



# GRADE 9 COURSE INFORMATION 2025-2026

VISIT OUR DEDICATED FUTURE STUDENTS PAGE AT [LHS.WRDSB.CA/](https://lhs.wrdsb.ca) FOR HELPFUL GRADE 9 PLANNING TOOLS & RESOURCES!

Laurel Heights a dynamic secondary school offering programs for students who are university, college or workplace-bound. With a student population of approximately 1,750 students, we offer a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular programs to meet the diverse needs of our students.

## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2025-2026

Ontario grade 9 programming has undergone some significant changes in recent years. Please review highlights below to help you plan for next year.

- **Students starting grade 9 (as of Sept. 2024) are now required to complete the following as part of their Ontario Secondary School Diploma:**
  - **Grade 9 or 10 Technology Credit (course code starts with "T")**
  - **1 STEM Group Credit (see last page)**
- Students are also required to complete 2 e-learning credits during high school (unless you submit the WRDSB opt-out form to guidance).
- For full details on all changes, please check the [WRDSB TRANSITION GUIDE TO SECONDARY SCHOOL](#).

## GENERAL GRADE 9 PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Grade 9 students will take a full-time program of 8 courses. Please refer to the list on the right for available courses.
- Plan and select your elective courses carefully, as making changes after our timetable is established can be extremely difficult.
- Laurel Heights guidance staff will assist with pathways planning/course selections throughout high school.
- Students will use the [MyBlueprint](#) website to select courses for next year. This site is also a great resource for developing a high school plan while discovering your interests and skills.
- Visit [lhs.wrdsb.ca/future-students/](https://lhs.wrdsb.ca/future-students/) for more detailed information & resources to help you prepare for grade 9!

## LAUREL HEIGHTS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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### GRADE 9 COMPULSORY COURSES (5)

- **Exploring Canadian Geography—CGC1WI**
- **English—ENG1WI**
- **French—FSF1DI or FSF1OI**
- **Mathematics—MTH1WI**
- **SCIENCE—SNC1WI**

### ELECTIVE COURSES (CHOOSE 3)

- **ADA1OI**—Dramatic Arts
- **AMI1OI**—Instrumental Music (Experienced)
- **AMI1OX**—Instrumental Music (No Previous Band Experience)
- **AMV1OI**—Vocal Music
- **ATC1OI**—Dance
- **AVI1OI**—Visual Art
- **BEM1OI**—Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset
- **GLE1OI**—Learning Strategies 1
- **GLS1OI**—Skills for Success
- **HFN1OI**—Food & Nutrition
- **PPL1OI**—Train & Play (Mixed)\*
- **PPL1OX**—Healthy Active Living (Female)\*
- **PPL1OY**—Healthy Active Living (Male)\*
- **TAS1OI**—Technology & the Skilled Trades
- **TEJ1OI**—Computer Engineering Technology

**\*HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR  
ALL GRADE 9 STUDENTS**

## PRE-AP/ADVANCED PLACEMENT MATH

The Advanced Placement (AP) program offers students the opportunity to pursue university-level math studies while in high school.

Based on their performance on rigorous AP examinations, students can earn credits for some universities and colleges in Canada and the USA. Enrolling in Pre-AP courses prepares students for success in the senior Advanced Placement calculus course, while extending the current curriculum and enriching specific learning outcomes.

Although Pre-AP extends content in specific courses, evaluation is based on the regular academic Ontario curriculum.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

Based on recommendations from the review of our AP program during and Ministry of Education directives regarding math de-streaming in Grade 9 and 10, our pre-AP/Advanced Placement math program begins in grade 11:

- **Grade 11—select MCR3UW & MHF4UW (2 credit Pre-AP package)**
- **Grade 12—select MCV4UW (Advanced Placement Calculus)**

This revised plan will allow teachers, as subject specialists, to better support students' pathways planning and opportunities for success on optional AP exams.

If you have questions about Laurel Heights' Advanced Placement opportunities, please reach out to our guidance staff.

## FAST FORWARD MAGNET PROGRAM

Laurel Heights Secondary School is one of the Waterloo Region District School Board's designated sites for Fast Forward magnet programs.

This program is for students who may be working towards an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, but who are likely intending to go directly to the workplace upon completion of high school.

Most students in this program will be working significantly below grade level (2-4 years) and have been identified (IPRC/IEP) as candidates for this program in elementary school.

Please refer to our Fast Forward program supplement for more information regarding this magnet program (courses, application process, etc.). **See page 4 for more details!**

**<https://lhs.wrdsb.ca/future-students/fast-forward-magnet-program/>**

Note—an application required for this magnet program. Please speak with your grade 8 school guidance/special education teachers for more information.

## SCHOOL SUPPORTS & RESOURCES

Laurel Heights Secondary School offers students support and resources outside of the classroom through our student services team. This includes:

- Guidance Counsellors
- Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs)
- Student Success
- Social Worker
- Child Youth Workers
- Library
- Student Activities
- Sexual Health Nurse

## COMPULSORY COURSES

### CGCIWI—EXPLORING CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY

- Students will explore relationships within and between Canada's natural and human systems and how they interconnect with other parts of the world. Students will also examine environmental and economic issues, and their impact related to topics such as natural resources and industries, careers, land use and responsible development, and sustainability.
- Students will understand the connections that diverse communities and individuals have with the physical environment and each other throughout Canada, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives.
- Students will apply geographic thinking, use the geographic inquiry process, and use geospatial technologies throughout their investigations.

### ENGIWI—ENGLISH

- This course enables students to continue to develop and consolidate the foundational knowledge and skills that they need for reading, writing, and oral and visual communication.
- Throughout the course, students will continue to enhance their media literacy and critical literacy skills, and to develop and apply transferable skills, including digital literacy.
- Students will also make connections to their lived experiences and to society and increase their understanding of the importance of language and literacy across the curriculum.

### FSFIDI—FRENCH (CORE/ACADEMIC)

- This course provides opportunities for students to communicate and interact in French with increasing independence, with a focus on familiar topics related to their daily lives. Develop skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Enhance your understanding and appreciation of diverse French-speaking communities.
- **NOTE—students enrolled in French Immersion should consult with their grade 8 guidance counsellor about program options or refer to program pathways within the WRDSB at <https://www.wrdsb.ca/french/french-programs/>**

### FSFIOI—FRENCH (OPEN LEVEL)

- **Introductory course for students who have little or no knowledge of French or who have not accumulated the minimum of 600 hours of elementary Core French instruction.**
- Begin to understand and speak French in guided and structured interactive settings. Develop fundamental skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing through discussing issues and situations that are relevant to daily lives.
- Develop an awareness, understanding and appreciation of diverse French-speaking communities in Canada.

### MTH1WI—MATHEMATICS

- This course enables students to consolidate, and continue to develop, an understanding of mathematical concepts related to number sense and operations, algebra, measurement, geometry, data, probability, and financial literacy.
- Students use mathematical processes, mathematical modelling, and coding to make sense of the mathematics they are learning.
- Apply your understanding to culturally responsive and relevant real-world situations. Continue to enhance mathematical reasoning skills, including proportional reasoning, spatial reasoning, and algebraic reasoning, as you learn to solve problems and communicate thinking.

### SNC1WI—SCIENCE

- Students will develop their understanding of concepts related to biology, chemistry, physics, and earth and space science
- Relate science to technology, society, and the environment.
- Develop and refine STEM skills as you use scientific research, scientific experimentation, and engineering design processes to investigate concepts. Apply your knowledge in situations that are relevant to your lives and communities.
- Continue to develop transferable skills as you become a scientifically literate global citizen.

# GRADE 9 ELECTIVE COURSES

## ARTS

### ADA10I—DRAMATIC ARTS

- Connect with classmates in a fun, artistic & welcoming environment. Gain the confidence to shine in front of audiences.
- Explore dramatic techniques (tableau, creative movement, comedy, improvisation), learn about the history of the stage, train on state of the art lighting and sound theatre equipment.
- Work with professional actors and enjoy live theatre.
- Develop acting and public speaking skills: trust, self-confidence, teamwork, creativity, expressiveness, self-reflection.

### AMI10I—INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (EXPERIENCED)

- Ideal for students who are experienced players on woodwind, brass or percussion instruments that you will play in class.
- Develop your instrumental performance skills; you will play your instrument every day.
- Learn to read and write standard music notation and complete listening and composition activities.
- Play as a class and in small groups—you will be encouraged to perform in the Junior Band.
- **Prep Course/Experience: Grade 7 or 8 Instrumental Music/Band**

### AMI10X—INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED)

- Ideal for students with no experience on a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Starting as a beginner, you will learn to play an instrument.
- Develop your instrumental performance skills; you will play your instrument every day.
- Learn to read and write standard music notation while completing listening and composition activities.
- Play as a class and in small groups, you will be encouraged to perform in the Grade 9 Band.

### AMV10I—VOCAL MUSIC (NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED)

- This course is for you if you like to sing. Develop your vocal performance skills—you will sing every day.
- Learn to read and write standard music notation while completing listening and composition activities.
- Sing as a class and in small groups, you will be encouraged to perform with the LHSS Chorus.

### ATC10I—DANCE

- Take a break from desks and chairs and explore your creativity and passion for movement in the grade 9 Dance course!
- All levels of experience are welcome. Develop your technique and confidence in a variety of dance styles (Jazz, Hip Hop, K-pop, Contemporary, Ballet, etc.)
- Create innovative choreography.
- Experience live performances and learn from top dancers/choreographers in the industry.
- Make friendships that will last a lifetime.

### AVI10I—VISUAL ART

- This course offers an overview of visual arts as a foundation for future study.
- Become familiar with the elements and principles of design and the expressive qualities of various materials through working with a range of processes, techniques and styles.
- Develop a variety of artistic skills, including sketching, painting, sculpture and multi-media.
- Learn and use methods of analysis and criticism while studying the characteristics of particular historical art periods and a selection of Canadian art and art of other cultures.

## BUSINESS STUDIES

### BEM10I—BUILDING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET

- This hands-on course will use business software and applications to help students plan and develop their entrepreneurial ideas and learn how to present their ideas. Students will learn what makes an entrepreneur thrive and the skills required to succeed in today's business environment.
- Students will learn why it's important to take initiative, adapt to change, find creative solutions, and understand the financial considerations of entrepreneurship.
- Software training includes Word Processing, Spreadsheet, Publishing/Canva, Website Design and Google Suite. Students will learn how to merge the skills needed for an entrepreneur and software and how to bring their entrepreneurial ideas to life.
- Students will enhance their communications skills as well as develop and refine their project management skills, including goal setting, time management, and networking. Skills learned in BEM can be applied to many other subject areas, leading to greater student success and how to thrive as a future entrepreneur with software skills.

## FAMILY STUDIES

### HFN10I—FOOD AND NUTRITION

- This course provides students with opportunities to develop food-preparation skills and learn how to make simple meals and snacks, like pizza, cookies and muffins, soup and salads, from scratch.
- Learn how to work safely in the kitchen, and also how to prevent contamination and food borne illness.
- Using Canada's Food Guide, students learn to make nutritious food choices.
- Students will investigate the factors that influence food choices, including beliefs, attitudes, current trends, traditional eating patterns, food-marketing strategies and individual needs.

## GUIDANCE & LEARNING SERVICES

### GLS10I—SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

A strong highschool pathway can only be achieved on a strong foundation. This course focuses on learning strategies to help students become better, more independent learners. The importance of building a solid foundation, focused on literacy, numeracy and the academic habits of successful students, will be emphasized in this course. Topics include:

- Look at building habits of success (goal setting, reflective thinking, sleep hygiene, healthy technology use), how to access homework help, problem solving for math
- Discovering your talents, gifts and abilities
- Building a pathway of success in high school and beyond
- Reading for fun, communication and comprehension

### GLE10I—GENERAL LEARNING STRATEGIES

This course explores learning strategies and helps students become better, more independent learners while increasing their personal management skills, both in school and in other contexts. By the end of this course, students will:

- identify and use a variety of literacy skills and strategies to improve reading, writing, and oral communication in everyday contexts;
- identify and use a variety of numeracy skills and strategies to improve their practical application of mathematics in everyday contexts;
- demonstrate an understanding of learning skills and strategies required for success in school.
- **NOTE—GLE10I is only available to students with an IEP (Individual Education Plan). This may be recommended by the grade 8 school as part of grade 9 course planning & support.**

# GRADE 9 ELECTIVE COURSES

## HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### PPL1OI—HEALTHY ACTIVE LIVING (MIXED)

- A blend of fitness and sport, this course emphasizes the link between movement and play through a variety of fitness activities and traditional sport games.
- Mix of our fitness-focused courses and our traditional sport-based program delivery—ideal for those who love all forms of movement and are looking to both train their personal fitness and learn more about athletic skills and strategies through game settings.
- Health topics will include: personal safety & decision making skills, substance use & abuse, nutrition, and healthy growth & sexuality.

### PPL1OX (OPEN—FEMALE) & PPL1OY (OPEN—MALE)

- This course emphasizes regular participation in a variety of physical activities that promote lifelong healthy active living.
- Students will be introduced to a range of sports and activities with an emphasis on understanding and applying the skills and strategies required to confidently participate.
- Sports and activities covered may include badminton, basketball, field hockey, fitness training, floorball/floor hockey, football, rock climbing, rugby, soccer, ultimate frisbee, volleyball, wrestling, and a variety of others.
- Healthy living topics help students develop skills to make healthy choices that lead to healthy lifestyles. Topics include substance use and related behaviours, healthy relationships, human development, personal safety, and nutrition.
- Emphasis on developing critical thinking, communication, and social skills.

## TECHNOLOGICAL STUDIES

### TAS1OI—TECHNOLOGY & THE SKILLED TRADES

- New course—replaces TIJ 1OI (Exploring Technologies) for 2024-2025.
- This hands-on course enables students to further explore the engineering design process and develop other technological knowledge and skills introduced in earlier grades.
- Students will design and safely create prototypes, products, and/or services, working with tools and technologies from various industries.
- As students develop their projects to address real-life problems, they will apply technological concepts such as precision measurement, as well as health and safety standards.
- Students will begin to explore job skills programs and education and training pathways, including skilled trades, that can lead to a variety of careers.

### TEJ1OI—COMPUTER ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

- This course prepares students for the exciting world of Engineering.
- Students complete a series of projects, which may include an ancient trebuchet, complex electrical circuits, AutoCad and SolidEdge drawings, GSuite apps, PowerPoint presentations, Desktop Publications, Spreadsheets, and/or PhotoShop Digital Art.
- Students will develop solutions for problems using Physics, Math and Computer Modeling Techniques.
- Using these skills, students design, build and test projects, such as an Engineering Vehicle Challenge and a cricket circuit board.
- Students compare the physical outcome of each design with theoretical values, just like working engineers do.

# ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS (OSSD)

COURSE/SUBJECT	REQ
ENGLISH (1 in each level)	4
MATHEMATICS (at least 1 senior level)	3
SCIENCE	2
CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY (grade 9)	1
FRENCH	1
CANADIAN HISTORY (grade 10)	1
ARTS	1
HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1
CIVICS & CAREER STUDIES (1/2 credit each, grade 10)	1
NEW FOR 2024—TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION (Gr 9 or 10)	1
NEW FOR 2024—STEM GROUP CREDIT Credit in Business Studies, Computer Studies, Co-op OR Mathematics*, Science* or Technological Education* (*in addition to compulsory credits required)	1
<b>COMPULSORY CREDITS TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>ELECTIVE CREDITS TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>OSSD CREDITS TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>

### NEW FOR 2024—FINANCIAL LITERACY GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Taken during Grade 10 Mathematics course based on cumulative Financial Literacy learning—70% or higher required

**\* Students must complete 2 e-learning credits to earn your diploma (unless you complete the WRDSB opt-out form)**

**In addition to the course requirement listed above, students must also complete the following to earn their OSSD:**

- 40 hours of community service
- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) or equivalent

## GRADE 10 TECH OPTIONS

Grade 9 students entering highschool in Sept. 2024 or later are required to complete a grade 9/10 tech credit. Should students not wish to select TAS1OI or TEJ1OI (or can't fit the courses in your grade 9 plans), there are a number of exciting grade 10 courses worth considering in the future. NOTE—grade 10 tech courses do not have a grade 9 prerequisite.

For more information about each course, please visit the guidance section of our school website for detailed course descriptions—[lhs.wrdsb.ca/guidance](https://lhs.wrdsb.ca/guidance)

TAS2OI—Technology & Skilled Trades (for students who did not take TAS1OI)  
 TCJ2OI—Construction Technology  
 TDJ2OI—Technological Design  
 TEJ2OI—Computer Engineering Technology  
 TFJ2OI—Hospitality & Tourism  
 TGJ2OI—Communications Technology  
 TMJ2OI—Manufacturing Technology  
 TPJ2OI—Health Care  
 TTJ2OI—Transportation Technology