kinds)	Elective – full choice	Elective – full choice	Elective or Study

Black Font = 17 Compulsories

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Alternate Course

- We will do our very best to place students in the three electives of their choice
- Sometimes due to conflicts (*two courses being offered at the same time*) students must choose a different elective
- Please ask your student to plan a fourth elective as an alternate and record this in myBlueprint



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Special Programs Start in Grade 11

Specialist High Skills Majors (We have five)

- 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

The five majors are:

- Arts & Culture, Health & Wellness, Hospitality & Tourism, Information & Communication Technology, and Manufacturing

BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

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
- E-mail our IB Coordinator Ms. Toor at mtoor@hwdsb.on.ca with questions



Important Dates Ahead

February 2026

Grade 8 students enter options into myBlueprint with help from Mr. Nicholson & Ms. Adams. HWDSB deadline is February 13..

March 30 – April 2, 2026

Parents/guardians approve course choices in Parent Portal (web version only)

Questions?



Ms. Adams daadams@hwdsb.on.ca

Student Success Teacher