



LAUREL HEIGHTS GRADE 9 COURSE INFORMATION

2023-2024

VISIT OUR FUTURE STUDENTS PAGE AT
[LHS.WRDSB.CA/GR8_INFO](https://lhs.wrdsb.ca/gr8_info) 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.

GENERAL GRADE 9 PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Grade 9 students will take a full-time program of 8 courses (5 compulsory, 3 electives). 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](https://myblueprint.ca) 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/gr8_info for more detailed information to help you prepare for grade 9! This includes helpful resources for elective courses, student life, pathways and more.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2023-2024

Grade 9 programming at Ontario high schools has undergone some significant changes in recent years. Please review some highlights below to help you plan for 2023-2024.

- Core subjects are now offered at the de-streamed or academic-only level, unless otherwise noted. This includes the new ENG 1WI destreamed English course in September 2023.
- Fast Forward/Essential level courses are not affected by Ministry de-streaming.
- As per Ministry of Education de-streaming directives in grade 9, pre-AP level courses in math and science are now available later in high school—see details on page 2.

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GRADE 9 COMPULSORY COURSES (5)

Grade 9 regular stream courses compulsory courses are available at the academic or destreamed level only.

- **CGC 1DI—Canadian & World Studies (Geography)**
- **ENG 1WI—English**
- **FSF 1DI or FSF 1OI—French**
- **MTH 1WI—Mathematics**
- **SNC 1WI—Science**

ELECTIVE COURSES (CHOOSE 3)

- **ADA 1OI—Dramatic Arts**
- **AMI 1OI—Instrumental Music (Experienced)**
- **AMI 1OX—Instrumental Music (No Previous Band Experience)**
- **AMV 1OI—Vocal Music**
- **ATC 1OI—Dance**
- **AVI 1OI—Visual Art**
- **BBI 1OI—Introduction to Business**
- **BTT 1OI—Information & Communication Technology for Business**
- **GLS 1OI—Skills for Success (NEW for 2023!)**
- **HFN 1OI—Food & Nutrition**
- **PPL 1OI—Train & Play (Mixed)***
- **PPL 1OX—Healthy Active Living (Female)***
- **PPL 1OY—Healthy Active Living (Male)***
- **TIJ 1OI—Exploring Technologies**
- **TEJ 1OI—Exploring Computer/Engineering Technologies**

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

PRE-AP/ADVANCED PLACEMENT

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

Based on their performance on rigorous AP examinations, students can earn credits for many universities and colleges in Canada and the USA. Enrolling in Pre-AP courses prepares students for success in senior Advanced Placement courses, 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 and science de-streaming in Grade 9, our pre-AP/Advanced Placement program was adapted in grades 9 and 10 as follows:

- *MATH – begins in Grade 10 (select course during grade 9 year)*
- *SCIENCE – will commence in Grade 11 for Physics and Chemistry (select courses in Grade 10)*
- *Courses continue to Advanced Placement level in grade 12 (Calculus, Physics and Chemistry) to help prepare students for potential AP exams.*

This revised plan will allow teachers, as subject specialists, to better support students' pathways planning and opportunities for success in these subject areas.

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/gr8_info/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 SUPPORT SERVICES & 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

CGC 1DI—ISSUES IN CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY

- Examine the interrelationships within and between Canada's natural and human systems and how these systems interconnect with those in other parts of the world.
- Explore environmental, economic, and social geographic issues relating to topics such as international trade, immigration, mega-projects, urban sprawl, climate change, aboriginal relations, and resource depletion.
- Apply thinking and inquiry to investigate various geographic issues while developing approaches for making Canada a more sustainable place to live.

ENG 1WI—ENGLISH (DESTREAMED)

- 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.

FSF 1DI—FRENCH

- 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 their 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/>**

FSF 1OI—CORE 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.

MTH1W1—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.

SNC 1W1—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

ADA 10I—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.

AMI 10I—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**

AMI 10X—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.

AMV 10I—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.

ATC 10I—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.

AVI 10I—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

BBI 10I—INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS

- This foundation course introduces students to the many facets of business, including finance, marketing, accounting, entrepreneurship, investing in the stock market and international business.
- Emphasis is placed on fun and interactive learning with hands on activities.
- Students will develop leadership skills and self confidence as they gain insight into all the specialized areas Business Studies has to offer at the senior level.

BTT 10I—INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR BUSINESS

- This computer software application course focuses on learning G-Suite (Google drive, Docs, Sheets and more), web page design and Office 365 apps.
- Learn to manage and use your Chromebook effectively.
- Skills learned in BTT can be applied to many other subject areas, leading to greater student success.

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

GLS 10I—SKILLS FOR SUCCESS (NEW FOR 2023!)

A strong grade 12 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
- Discovering your talents, gifts and abilities
- Building a pathway of success, in high school and beyond
- Reading for fun, communication and comprehension
- Problem solving for math and mystery



GRADE 9 ELECTIVE COURSES

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PPL 10I—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.

PPL 10X (OPEN—FEMALE) & PPL 10Y (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

TIJ 10I—EXPLORING TECHNOLOGIES

- Course prepares students for the exciting technological world, with an emphasis on hands-on activities and theory.
- Students construct projects such as a mini rocket, electrical circuits, draw a floor plan of a house, and do home renovation projects which includes carpentry and electrical work.
- Highlight of the course is servicing a real car and designing, constructing and testing a 600mm long working model Sailboat.
- Students learn how to complete technical projects and protect the environment at the same time.
- All technical courses at SJAM will reinforce skills and knowledge in Mathematics, Science, English literacy and Computer Technology.

TEJ 10I—EXPLORING COMPUTER & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES

- 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, 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
GROUP 1: additional credit in English, French as a second language, or a Native language, or a classical or international language, or social science and humanities, or Canadian & world studies, or guidance & career education, or cooperative education	1
GROUP 2: additional credit in health & physical education, or the arts, or business studies, or French as a second language, or cooperative education	1
GROUP 3: additional credit in science (grade 11 or 12), or technological education, or French as a second language, or computer studies, or cooperative education	1
COMPULSORY CREDITS TOTAL	18
ELECTIVE CREDITS TOTAL	12
OSSD CREDITS TOTAL	30

FAST FORWARD PROGRAM GRADE 9 COURSES

Students accepted into our Fast Forward magnet program will take a consistent program of courses in grade 9. This program is designed to ensure students complete compulsory courses while also experiencing some fun and engaging elective courses to prepare for options in future grades.

Applications for Fast Forward are sent to our feeder schools in December and due back to LHSS in January.

For more information about our program, please visit <https://lhs.wrdsb.ca/future-grades-nines/fast-forward-magnet-program/>

CORE COURSES (ESSENTIAL/FF LEVEL):

CGC 1DB—CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY
ENG 1LB—ENGLISH
MAT 1LB—MATHEMATICS
SNC 1LB—SCIENCE

ELECTIVE COURSES:

ALC 10B—INTEGRATED ARTS
BTT 10B—BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY
PPL 10B—GIRLS PHYSICAL EDUCATION **OR**
PPL 10Y—BOYS PHYSICAL EDUCATION
TIJ 10B—INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

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

- 2 e-learning/online courses (students may opt out)
- 40 hours of community service
- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) or equivalent