

HWDSB



Planning MY Way

Student
Progression
Guide

Planning for
Grade 9

WELCOME TO PLANNING MY WAY!

MINO BIMAADIZIWIN, WA'TKWANONHWERÁ:TON

Mino Bimaadiziwin, Good Life (Anishnaabemowin - Ojibway Language, Martina Osawamick, Odawa, Beaver Clan, Wikwemikong Unceded Territory).

Wa'tkwanonhwerá:ton - I to all of you am sending greetings, love and respect, in a balanced way from my consciousness to yours, with deepest heartfelt emotion, expressed audibly. (Kanyen'keha - Mohawk Language, Tehahenteh, Mohawk, Six Nations, Turtle Clan).

The Indigenous Education Kahwà:tsire Zaagi'idiwin Family welcomes you into our educational village. We will protect you by using peace, friendship, respect and love as pillars of our palisade. We encourage you and your family to seek out ways to participate and contribute to meaningful learning opportunities that inspire healing and wellness.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Just like a winding road, your education can have its share of twists and turns. No matter what path you are on, it is important to remember that you are never alone on your journey.

Secondary school is a place to find opportunities for success, access support and take ownership of your pathway. You can explore your interests and plan your future while discovering new courses that lead to rewarding post-secondary opportunities.

Planning, Exploring and **On My Way** are here to guide you along your pathway to learning and personal success. Use these resources to learn about exciting programs, useful supports and key tips that will assist you in secondary school and beyond. Teachers and school staff, along with your family and friends, are also here to help!

Your education serves as the foundation for a lifelong journey of learning and success. As you progress, your pathway can shift and evolve! You should embrace the journey and remain open to new possibilities.

The best pathway is YOUR pathway. At HWDSB, you lead the way on your road to success.



Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini, Director of Education

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) 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 relationship with the local Indigenous communities, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River.

How to complete your

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA (OSSD)

Here is what you need to do to receive a secondary school diploma in Ontario:

- Earn a total of 30 credits (19 compulsory credits and 11 optional credits).
- Complete the literacy requirement.
- Earn at least 2 online learning credits (opt-out available).
- Complete a minimum of 40 hours of community involvement activities.

✓ Students who have taken Native languages in place of French as a second language (FSL) may use a Level 1 or 2 Native languages course to meet the FSL compulsory credit requirement.

✓ A maximum of 3 credits in English as a second language (ESL) or English literacy development (ELD) may be counted towards English, but the fourth must be earned for a Grade 12 compulsory English course.

✓ There is the ability to opt-out of the online learning requirement through a form in the HWDSB Parent Portal.

Compulsory Credits

You need to earn the following 19 compulsory credits to receive an OSSD:

- 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade).
- 3 credits in mathematics (at least 1 credit in Grade 11 or 12).
- 2 credits in science.
- 1 credit in Canadian history (Grade 10).
- 1 credit in Canadian geography (Grade 9).
- 1 credit in the arts.
- 1 credit in health and physical education.
- 1 credit in French as a second language.
- 1 credit in technological education (at least 1 credit in Grade 9 or 10).
- 0.5 credit in career studies.
- 0.5 credit in civics and citizenship.
- **3 credits for group 1, 2 and 3 courses (see next page for details).**

Group 1, 2 and 3 Courses

You need to earn 1 credit from each of the following groups.

Group 1 Courses

- English (including the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course) or French as a second language*
- Native languages
- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit studies
- Classical studies and international languages
- Social sciences and the humanities
- Canadian and world studies
- Guidance and career education
- Cooperative education*

*2 credits maximum can count as compulsory. Additional credits can count as optional.

Group 2 Courses

- Health and physical education
- The arts
- Business studies
- French as a second language*
- Cooperative education*

Group 3 Courses

- Science (Grade 11 or 12)
- Technological education
- French as a second language*
- Computer studies
- Cooperative education*

Optional Credits

You need to earn 11 optional credits by successfully completing courses offered in your school's program and course calendar. The 11 optional credits may include up to 4 credits earned through approved dual-credit courses.

Community Involvement Activities

You need to complete 40 hours of community involvement activities to receive an OSSD. You can begin completing the requirement in the summer going into Grade 9. Community involvement opportunities can be accessed from your guidance counsellor and submitted to student services as soon as completed.



Scan the QR Code or visit hwdsb.info/ossed to learn more about completing your OSSD.

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE (OSSC)

You can receive an Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC), upon request, if you leave secondary school at the age of 18 without meeting the requirements for the OSSD. To get an OSSC, you need to earn a minimum of 14 credits:

7 required compulsory credits:

- 2 credits in English.
- 1 credit in mathematics.
- 1 credit in science.
- 1 credit in Canadian history or Canadian geography.
- 1 credit in health and physical education.
- 1 credit in the arts, computer studies or technological education.

7 required optional credits:

- 7 credits from available courses.

CERTIFICATE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

You can receive a Certificate of Accomplishment if you have not fulfilled the requirements for an OSSC or OSSD. This certificate recognizes the achievement for students who plan to find employment or enter alternative education programs after leaving school.

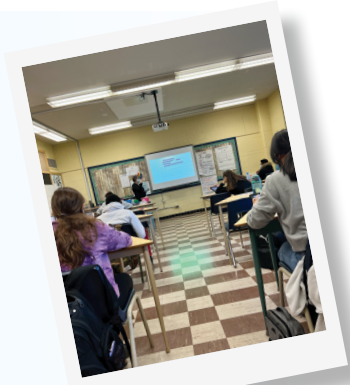
TIP FOR FAMILIES

Each secondary school has a dedicated student success team that provides extra attention and support for individual students who need it.

The teams are for students facing barriers to success, who need extra attention to help them graduate or who are looking for new challenges.

SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE PLANNER

Grade 9	Grade 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Math • Science • Geography • French • Technology • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Math • Science • History • Civics and career studies • Technology* • •
Grade 11	Grade 12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English (including NBE3) • Math • • • • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • • • • • • •
Additional Year (Grade 12+)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • •
*Unless completed in Grade 9.	



GRADE 9 PROGRAM

HWDSB schools provide opportunities and supports for all students to plan individual pathways and successfully move to their initial post-secondary destination. The 5 pathways are: **Apprenticeship, College, Community, University and Workplace.**

Instead of asking you to choose a pathway before entering secondary school, de-streamed Grade 9 keeps all your pathways open! By dismantling barriers and providing equitable opportunities, Grade 9 programming now increases student engagement and learning for all.

DE-STREAMED COURSES

- Mathematics: MTH1W
- Science: SNC1W
- English: ENL1W

SINGLE-STREAMED COURSES (ACADEMIC CURRICULUM)

- Geography: CGC1D1
- French: FSF1D1

OPEN SUBJECT AREAS

- The arts
- Business studies
- Health and physical education
- Social sciences and humanities
- Technological education

GRADE 9 OPEN CORE FRENCH COURSE: FSF10

This introductory course provides students who have little or no knowledge of French, or who have not accumulated the minimum of 600 hours of elementary Core French instruction, the opportunity to earn their compulsory French credit.

GRADE 9 FRENCH IMMERSION COURSES

Grade 9 French Immersion courses will be available as Academic courses for some subjects and Open courses for other subjects.

WHAT COURSES DO I NEED TO TAKE IN GRADE 9?

It is important that you select your Grade 9 courses based on your strengths and interests.

Typically, students in Grade 9 take English, mathematics, science, geography, and French. They select 3 additional courses which may include physical education, drama, visual arts, music, technology, business, or social science.

In Grade 9, you will take a total of 8 courses: 5 compulsory courses and 3 optional courses.

COMPULSORY COURSES

- ✓ English
- ✓ Mathematics
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Canadian geography
- ✓ French as a second language or Indigenous language if you took Indigenous language in elementary school

OPTIONAL COURSES

You will have access to a variety of optional courses. They may include:

- ✓ The arts (music, drama, visual arts, must be taken between grade 9 and 12)
- ✓ Business
- ✓ Family studies
- ✓ Health and physical education (must be taken between Grade 9 and 12)
- ✓ Technological education (at least 1 credit in Grade 9 or 10)

TIP FOR FAMILIES

We encourage students to make informed choices. Taking academic courses in Grade 10 keeps the widest number of options and post-secondary opportunities open. If you are uncertain about courses, contact your secondary school's student services department for assistance.

TYPES OF COURSES IN GRADE 9 AND 10

SINGLE-STREAMED COURSES (Academic Curriculum, Grade 9)

These courses concentrate on fundamental concepts and emphasize theoretical applications while incorporating practical ones when necessary. These courses help students develop your knowledge and skills in the subject.

DE-STREAMED COURSES (Grade 9)

You will take 3 de-streamed courses in Grade 9: Math (MTH1W), Science (SNC1W), and English (ENL1W). These courses are taken by all students as they prepare you for your preferred academic pathway

OPEN COURSES (Grade 9 and 10)

Open courses at the Grade 9 and 10 levels have a single set of expectations for a subject. They are suitable for all students and do not have a particular post-secondary destination.

LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES (Grade 9 and 10)

These courses review and reinforce elementary-level curriculum expectations to provide the necessary skills for further study at the secondary level. These courses lead to workplace pathway courses in grades 11 and 12.

APPLIED COURSES (Grade 10)

Applied courses in Grade 10 develop knowledge and skills by emphasizing practical applications of essential concepts while incorporating theoretical applications. They lead to college-level courses in Grade 11 and 12.

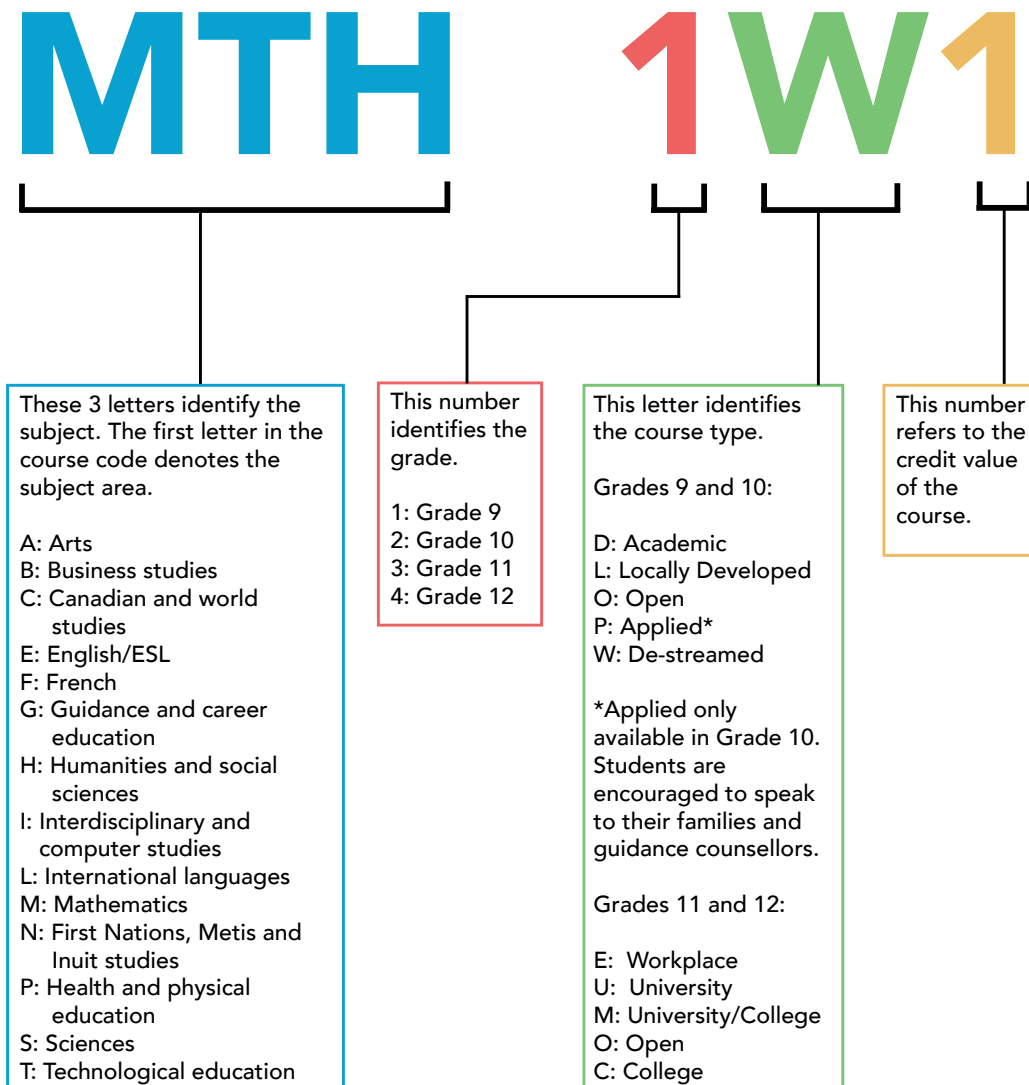
ACADEMIC COURSES (Grade 10)

Academic courses in Grade 10 develop knowledge and skills by emphasizing theoretical applications of essential concepts while incorporating practical applications. They lead to university or college-level courses in Grade 11 and 12.

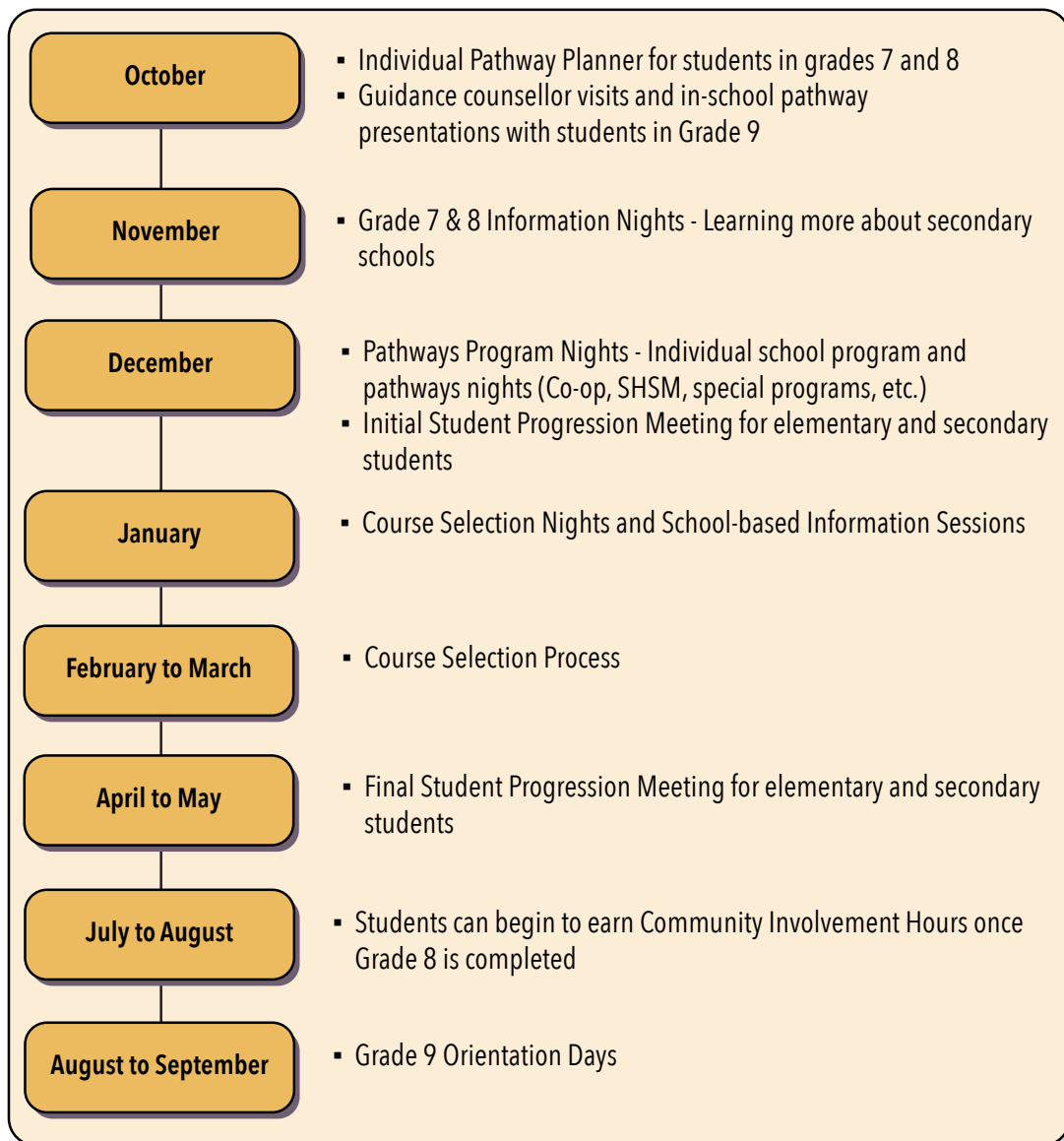
UNDERSTANDING COURSE CODES IN GRADE 9

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.



GRADE 8 TO 9 PROGRESSION TIMELINE



EDUCATION AND CAREER/LIFE PLANNING: XELLO AND INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS PLANNER

Education and career/life planning helps students develop the knowledge and skills to make informed choices for their education, career and life outside of school.

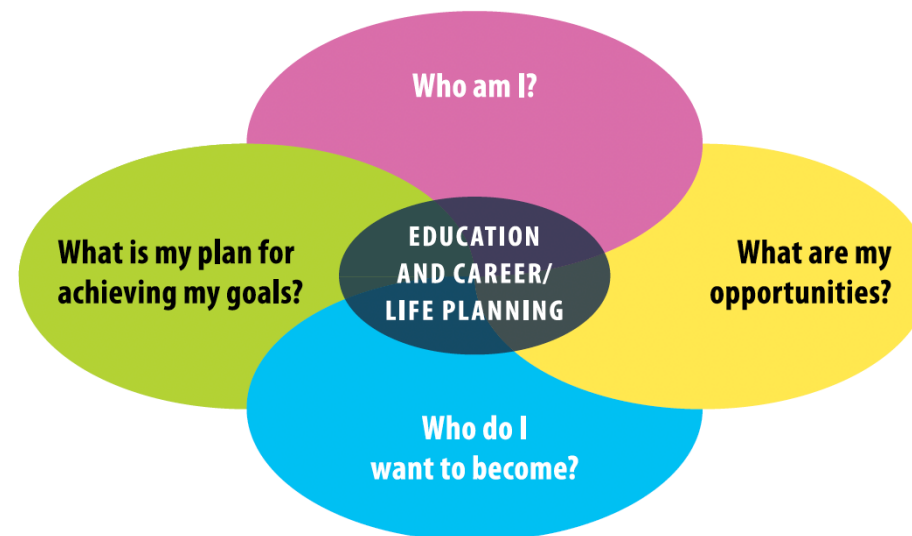
Wondering how to chart your path? You will use Xello to select courses, track OSSD requirements and plan for your future. Xello is accessed through the HUB.



Scan the QR Code or visit hwdsb.info/students to access Xello and other student platforms.

How do students explore Career/Life Planning?

You will also complete your Individual Pathways Plan using Xello! The planner helps you identify your strengths and interests, explore experiential learning and self-reflect on possible career and life opportunities.



GRADUATION COACH PROGRAM FOR BLACK STUDENTS

The Graduation Coach Program for Black Students uses a comprehensive approach to build healthy and vibrant communities for Black students. Graduation coaches provide mentorship and advocacy for students. This partnership can look like one-to-one support, advocating for student needs, providing referrals to resources, creating a dedicated space within schools and summer programming.



The Graduation Coach Program for Black Students provides intensive supports to Black students and their families with the goal of seeing each student achieve credits, graduate and successfully move into their chosen post-secondary pathway.



Scan the QR Code or visit hwdsb.info/supports to learn more about the Graduation Coach Program for Black Students and Indigenous Education.

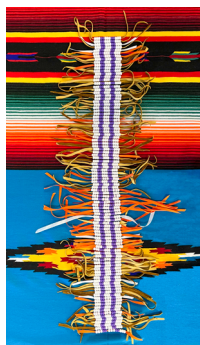
INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Indigenous students can find programs and resources that embrace academic, holistic and educational wellness. Through partnerships with local Indigenous organizations, ways of knowing, being and doing are intentionally weaved into all streams of education.

The Native Youth Advancement with Education Hamilton (NYAWEH) program is a partnership with Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg. It empowers Indigenous students in grades 6 to 8 and 9 to 12 through personal, social and cultural-based support.

Cultivating Community: Reclaiming Our Spaces in Education (CC:ROSE) is a student-driven leadership and learning community consisting of self-identified Indigenous learners in grades 7 to 12 across HWDSB.

We hope these resources help you navigate the school system, and we invite you to connect with us at IndigenousEducation@hwdsb.on.ca so you can stay informed about the exciting events happening throughout the year for students and families.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is a written plan describing the appropriate special education programs and services to be received by a student with special education needs.

Students who have an IEP will have a transition plan in place to ensure the move from Grade 8 to 9 is a positive one. The transition plan is:

- A detailed and coordinated plan designed to assist students in making a successful move into secondary school.
- Developed as part of the student's IEP in consultation with families, students and relevant community agencies or partners, as necessary.
- Helpful in planning visits to the future secondary school to help become familiar with the building and other personalized goals.



Scan the QR Code or visit hwdsb.info/supports to learn more about Special Education and programs for students learning English.

STUDENTS LEARNING ENGLISH

HWDSB provides a variety of supports and programs for students learning English. The purpose of these credit courses is to develop the level of proficiency in English required for success in school, the community, post-secondary education and the workplace.

Newcomers may need an initial assessment to determine their English proficiency, which guides programming and places them on the Steps to English Proficiency (STEP) continuum. All assessments are conducted at the HWDSB Welcome Centre.

Settlement Workers In Schools (SWIS) can also play a crucial role in bridging the gap between newcomers and available community resources and services.

GRADE 9 EQAO ASSESSMENT OF MATHEMATICS

Grade 9 students are required to participate in the province-wide Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Assessment of Mathematics either in January or June, depending on the semester in which you take mathematics.

The assessment is administered over 2 consecutive math periods, which usually total 2 hours. Some parts of the assessment may contribute to your final grade, but it is not a graduation requirement.

Students enrolled in locally developed Grade 9 courses are not required to participate in the Assessment of Mathematics.

GRADE 10 ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST

In Grade 10, you are expected to take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). The OSSLT is based on the literacy expectations until the end of Grade 9.

The literacy requirement is mandatory for obtaining an OSSD. You will need to meet the provincial standard (Level 3) to pass the test and satisfy the OSSD requirement. Students who are unsuccessful will be provided with the opportunity to take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course.

To prepare for the OSSLT, you should visit eqao.com for practice assessments and information. Attending school-hosted learning or practice sessions is also encouraged.



Scan the QR Code or visit hwdsb.info/osslt to learn more about the OSSLT.



SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

HWDSB offers the following specialized programs to support various interests and pathways. They require specialized facilities, equipment, or funding. Transportation is supported for students who attend these programs that begin in Grade 9.

CHURCHILL: EARLY COLLEGE GRADUATION PROGRAM (ECGP)

Earn an Advanced Manufacturing Operations certificate from Mohawk College while working towards your OSSD.

GLENDALE: HWDSB STRINGS

Study the performance, creation and analysis of all music genres while working towards an OSSD.

GLENDALE: HWDSB AUDITION-BASED PROGRAMS OF THE ARTS

Major in Dance, Drama, Music, Visual and Media arts while working towards a Certificate of Recognition in the Arts and additional industry qualifications.

SHERWOOD, WESTDALE: FRENCH IMMERSION

HWDSB offers French Immersion programming in secondary school for students who started the program in elementary school. The aim of French Immersion is to continue to develop French language skills. To obtain a certificate of French Immersion, students must earn 10 French Immersion credits: 4 French credits and 6 optional credits.

WESTMOUNT: SELF PACED, SELF-DIRECTED

Learn and grow in a program that provides students with the opportunity to actively engage in a self-directed, self-paced learning environment. Please note there is no transportation provided for this program.



Scan the QR Code or visit hwdsb.info/specialized-programs to learn more about HWDSB's Specialized Programs.

LOOKING AHEAD TO EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



Cooperative Education provides secondary school students with a wide range of rigorous learning opportunities connected to communities outside of the school.



Dual Credit students are able to earn both a secondary school credit and a college credit. The credits count towards their secondary school diploma as well as a post-secondary certificate, diploma, degree or apprenticeship certification.



Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) allows a co-op student to begin to learn a skilled trade while completing the requirements for a secondary school diploma and accumulating hours towards an apprenticeship.



Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) students focus on a career path that matches their skills and interests while meeting the requirements of the OSSD. They receive a SHSM seal on their diploma when they complete a specific bundle of courses, earn valuable industry certifications and gain skills on the job with employers.



Scan the QR code or visit hwdsb.info/experiential to learn more experiential learning.



TIPS AND INFORMATION ABOUT LIFE IN SECONDARY SCHOOL

THINGS TO CONSIDER AS YOU PROGRESS INTO SECONDARY SCHOOL:	SCHOOL RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU:	ONLINE RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU:
<p>Get involved by exploring your interests, joining clubs and teams and participating in other extracurricular activities.</p> <p>Get to know your teachers and build positive relationships with them. Make connections by reaching out to your guidance counsellor when you have questions or need assistance.</p> <p>Talk to your class peers so you can support each other if you are absent from school.</p> <p>Use your locker for your books, school supplies, backpack and lunch. Keep your valuable items at home.</p> <p>Use a planner to stay organized and keep track of your assignments and extracurricular activities.</p>	<p>Student services provides support with academic, career and personal development for all students.</p> <p>The Learning Commons provides students with print, computer and electronic resources for support with academic work.</p> <p>Learning resource teachers in each school can help with the academic support for students with special education needs.</p> <p>Student success teachers assist all students with the move to secondary school and provide support to ensure their success.</p> <p>Identity-based supports through positive space groups, student voice advisory committees and more.</p>	<p>Your secondary school website is a great resource to learn about your new school community.</p> <p>Explore the HUB for a wide range of educational supports as you move along your pathway.</p> <p>Find mental health and well-being resources and services on HWDSB's We Help webpage, including a section that lets you access help by topic.</p> <p>Access a long list of books, publications, activities and more through the HWDSB Online Learning Commons.</p> <p>Visit the HWDSB website to find an assortment of learning resources categorized by subject area.</p>



Scan the QR code or visit hwdsb.info/tips for more tips and information.



Planning MY Way

Your journey into secondary school is an exciting time! You will have the opportunity to participate in, learn from and connect with new activities and people. At HWDSB, we strive to ensure that every student experiences a sense of belonging and engages in dynamic learning to reach their potential and build their own future.

Use this guide to help learn about:

- ✓ Planning for Grade 9 and beyond.
- ✓ Secondary school pathway opportunities to explore.
- ✓ HWDSB programs as you enter Grade 9.
- ✓ How to get involved and be successful in secondary school.

Secondary school is a place for you to find opportunities for success and take ownership of your pathway!



**Scan the QR code or visit
hwdsb.info/pathways
to learn more.**

www.hwdsb.on.ca

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