

FUTURE GRADE NINES

9

A TRANSITION GUIDE TO SECONDARY SCHOOL



WRDSB PATHWAYS



Choose your path. Your way.

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WELCOME TO YOUR NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL!



In the WRDSB, we believe that:

- ✓ *All students can be successful*
- ✓ *Success comes in many forms*
- ✓ *There are many pathways to success*
- ✓ *Students have the right to pursue any pathway to which they aspire*



WRDSB Vision

Celebrating the gifts of each and every student by creating limitless opportunities for them to flourish, grow and become their best selves.

WRDSB Mission

Creating learning environments where all students excel as they become skilled, caring, and compassionate global citizens.

Learner Profile

The learner profile is made up of the skills and attributes students need to be successful in learning and in life as we move toward the 22nd century. The learner profile is designed to ensure students have the ability to succeed academically in the classroom, and have the skills to excel in their future careers, whatever their chosen pathway. It was developed in direct consultation with students, to ensure it responds to their needs.

When they graduate, WRDSB students will be:



Confident



Creative
& Curious



Inclusive



Change
Makers



Attentive to
Relationships



Empathetic



Community
Oriented

Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land on which WRDSB sites are situated are the lands traditionally used by the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, and Chonnonton People. We also acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge, laws, and philosophies of the Indigenous people with whom we share this land today. We are all treaty people with a responsibility to honour all our relations.

The Waterloo Region District School Board reserves the right to alter information in this publication after the date of print. For up-to-date information, please visit: www.wrdsb.ca Updated June 2026.

GETTING READY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL



Create a Transportation Plan to Secondary School

Many new Grade 9 students find it helpful to prepare a transportation plan for the upcoming school year. For some, Grade 9 may be the first time in your education career where you will not be riding a WRDSB school bus to school. Additionally, many secondary schools begin the day earlier than elementary schools. It can be helpful to determine a transportation plan and decide on a departure time in order to arrive at school on time and prepared to learn.

- ✓ *Work with your caregivers to decide on a transportation plan to and from school*
- ✓ *Practice your transportation plan (i.e., walk the route to school, practice accessing the GRT)*
- ✓ *Reflect and evaluate your plan and work with your caregivers to find a solution that fits your family's needs*

Join Clubs and Sports Teams

Joining clubs and sports teams can be an effective way to get involved in your school community, meet new friends and create a sense of belonging within your new school.

- ✓ *Take some time over summer to review any clubs and sports teams your school offers on your secondary school website*
- ✓ *Upon arrival at secondary school, listen and look for school announcements or ask a teacher for help*
- ✓ *Try new clubs and teams!*



Creating Positive Mental Health Habits

The transition to secondary school can be filled with many big emotions. This is a natural response you feel when experiencing change. The summer leading into Grade 9 can be a wonderful time to begin developing a routine of meaningful mental health habits that will benefit you as you enter into the secondary school community.

- ✓ *Create a healthy sleep routine*
- ✓ *Engage in physical activity opportunities*
- ✓ *Experience the outdoors as often as possible*
- ✓ *Limit screen time*
- ✓ *Create opportunities for social engagement*
- ✓ *Practice positive self-talk*
- ✓ *Participate in mindful activities*



HELPFUL HINTS

- ☐ Create good study habits
- ☐ Arrive to class prepared and on time
- ☐ Ask for help when you need it
- ☐ Develop organization skills that help you complete assignments and prepare for assessments



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the bell times at my secondary school?

Bell times vary by school location. Please visit your secondary school's website.

How do I join a club or sports team?

Many sports and clubs begin the first week of school. Listen and look for school announcements for further information.

What does a secondary school schedule look like?

WRDSB secondary schools are semestered. Each semester, students will take 4 courses.

How do I get to school?

The following website has been developed to provide information on transportation eligibility.
Visit: www.stswr.ca

How do I get my locker and schedule?

Students will receive their schedules no later than the first day of school. Lockers are distributed the first week of

school. Check your school website for School Startup Information.

Do I get a Chromebook?

Yes, in September, each Grade 9 student will be assigned a Chromebook. Students with SEA Chromebooks will receive theirs from the Special Education Department.

How do I know what secondary school I will attend?

The following website has been developed to provide information on school locations and boundaries.
Visit: www.stswr.ca

What if I can't find my class?

School staff and student leaders will be in the hallways during transition willing to offer directions. Ask for help!

How long are my classes?

Each school has slightly different bell times, but in a 4 block day classes are 75 minutes long. You will have 5 minutes between classes for transition. There are 2 classes in the morning and 2 after lunch.

Can I complete my Community Involvement Hours at any time?

Students may begin completing their community involvement hours in the summer before entering Grade 9. Visit: <https://www.wrdsb.ca/learning/programs/secondary-school-information/graduation-requirements/community-involvement-requirements/>

How do I pick my Grade 9 courses?

During the winter, Grade 8 students will enter their course selections with the support of caregivers, Grade 8 teachers and guidance counselors, into myBlueprint.

How do I find information about summer learning programs?

Elementary staff will share the information when available. Information can also be found on the WRDSB website each spring.
Visit: www.wrdsb.ca

GETTING READY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL



Things you can do in the summer before Grade 9

Reach Ahead (GLS10)

July- Full day Summer School (Gr. 9 Credit)

Are you looking to get ahead? Interested in earning a credit towards graduation before beginning your secondary school journey? Enrolling in the Reach Ahead (GLS10) program is a wonderful way for new Grade 9 students to prepare themselves for the transition to secondary school in September.

You will have the opportunity to learn:

- ✓ *Strategies and skills to support your transition to secondary school*
- ✓ *Improve literacy skills and strategies for reading, writing and oral communication*
- ✓ *Improve numeracy skills and strategies in your practical application of mathematics*
- ✓ *Develop an understanding of personal skills and learning strategies to build a toolbox of strategies for success in secondary school*
- ✓ *Develop stronger relationship and teamwork skills*
- ✓ *Create a personal learning plan that includes aspects of school, work and community involvement opportunities.*

Literacy/Numeracy and Multi Multilingual Learner (MLL) Summer School Program

July-Full Day Summer School (Non-Credit)

WRDSB routinely offers students in Grade 6, 7 and 8 the opportunity to enroll in summer learning courses. The Literacy/Numeracy course and MLL course can be an impactful extension of learning that helps students in refining their numeracy and literacy skills prior to entering secondary school. Reach out to your elementary SERT or guidance counselor in the spring to find out what programs will be offered this summer by the WRDSB.



Community Involvement Hours (40 hours)

40
HOURS

Did you know Grade 8 students are allowed to begin earning their Community Involvement Hours the summer before entering Grade 9? Getting ahead on your Community Involvement Hours can be a beneficial way for you to get ready for secondary school. Community Involvement Hours can help you develop your organizational skills, communication skills, sense of responsibility and civic duty, as well as teach you more about what you may be interested in pursuing in future elective credits and career paths.



Please contact your elementary or secondary guidance counselor, or refer to the Community Involvement Requirement webpage for more information on eligible activities, rules and an activity tracker.

<https://www.wrdsb.ca/learning/programs/secondary-school-information/graduation-requirements/community-involvement-requirements/>

GIVING BACK WITH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HOURS

Things you can do in the summer before Grade 9

Every secondary school student is required to complete a minimum of 40 community involvement hours over the course of their secondary school journey as one of the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

You are able to complete one or multiple activities which add up to 40 total hours. The requirement must be satisfied prior to graduation and is required to occur outside of class time:

- ✓ *Before or after school*
- ✓ *During school hours, outside of class time*
- ✓ *During lunch hour*
- ✓ *On the weekend*
- ✓ *On school holidays*



As a Grade 8 student entering secondary school in the fall, you are able to begin earning your Community Involvement Hours the summer leading into secondary school (July and August).

The Ontario Ministry of Education has released new information about recognition for students who go above and beyond the 40 hour minimum requirement for graduation. Starting this year, students can earn a **Minister's Certificate of Recognition for Community Involvement** when they graduate. This new certificate celebrates their dedication to helping others and for completing more than 50 volunteer hours during high school.

Visit: <https://www.wrdsb.ca/learning/programs/secondary-school-information/graduation-requirements/community-involvement-requirements/>

WHY?

- Develop an understanding of the value of civic duty
- Begin to explore potential interests in career paths
- Foster and improve upon your sense of identity within the community

There are now three levels of recognition for this new Certificate:



BRONZE LEVEL:
50-99
VOLUNTEER HOURS



SILVER LEVEL:
100-199
VOLUNTEER HOURS



GOLD LEVEL:
200+
VOLUNTEER HOURS

For more information about the new Minister's Certificate of Recognition for Community Hours, please visit this [Ministry of Education website](https://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ministryofeducationwebsite/).

Suggestions of Volunteer Opportunities

- ✓ Contact **Volunteer Waterloo Region** for current activities (including virtual):
Volunteer Waterloo Region
1454 King St. E. Unit 3 Kitchener, ON
519-742-8610 | volunteerwr.ca
- ✓ Contact **Public Institutions**
- ✓ Contact **Regional or Local Government**
- ✓ Contact **Service Clubs** to assist with some of their projects
- ✓ Contact **local library** and **Information Centers** for a list of agencies in the community



DECODING A COURSE CODE

Courses Use a 6-Character Course Code for Identification



Course Types

De-streamed (W) courses offer students open pathways to college, university, workplace or apprenticeship and replace the former Grade 9 streamed courses of Applied and Academic.

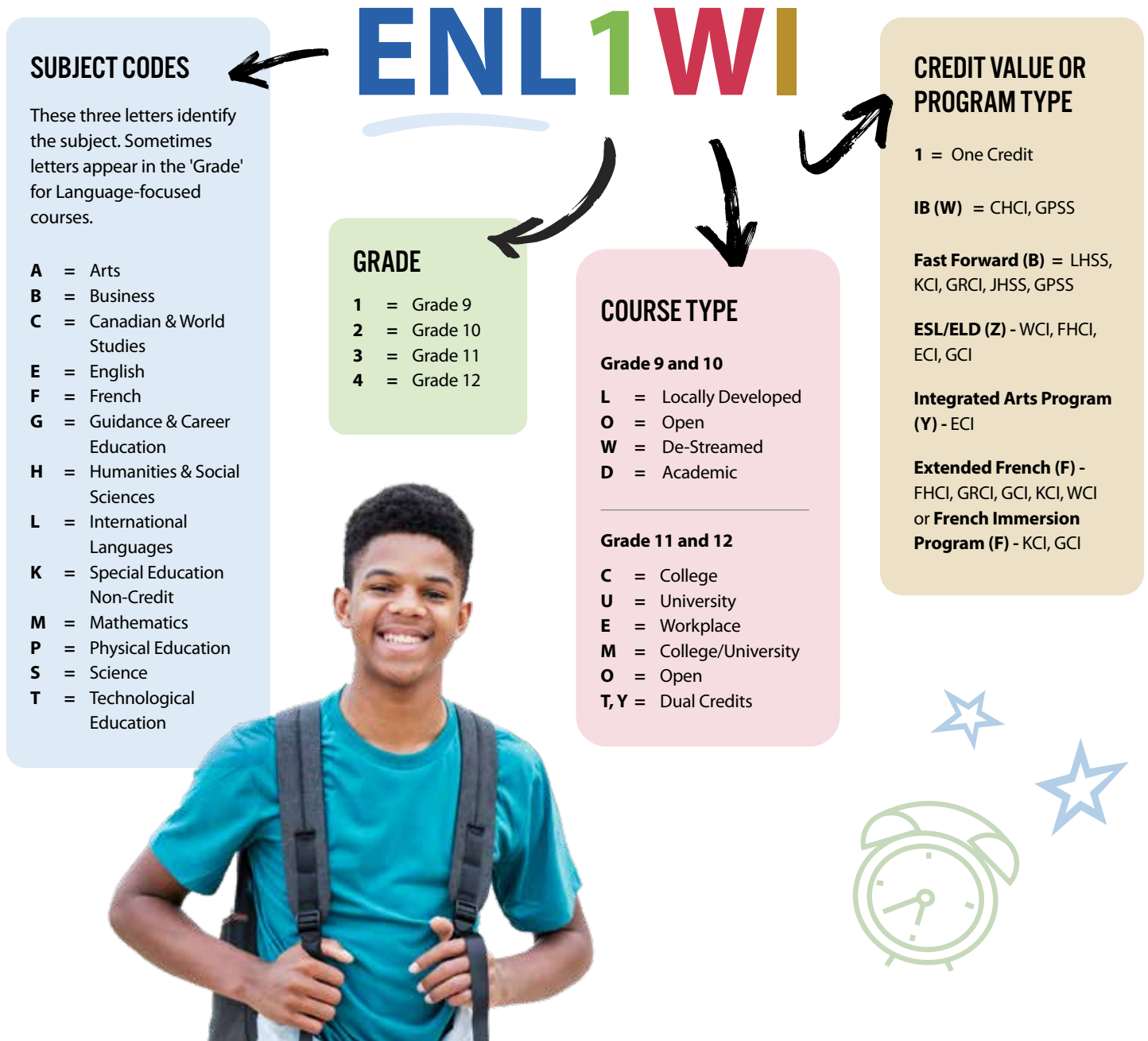
Locally Developed (L) courses are designed to prepare students for transition from high school to the workforce.

Academic (D) courses utilize the study or theory and abstract problems to develop the students knowledge and skills in the subject area.

Open (O) courses allow students to further study subject areas to enhance their education generally. These courses are appropriate for all students.

Board-Designated Specialized Program Courses (Varies) are specific to the Magnet Program course of study and are coded using the 6th digit of a course code.

Grade 11 and 12 (Varies) courses are based on post-secondary pathway destinations.



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A guide to earning your Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)



30 CREDITS
IN TOTAL



40 HOURS OF
COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT



COMPLETION OF THE
ONTARIO LITERACY
REQUIREMENT



COMPLETION OF THE
ONTARIO FINANCIAL
LITERACY REQUIREMENT

17 Compulsory Credits	CREDITS
English (1 credit per grade)	4
Mathematics (Grade 9, Grade 10 and 1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)	3
Science	2
Canadian Geography (Grade 9)	1
Canadian History (Grade 10)	1
The Arts	1
Health and Physical Education	1
French as a Second Language	1
Technological Education (Grade 9 or 10)	1
STEM - Related Course Group (Business Studies, Computer Studies, Cooperative Education, Mathematics*, Science*, Technological Education*) *In addition to compulsory credit(s) required	1
Career Studies	0.5
Civics and Citizenship	0.5
Total Compulsory Credits	17
13 Elective Credits	CREDITS
Students are required to earn 13 optional credits that match their interests and future pathways to develop their skills.	13
Total Elective Credits	13
Total Credits Required for Graduation	30

Note: Please be aware that Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) Graduation Requirements may change after the date of publishing. Please check the Ministry of Education website for the most current information: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/high-school-graduation-requirements>.

Other Requirements

✓ Community Involvement completed over 4 years Note: Grade 8 students can start their community involvement hours in July and August before Grade 9	40 hrs
✓ Online Learning Any of the 30 credits may be taken online. For information relating to the opt-out process, please see your guidance counselor *https://www.wrdsb.ca/blog/2022/10/20/online-learning-graduation-requirement-and-opt-out-process/	2 credits
✓ The Provincial Literacy Requirements OSSLT or OSSLC Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC)	
✓ Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement Embedded in the Grade 10 Careers Course	

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE (OSSC)

The Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC) will be granted, upon request, to students who are leaving secondary school at the age of 18 without meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Students must meet the following criteria in order to be granted an OSSC:

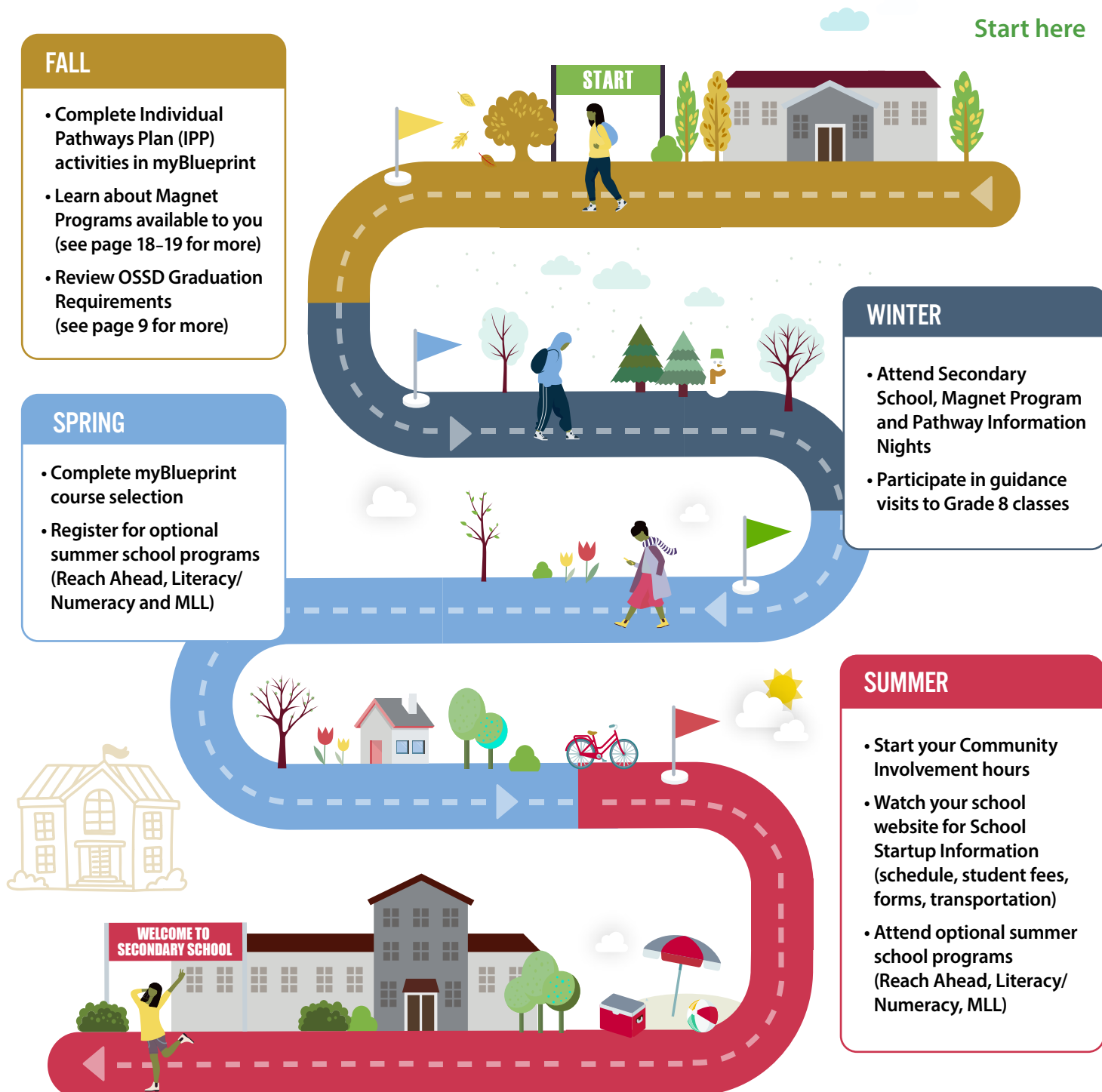
7 Compulsory Credits	CREDITS
English	2
Mathematics	1
Science	1
Canadian Geography	1
Health and Physical Education	1
The Arts or Technological Education	1
7 Elective Credits	CREDITS
Students are required to earn 7 optional credits that match their interests and future pathways to develop their skills.	7
Total Credits Required for Graduation	14

YOUR JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

Your Road Map to Secondary School

The transition from elementary school to secondary school is a very exciting time. The **Road Map** can be filled with a variety of emotions, including feeling nervous, stressed and anxious because you may not know what to expect or prepare for. The WRDSB offers meaningful experiences and events throughout your Grade 8 year to support you and your family in gaining the knowledge needed so that you feel supported in a smooth and successful transition.

Meaningful Experiences and Events in your Grade 8 Year



SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORTS

WRDSB Special Education is founded on the philosophy that every student is entitled to an education in the most beneficial learning environment available. All students with a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) or who require accommodations and/or modifications to support their learning will be supported through the Special Education Department. Each IEP will be reviewed, where consultation between the Special Education Resource Teacher, Subject Teachers and at-home Caregiver will occur to develop an updated IEP for students who require Special Education support. Transition meetings and visits will be held in the spring of Grade 8 to support students' successful transition to the secondary school environment, as needed and required.



Special Education Resources @ WRDSB Schools

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ✓ <i>Individualized Education Plans</i> | ✓ <i>Speech and Language Pathology</i> | ✓ <i>In-School Support Teams (ISST)</i> |
| ✓ <i>Special Education Amount Equipment (SEA)</i> | ✓ <i>Psychological Services</i> | ✓ <i>Multi- Disciplinary Support Teams (MDST)</i> |
| ✓ <i>Assistive Technology</i> | ✓ <i>Hearing and Vision Supports</i> | ✓ <i>Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs)</i> |
| ✓ <i>Instructional, Environmental and Assessment Accommodations</i> | ✓ <i>Orthopedic Supports</i> | ✓ <i>Student Success Teachers</i> |
| ✓ <i>Transition Meetings and Visits</i> | ✓ <i>Social/ Emotional Supports</i> | ✓ <i>Educational Assistants (EAs)</i> |
| ✓ <i>Learning Resource Centre (LRC)</i> | ✓ <i>Alternative Continuum of Education (ACE) Programs</i> | ✓ <i>Learning Strategies Courses</i> |
| | ✓ <i>Alternative Education Programs</i> | |

Note: Availability and access to above Special Education resources MAY be provided through a referral-based process or as an accommodation within an IEP, as needed. Please contact your Special Education Resource Teacher for more information.

Alternative Continuum of Education (ACE) Program

The Alternative Continuum of Education (ACE) Program is a non- credit alternative to the Ontario Curriculum leading to a Certificate of Accomplishment. ACE does not lead to an OSSD and, as such, students are exempt from OSSD requirements. ACE is a referral-based program wherein eligible students must meet the criteria for placement. Your Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) will support eligible students and their families through the referral process.

ACE Program Offers:

- ✓ *A small ratio setting*
- ✓ *Alternative curriculum (with functional skills focus)*
- ✓ *Alternative Individual Education Plan (IEP)*
- ✓ *Alternative Program Report Card*



WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

There is always help for those who need it! Take a look at all the support available to you:

YOUR SUPPORT SYSTEM

As you enter into the secondary school community, it is important to know that you are not alone on your journey. There are a number of people on your team that are here to help and support you. Each student is assigned an Administrator and Guidance Counselor who can help solve problems, answer any questions and help clear up concerns you may have. In addition to these trusted adults, you will also have access to Child and Youth Workers, Social Workers, Subject Teachers, Student Success Teachers, Educational Assistants and more.



ADMINISTRATORS

Principals/ Vice-Principals Administrators, are there to ensure students feel safe and secure at school in order to learn. They are a resource to both students and families in times of concern.



GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Guidance Counselors support each student in course selection, identifying pathways and planning for post-secondary career plans. They are also available to support students in accessing the help they need with personal concerns.



CHILD AND YOUTH WORKERS

CYWs help create safe, equitable and inclusive learning environments. They are professionals who work directly with students requiring support for emotional, behavioral or physical problems. They can be a great resource for connecting students with additional professionals for specific situations.



SUBJECT TEACHERS

Teachers are positive role models and provide students with essential information for success. They provide students with ongoing academic support and play a vital role in developing students' understanding of various career paths.



EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS

Educational Assistants are vital to student learning. They support students with IEP's or on a needs basis to engage in their learning environment.



SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCE TEACHERS

Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTS) work to support students with Individualized Education Plans. They work directly and indirectly with students by doing diagnostic assessments, providing individualized or small group support, teaching alternative courses and working with Subject Teachers to implement accommodations necessary to support student learning.



STUDENT SUCCESS TEACHERS

Student Success Teachers work to support students with academic support. This is offered to students who may need extra support in their course work, an alternate work space, and more.



SOCIAL WORKER

Social Workers are available through a referral process for students in-risk.



CAREGIVERS

Caregivers are essential to a successful transition to secondary school. Families are encouraged to remain involved in all aspects of the transition to secondary school and beyond



FRIENDS

The support of friends is a meaningful aspect of your support team. Sharing your feelings, discussing decisions and communicating about the transition to high school can be an important support throughout your journey.



MLL TEACHERS

MLL Teachers help MLL students in their academics by honouring their cultures, languages and lived experiences. They work with ESL/ELD newcomers to select courses, and with Subject Teachers to develop accommodations necessary to support student learning.



SUPERVISION MONITORS

Supervision Monitors are visible and constant supports in the hallways of every high school. They are available to help you when needed.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Positive mental health is something we all strive for ourselves and for everyone in our community. Mental health is a key factor that helps us to reach our full potential. Positive mental health takes work, which WRDSB is committed to supporting.

Your Mental Health



Each of us experiences changes in our mental health, much like our physical health. It's important to prioritize and maintain our mental well-being, recognizing that our mental health can vary over time.

Be Well



We must not overlook our mental health. It's important to tool ourselves with strategies to nurture our mental well-being, both during periods of stability and when facing challenges.

Identifying Warning Signs



Recognize when additional support may be necessary to safeguard your mental health. Learn to identify signs that either you or a friend might benefit from assistance.

Get Help



It's common for everyone to encounter challenges with their mental health occasionally. When you recognize the need for assistance, it's important to know where to seek support. Reach out early and seek the help you require.

Be a Supportive Friend



We're all in this together. Find out what you can do to support your friends and classmates.

Understanding Social/Emotional Learning



Developing a positive mindset, cultivating strong interpersonal connections, and making thoughtful choices are essential social and emotional skills that contribute to our overall well-being. Social and emotional learning involves the ongoing process of acquiring and applying these skills in daily life.

Mental Health Resources for Students and Caregivers

If you require support, the trusted adults within school settings—including Teachers, Guidance Counselors, Principals, Vice-Principals, and various professionals such as Social Workers, Child and Youth Workers are available to provide social and emotional support, offer strategies, share resources, and advocate for your well-being. They are committed to strengthening your network of care and support both within and beyond the school environment.

Visit the WRDSB Mental Health and Well-being website for more resources:

<https://www.wrdsb.ca/our-schools/health-and-wellness/mental-health-well-being/>



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

The WRDSB recognizes that we are all treaty people and acknowledge both the rights and responsibilities that lie at the heart of the treaties in place in the territory on which WRDSB facilities are located.

The WRDSB is committed to understanding Indigenous histories, current realities and ways of knowing. Through the work of the Indigenous Education Branch and the WRDSB Indigenous Education Circle (IEC), WRDSB continually works to support Indigenous students and staff, providing guidance in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, 2015.



How will you be supported?

- ✓ *Implementation of Indigenous expectations into the curriculum*
- ✓ *Cultivation of community partnerships and facilitating community engagement and outreach opportunities*
- ✓ *Socio-cultural consciousness*
- ✓ *High expectations*
- ✓ *Desire to make a difference*
- ✓ *Constructivist approach*
- ✓ *Deep knowledge of our students*
- ✓ *Culturally responsive teaching practices*
- ✓ *Developing and sharing resources and tools*
- ✓ *Student groups and advocacy opportunities*
- ✓ *Access to Indigenous Resources through the WRDSB Library Learning Commons*
- ✓ *Recognition of National Indigenous History Month, National Indigenous Peoples Day, Truth and Reconciliation Day and many other important Indigenous days of significance*
- ✓ *Access to Indigenous School Social Workers*
- ✓ *Access to smudge kits*



For more information

For more information about how WRDSB continually works to build system-wide capacity to support Indigenous students and staff, please visit **WRDSB's Indigenous Education webpage** www.wrdsb.ca

EQUITY & INCLUSION



WRDSB's Commitment to Students & Staff

The WRDSB is committed to upholding Human Rights for ALL students and staff no matter their identities. As such, the WRDSB fosters a culture of learning where anti-oppressive and anti-racist practices support equitable and inclusive schools, where students can thrive both academically and socially. In doing so, the WRDSB ensures that all students are heard, understood, respected and have access to the supports they need.

WRDSB is committed to upholding the values of Equity & Inclusion through:

- Policies, Programs, Guidelines and Practices
- Shared and Committed Leadership
- School-Community Relationships
- Inclusive Curriculum and Assessment Practices
- Faith and Religious Accommodation
- School Climate and Prevention of Discrimination and Harassment
- Professional Learning
- Accountability and Transparency



THE WRDSB STANDS FIRM AGAINST INCIDENTS OF DISCRIMINATION. IF AN INCIDENT OF DISCRIMINATION OCCURS, ADULTS FOLLOW THESE DIRECT STEPS:

D

Dialogue with everyone involved in the incident.

I

Identify the behaviour(s) and make it clear how the behaviour(s) is harmful, discriminatory, inappropriate and not acceptable.

R

Reinforce our commitment to human rights, equity, and safe and inclusive schools. Explain Safe and Inclusive School policies.

E

Educate those involved as to why the behaviour was discriminatory.

C

Communicate to those impacted when appropriate action has been taken.

T

Transform the situation by examining the school culture, providing opportunities for individual, group and school-wide learning, and identifying and eliminating barriers to student well-being and achievement.

Get Involved at your Secondary School

- ✓ **Black Student Union (BSA)**
- ✓ **Muslim Student Association (MSA)**
- ✓ **Indigenous Student Alliance (ISA)**
- ✓ **Asian Student Union (ASU)**
- ✓ **Gay-Straight Alliance / Gender & Sexualities Alliance (GSA)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please speak to an administrator to log a request with the Equity and Inclusion Department.

NOTE: Clubs vary from school to school. Please consult with your student activity counsel representatives and/ or teachers to find out what Affinity Groups are available at your secondary school.



LITERACY

GRADE 9 ENGLISH (ENL1W)

The Grade 9 English course (ENL1W) builds on the elementary language curriculum and is based on the same fundamental principles. The course is aimed to be inclusive of all learners in order to provide a smooth transition from the elementary grades to the secondary level.

ENL1W has a focus on developing the knowledge and skills needed to build the strong foundation that students will need in the senior grades. Students will engage in activities that bridge language and literacy learning with their lived experience.

Teachers deliver the curriculum through a variety of assessment models and instruction practices rooted in culturally responsive and relevant pedagogy (CRRP). Educators employ multiple entry points to ensure the



students are provided with differentiated instruction and assessment opportunities to best demonstrate their English proficiency.

This course has been developed to provide students with the appropriate next step in their language and literacy learning, which aims to prepare students for success in a variety of educational pathways.

SUPPORT & PREPARATION FOR EQAO & OSSLT

Students will receive a wide variety of support at school to ensure that they feel well prepared for the OSSLT assessment.

Students are encouraged to refer to the EQAO website for further preparation support:
www.eqao.com



ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

All students are required to successfully complete the OSSLT requirement in order to earn their OSSD. The OSSLT tests students on their literacy skills learned up until the completion of their Grade 9 English course (ENL1W). The OSSLT is administered to students during their Grade 10 school year.

The OSSLT is administered through the EQAO testing platform and is now completed online. Students will be supported in becoming familiar with the platform prior to the administration of their OSSLT. The OSSLT consists of two components: reading and writing.

In the event a student is unsuccessful on their OSSLT, students will be provided with the option to rewrite the OSSLT in the following school year or enroll in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course. Successfully completing either the OSSLT or the OSSLC will satisfy each student's OSSD requirement for graduation. Students with an IEP may utilize the accommodations provided by their IEP during the writing of this assessment.

NUMERACY

Grade 9 Mathematics (MTH1W)

The Grade 9 Mathematics course (MTH1W) provides students with the foundation of knowledge that is necessary to succeed in any of the secondary mathematics courses required for their designed career pathway. MTH1W provides students with a curriculum that engages students to build upon the mathematical thinking foundation the elementary curriculum developed.

Grade 9 EQAO Assessment of Mathematics

In Grade 9, students will be assessed using the EQAO platform on the knowledge and skills defined in the Ontario Grade 9 Mathematics Curriculum and learned through the Grade 9 Mathematics course (MTH1W). The assessment results will be used to determine a portion of the final course mark. The assessment covers the following five strands: Number, Algebra, Data, Geometry and Measurement and Financial Literacy.

NEW! FINANCIAL LITERACY GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, students who entered Grade 9 in the 2025–2026 cohort or later must successfully complete a specialized online financial literacy module to earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Students will complete this requirement as part of their compulsory Grade 10 Career Studies course. The requirement consists of learning modules and assessment questions developed by TVO, must be completed online under the supervision of the teacher. The Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement assesses core financial literacy concepts found in the Grades 4 to 9 curriculum and complements the Grade 10 Career Studies course. Students are permitted up to two attempts to achieve the 70% passing score during the course and in the event a student is not successful, additional standalone attempts to meet the graduation requirement will be provided.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- ✓ Probability
- ✓ Number Sense & Operations
- ✓ Algebra
- ✓ Measurement
- ✓ Geometry
- ✓ Data
- ✓ Financial Literacy
- ✓ Mathematical Processes
- ✓ Mathematical Modeling
- ✓ Coding



SUCCESSFUL HABITS IN SECONDARY MATH CLASSES:

Arrive to class with a growth mindset

Arrive to class prepared and on time for learning

Be an engaged & active participant in class discussions

Ask for help from your teacher and classmates

Commit to completing homework assignments

Access additional support(s) as required

BOARD-DESIGNATED SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

Magnet Programs (Guaranteed Acceptance)

Board-Designated Specialized Programs or Magnet Programs are programs that offer students additional opportunities or levels of support throughout the secondary school journey. Some Magnet Programs admit all students who meet the entry requirements upon receiving their application, while other programs require Grade 8 to 9 school contacts, caregivers and students to collaborate in completing an application with no guarantee of acceptance.

Instrumental Strings

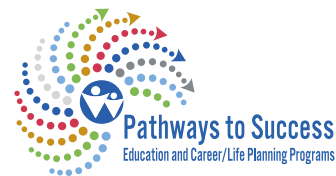
Located at three different locations across WRDSB, the Instrumental Strings program offers students the opportunity to develop their playing skills as well as study theory, listening, history and composition through structured education courses connected to the Ontario Curriculum.

Students currently enrolled in a WRDSB elementary strings program or those who provide evidence of previous string instruction may enter the program.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

English Literacy Development (ELD)

These programs are for students who are multilingual learners (MLL). These students may benefit from specialized instruction, resources and scaffolds based on their STEP (Steps to English Proficiency level). (See page 20 for more detail).



INSTRUMENTAL STRINGS IS OFFERED AT:

- ✓ *Eastwood Collegiate Institute*
- ✓ *Grand River Collegiate Institute*
- ✓ *Waterloo Collegiate Institute*



Extended French

This program is offered to students who completed the Partial French Immersion program and requires students to fulfill a combination of seven additional French courses in order to achieve the Extended French Certificate. (See page 21 for more).

French Immersion

This program is offered to students who completed the Partial French Immersion program and requires students to fulfill a combination of ten additional French courses in order to achieve the French Immersion Certificate. (See page 21 for more).

BOARD-DESIGNATED SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

Magnet Programs (No Guaranteed Acceptance)

Fast Forward Program

Fast Forward is a unique diploma granting program (OSSD) focusing on preparing students for the workplace.

The program is designed to develop students' literacy and numeracy skills in addition to learning skills and employability skills necessary to be successful in a work environment. Students' preparation for employment includes a variety of opportunities for work-related learning experiences.

Students and caregivers will be supported by their grade 8 guidance counselor/SERT to complete the admission application. Fast Forward schools are predetermined by WRDSB school boundaries.

**Transportation is provided for students who live 3.2 km or more outside of their school boundary.*



FAST FORWARD IS OFFERED AT:

- ✓ *Glenview Park Secondary School*
- ✓ *Grand River Collegiate Institute*
- ✓ *Jacob Hespeler Secondary School*
- ✓ *Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School*
- ✓ *Laurel Heights Secondary School*

Integrated Arts Program

The Integrated Arts Program (IAP) offers enriching arts opportunities for creation through diverse, inclusive programming for students interested in the performing, visual, production, and media arts. Students in the IAP take a combination of Arts Major and Arts Minor courses in grades 9–12. Arts classes are supplemented by extracurricular activities, field trips and guest instructors. Students who complete at least 8 arts credits including one grade 12 Arts Major and who engage with extracurricular activities throughout high school earn an Arts Endorsement Certificate upon graduation. Eastwood Collegiate Institute IAP students pursue a variety of post-secondary school programs and careers after graduation. The application package for this program is completed in Grade 8 and an audition is required. Students and their caregivers are responsible for their own transportation.



International Baccalaureate Program

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is a program that develops inquiring, knowledgeable, confident and caring young people. The program empowers students to take ownership of their own learning, helping them to make a difference and thrive in a world that changes quickly. Students are challenged to develop multi-disciplinary skills that will prepare them for success in the future. An application package for this program is completed in Grade 8. Students and their caregivers are responsible for their own transportation.

International Baccalaureate is offered at:

- ✓ *Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute*
- ✓ *Glenview Park Secondary School*



MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS (MLL)



Supporting Multilingual Learners (ESL/ELD)

Each secondary school provides support to MLLs. MLL students are supported through two main Pathway options:

Pathway Options:

1 Mainstream MLL students with more advanced English proficiency (STEP 5 and 6) enroll in the mainstream courses at their home secondary schools.



2 ESL/ELD Magnet Program: The ESL/ELD magnet program is for students in STEP 1-4. Students learn with MLLs with similar needs.

English as a Second Language (ESL) English Literacy Development (ELD)

The ESL/ELD program offers English as a Second Language and English Literacy Development students with increased direct and indirect support throughout their secondary school courses.

- Trained teachers with expertise in teaching MLL students
- Smaller class sizes
- Additional English courses tailored to students current Steps to English Proficiency (STEP) level
- Specific elective courses with enhanced MLL support
- Academic, social and emotional support in all courses

**Transportation is provided for students who live 3.5 km or more outside of their school boundary.*

ESL/ELD programs are offered at:

- ✓ **Eastwood Collegiate Institute**
- ✓ **Forest Heights Collegiate Institute**
- ✓ **Galt Collegiate Institute**
- ✓ **Waterloo Collegiate Institute**



Who makes that decision:

Grade 8 students get support from their MLL teacher, guidance counselor and Special Education Teachers (SERT) to make a decision and choose the appropriate pathway that fits their learning profile and social needs.



School Settlement Workers

Did you know that SSW's help newcomer students and their families connect with the education system and their community, provide information and advocate on your behalf?

Check out the WRDSB Welcome Centre for Newcomers website for more:
<https://www.wrdsb.ca/register/welcome-centre-for-newcomers/>

FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (FSL)

French Programs

Waterloo Region District School Board offers three French Language programs at the secondary school level: Core French, Extended French and French Immersion.

Core French

Students working to obtain their OSSD are required to earn their Grade 9 French credit (FSF1D) as a requirement of graduation. Through this course, you will increase your independence in the French language by focusing on familiar topics related to daily life. Through listening, speaking, writing and reading skills, you will extend upon the learning foundation you build throughout your elementary Core French experience. Students enrolled in the Fast Forward, ESL/ELD and ACE programs may be exempt from the French Graduation Requirement.

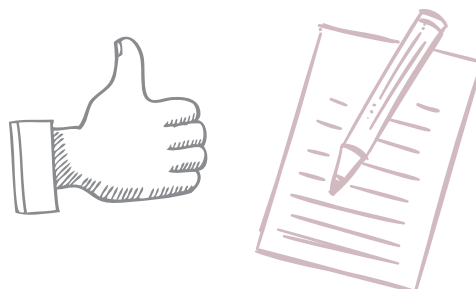
Extended French

Extended French offers students who completed the Partial French Immersion program a unique opportunity to earn a certificate upon the completion of four French language courses and a minimum of three additional courses taught in French. The program offers admission to those who qualify. Students and their caregivers are responsible for their own transportation.



EXTENDED FRENCH IS OFFERED AT:

- ✓ *Forest Heights Collegiate Institute*
- ✓ *Galt Collegiate Institute*
- ✓ *Grand River Collegiate Institute*
- ✓ *Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School*
- ✓ *Waterloo Collegiate Institute*



French Immersion

The French Immersion program is available to all students who completed the Partial French Immersion program. This program offers you the opportunity to earn a certificate upon completion of four French Language courses and an additional six subject courses taught in French. Students and their caregivers are responsible for their own transportation.

French Immersion programs are offered at:

- ✓ *Galt Collegiate Institute*
- ✓ *Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School*



WRDSB PATHWAYS

Choose your path. Your way.

INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS PLAN (IPP)

IN THE WRDSB, WE BELIEVE THAT

- ✓ *All students can be successful*
- ✓ *Success comes in many forms*
- ✓ *There are many pathways to success*
- ✓ *Students have the right to pursue any pathway to which they aspire*

MAKING PATHWAYS CHOICES

Grades 7–8	Developing Awareness
Grades 9–10	Exploring Possibilities
Grades 11–12	Specialization & Initial Post-Secondary Destination Planning

What is a Pathway?

A 'pathway' will lead a student to a particular post-secondary destination. Students are free to make new pathway choices as they develop new interests, skills and abilities. Thoughtful course selection with a realistic examination of interests and abilities is an important aspect of successful pathways planning.

Selecting Your Pathway

It is important that young people find work and experiences that are rewarding, fulfilling, and those which allow you to contribute to your community. This search may lead directly to an apprenticeship, college, community living, university or the workplace—otherwise called a student's initial post-secondary destination.

Individual Pathway Planning

In Ontario, every student develops a plan for their future, called an Individual Pathways Plan. Work on this plan starts in Grade 7 and continues until graduation.

Starting in Grade 7, you will document your learning in education and career/life planning in an Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) using myBlueprint. Developing an IPP increases your awareness of your strengths and interests and the related opportunities for learning and work. It also enables you, in collaboration with your teachers and caregivers, to make decisions, set goals, develop and implement the steps needed to successfully complete elementary and secondary school and proceed to your initial post-secondary destination.

The Individual Pathways Plan (IPP), developed in myBlueprint, serves as a record of your learning and is an effective resource for facilitating family/caregiver interviews and student-led conferences, illustrating where you have been and where you are going. The IPP helps you develop an understanding of the career/life planning process and the value this process will have for you in your post-secondary planning and throughout your life.



myBlueprint

**Learn how to access your
myBlueprint IPP on pages 30-33**

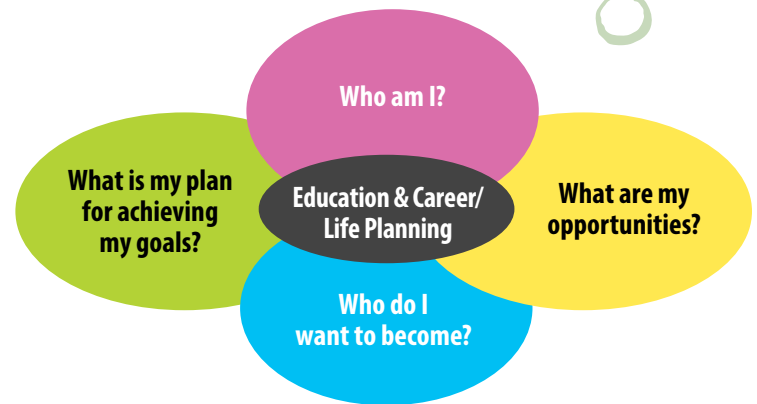
EDUCATION & CAREER/LIFE PLANNING

Discovering your Pathway

Education and career/life planning is a lifelong process that requires you to be flexible and able to adapt to changes in yourself and in the world around you.

To promote success in school and life, our schools provide opportunities and support for you to plan your individual pathway through school and to support a successful transition to your initial post-secondary destination. Schools do this by supporting you in identifying your personal interests, strengths, needs and aspirations and in using your knowledge of yourself to inform your choices of programs and learning opportunities.

It takes a whole education community—teachers, administrators, students and families/caregivers—as well as the broader local community to support you in successful education and career/life planning. Make efforts to engage with all of the people who can support you in your education and career/life planning journey.



Throughout your time in school, you will be encouraged to return to the questions below again and again to learn more about yourself and how to successfully shape your future. You can use myBlueprint to explore and record your answers to the questions below.

Inquiry Question	Your Self-Reflection Checklist	
Who am I?	☐ What am I passionate about? ☐ What am I interested in?	☐ What are my strengths? ☐ How do I study and learn best?
What are my opportunities?	☐ What high school courses and programs are available to me? ☐ What extracurriculars are available at my school? ☐ What new things would I like to try?	☐ What can I learn more about and who can help me? ☐ What do I still want or need to explore?
Who do I want to become?	☐ What inspires me? ☐ What do I dream about? ☐ What does success look like to me?	☐ What decisions do I need to make for myself? ☐ What goals do I need to set?
What is my plan for achieving my goals?	☐ What are the steps to achieving my goals? ☐ What are the resources that can support me in achieving my goals? ☐ Who can help me reach my goals?	☐ What obstacles might I face along the way? ☐ What is my plan to overcome obstacles? ☐ Am I prepared to revisit and revise my plan as I learn more about myself?



Apprenticeship
College
Community
University
Work

Choose your path. Your way.



Which pathway will you choose?

There are many pathways to success and you have the right to pursue your pathway of choice. You always have the option to change pathways, in response to your changing goals. Choosing a pathway can be challenging, and this is where Individual Pathways Planning (IPP) helps you and your caregivers to reflect upon all the many factors that go into pathways planning.

As you enter secondary school, learning more about the variety of pathways and options within them is important. Tools like myBlueprint provide all the factual information you may need, but experiences and self-reflection throughout secondary school also play an important role in helping you make informed choices.



APPRENTICESHIP

Pathway

Apprenticeship is a practical method of learning, and provides hands-on training in over 140 skilled trades.

Apprentices are paid while gaining work experience and wages increase with skill level as you continue in your apprenticeship.

How long does an Apprenticeship take?

Becoming a certified tradesperson requires a combination of on-the-job training and in-school training done at the local college, adult education, or training centre. Training lasts 3 to 5 years depending on the trade or occupation.

- ✓ Gain **90%** of your training on the job
- ✓ Spend **10%** of your time in the classroom

Consider an Apprenticeship if:

- You enjoy hands-on learning, enjoy fixing things and have good mechanical and spatial abilities.
- You like to stay active and want to have skills security and work-life balance.
- You are able to solve problems, determine why something does not work and how it can be done better.
- You are interested in earning income while you learn.

APPRENTICESHIP IN ONTARIO



MOTIVE POWER

- ♦ Agricultural Equipment Technician
- ▲ Alignment and Brakes Technician
- ▲ Auto Body and Collision Damage Repairer
- ▲ Auto Body Repairer
- ▲ Automotive Electronic Accessory Technician
- ▲ Automotive Glass Technician
- ▲ Automotive Painter
- ▲ Automotive Service Technician
- ▲ Heavy Duty Equipment Technician
- ▲ Marine Engine Technician
- ▲ Motive Power Machinist
- ▲ Motorcycle Technician
- ▲ Powered Lift Truck Technician
- ♦ Recreation Vehicle Technician
- ▲ Small Engine Technician
- ▲ Transmission Technician
- ▲ Truck and Coach Technician
- ▲ Truck-Trailer Service Technician
- ▲ Turf Equipment Technician

SERVICE

- ▲ Aboriginal Child Development Practitioner
- ▲ Agricultural — Dairy Herdsman
- ▲ Agricultural — Fruit Grower
- ▲ Agricultural — Swine Herdsman
- ♦ Appliance Service Technician
- ▲ Arborist
- ▲ Assistant Cook
- ♦ Baker
- ♦ Baker-Pâtissier
- ▲ Chef
- ▲ Child and Youth Worker
- ▲ Child Development Practitioner
- ♦ Cook
- ▲ Developmental Services Worker
- ▲ Educational Assistant
- ▲ Electronic Service Technician
- ▲ Gemsetter/Goldsmith
- ▲ Hairstylist
- ▲ Horse Groom
- ▲ Horse Harness Maker
- ▲ Horticultural Technician
- ▲ Information Technology — Contact Centre Customer Service Agent
- ▲ Information Technology — Contact Centre Sales Agent
- ▲ Information Technology — Hardware Technician
- ▲ Information Technology — Network Technician
- ▲ Institutional Cook
- ▲ Micro Electronics Manufacturer
- ▲ Native Clothing and Crafts Artisan
- ▲ Network Cabling Specialist
- ♦ Parts Technician
- ▲ Retail Meat Cutter
- ▲ Saddlery
- ▲ Special Events Coordinator
- ▲ Utility Arborist

CONSTRUCTION

- ♦ Architectural Glass and Metal Technician
- ♦ Brick and Stone Mason
- ♦ Cement (Concrete) Finisher
- ♦ Concrete Pump Operator
- ♦ Construction Ballmaker
- ♦ Construction Craft Worker
- ♦ Construction Millwright
- ♦ Drywall Finisher and Plasterer
- ♦ Drywall, Acoustic and Lathing Applicator
- ▲ Electrician — Construction and Maintenance
- ▲ Electrician — Domestic and Rural
- ♦ Exterior Insulated Finish Systems Mechanic
- ♦ Floor Covering Installer
- ♦ General Carpenter
- ♦ Hazardous Materials Worker
- ♦ Heat and Frost Insulator
- ♦ Heavy Equipment Operator — Dozer
- ♦ Heavy Equipment Operator — Excavator
- ♦ Heavy Equipment Operator — Tractor Loader Backhoe
- ▲ Hoisting Engineer — Mobile Crane Operator 1
- ▲ Hoisting Engineer — Mobile Crane Operator 2
- ▲ Hoisting Engineer — Tower Crane Operator
- ♦ Ironworker — Generalist
- ▲ Ironworker — Structural and Ornamental
- ♦ Native Residential Construction Worker
- ♦ Painter and Decorator — Commercial and Residential
- ♦ Painter and Decorator — Industrial
- ▲ Plumber
- ♦ Powerline Technician
- ♦ Precast Concrete Erector
- ♦ Precast Concrete Finisher
- ♦ Refractory Mason
- ▲ Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Systems Mechanic
- ♦ Reinforcing Rodworker
- ▲ Residential (Low Rise) Sheet Metal Installer
- ▲ Residential Air Conditioning Systems Mechanic
- ♦ Restoration Mason
- ♦ Roofer
- ▲ Sheet Metal Worker
- ▲ Sprinkler and Fire Protection Installer
- ▲ Steamfitter
- ♦ Terrazzo, Tile and Marble Setter

INDUSTRIAL

- ▲ Bearings Mechanic
- ▲ Blacksmith
- ♦ Cabinetmaker
- ♦ Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Programmer
- ♦ Die Designer
- ♦ Draftsperson — Mechanical
- ♦ Draftsperson — Plastic Mould Design
- ♦ Draftsperson — Tool and Die Design
- ♦ Electric Motor System Technician
- ♦ Electrician (Signal Maintenance)
- ♦ Elevating Devices Mechanic
- ♦ Entertainment Industry Power Technician
- ♦ Facilities Mechanic
- ♦ Facilities Technician
- ♦ General Machinist
- ♦ Hydraulic/Pneumatic Mechanic
- ♦ Industrial Electrician
- ♦ Industrial Mechanic/Millwright
- ♦ Instrumentation and Control Technician
- ♦ Light Rail Overhead Contact Systems Linesperson
- ♦ Locksmith
- ♦ Machine Tool Builder and Integrator
- ♦ Metal Fabricator (Fitter)
- ♦ Mould Designer
- ♦ Mould Maker
- ♦ Mould or Die Finisher
- ♦ Optics Technician (Lens and Prism Maker)
- ♦ Packaging Machine Mechanic
- ♦ Pattern Maker
- ♦ Pressure Systems Welder
- ♦ Process Operator — Food Manufacturing
- ♦ Process Operator — Power
- ♦ Process Operator — Refinery, Chemical and Liquid Processes
- ♦ Process Operator — Wood Products
- ♦ Railway Car Technician
- ♦ Relay and Instrumentation Technician
- ♦ Saw Filer/Fitter
- ♦ Surface Blaster
- ♦ Surface Mount Assembler
- ♦ Thin Film Technician
- ♦ Tool and Cutter Grinder
- ♦ Tool and Die Maker
- ♦ Tool and Gauge Inspector
- ♦ Tool/Tooling Maker
- ♦ Tractor-Trailer Commercial Driver
- ♦ Water Well Driller
- ♦ Welder

WHAT IS APPRENTICESHIP?

Apprenticeship is a combination of on-the-job training and classroom learning that leads to a skilled trade credential.

- 90% in the workplace with an experienced skilled worker
- 10% in school at an approved training centre, union hall or college
- Apprentices follow training standards to become skilled in the trade

- ♦ Indicates a Red Seal Program
- ▲ Indicates a Designated Compulsory Trade*

Trades that are not Compulsory are Voluntary Trades**

*Compulsory Trade: a trade in which registration as an apprentice is legally mandatory.

**Voluntary Trade: a trade in which certification is not legally required to practice the trade.

LIVE THE SKILLED LIFE!

www.oyap.com

APPRENTICESHIP IS POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Ontario This program is funded by the Government of Ontario.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON APPRENTICESHIP, VISIT:

www.oyap.com

www.myblueprint.ca/wrdsb

www.skilledtradesontario.ca

www.wrdsbpathways.ca

www.careersintrades.ca/

www.ontario.ca/page/start-apprenticeship





COLLEGE

Pathway

College programs provide an effective combination of real life skills with quality education.

Colleges are typically more interactive, more instructive and project based to facilitate faster learning.

College leads to:

College programs give you the skills you need to pursue a variety of careers such as: police officer, dental hygienist, website technician, paralegal and chemical technologist.

How long does College take?

Colleges have certificate, diploma, graduate certificate, applied degree or joint college/university programs that take 1 to 4 years to complete.

Cooperative education programs may also be offered which provide paid work experience related to a field of study.

Consider College if:

- You find success in hands-on learning.
- You enjoy smaller classes and the personal approach to instruction.
- You have specific career goals that require a college education.
- You are interested in developing technical and occupational skills required for your chosen career area.

Also consider:

- Entrance requirements
- Tuition costs
- Location
- Experience
- Job prospects

ontariocolleges.ca

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COLLEGE, VISIT:

www.ontariocolleges.ca

www.gotocollege.ca

www.tcu.gov.on.ca

www.myblueprint.ca/wrdsb

www.transitionresourceguide.ca

www.wrdsbpathways.ca



COMMUNITY

Pathway

From the Alternative Continuum of Education (ACE), students transition to adult life incorporating activities and pastimes chosen to reflect their interests, skills and needs.

The Community Pathway leads to adult life that can include participation in:

- Paid and/or volunteer work placements
- Recreation and sports activities
- Ongoing learning opportunities
- Arts and hobby enjoyment
- Social experiences

Making plans for this Pathway?

- Students may participate in the ACE Programs at secondary school until June of the calendar year in which they turn 21 years of age.

- Transition Plans are reviewed and updated yearly as part of the IEP process.
- Students, parents, families and caregivers, special education teachers and community support agencies work together to plan for a student's life after secondary school.

Consider the Community Pathway if:

- You will graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC) or a Certificate of Accomplishment.
- You will enjoy learning, vocational, social and recreational activities.
- You would benefit from community agency support for your life planning.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY, VISIT:

www.dsontario.ca

www.dsocwr.ca

www.wrfn.info

www.wrdsb.ca/learning/programs/special-education/

www.communitylivingontario.ca

www.schools.wrdsb.ca/esu



UNIVERSITY

Pathway

University offers a broad comprehensive education in general areas such as (sciences, humanities and business).

University leads to:

University programs give you the skills you need to pursue careers such as: engineering, finance, medicine, teaching and more.

How long does University take?

- Students in university obtain bachelor degrees, masters degrees, and doctorate degrees, ranging from 3 to 10 years of study.
- Universities also offer continuing education and certificate programs, as well as collaborative joint degree programs and cooperative education offering a paid work experience related to a field of study.

Consider University if:

- You enjoy abstract concepts associated with course material and academic or theoretical learning.
- You enjoy independent, self-directed learning.
- You have specific career goals in mind that require a university education.

Also consider:

- Entrance requirements
- Tuition costs
- Location
- Experience
- Job prospects
- Program length



Ontario Universities'
Application Centre

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UNIVERSITY, VISIT:

www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca

www.ouac.on.ca

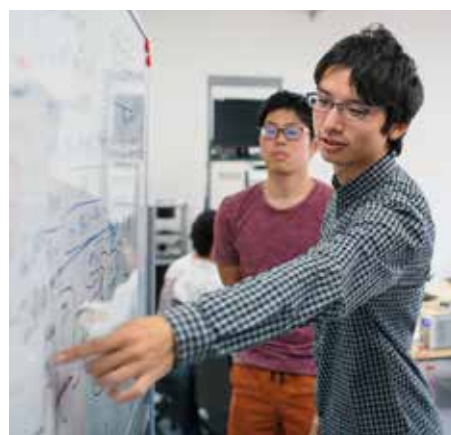
www.myblueprint.ca/wrdsb

www.wrdsbpathways.ca

www.transitionresourceguide.ca

www.tcu.gov.on.ca

www.universitystudy.ca/canadianuniversities





WORK Pathway

A wide variety of careers require a secondary school diploma, followed by specific on-the-job training or entry-level positions from secondary school.

Some students who choose direct entry into work may later pursue an Apprenticeship, College and/or University experience.

Consider direct entry into the Workplace if:

- You have been successful in Workplace pathway courses and wish to explore workplace opportunities.
- You have developed practical workplace skills that have prepared you for a specific career without needing to pursue an Apprenticeship, College or University first.
- You want to gain workplace experience before continuing post-secondary education.
- You have specific career goals in mind that allow you to go directly to the workplace for on-the-job training.

Employment Ontario Supports

- Finding new employment and career opportunities
- Creating a personal plan
- Understanding the job opportunities in your local area
- Launching your career
- Accessing free technology including computers and printers
- Completing applications to access financial incentives for returning to school
- Exploring training options to fit your needs

- Strengthening your skills with technology and how to make the most of it while looking for work



Employment Ontario Centres in Waterloo Region:

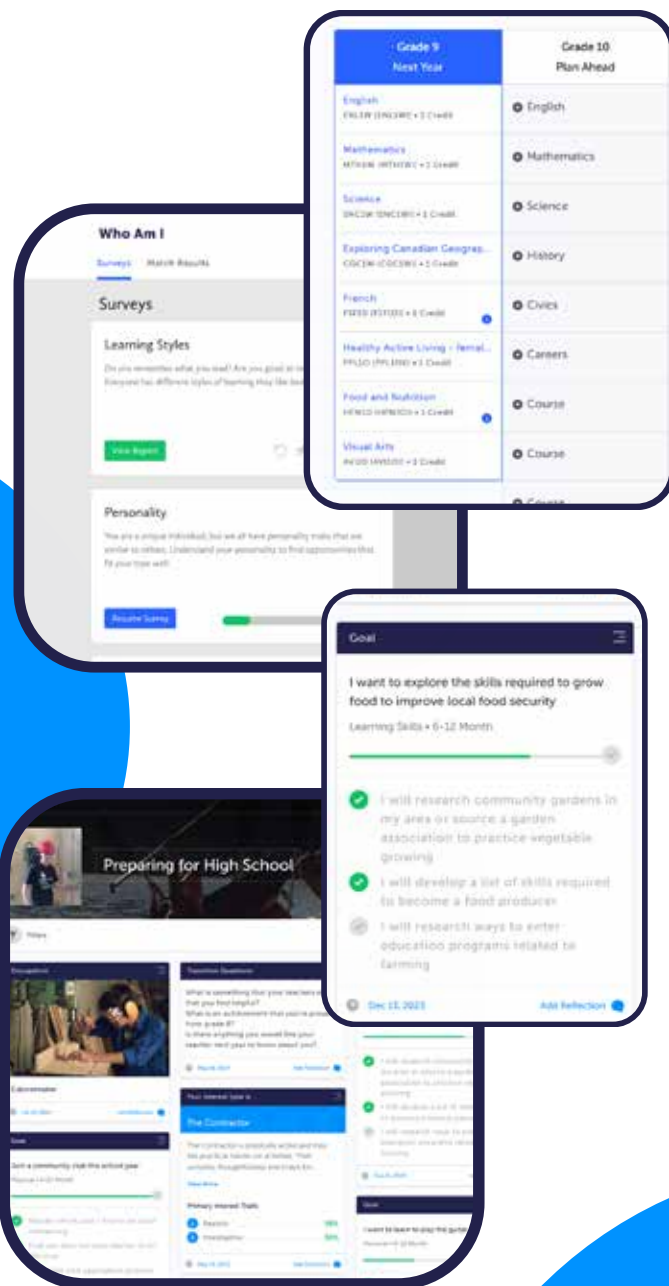
- *Cambridge Career Connections*
- *Starling Community Services*
- *Conestoga Community Career Centre*



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WORK, VISIT:

www.myblueprint.ca/wrdsb
www.wrdsbpathways.ca
www.cambridgecareerconnections.com
www.starlingcs.ca
www.conestogac.on.ca/career-centre
www.ontario.ca/page/employment-ontario

Your tool for planning high school and beyond



High School Planner

Visually plan courses, track progress toward graduation, and instantly identify post-secondary eligibility for opportunities in all destinations.

Who Am I Surveys

Complete personal assessments to learn and discover more about yourself, including how your interests and motivations align with career planning.

Goal Setting

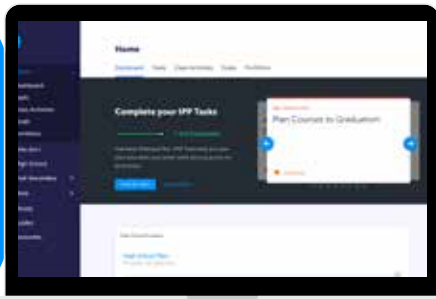
Tools and tips to set goals, create achievable tasks and track your progress.

Portfolios

Document and reflect on learning, keep record of experiences and skill development, and share your progress with parents, teachers, or future employers.

Log in to get started

1. Visit: www.myBlueprint.ca/WRDSB
2. Click School Account Login and enter your WRDSB email and password



For Parents, Families & Caregivers:

WRDSB students use myBlueprint for Individual Pathway Planning. myBlueprint supports students and families in exploring all pathway possibilities. The post-secondary database provides up-to-date information on all Canadian programs connected with students' individual plans.

We encourage you to set up a family account to connect with your student for pathway planning.



Who am I?

What are my opportunities?

Who do I want to become?

What is my plan for achieving my goals?

Create your family account:

1. Visit: www.myBlueprint.ca/wrdsb
2. Select Sign up and your student's school from the drop-down menu
3. Select Family/Advisor Account type & Follow the account creation steps

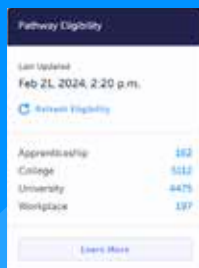
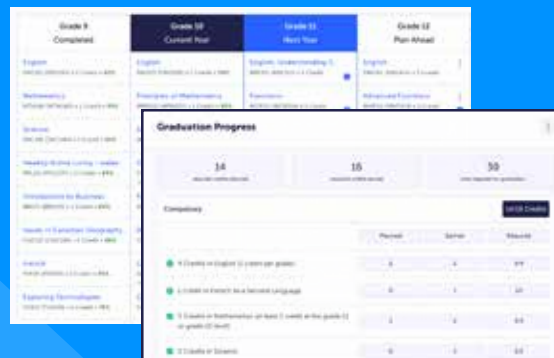


The Forwards Plan

For the student who is unsure what they want to pursue after high school

Step 1: High School Plan

Create a full high school plan that meets all graduation requirements based on your interests. Not sure what to add? Check out the Knowledge Survey to learn more about which courses are a good match for you!

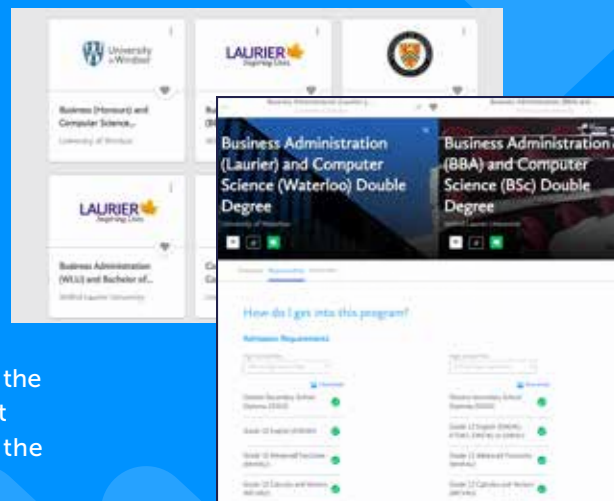


Step 2: Pathway Eligibility

Check out the Pathway Eligibility Indicator for a list of all post-secondary opportunities across Canada that you are eligible for based on the courses in your plan. Click on the number beside your pathway of interest (apprenticeship, college, etc.) to see the list of programs.

Step 3: Programs of Interest

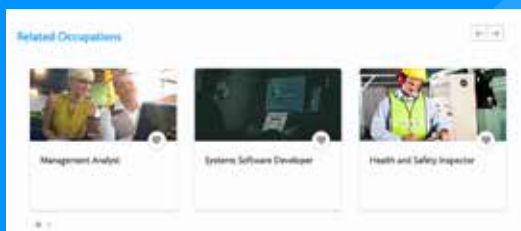
Filter to your province and/or province of interest. Browse the opportunities to find a program of interest. Click on the heart to add to your favourites and the program name to learn more.



Want to compare two programs side by side? Click the three dots to the right of the programs and select Compare, then click the blue Compare button at the top of your screen.

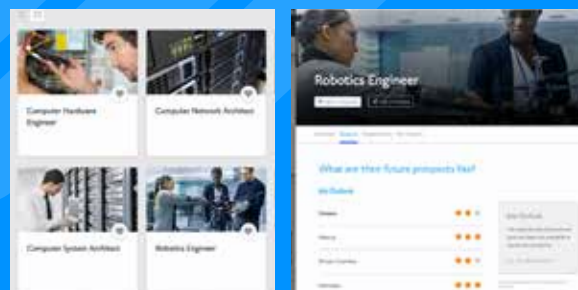
Step 4: Related Occupations

Review the post-secondary details to make sure it's a good match. Scroll to Related Occupations and click View More.



Step 5: Favourite Occupations

Explore the various occupations you can get into, should you complete the program of interest. Add a heart to add to your favourites.

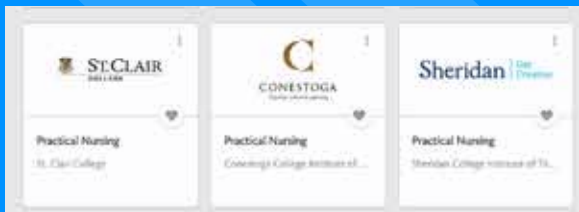
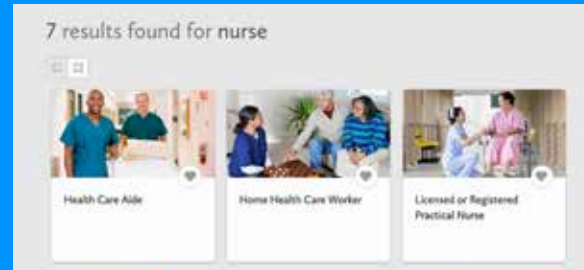


The Backwards Plan

For the student who has an occupation they want to pursue after high school

Step 1: Occupation Search

Click Work and then Occupations from the left-hand navigation to search for the occupation. Click on the heart to add to your favourites and the job title to learn more.



Step 2: Required Education

Click Requirements and make note of the required education and additional requirements to get into the field. Scroll to Potential Programs and click View Programs.

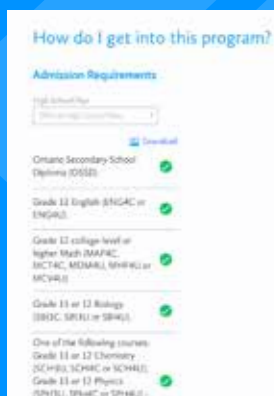


Step 3: Programs of Interest

Filter to your province and/or province of interest. Scroll through to find a program you are interested in, click on the heart to add to your favourites, and click on the title to learn more. Want to compare two programs side by side? Click the three dots to the right of the programs and select Compare, then click the blue Compare button at the top of your screen.

Step 4: Required Courses

Click Requirements and make note of any courses that are not met by your existing High School Plan (they will be greyed out).



Step 5: High School Plan

Go to High School and add any missing courses to your high school plan.

Grade 9 Completed	Grade 10 Completed	Grade 11 Current Year	Grade 12 Next Year
English ENG9U = 1 Credit = 90%	ENGLISH - Academic ENG9U = 1 Credit = 90%	ENGLISH - University ENG9U = 1 Credit	ENGLISH - University ENG9U = 1 Credit
Principles of Mathematics PM9U = 1 Credit = 90%	MATHEMATICS - Academic PM9U = 1 Credit = 90%	FUNDAMENTALS PM9U = 1 Credit	CHEMISTRY - College PM9U = 1 Credit
Science SC9U = 1 Credit = 90%	SCIENCE - Academic SC9U = 1 Credit = 90%	ACCOUNTING PM9U = 1 Credit	CANADIAN AND INTERNATIONAL PM9U = 1 Credit
FRENCH - Academic FM9U = 1 Credit = 90%	ENGLISH - University ENG9U = 1 Credit = 90%	German and/or Italian PM9U = 1 Credit	Technological Design PM9U = 1 Credit
DIAGNOSTIC ARTS DA9U = 1 Credit = 90%	Career Studies CS9U = 1 Credit = 90%	UNDERSTANDING CANADA PM9U = 1 Credit	ARTS AND CULTURE PM9U = 1 Credit
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION IM9U = 1 Credit = 90%	INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS IM9U = 1 Credit = 90%	ENGLISH - University ENG9U = 1 Credit	WORLD HISTORY to the END CH9U = 1 Credit
ISSUES IN CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY IG9U = 1 Credit = 90%	CANADIAN HISTORY SINCE 1900 CH9U = 1 Credit = 90%	CHEMISTRY - University CH9U = 1 Credit	World and Culture PM9U = 1 Credit
HEALTHY ACTIVE LIVING II HAL9U = 1 Credit = 90%	FRENCH - Academic FM9U = 1 Credit = 90%	Course	



TEST-DRIVE YOUR CAREER

WITH COOPERATIVE
EDUCATION

www.wrdsbpathways.ca



WHAT IS CO-OP?

Cooperative Education, or Co-op, can be a rewarding and important part of your high school education. In Co-op, you work and learn on the job for a WRDSB-approved employer.

Co-op placements are available in many different sectors and we start with your career interest! Besides a work placement, Co-op includes in-class sessions that cover topics such as resume writing, safety and what to expect in a workplace. All of it prepares you for your future!

WHY TAKE CO-OP?

There is no better way to develop the essential skills and habits required in the workplace. Co-op placements provide you the opportunity to:

- ✓ Gain practical work experience
- ✓ Explore your interest in a particular job and/or a sector of the economy
- ✓ Discover strengths and skills you never knew you had
- ✓ Learn to be an active member of a workplace team
- ✓ Develop the employment skills necessary for success in whatever workplace you choose
- ✓ Add experience, certifications and skills to your resume
- ✓ Develop a network of contacts that may help you in getting a job or a reference



Cooperative Education is the most common, meaningful and popular experiential learning opportunity available to you in secondary school.

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC PLACEMENTS

Cooperative Education meets the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. There are some pathway programs that have specific requirements or features connected to Co-op.

OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) is Co-op in the skilled trades! OYAP students can potentially start an apprenticeship through their Co-op placement to give them a head start on the path to earning certification in one of more than 140 skilled trades in Ontario.

Students in SHSM (Specialist High School Major) must take a minimum of two Co-op credits, allowing students to focus on the knowledge and skills that are relevant in that sector.

The WRDSB also offers **Summer Co-op** placements, providing greater flexibility for students trying to balance conflicting priorities during the school year.

LEARN MORE

The best way to get ready for Co-op is to start thinking about what you would like to do. There are so many options for placements, you'll be sure to find one that is interesting to you! Looking for ideas and inspiration? Visit wrdsbpathways.ca to read about the experiences of students from across the region who have taken Co-op.

Get ready for an interesting and rewarding experience! Contact your Guidance Counselor to learn more about how Co-op can prepare you for your career.



ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (OYAP)



www.wrdsboyap.ca

How do Co-op and OYAP work together?

The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) is a Cooperative Education experience in a skilled trade placement. Students become OYAP Participants when they submit an OYAP form and a record of their learning is created in the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD). An OYAP Participant may become a registered Apprentice while still enrolled in high school. Students must be at least 15 years of age and have 14 credits to become an OYAP Participant. (All MLITSD regulations for specific ages on certain worksites still apply. For example, a person must be at least 16 years old to be at a construction worksite.)

What is Apprenticeship?

Apprenticeship is an education and training post-secondary pathway. An Apprenticeship is an agreement between a person who wants to learn a skilled trade and an employer who needs a skilled worker. It involves a combination of on-the-job training under the supervision of a journeyperson and in-school training. The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development regulates this agreement. There are more than 140 Apprenticeship occupations in Ontario. If an employer is not set up as an apprenticeship sponsor through the MLITSD, we can help! For non-compulsory trades, the Co-op supervisor does not need to have gone through an apprenticeship. OYAP Apprentices may be able to complete OYAP Accelerated Level 1 training through Dual Credit.



BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- ✓ Provides experience to inform better career choices and a possible start in a chosen career
- ✓ Begins a record of Apprenticeship learning in the MLITSD database, easing the transition from school to working in Skilled Trades
- ✓ Increases opportunities for post-secondary training and employment
- ✓ Develops both specialized and general employability skills including problem-solving, decision-making, teamwork, good work habits, confidence and self-reliance
- ✓ Develops an understanding of employer expectation in the work world and the need for lifelong learning



This Employment Ontario program is funded by the Government of Ontario.

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR (SHSM)

www.wrdsbshsm.ca



The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program gives students in grades 11 and 12 the opportunity to learn about careers in a specific sector of the economy. Through in-class instruction, experiential learning opportunities and Co-operative Education placements, you can test-drive a career while still in high school with SHSM.

SHSM is recognized and funded by the Ministry of Education and meets the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). There is no cost to participate in SHSM. There are 5 common components of the SHSM program and they are customized for each of the sectors (career fields) that are offered. They include:

- 1 *Taking a bundle of courses in grades 11 and 12*
- 2 *Earning the certifications connected to have a career in that field*
- 3 *Participating in reach-ahead opportunities that help you plan a path in that career*
- 4 *Taking advantage of learning experiences in the sector such as workshops, field trips and especially Cooperative Education placements*
- 5 *Real-world problem solving by working with people in the field through sector partner experiences*

When you've completed your SHSM program, you'll know more about the career sector and how (or if) you could see yourself working in the field. You'll also build your resume, increase access to scholarships and have specialized knowledge and skills that are valued by the sector, employers and post-secondary education institutions.



Waterloo Region District School Board offers SHSM programming in several sectors, including:



DUAL CREDIT

www.wrdsbdualcredit.ca



Ontario's Dual Credit program offers you an opportunity in Grade 12 to experience a regular college course while earning both a college credit and a credit towards your Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

The Dual Credit program is intended to encourage eligible secondary school students to complete a Ontario Secondary School Diploma while exploring post-secondary education at an Ontario community college.

Benefits to Student

- ✓ *Eligible students can take college or apprenticeship courses at Conestoga College*
- ✓ *Dual Credit courses count as electives on the OSSD*
- ✓ *All courses are tuition-FREE*
- ✓ *Many/most courses can fulfill SHSM requirements*
- ✓ *Dual Credits can support apprenticeship-bound OYAP students*
- ✓ *Students benefit from the supervision and support of a college instructor and a WRDSB Dual Credit teacher*
- ✓ *Dual Credit supports a successful transition to college or an apprenticeship*



CONESTOGA
Connect Life and Learning

The WRDSB partners with Conestoga College to offer a variety of program options.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS



Compulsory Credit

Refers to specific courses students are required to take and satisfies the requirements to obtain their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Credit

A credit is what you earn after the completion of each course with a minimum of 50%. A one-credit course is scheduled for a minimum of 110 hours.

Elective Credit

A course students select based on their specific interests that counts towards the OSSD requirements.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Program

Students who have prior formal education, no significant gaps in schooling and engaged in literacy opportunities in their first language.

English Literacy Development (ELD) Program

Students who have some or no formal education, experienced significant gaps or no prior schooling and have had limited literacy opportunities in their first language.

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO)

EQAO is a government agency that contributes to the quality and accountability of Ontario's publicly funded education system for Kindergarten to Grade 12.

EQAO Assessment of Mathematics

An assessment administered to Grade 9 students testing their knowledge and skills as defined in the Ontario Grade 9 Mathematics Curriculum.

Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement

An assessment administered to Grade 10 students to evaluate their understanding of key components of Financial Literacy learned through Grade 1–9 Mathematics. Students must achieve a 70% or higher in order to satisfy this graduation requirement.

Individual Education Plan (IEP)

A written plan that describes special education programs, accommodations and services that a school board will provide a student.

Individual Pathway Plan (IPP)

Starting in Grade 7, students will develop an educational and career/life plan for their future, called an Individual Pathway Plan, using the myBlueprint platform.

Multilingual Language Learner (MLL)

Refers to a student whose first language is a language other than English. This may apply to students who recently arrived in Canada or Canadian-born students.

Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC)

The OSSC is granted to students who satisfy the OSSC requirements and leave high school upon reaching the age of 18.

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

Ontario's official high school diploma, consists of a variety of requirements in order to obtain your OSSD upon the completion of secondary school. Visit page 9 for more information.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC)

A course designed to support students who have not yet passed the OSSLT to acquire and demonstrate cross-curricular literacy skills assessed on the OSSLT. Students who earn this course credit satisfy the OSSD provincial literacy requirement.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

A reading and writing assessment students are required to earn as a requirement of graduation. OSSLT is administered during Grade 10.

Pathways

Refers to a post-secondary pathway, such as apprenticeship, college, community, university or work.

Semester

The secondary school year is separated into two semesters of equal length: Sept.–Jan. and Feb.–June. A student usually takes 4 courses each semester.

Steps to English Proficiency (STEP) Tracker

Steps to English Proficiency (STEP) is an assessment tracker that uses a 1–6 level scale to determine a student's current level of English proficiency in oral, reading and writing skills.

Transition Plan

Is a component on each IEP that supports students to successfully transition to secondary school. May also be developed for students who do not have an IEP to support a successful transition to secondary school.





WRDSB SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The following list represents the Waterloo Region District Secondary Schools. A student's qualification for registration at a particular secondary school is based on the address of the custodial parent's/caregiver's principal residence and not exclusively on the elementary school which they attended. Visit www.stswr.ca to determine your secondary school boundaries.

Bluevale Collegiate Institute

519-885-4620

bci.wrdsb.ca

Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute

519-578-8330

chc.wrdsb.ca

Eastwood Collegiate Institute

519-743-8265

eci.wrdsb.ca

Elmira District Secondary School

519-669-5414

eds.wrdsb.ca

Forest Heights Collegiate Institute

519-744-6567

fhc.wrdsb.ca

Galt Collegiate Institute & Vocational School

519-623-3600

gci.wrdsb.ca

Glenview Park Secondary School

519-621-9510

gps.wrdsb.ca

Grand River Collegiate Institute

519-576-5100

grc.wrdsb.ca

Huron Heights Secondary School

519-896-2631

hrh.wrdsb.ca

Jacob Hespeler Secondary School

519-658-4910

jhs.wrdsb.ca

Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate & Vocational School

519-745-6851

kci.wrdsb.ca

Laurel Heights Secondary School

519-880-9979

lhs.wrdsb.ca

Preston High School

519-653-2367

phs.wrdsb.ca

Southwood Secondary School

519-621-5920

sss.wrdsb.ca

Waterloo Collegiate Institute

519-884-9590

wci.wrdsb.ca

Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School

519-634-5441

wod.wrdsb.ca

Choose your path. Your way.



Which path will you choose?



Pathways to Success
Education and Career/Life Planning Programs



51 Ardelt Avenue
Kitchener, ON N2C 2R5
Tel: 519-570-0003

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