

Grade 9 Option Selection



Agenda

1. Welcome from Westdale Staff
2. Student Voice
3. Graduation & High School Information
4. ELL, French Immersion and Special Programs
5. Option Sheet Overview for Grade 9
6. Path to Westdale & Next Steps



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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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Our Principal and Vice-Principals

HWDSB

- *Our Principal/Vice-Principal Team*

Principal: Mr. Goodram

Vice-Principals: **Ms. Beauchamp-Wyatt**
 Ms. Davy
 Ms. Schaap

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Counsellor and Student Success Teacher



<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 ESLA-C, ELDA-C	tkuder@hwdsb.on.ca



Student Success Teacher: Mrs. Girolametto kgirolam@hwdsb.on.ca

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Who can help me at Westdale?

- Classroom Teachers
- Guidance Counsellor
- Student Success Teacher
- Learning Resource Teacher
 - Graduation Coach
- Child and Youth Care Practitioner
- YMCA Settlement Workers
 - Pathways Coach
- Social Worker – referred by Guidance
- Principal and Vice Principals

Individual Education Plans (IEP)

ASSOCIATE SCHOOLS

- If you are coming to us from one of our associate schools, our Learning Resource Team will have access to the IEP

NON-ASSOCIATE SCHOOLS

- If coming to us from a non-associate school, be sure to include a copy of the IEP when completing the online application
- Please email Ms. Kleri Venizelos (kvenizel@hdsb.on.ca) to meet about support upon entry to secondary school.

Path to Westdale

Key Dates/Events:

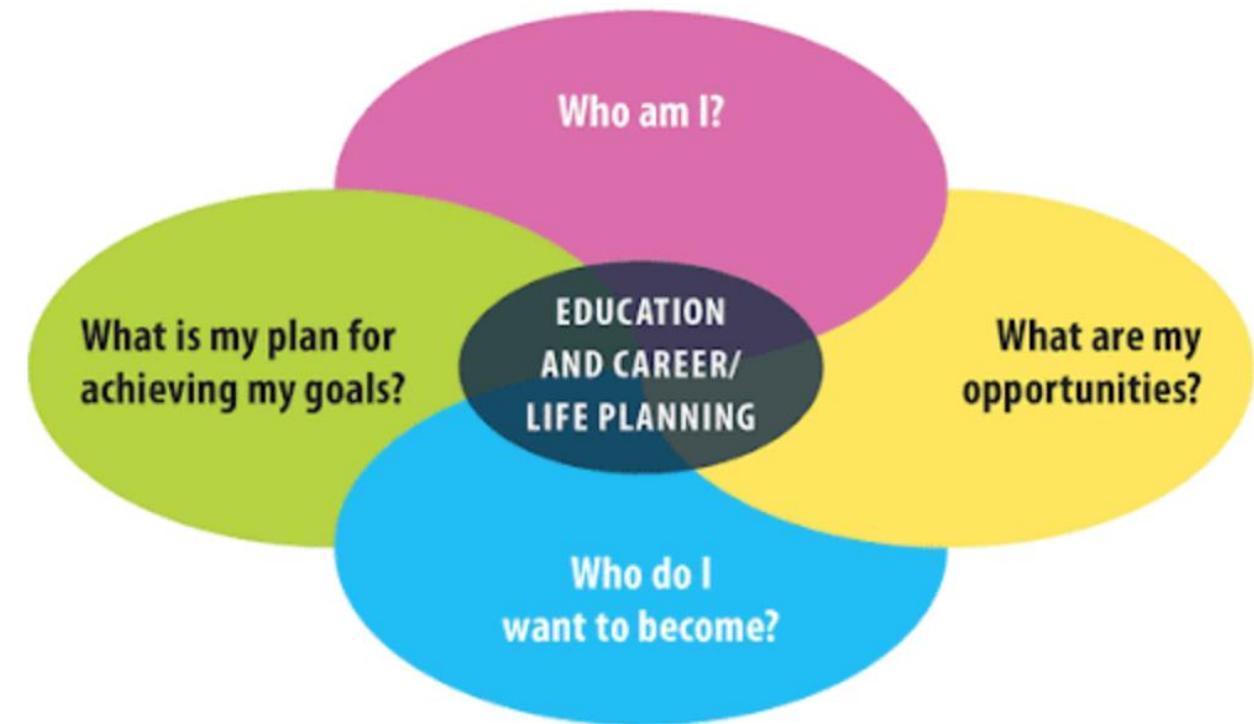
1. Experience a Day at Westdale – Nov. 5, 2025
2. Grade 7/8 Information Night – Nov. 19, 2025
3. **Grade 8 Information Night – January 22, 2026**
4. **Option Sheet Completion – February 2026**
5. **Grade 8 Day - May 2026 at WSS**
6. **Grade 9 Welcome Day**
– Week Before School Begins

Secondary School Format

- 2 Semesters: September to January; February to June
- 4 courses each semester; 8 credits total
- Final evaluations and/or culminating activities at the end of each semester
- 4 x 75 minute classes per day (8:00 am – 2:30 pm)
- Westdale has a 5 period day
- Grade 9 students will have lunch in period 4 (11:55-1:10)

The HWDSB Values All Pathways

- Students in all HWDSB Secondary Schools will be supported as they work towards their chosen post-secondary pathway.
- The pathways include:
 - ✓ Apprenticeship
 - ✓ College
 - ✓ Community
 - ✓ University
 - ✓ Work



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Graduation Requirements

You must complete the 17 compulsory credits listed below and a further 13 optional credits from the courses offered at your high school.

You need the following 17 compulsory credits to get your OSSD:

- **4 credits** in English (1 credit per grade)
- **3 credits** in mathematics (Grade 9, Grade 10 and 1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
- **2 credits** in science
- **1 credit** in technological education (Grade 9 or Grade 10)
- **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
- **0.5 credit** in career studies
- **0.5 credit** in civics and citizenship
- **1 credit** from the [STEM-related course group](#)

STEM Course Group

- Business studies
- Computer studies
- Co-op
- Mathematics
- Science
- Technological Studies

Graduation Requirements continued

eLearning Graduation Requirement

- Two online (asynchronous courses) are required, but there is opt out option

Community Involvement Hours

- All students need to complete 40 hours by the end of grade 12. Students can begin to obtain hours once they complete grade 8.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Requirement

- Test (OSSLT) taken in grade 10 and is based on expectations for language and communication up to and including Grade 9

Financial Literacy Requirement

- This is a new requirement for students entering secondary school this year. Further details will be communicated as timelines and processes are announced.

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Understanding your options in eLearning

HWDSB offers many courses in eLearning, in all subject areas.

We have one of the largest eLearning offerings in the province.

Schools may be limited in courses they are able to offer. If a specific course you are interested in is not available at your home school, this course may be available through eLearning.

An eLearning course requires a similar level of commitment as a course in day school:

- Expect to spend 75 minutes per day on your eLearning course
- Same total hours per week as an in-person course plus home work/study time
- Our courses are running over a semester or term (Civics & Careers Classes)
- Course timelines are set by **HWDSB** and are in-line with Ontario Ministry of Education
- A living, breathing teacher supporting you
- Classmates you can connect with
- Except...
 - Flexibility in terms of when you work on the course during the day/week
 - Lessons are delivered asynchronously



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eLearning

- Courses offered through HWDSB eLearning
- eLearning courses are asynchronous (i.e. no real-time instruction / accessible at any time of day)

Course offerings:

AWQ1O1eL	BEM1O1eL	NAC1O1eL	CGC1W1eL
ENL1W1eL	FSF1D1eL	GLS1O1eL	HIF1O1eL
LMN1OeL	LVLBDeL	LWSBDeL	MTH1W1eL
PAR1O1eL	SNC1W1eL		

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Compulsory Courses

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English	English	English	English
Math	Math	Math	5+ Optional Credits
Science	Science	6 Optional Credits	
Geography	History	Students must also earn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arts credit• Tech credit• Health & Physical Education credit• STEM credit	
French	Civics/Careers		
3 Optional Credits	3 Optional Credits		

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Compulsory Credits in Grade 9

	Graduation Requirement Information	Grade 9 Program	Locally Developed Specialized Programming	French Immersion	Multi-Language Learner
ENGLISH	Four (4) Credits in English	<input type="checkbox"/> ENL1W1	<input type="checkbox"/> ENG1L1	N/A	N/A
MATH	Three (3) math credits	<input type="checkbox"/> MTH1W1	<input type="checkbox"/> MAT1L1	<input type="checkbox"/> MTH1W1I *EQAO Math test will be written in English. *In Grades 10-12, Math instruction will only be available in English	<input type="checkbox"/> MTH1W1L
SCIENCE	Two (2) science credits	<input type="checkbox"/> SNC1W1	<input type="checkbox"/> SNC1L1	<input type="checkbox"/> SNC1W1I	<input type="checkbox"/> SNC1W1L
FRENCH	One (1) French credit	<input type="checkbox"/> FSF1D1 <input type="checkbox"/> FSF1O1 if have less than 600 hours of French instruction in elementary school		<input type="checkbox"/> FIF1D1I	<input type="checkbox"/> FSF1O1
GEOGRAPHY	One (1) Geography credit	<input type="checkbox"/> CGC1W1		<input type="checkbox"/> CGC1W1I	<input type="checkbox"/> CGC1W1L

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Locally Developed Courses

- Students/families may select these courses if not yet ready for Grade 9 programme curriculum in 1W courses.
- It may be helpful to have discussions with Grade 8 teachers or Learning Resource Teachers before selecting Locally Developed Courses
- **Locally Developed Courses** are available in English, Math, and Science

Students Choose 3 Optional Credits

Visual Arts	AVI1O1 AVI1O1I (French Immersion)	Technology and the Skilled Trades	TAS1O1 TCJ1O1L (ESL)
Dramatic Arts	ADA1O1	Computer Technologies and the Skilled Trades	TEJ1O1
Music	AMU1O1 (Instrumental) AMR1O1 (Repertoire)* AMG1O1 (Guitar)	Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset	BEM1O1
Phys Ed. (Healthy Active Living)	PPL1O1 (All Genders) PPL1O1F (Female Identifying) PPL1O1M (Male Identifying)	Exploring Family Studies	HIF1O1
Phys Ed. (Leisure Activities and Mindfulness)	PAR1O1 (All Genders)	Learning Strategies with Numeracy focus	GLS1O1

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Summer School: Registration Open Now

Registration opens in myBlueprint on February 2, 2026

Deadline to register: June 8, 2026 – 11:00 am

Program Dates: July 2 to 29, 2026

Course Offerings:

1. Civics/Careers English and French Immersion - online delivery
 - Civics (July 2 – 15)
 - Careers (July 16 – 29)

2. Technologies – in-person delivery (locations: BCSS, NHS, potentially Waterdown)
 - Construction Technology
 - Hairstyling and Aesthetics

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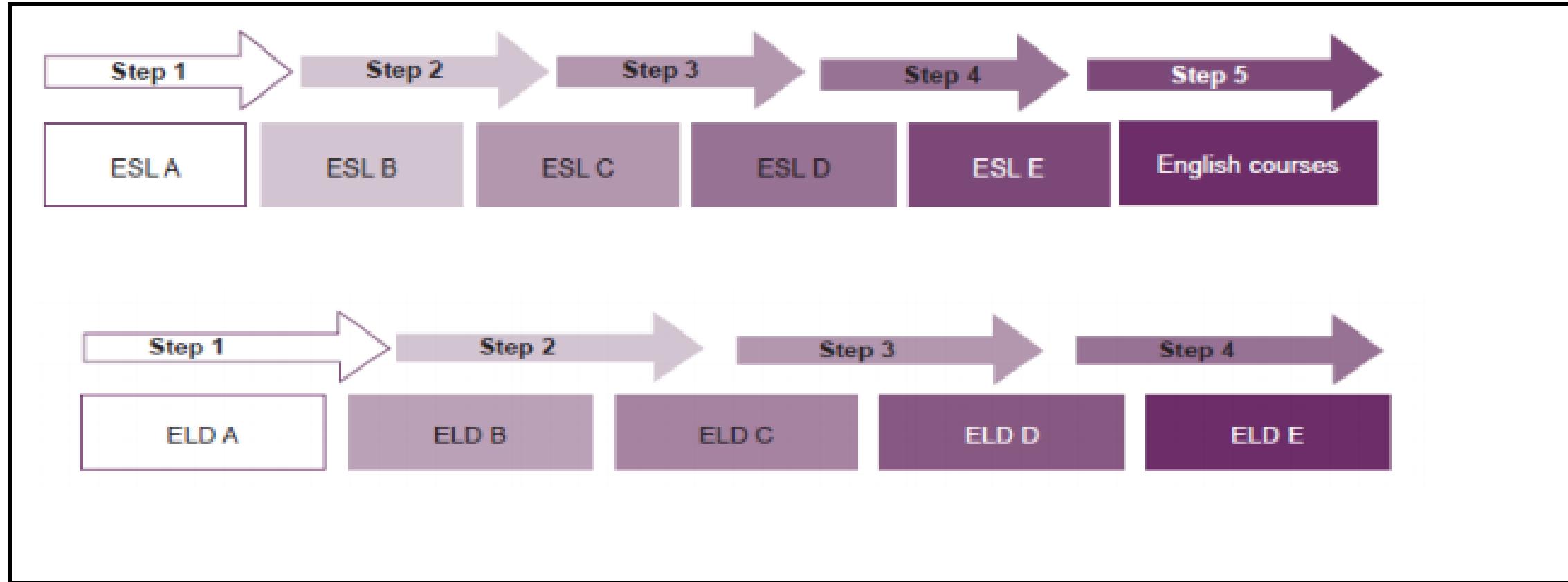
ELL: English Language Learners



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HWDSB

ESL Programming at Westdale



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ESL at WESTDALE

Ms. Kuder, our ESL Head, will be working with students, families, and Grade 8 teachers to determine individualized programming levels for each transitioning grade 8 ELL who is STEP 1-4 inclusive.

Special Programs

- French Immersion in Grades 9-12

Starting in Grade 11:

- International Baccalaureate
- Specialist High Skills Major
 - Arts and Culture
 - Construction
 - Health & Wellness
 - Information & Communication Technology



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French Immersion

Bienvenue!



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French Immersion Courses at Westdale

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Francais (FIF1D1I)	Francais (FIF2D1I)	Francais (FIF3U1I)	Francais (FIF4U1I)
Geography (CGW1W1I)	Science (SNC2W1I)	Introduction to Anthropology, Psychology and Sociology (HSP3U1I)	Health and PE PPL4O1I
Science (SNC1W1I)	History (CHC2D1I)	Health and Physical Education (PPL3O1I)	
Math (MTH1W1I)	Food and Nutrition (HFN2O1I)		
Visual Arts (AVI1O1I)	Careers/Civics (GLC2O3I/CHV2O3I)*		
	Visual Art (AVI2O1I)		

Students must earn 10 FI credits to earn the Certificate of French Immersion (4 Francais credits plus 6 electives)

*Available in HWDSB Summer School for FI students

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French Immersion Continued

LOOK FOR THE "I" at the END of the Course Code

Example:

CGC1W1I

NOT

CGC1W1

It is important to choose the courses with the "I" at the end of the course code. If you do not, you will be put into the English version of the course. (You are NOT automatically entered into immersion courses.)

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French Immersion IB



- Students in French Immersion who wish pursue the International Baccalaureate Program can do so at Westdale starting in their grade 11 year
- You may want to discuss course choice with a guidance counselor as you still need to obtain 10 classes in French for your Immersion Certificate. (IB courses do count as 3 of the 10)

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The DELF



The DELF (Diplôme d'études en langue française) is an internationally recognized certificate that helps you demonstrate your French proficiency. We generally offer for students to sit this exam –which is overseen by the French government- in the year they take a grade 12 French course (Immersion or Core). Since the framework for this exam is also the framework which underlies our curriculum, students will be well prepared..

The HWDSB offers this exam at the A2, B1 and B2 levels

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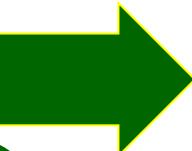
Transportation

- Transportation to Westdale is provided if you live in Westdale's catchment, but greater than 3.2 km away from the school
- Eligible families will be contacted by HWSTS in late August regarding transportation details

Next Steps

January

- Counsellors will present Option Info and Option sheets to Grade 8 schools by the end of January
- Students and family access Westdale option sheet through Westdale website or associate schools



February

- Courses available in myBlueprint (including summer school)
- Students and parents/guardians send completed option sheet to Grade 8 school
- Westdale staff will visit associate schools in February to support with option entry into myBlueprint

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Option Process

**Bennetto, Dalewood, Guy Brown (FI only),
Hess Street, Kanetskare, Sir William Osler (FI only)**

- Students receive copy of option sheet from elementary school
- <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/westdale/student-services/choosing-your-courses/>
- Complete the option sheet; your Grade 8 teacher will determine a date for your class
- Westdale staff will support transfer of course selections from option sheet to myBlueprint; students can also access myBlueprint with family at home

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Additional Information

Registration information for students coming from schools outside Westdale associate schools or outside HWDSB can be found on the Westdale website (Student Services) after February 2, 2026

Additional Information

If you are not sure of your catchment status, please visit the HWDSB website and use the *Find a School* tool:

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/find/>

Please note that at this time,
Westdale Secondary School is closed
to ALL out of catchment requests

Questions?

- Go to hwdsb.on.ca/westdale
- Email Westdale S.S. at westdale@hwdsb.on.ca



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