

Welcome to Grade 12: What's Next



WESTDALE
SECONDARY SCHOOL



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Welcome & Agenda

Welcome to the 25-26 School Year!

Agenda

- Graduation Reminders

Information for students:

- Seeking Apprenticeships
- Seeking Employment
- Applying to College
- Applying to University
- Returning to Westdale
- Questions



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Communicating with You

A screenshot of the Westdale Secondary School Student Services page. The page has a light blue header with the text "Home / Student Services" and "Student Services" in a larger font. Below the header, there is a welcome message: "Welcome to Student Services. We are located on the main floor at the front of the school beside the Main Office. Please arrange an appointment (before school, during breaks, lunchtime or after school) by booking at this link: [Book a Guidance Appointment Link](#)". There is also a contact information section with the text: "The telephone number for Student Services is 905-522-1387 ext. 3754". On the left side, there is a sidebar with a list of links: "A Welcome From Student Services", "Choosing Your Courses For Grade 9", "Choosing Your Courses For Grades 10 to 12", "Community Involvement Hours", "Cooperative Education Program", "Dual Credit Programs", "Graduation Information/Commencement 2024", "International Baccalaureate-Prospective IB Students", "Post-Secondary Pathways", "Scholarship Information", and "Specialist High Skills Major".

A screenshot of the Westdale Secondary School Guidance page. The page has a light blue header with the text "GUIDANCE - Westdale Secondary". Below the header, there is a navigation bar with icons for "Course Home", "Book Appointment...", "Xello", "SHSM 2023", "Content", "Summer School", "Class Tools", and "Class Progress". The main content area features a large banner image of a tree-lined path with the text "GUIDANCE - Westdale Secondary". Below the banner, there is an "Announcements" section with a link to "Volunteer Opportunity - Sept 19" and a "My Courses In Other Orgs" section with a search bar.

Westdale Secondary School Website:
Student Services

Guidance:
Westdale Secondary Hub Course

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Grad Photo Dates

Grad Photo sittings are available at Westdale on the following dates:

- November 24 - December 12 (*currently open for bookings)
- www.bookmygrad.ca (school code WHS)



Commencement Class of 2026

Thursday, June 25th

First Ontario Concert Hall

Grad Checklist

- 30 credits (18 compulsory, 12 elective)
- 40 community involvement hours; due by April 1, 2026
- Successfully completed Literacy Requirement;
- Online Graduation Requirement; 2 credits or Opt Out
- If in French Immersion Program...completed 10 French Immersion Credits
- Post-Secondary program admission requirements
- If applying to university, you need a minimum of 6 Grade 12 U/M courses, including ENG4U1 and program prerequisites
- When applying to competitive college and university programs, watch for supplemental applications such as auditions, portfolios, essays etc.

Grad Checklist- Community Hours

- **40 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HOURS NEEDED FOR JUNE 2026 GRADS**
- Please submit Community Involvement Hours by April 1 so that hours are complete before Semester 2 midterm data transfers to OUAC and OCAS

Ineligible Activities

- Any duty/services that would normally be performed for wages in a workplace;
- Requirement for a class, course, or program;
- Takes place during class instructional time;

Online Graduation Requirement

- Two-credit online graduation requirement can be earned in the following ways:
 - selecting eLearning as a day school student at Westdale
 - summer school eLearning

OR

- Families can now opt out of the Ministry of Education's online learning graduation requirement. The "eLearning Opt Out for Families" form can be found in Parent Portal. There is currently no expiration date or deadline to submit

Accessibility Accommodations After High School

Do you access Special Education Services and need help accessing accommodations and support after high school?

For help with next steps, speak with:

- Learning Resource Teacher
 - Ms. K. Venizelos – Head of Learning Resources
(kvenizel@hwdsb.on.ca)
- Guidance counsellor

What's Next?

- **Apprenticeships**
- **Colleges**
- **University**
- **Work**
- **Community Living**
- **Returning to
Westdale/Gap Year**



Apprenticeship

What is an apprenticeship?

- As an apprentice, you learn a skilled trade on the job. You work with and learn from experienced workers – and get paid while you do it.
- You also learn in a classroom from instructors who know the skilled trade. This may take place in high school, on a college campus or a union training centre.
- Canada has a large demand for workers in the skilled trades and technologies. There are 144 skilled trades in Ontario!



Comparing Pathways to Apprenticeship

Direct Entry to Apprenticeship

As an apprentice, you learn a skilled trade on the job in combination with class training

Apprenticeships are completed in 3-5 years

VS

Pre-Apprenticeship College Program

The college courses may be 1 or 2 year programs. The courses are designed to deliver the skills enabling persons enter a skilled trade.

After completing a college program, the students begin the apprenticeship process.

VS



Apprenticeships: How to get started

- Take courses in Technologies (or other areas leading to your chosen skilled trade) to develop skills that apply to skilled trades
- Take co-op courses to test out career pathways, gain real-world experience and form relationships with potential employers
- Leverage co-op experience and relationships to explore an apprenticeship opportunity OR apply to a college program where you will develop skills and be connected with an employer

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Apprenticeships Information Night for Students and Families

Learn about Training and Career Opportunities
in Apprenticeships and Skilled Trades.
Meet with Colleges, Training Delivery Agents,
and leading Local Employer partners.

DETAIL INFORMATION:



SEPT. 24, 2025



5:30pm to 8:00pm

LiUNA Station
360 James St. North,
Hamilton

LEARN ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES IN:

Electrician Plumber
General Carpenter
Automotive Service Technician
Millwright Welder
Truck and Coach Technician
Construction Craft Worker
Refrigeration (HVAC)
Hairstylist Chef
and many more....



Learn about
OYAP Level 1
Programs

Child care service available



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OYAP - Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

- Allows students to earn high school credits while participating in apprenticeship training in a skilled trade
- Full day co-op placement
- Semester 2 Accelerated OYAP opportunities available - see your Guidance counsellor if interested
- Signed apprentice = Paid employment + 4 credits + apprenticeship hours earned towards certification

PROGRAM	LOCATION	Applications Due	Format	START DATE	END DATE
Automotive Service Technician (AST) (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Fennel Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
Electrician (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
Plumber (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
Construction Craft Worker (CCW) (Level 1)	LIUNA Local 837 LIUNA Training Centre 260 Hunter Rd. Grimsby	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks (no training during March Break)	February 2025	May 2025
Welder (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 10 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
General Carpenter (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025
Truck & Coach Technician (Level 1)	Mohawk College (Stoney Creek Campus)	Friday, November 29	Monday to Friday 8 Weeks	April 2025	June 2025

Note: Students must provide their own transportation to and from these programs.

Note: All assigned dates and locations are tentative!

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Apprenticeship Resources

- Trades Report – can be found on the Guidance Hub course (password required)
- [Skilled Trades Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program](#)
- [Apprenticesearch.com](#)
- [Apprenticeships in Ontario](#)

Going to work after high school?

- **Earn money and gain independence**
- **Get real life experience, build resilience, confidence and social skills by working in the real world**
- **Develop employability skills**
- **Get a taste for a career in a specific industry**
- **A job in a skilled trade could lead to apprenticeship training**
- **Earn money for education costs**
- **Some companies help employees pay for college & university tuition costs**

Career Research & Job Search Websites

Employment Resources:

1. www.youth.gc.ca
2. [YMCA Employment Hamilton](#)
3. [Employment Hamilton](#)
4. www.mohawkcollege.ca/community-employment-services
5. [Goodwill Halton and Hamilton](#)

Find opportunities to network – friends, family members, part-time employers, co-op employers are all people who can help.

College

- Colleges offer students many different program types:
 - Certificate (often one year, but length of program varies)
 - e.g. Preparatory Studies, Skilled Trades Techniques, CICE
 - Diploma (usually four semesters in length)
 - Workforce readiness (e.g. Paramedic, Technician)
 - Advanced Diploma (usually at least six semesters)
 - Workforce readiness PLUS additional theory and skills
 - Bachelor Degree (four years)
 - e.g. BSc Nursing, Bachelor of Interior Design, Bachelor of Digital Health

Ontario College Application Timelines

- **Apply by February 1 for equal consideration**
- **Applications after February 1 will be processed only if there is space in the program**
- **Applications open early October**
- **November 1 is the earliest date you will receive an offer of acceptance to an Ontario College Program**
- **We encourage students applying to highly competitive programs (e.g. practical nursing, dental hygiene, paramedic) to apply by end of October**
- **Offers continue to go out until programs are filled; then waitlisted**
- **Deadline to accept offer is May 1**
- **Westdale Guidance will conduct College Application support sessions in October**

Learning More About College

- **Westdale College Fair**
 - **Tuesday, October 21st 9:30 am- 11:30 am in the Library**
 - **Confirmed colleges: Georgian, Niagara, Mohawk, Sheridan, Humber and Fanshawe**
- **College Information Program Stop**
 - **September 29, 9:30 am, Niagara College Welland Campus**
- **Mohawk College Open House Dates**
 - **Fennell Campus (Main Campus) - Nov 1, 10:00 am, 135 Fennell Ave West**
 - **Stoney Creek Skilled Trades Campus – Nov 1, 11:00 am, 481 Barton Street**
 - **Institute for Applied Health Sciences – Nov 6, 6:00 pm, 1280 Main Street West**
 - **Centre for Aviation Technology – Nov 6, 5:00 pm, 9500 Airport Road**

Dual Credits

- The HWDSB has a partnership with Mohawk College where students can earn credits that count toward their high school OSSD and college. Many of these programs are offered at the Mohawk campus or elsewhere in the community.

Here is a sample of this year's offerings:

- Positive Psychology & Movies, Identity and Culture
- Community Services – Intro to Social Work & Rec Therapy
- Developmental Psychology & Health and Wellness
- Computer Technology – HTML and CSS & Hardware/Software
- Graphic Design
- Aviation Technology (located at Hamilton Airport)
- Welding (located at Stoney Creek campus)

APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY

- Use www.ouinfo.ca to research
- Use www.ouac.on.ca to apply to Ontario universities
- OUAC=Ontario Universities Application Centre
- Students will apply to an undergraduate degree program at University where you earn a Bachelor's Degree (i.e. Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science)
- Most undergraduate degree programs are four years in length

University Prerequisites

- Top 6 Grade 12 U/M courses including ENG4U + specific program prerequisite courses
- Some university programs limit the number of 'M' level courses you can have in your top 6
 - e.g. McMaster - Nursing Degree Program
ENG4U, (1 of MHF4U, MCV4U, MDM4U), SBI4U, SCH4U
+ 2 other 4U/4M courses
- Co-op, college and open level courses DO NOT count towards your university admission average

OUAC Key Dates

- **OUAC Platform opens for applications in late September**
- **January 15, 2026 – deadline to apply**
- **May 28, 2026 – latest date student may receive an offer from an Ontario University**
- **June 1, 2026 – deadline to respond to offers of admission**
- **Westdale Guidance will conduct an information session on Wednesday, October 1 during Period 3 in the Auditorium for students applying to university**

Repeated Courses

- Repeated mark policy varies from school to school
 - Some take the mark from the first attempt at the course
 - Some take the highest mark
 - Some take an average
 - Some give a penalty
- Students should check the minimum average and the repeated course policy for your university program of choice
- Where? University website OR ouinfo.ca

How do colleges and universities get my marks?

- All Grade 11 and 12 marks are sent electronically by Westdale in November, February, April and July.
- Check your OCAS/OUAC account online after every reporting period and let your counsellor know about any errors – students will get an email alert when their profile is updated

Learning More About University

- **Ontario University Fair:**
 - **September 27-28 at Metro Toronto Convention Centre**
- **Regional Fairs:**
 - **October 16 at University of Waterloo 5:00pm – 8:00pm**
 - **October 17 at Niagara Falls Convention Centre 10:00am – 1:00 pm**
- **OUAC Virtual Event – September 16 – must sign up online**

Post-Secondary Visits

University and
College Visits Fall
2025.docx

Universities Outside of Ontario

- Check each university website for deadlines and application fees as they vary from university to university.
- Some schools outside of Ontario have a reciprocal agreement with OUAC to receive marks. Many do not. For schools that do not, students will either need to mail an official transcript or email an electronic transcript. Students need to know the process for each school they are applying to.
- U.S. universities may require SAT or ACT scores, and most use The Common Application.
- Information session Oct 16 at lunch

OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program)

- OSAP applications will open in the spring ([OSAP: Ontario Student Assistance Program | ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/osap))
- Cannot apply for OSAP until you have accepted an offer to a post-secondary institution
- Can be used at institutions throughout Canada and outside of Canada as well; there is a list of eligible institutions on the OSAP website
- Combination of grants (non-repayable) and loans (repayable)
- Check eligibility requirements before applying
- Check the estimator to get an idea of amount ([OSAP Aid Estimator for Full-Time Students: Home Page \(gov.on.ca\)](https://www.gov.on.ca/osap/aid-estimator))

Learn and Stay Grant

- [Ontario Learn and Stay Grant | ontario.ca](https://ontario.ca)
- Funding for students studying in priority regions in Ontario (Northern, Southwestern and Eastern) in eligible college and university programs
- Students must commit to working 6 months/year of their program in the region where they studied; failure to meet obligation will turn the grant into a repayable OSAP loan
- College programs – Practical Nursing, Paramedic, Medical Lab Technology
- University Programs – Nursing
- Covers tuition, books, compulsory fees, direct educational costs
- Applications open in the spring

Returning to Westdale

- Most students wishing to return to Westdale may do so for one semester only; must be a full – time student in that semester (minimum of 3 classes)
- Students with an IEP are eligible to return for a full year
- Other students may be eligible to return for a full year under certain circumstances

Deferring an Offer to University

- **You may be eligible to request a deferral of up to one year after being admitted to a university**
- **The rules for deferring varies between schools; almost always the student may not complete any education during the deferral year (at high school or post-secondary)**
- **You must check the rules at each school of interest**

Next Steps

- Understand your responsibility with timelines, deadlines and communication. Check email and The Hub regularly
- Research next steps and requirements
- Connect with your Guidance Counsellor
- Check out our FAQ document for additional information

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Can I take a study period?**
 - New this year – Waterloo has relaxed their policy for Engineering admissions and students may now take a spare (or two) and not be penalized in the application process
- **Can I do an early application?**
 - There is no official 'early application' period in Ontario. OUAC opens in late September and are due by January 15. U of T, to our knowledge, is the only school that publishes an 'Early Application Deadline' in Ontario.
- **Can I get early admission?**
 - Early offers of admission vary from school to school. Some schools send early offers to highly qualified applicants while other schools wait until more Grade 12 marks are available before beginning to send offers. By and large, schools in Ontario send offers in numerous rounds, and the number of rounds each school does depends on the school
- [Post – Secondary Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Who is my Counsellor?

<u>Counselor</u>	<u>Alpha by Last Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
Ms. Quaglia	A – B	cquaglia@hwdsb.on.ca
Mrs. Parkes-Hallmark	C - G + IB students	kiparkes@hwdsb.on.ca
Mr. Meyer	H – M	dmeyer@hwdsb.on.ca
Mrs. O'Leary	N - V	coleary@hwdsb.on.ca
Ms. Kuder	W – Z + ESL/ELL/ International VISA	tkuder@hwdsb.on.ca



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