



**Waterloo Catholic
District School Board**
Quality, Inclusive, Faith Based Education



2021
**SENT TO
BUILD**



Entering Secondary School

A Transition Guide for Grade 8 Students & Parents

Your Path • Your Choice • Your Future

Welcome!

Message from our Director of Education



**Waterloo Catholic
District School Board**
Quality, Inclusive, Faith Based Education

Welcome to your new Waterloo Region Catholic secondary school!

During this exciting phase of your educational journey we hope to work closely with you as you prepare for the pathway you'll follow after secondary school.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board views all post-secondary pathway destinations as worthy and valuable and will provide students with the courses, programs and supports necessary to make a smooth transition to apprenticeship training, college, community, university or the workplace.

With students from 114 different countries who speak more than 70 different languages at home, our schools truly welcome the world. This rich cultural mosaic really helps us live out our vision of being the heart of the community, offering success for each and a place for all.

Our goal in our schools is to ensure our graduates go on to be contributing, productive and engaged members of our society. We attain this goal by providing a faith-based curriculum in a community that strives for a high level of academic achievement in all subject areas.

Please be sure to approach any guidance teacher, student success teacher, special education teacher or school administrator with questions you have about the right programs to help you meet your future goals.

And most of all have fun meeting new friends and broadening your horizons -- because it's your path... your choice...your future!

May God bless you in making all your dreams come true!!

LORETTA NOTTEN

Director of Education



Quality, Inclusive, Faith Based Education

wcdsb.ca



Our Mission

Our Mission:

"As disciples of Christ, we educate and nurture hope in all learners to realize their full potential to transform God's world."

Our Vision:

"Our Catholic Schools: **heart of the community -- success for each, a place for all.**"

Catholic Graduate Expectations

Catholic education views human life as an integration of body, mind and spirit. Rooted in this vision, Catholic education fosters the search for knowledge as a lifelong spiritual and academic quest. Embrace our Catholic Graduate Expectations as you work towards your diploma. These expectations define what students are expected to know, do and value when they graduate from our Catholic schools. A graduate is expected to be:

- † a discerning believer formed in our Catholic Faith Community
- † an effective communicator
- † a reflective, creative, and holistic thinker
- † a self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner
- † a collaborative contributor
- † a caring family member
- † a responsible citizen



2021
**SENT TO
BUILD**

*"Go into the world and proclaim
the Good News to all creation."*

MARK 16:15

2021

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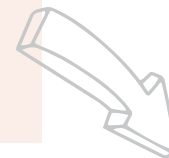
Your Journey to Success

Your Path to Secondary School



Safety protocols during COVID-19 may unfortunately necessitate changing, rescheduling or cancelling some of our transition programs, supports and events that typically run throughout the year. The safety, health and well being of everyone will always be our top priority.

Please check school websites regularly for updates as we navigate the ever-changing era of COVID-19.



Fall

- Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) activities in myBlueprint

Winter

- Parent & Student Secondary School Information
- Pathways Information
- Course selection

Spring

- Transition Meetings for students with an IEP

Summer

Optional programs may be offered by WCDSB and St. Louis: Summer Expeditions, HeadStart and Bridge to Success

- July - School StartUp Info available ONLINE
- Late August - Timetables/Used Uniform Sales

Start here



Grade 8 Transitioning to Secondary School and Pathway Presentations

Coming to you *Virtually* in 2020/21

Every year we look forward to welcoming our Grade 8 students and their families to our Secondary Schools for our *Information Evenings* and *Pathway Presentations*. Our Secondary Schools are currently working hard to adjust their event plans to the ever-changing environment as we prioritize the health and safety of all. It is our hope to provide live or prerecorded virtual events to showcase our amazing WCDSB school programs, community spirit, and answer your questions. Updates will be shared as they are available and posted on elementary school websites under NEWS.



FREE Community Events for Students & Parents

CAREER EXPO | INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES | EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHTS



Career Discovery Expo #Dream Big

Nov. 18, 2020 | 6:00 – 8:30pm | Virtual Format

Learn about exciting careers at this FREE online event for young women in Grades 7-12 and their Parents/Guardians.

Note: this is an annual event if you missed it this year look for it next year in November.

Register at dreambigkitchenerwaterloo.eventbrite.ca



Explore Your Future

Coming Spring 2021 | Evening Event | Virtual Format

Explore Your Future is an annual, interactive career expo which brings students, parents, and educators together with local businesses to better understand career options that exist in Waterloo Region.

Registration and Information at www.bepwr.ca

Graduation Requirements

OSSD Ontario Secondary School Diploma

30 CREDITS
IN TOTAL



40 HOURS OF COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT



COMPLETION OF THE
LITERACY REQUIREMENT

Students must earn the following compulsory credits to obtain the Ontario Secondary School Diploma:

18 Compulsory Credits	Credits
English	4
Math	3
Science	2
French as a Second Language	1
Canadian Geography	1
Canadian History	1
The Arts	1
Health and Physical Education	1
Civics	0.5
Careers	0.5
12 Elective Credits	Credits
Students are required to take: ✓ 4 Religious Education courses, one each year in grades 9-12. ✓ 8 Optional credits that match their interests or develop their skills.	12
Other Requirements	
✓ Community Service completed over 4 years. <i>Note: Grade 8 students can start their service hours in July and August before grade 9.</i>	40 hrs

Plus ONE credit from each of the following groups:

Subject	Credits
Group 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English or French as a second language A Native language A classical or international language Social sciences and the humanities Canadian and world studies Guidance and career education Cooperative education 	1
Group 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and physical education The arts Business studies French as a second language Cooperative education 	1
Group 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science (Grade 11 or 12) Technological education French as a second language Computer studies Cooperative education 	1



Literacy & Numeracy

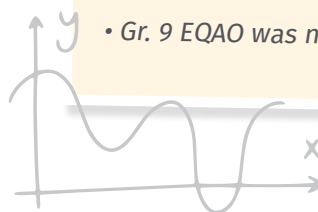
OSSD Ontario Secondary School Diploma

Grade 9 EQAO Assessment of Mathematics

Students in Applied and Academic Math courses participate in the Grade 9 EQAO Assessment of Mathematics in either January or June. The assessment results are used to inform each student's final grade. In 2020-21 EQAO is field testing a digital version of the assessment, with a different format than in the past, which will become the norm for future assessments. Consequently, grading of the assessment will be completed by the digital software and results will be made available to teachers, students, and parents upon completion.

Quick Facts

- For the 4th year in a row, scores for WCDSB math students have met or exceeded the provincial average.
- WCDSB Applied Level Math students were 11% ahead of the provincial average.*
* based on 2018-19 results
- Gr. 9 EQAO was not written in 2019-20



Keys to Success In Secondary School Math Classes

Positive attitude and effort including a growth mindset

Completing and submitting all homework and assigned tasks

Seeking help and clarification from your teacher

Regularly attending and being an active participant in class

Excellent study and time management skills

Accessing additional support(s) as required such as extra help sessions or tutoring

Support & Preparation for EQAO & OSSLT

Students are provided with a wide range of support within the classroom and outside class time to ensure they are well prepared for these evaluations.

Check out the EQAO website for sample tests and answers to help prepare.

www.eqao.com



Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

All students are required to successfully complete the OSSLT requirement to earn an OSSD. This test is based on the literacy expectations up until the end of Grade 9, and is administered in the second semester of Grade 10.

Students who are unsuccessful on the test can either retake the test in the following year, or enroll in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLT). Successful completion of the OSSLT satisfies the student's OSSLT requirement for graduation. Exemptions may be granted to students NOT working towards an OSSD. In certain circumstances, students may be deferred until a later administration of the test. Students with an IEP may write this assessment with the accommodations provided in their IEP.

OSSC Ontario Secondary School Certificate

The Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC) will be granted, on request, to students who are leaving secondary school upon reaching the age of eighteen without having met the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. To be granted an OSSC, a student must have earned a minimum of 14 credits, distributed as shown.



14 CREDITS
IN TOTAL



7 Compulsory Credits	Credits
English	2
Math	1
Science	1
Canadian History or Geography	1
Arts or Technological Education	1
Health and Physical Education	1

7 Elective Credits	Credits
--------------------	---------

Students are required to successfully complete an additional 7 credits (Religion courses included) that match their interests or develop their skills.

7

- Students are **not** required to complete 40 hours of community service.
- Students are **not** required to complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

C of A Certificate of Accomplishment

Students who are leaving secondary school upon reaching the age of eighteen without having met the requirements for the OSSD or the OSSC may be granted a Certificate of Accomplishment. This certificate recognizes achievement for students in the Community pathway who will go on to participate in further education, engage in volunteer/paid work, or participate in community programs.

Students working towards a Certificate of Accomplishment may take K- courses, which are alternative, non-credit courses for students with special education needs. These courses are designed to support the growth of fundamental skills, independence and self-care.



Your Support System

There are a number of programs and people to help you along the journey.

Entering secondary school is an important milestone in your life as a student. Never feel that you are on your own. Every student is assigned a guidance teacher and administrator who are available to answer your concerns or assist you. There are also other caring adults – your subject teachers, student success teacher, special education teacher and chaplain, child youth care workers (CYCW), educational assistants, and coaches.



Special Education Programming

Many Paths To Success



Our schools are the *heart of the community*, where there is *success for each and a place for all*, providing a positive and supportive environment.

All students who require accommodations and/or modifications for learning have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Transition meetings are held in Grade 8 for every student who has an IEP.

Parents/guardians and students are invited to meet with elementary and secondary school staff (teacher, special education teachers, guidance teacher, student success teacher and administrators) to discuss courses, levels of study and pathway selections based upon student strengths, needs and academic achievement. Unique accommodation needs (instructional, environmental and assessment) are also reviewed. Ongoing IEP development and implementation continues in secondary school.

Your Neighbourhood Catholic Secondary School offers:

- Inclusive School Community
- Assistive Technology
- Services for Students with Autism
- Opportunities for Students who are Gifted
- Remediation Programs
- Accommodations for Physical Disabilities
- Experiences Beyond the Classroom
- Support for Social/Emotional Needs
- Learning Strategies Courses
- Program/Learning Support
- Hearing and Vision Support
- Transition Planning

ACTIVE/Community Living

ACTIVE Program

The **ACTIVE Program** is for students entering Grade 9 with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) focusing on Junior/Grade 4-5 level expectations from the Ontario curriculum.

The ACTIVE Program supports students to:

- Enhance skills for independence
- Develop communication and employability skills
- Identify volunteer and work interests and talents
- Prepare for transition from school to volunteer or paid work, community programs, and/or post-secondary study



Sample ACTIVE Schedule

Grade 9, Grade 10 and Grade 11

Course	Mode of Delivery
Language & Communication Development Numeracy & Numbers	Congregated 1 period each semester
Personal Life Skills (recreational skills, vocational skills, social skills)	Congregated 1 period each semester
Religion	Integrated
Plus 3 courses from: other subject areas of interest	Integrated

Grade 12 and Year 5, 6, 7

Course	Mode of Delivery
Language & Communication Development Numeracy & Numbers	Congregated 1 period each semester
Exploring the World of Work	In school and community/ workplace experience
Religion	Integrated
Plus courses of interest from other subject areas	Integrated

Highlights:

- Earn a Certificate of Accomplishment* (non-credit)
- Potentially complete requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Certificate* (OSSC -14 credits)

*See page 8

Community Living Program

The Community Living Program is for students entering Grade 9 with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) focusing on Primary level expectations from the Ontario curriculum or on individualized alternative expectations.

The Community Living Program supports students to:

- Continue to develop life skills to achieve their fullest level of independence within the school and wider community
- Identify volunteer, recreation, and community involvement interests and abilities
- Prepare for the transition from school to work, ongoing learning opportunities and community programs

Highlights:

- Earn a Certificate of Accomplishment (non-credit) *See page 8

Sample Community Living Schedule

Year 1, 2, 3 and 4

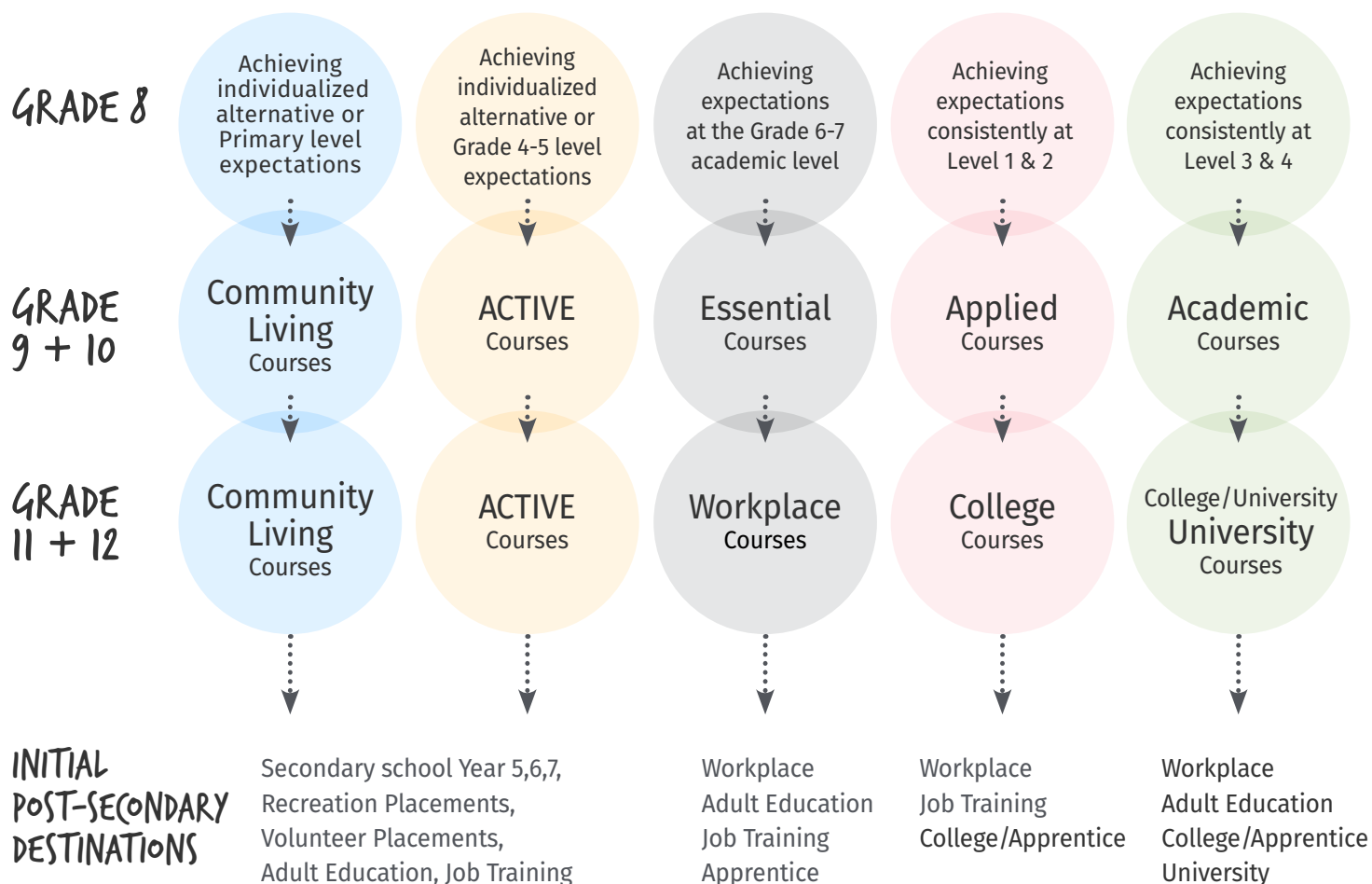
Course	Mode of Delivery
Language & Communication Development Numeracy & Numbers	Congregated 1 period each semester
Personal Life Skills (recreational skills, vocational skills, social skills)	Congregated 1 period each semester
Religion	Integrated
Plus 3 courses from: other subject areas of interest	Integrated

Year 5, 6, 7

Language & Communication Development Numeracy & Numbers	Congregated 1 period each semester
Personal Life Skills	Congregated
Exploring Our World	Congregated
Religion	Integrated
Plus courses of interest from other subject areas	Integrated

PATHWAYS through secondary school

This chart is a guide to help you determine your appropriate pathway.



The Ontario Ministry of Education's *Creating Pathways to Success* document grounds our belief that: **"all students can be successful, success comes in many forms and there are many pathways to success."**

Choosing for Success!

Course Types

Academic

Academic courses emphasize theory and abstract problem solving. There is an enrichment component offered in some academic courses.

Applied

Applied courses focus on practical applications and use concrete examples.

Essential

Essential courses are designed to focus on core knowledge and skills to meet individual student needs.

Open

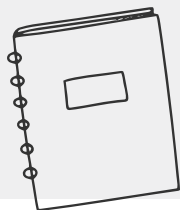
An open level course has one set of expectations for that subject. Open level courses are appropriate for all students and are not linked to any specific post-secondary destination.

Advanced Placement Preparation

Advanced Placement (AP) is an enrichment program that extends beyond the Ontario Curriculum for highly able learners looking to be challenged. AP Prep courses are offered in grades 9-11. For specific secondary school AP Prep offerings please contact the guidance department.

***NEW in 2021**

The ministry has announced, that commencing in September 2021, **Grade 9 Math will be de-streamed**. This means there will be one open Math course at the Grade 9 level, which will build on the new elementary Math curriculum released this year. The goal is this foundational math course will provide a better opportunity to prepare and support students to make informed secondary pathway choices. The ministry will be providing more details about this course throughout 2020-21.



Q&A

Your Guidance Department is an excellent source of information on pathway choices.



Can a student change course types?

YES! Students can change course types. Speak to a Guidance Teacher if this is something you are considering.

Do all of the courses that a student selects have to be the same type? (i.e. all at the academic pathway?)

NO! Students are encouraged to take the type of course that best suits their interests, pathway plan and learning style. Students may select a variety of course types.

Is there somewhere I can go for help if I have questions about course selection?

YES! Grade 8 teachers are available to assist with selecting courses for grade 9. All secondary schools offer information evenings to assist with the planning for the transition from grade 8 to 9 (see page 5). Secondary School Guidance Teachers are also available to help with any questions.

Course Selection

Use the high school planner in myBlueprint to select your courses for grade 9

Seek advice from your teachers and parents when making these choices. Plan for success by choosing the course types that match your current ability. There are opportunities throughout secondary school to move between course types if necessary, based on your skill development and post-secondary goals.

Step 1 Add Courses:

Students choose **eight** courses for grade 9. For English, Science, Geography and French you will need to select the course type (e.g. Academic, Applied, Essential or AP Prep if offered).

In 2021 grade 9 Math will be an open course type; AP Prep may be offered. See note on page 13 for more details.

For those students entering the ACTIVE or Community Living programs there will be transition meetings with parents to discuss course selection in the early Spring.

Two of your courses for grade 9 will be electives. These can include courses in the arts, business, physical education, and technology. Can't decide? Don't worry! All these electives and more are also available for you to take in grade 10.

English

Grade 9 • ENG1DI • Academic

English

Grade 9 • ENG1LI • Essential

English

Grade 9 • ENG1PI • Applied

English: Pre-Advanced Placement

Grade 9 • ENG1DP • Academic

Completed

+

 English

+

 Mathematics

+

 Science

+

 Geography

+

 French

+

 Religion

+

 Elective

+

 Elective

Step 2 Review Courses:

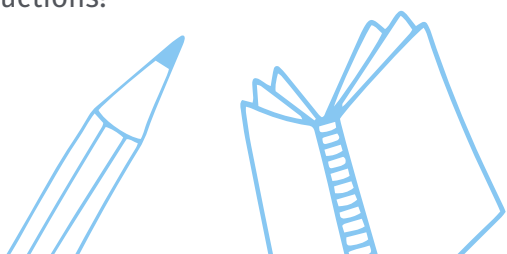
When you're satisfied with your eight course selections, click **Review Course Selections**. You'll have an opportunity to look over the courses you've chosen one last time. Check carefully: **Once you click Submit you can't make changes to your course selections.**

Step 3 Submit Courses:

Congratulations!

You've planned your courses for grade nine! The last step is for you to print the Course Selection Sign Off Sheet. You might print this yourself, or your teacher might print it for you - follow your teacher's instructions!

Print Sign-Off Sheet



Course Selection Sign Off Sheet

STUDENT: LAST14, FIRST14 (18+)

EMAIL: DEMOEMAILSS@DEMO.COM

COURSE: 00001014

GRADE: 9

SCHOOL: Demo High School 1

Courses Selected (8)

COURSE	COURSE	TYPE	CREDIT	REQUIREMENT	GRADE
ENG2D5	English	D	1	Eng	
MFM2P1	Foundations of Mathematics	P	1	Math	
SNK2D5	Science	D	1	Sci	
CHC2P5	Canadian History in the 20th century	P	1	His	
PPL20H	Healthy Active Living Education	D	1	Grp2	
HRF201	Exploring Family Studies	D	1	Grp1	
CHV201	Civics and Citizenship	D	0.5	Civ	
GLC201	Career Studies	D	0.5	Car	
ICS201	Introduction to Computer Studies	D	1	Elec	

Alternate Courses Selected (2)

TCJ2D1	Construction Technology	D	1		
ADA2D1	Drama	D	1		

Ontario Secondary School Diploma Status

ENGL	MATH	SCI	ART	PE	ELV	CAR	HE	EDU	GRS	GRS	GRS	GRS	CONP	ELC	TOTAL
0/4	0/1	0/1	0/1	0/1	0/1	0/1	0/1	0/1	0/1	0/1	0/1	0/1	0/1	0/1	0/30
0/4	1/1	2/1	2/2	0/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	14/30

* On Track includes earned, current and next year courses. Students must also complete 48 hours of Community Involvement. See your course selection for more details.

Student Signature: _____

Decoding a Course Code

Courses use a 6-Character Course Code for Identification

The first 5 characters of the course code are set out by the Ministry of Education. The sixth character is used by school boards to identify a specific characteristic of the course. For example, French Immersion is identified in the WCDSB with an “F”.



ENG 1 D I

English Grade 9 Academic

These three letters identify the subject. Subject Codes - the first letter in the course code denotes the course's department area.

A = Arts	Sciences
B = Business	L = International Languages
C = Canadian & World Studies	K = Special Education Non-Credit
E = English	M = Mathematics
F = French	P = Physical Education
G = Guidance & Career Educ.	S = Sciences
H = Humanities & Social	T = Technology

This indicator is used to distinguish specific/specialized WCDSB school programs.

This letter identifies the course type.

GRADES 9-10	GRADES 11-12
D = Academic	C = College
L = Essential	E = Workplace
N = Non-credit	N = Non-credit
O = Open	M = College/University
P = Applied	O = Open
	U = University

This number identifies the Grade.

CREDIT COURSES

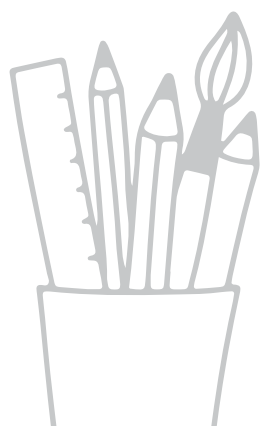
1 = Grade 9	3 = Grade 11
2 = Grade 10	4 = Grade 12

NON-CREDIT COURSES (K-CODE):

A = Grade 9	E = Year 5
B = Grade 10	F = Year 6
C = Grade 11	G = Year 7
D = Grade 12	

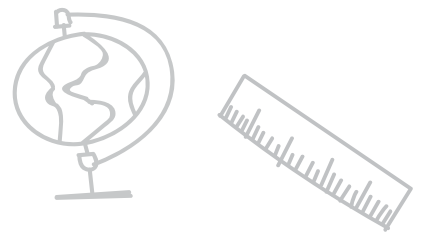
SBI 3 C I

Science Biology Grade 11 College



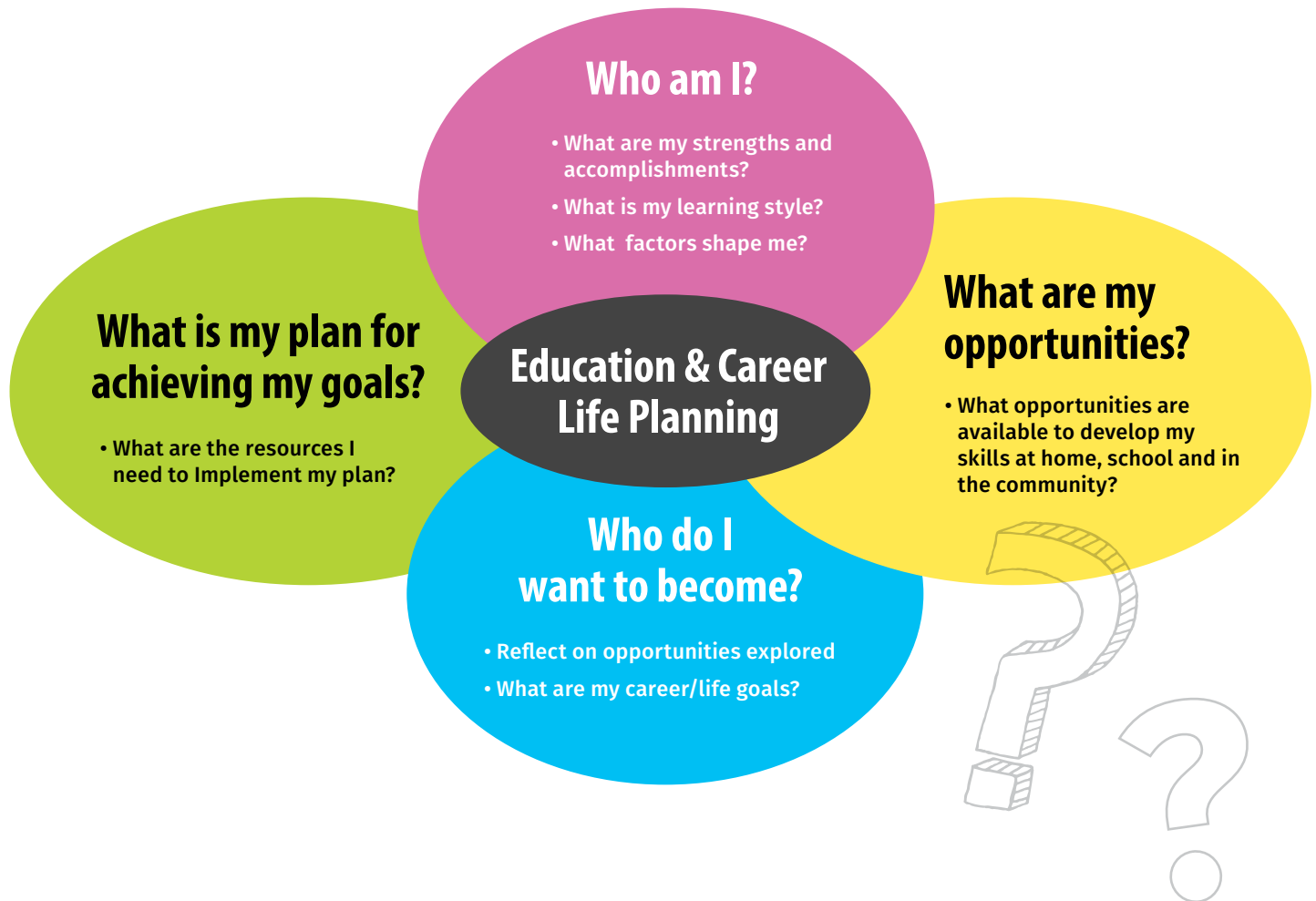
Education & Career Life Planning

Your Path • Your Choice • Your Future



Your journey to success starts with your **Individual Pathways Plan (IPP)**.

Starting in elementary school students are encouraged to discover themselves, explore opportunities, pursue their passions and design their personal pathway to success. Students will capture evidence related to their learning in their IPP (Individual Pathways Plan) using a web-based program called myBlueprint. Together students and parents can explore career and education options.



Pathways

Create your Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) with myBlueprint



myBlueprint is a web-based interactive program used by WCDSB students, parents and teachers to facilitate career exploration, pathways planning, post-secondary research and portfolio development.

Pathway planning activities are completed by all students in Grades 7 to 12 in myBlueprint.

Your Individual Pathways Plan

Starting Your Journey with myBlueprint



GRADE

8

WHO AM I?

WHAT ARE MY OPPORTUNITIES?

WHO DO I WANT TO BECOME?

WHAT IS MY PLAN?

ASSESS YOUR INTERESTS AND SKILLS

- Complete the Personality Survey
- Add Skills and Abilities

EXPLORE CAREERS - Keep an open mind to ALL Pathways

- Search for Careers based on your interests
- Favourite one occupation

PATHWAYS PLANNING

- Write two goals to help you achieve your plans
- Create a Portfolio to capture what you have learned and write a reflection

POST SECONDARY RESEARCH

- Select your secondary school courses for grade 9

PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT

- Use myBlueprint as your personal filing cabinet, upload files

Plan & Select your courses

All students plan and select their courses online using myBlueprint. (see page 14)

FOR STUDENTS & PARENT(S)/GUARDIANS

Getting Started Students - 3 options:

1

Visit your WCDSB secondary school's website and click the **myBlueprint** icon on the home page

OR

2

Go to www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic and click the green "School Account Log In" button

OR

3

Log in to D2L. Select the Pathway logo at the top, and then select the myBlueprint icon

D2L



Parent Portal - Keep in touch with your child's Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) and together explore career and education options. Use the Parent Portal from anywhere you have access to a computer.

Creating a Parent Account

- 1 Visit www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic
- 2 Click **Sign Up** in the top right corner
- 3 Select the secondary school your child would attend
- 4 Select Family/Advisor
- 5 Select student's grade range: Grade 7-12
- 6 Click Create My Account
- 7 Fill out personal information





Apprenticeship
College
Community
University
Work

Pathways

Your Path • Your Choice • Your Future

Pathway destinations include: Apprenticeship, College, Community, University and Work.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board views all five post-secondary pathway destinations as worthy and valuable. In our secondary schools we provide students with a wide range of course types, programs, supports and learning opportunities to meet the needs of all learners and prepare students for success in secondary school and beyond.

Pathways are flexible and may be combined and changed. As students begin to know themselves,

their interests, strengths, values and skills they are better prepared to select related opportunities for learning and work.

In collaboration with guidance teachers, teachers and peers, students will develop an Individual Pathways Plan (IPP), make decisions, set goals and develop and implement the steps needed to successfully complete secondary school and proceed to their initial post-secondary pathway destination.





Apprenticeship

Pathway

**Gain 85% of your training on the job
spend 15% of your time in the classroom**

Apprenticeship is a practical method of learning, providing hands-on training in over 150 skilled trades.

Apprentices are paid while gaining work experience and wages increase with skill level.

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 or training centre, and lasts 3 to 5 years depending on the trade or occupation.

Apprenticeship sectors

include: Motive Power, Service, Construction and Industrial.

Apprenticeship leads to:

Apprenticeships give you the skills you need to pursue careers such as: carpenters, chefs, horticulturists, information technologists, educational assistants and hairstylists.

Consider an Apprenticeship if:

- You enjoy hands-on learning and have good mechanical and spatial abilities.
- You enjoy fixing things, assembling and disassembling structures.
- You are able to solve problems, determine why something does not work and how it can be done better.
- You are interested in earning while you learn.



For more information on Apprenticeship, Visit:

www.oyap.com

www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic

www.tcu.gov.on.ca

el.wcdsb.ca/programs/

<https://careersintrades.ca/>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/start-apprenticeship>





College Pathway

College programs provide an effective combination of real life skills with quality education. Colleges are 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: journalists, police officers, dental hygienists, website technicians, paralegals and chemical technologists.

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 are looking to get in, get out, and get to work, as most college programs are a shorter term.
- 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

For more information on College, Visit:

www.ontariocolleges.ca

www.gotocollege.ca

www.tcu.gov.on.ca

www.myblueprint.ca/
waterloocatholic

www.transitionresourceguide.ca

el.wcdsb.ca/programs/

www.osap.gov.on.ca





Community

Pathway

From the Community Pathway programs (Community Living and ACTIVE), students transition to adult life incorporating activities and pastimes chosen to reflect an individual's 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 Community Living or ACTIVE 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/guardians, 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.dscwr.com

www.wrfn.info

www.wcdsb.ca/programs-and-services/special-education/

www.communitylivingontario.ca





University

Pathway

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

University leads to:

University programs give you the skills you need to pursue careers such as: engineers, musicians, financial analysts, registered nurses.

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

For more information on University, Visit:

www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca

www.ouac.on.ca

www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic

el.wcdsb.ca/programs/

www.osap.gov.on.ca

www.degreetocareer.uwo.ca

www.transitionresourceguide.ca

www.oua.ca/



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 including: real estate agents, animal care workers, bank tellers, photographers, website designers and construction labourers.

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

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.



For more information on direct entry into the Workplace, Visit:

www.lutherwood.ca

www.cambridgecareerconnections.com

www.jobbank.gc.ca

www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic

www.skills.edu.gov.on.ca/

Looking Ahead

Explore the Pathways

Education and Career/Life Exploration Activities



Experiential Learning

Your Path • Your Choice • Your Future

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board offers a wide variety of programs and activities to support education and career/life exploration. These activities give the students an opportunity to connect what they learn in school with the world beyond school. Experiential learning is particularly helpful in developing self-knowledge and awareness of opportunities. The majority of the programs noted are for students in Gr. 11 or 12.

NOVEMBER



Take our Kids To Work Day

- Grade 9 students step into their future for a day and get a glimpse into the working world. The day involves students spending the day in the workplace of a parent, relative, friend or volunteer host, where they experience and learn about the world of work.

UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM (UCEP)

This University transition program offers students the opportunity to experience learning in a University setting in their Grade 12 year. Learning typically includes taking one university course, two secondary courses delivered on campus and a co-op placement.

Visit: el.wcdsb.ca/programs/ucep

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

Cooperative education is a learning partnership that provides senior students with valuable work experience while earning secondary credits. Co-op is a great way to try out a career and gain valuable skills and experience in a field that interests you.

Visit: el.wcdsb.ca/programs/co-op/

COLLEGE COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM (CCEP)

Senior students attend Conestoga College to take tuition free college courses. Students receive secondary school credits for each college course successfully completed as well as earning two co-op credits while working in a placement related to their course. **Visit:** el.wcdsb.ca/programs/ccep



Looking Ahead

Explore the Pathways Education and Career/Life Exploration Activities



Experiential Learning

Your Path • Your Choice • Your Future

ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (OYAP)

OYAP is a school-to-work program. Students can start their apprenticeship while in Co-op. OYAP students gain experience, skills, and apprenticeship qualifications while earning credits towards an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Visit: www.oyap.com

Visit: el.wcdsb.ca/programs/oyap



COLLEGE APPRENTICESHIP PREPARATION PROGRAM (CAPP)

Secondary students attend college for free and earn dual credits by completing Apprenticeship Preparation courses at Conestoga College, as well as secondary school co-op credits.

Visit: el.wcdsb.ca/programs



SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

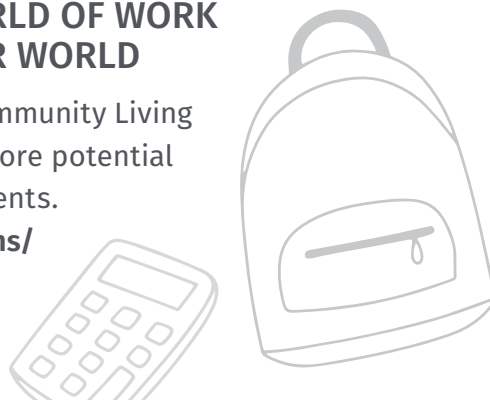
SHSM students focus their grade 11 and 12 education on the career path (major) that matches their skills and interests while meeting the requirements of the OSSD. They receive a SHSM seal on their diploma when they complete a specific bundle of courses, earn valuable industry certifications and gain important skills on the job with employers.

Visit: www.highskills.ca

EXPLORING THE WORLD OF WORK AND EXPLORING OUR WORLD

Senior students in the Community Living and ACTIVE programs explore potential work or volunteer placements.

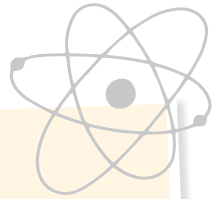
Visit: el.wcdsb.ca/programs/



E-Learning

- The WCDsb offers a variety of online courses. Please consult Guidance to find out more information about this option.

Visit: www.wcdsb.ca/programs-and-services/e-learning/



Planning & Getting Ready for Secondary School

★ Things you can do in the summer before Grade 9



***Program Notice:** Safety protocols during COVID-19 may unfortunately necessitate that our summer transition program content and delivery be changed, rescheduled, or cancelled. The safety, health, and well-being of everyone will always be our top priority. Please check the St. Louis and WCDsb website regularly starting in March 2021 for *program updates* and *online registration* information.

Thank you for your patience and understanding!

BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

WCDsb Student Success Program

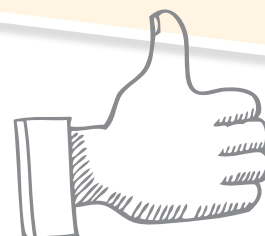
July – Full days Summer School Gr. 9 CREDIT

HIF 10I: Exploring Family Studies. Students learn how individuals relate to others, how to manage resources, and how to become responsible members of society.



Quick Fact

- 189 students successfully completed this summer course in 2020 earning a Gr. 9 credit



For the latest program updates on Bridge to Success Visit: www.wcdsb.ca



Waterloo Catholic District School Board
Quality, Inclusive, Faith Based Education

Some tips to help ease your Transition

- ✓ Attend the live or prerecorded virtual presentations for parents and students on transitioning to Secondary School and Pathways (see page 5).
- ✓ Discuss the information that you receive with your parents when you meet the school guidance teachers.
- ✓ Ask questions about courses, the different levels and the different pathways.



Planning & Getting Ready for Secondary School

★ Things you can do in the summer before Grade 9



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Thank you for your patience and understanding!

SUMMER EXPEDITION

St. Louis Program

July - 10 Half days non-credit

FREE 10 day FUN Learning Journey!
Camp-like activities are infused with literacy and numeracy lessons in a classroom setting.
Locations to be determined.



HeadStart

St. Louis Program

End of August

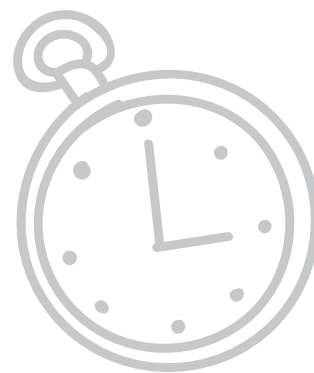
Get a HeadStart to Grade 9 with a FREE summer program offered just before school begins that prepares our Grade 8 students for those first few weeks/months of school.



For the latest program updates on Summer Expedition and HeadStart Visit: stlouis.wcdsb.ca

Decoding a Timetable

Bell Times will vary by School



Semester 1 SEPT. to JAN.

Grade 9 Homeroom ENG 1DL-01	
ENG 1DL-01 English, Academic	
Atwood, Margaret	
203	
9:05 to 10:20	
CGC 1DL-04 Geography, Academic	
Suzuki, David T.	
213	
10:27 to 11:42	
Lunch	
PPL 10F-03 Physical Education-Female	
Andreesca, Bianca	
Gymnasium	
12:33 to 1:48	
Code TBA Mathematics	
Einstein, Albert	
105	
1:55 to 3:10	

Course Credit: Students take 4 credits in each semester

Course Code and Section:
Course and specific class information

Teacher's Name

Room
Number

Homeroom: Period 1 might be 5 minutes longer to allow for homeroom activities and announcements

All Grade 9 students will share the same lunch period

Class Time: 75 minutes per class with travel time in between each period

Semester 2 FEB. to JUN.

Grade 9 Homeroom FSF 1Pl-05	
FSF 1Pl-05 French, Applied	
Sauvé, Jeanne	
221	
9:05 to 10:20	
TIJ 10I-06 Integrated Technology Jobs, Steven P.	
127	
10:27 to 11:42	
Lunch	
HRE 10I-04 Religion	
Crosby, Douglas	
321	
12:33 to 1:48	
SNC 1DL-05 Science, Academic	
Nye, William	
222	
1:55 to 3:10	

Planning & Getting Ready for Secondary School

★ Things you can do in the summer before Grade 9

Start your Community Involvement Hours

**40
HOURS**

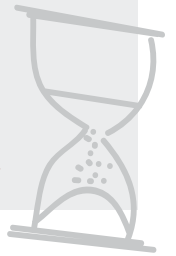
The summer leading up to Grade 9 is an excellent time to start accumulating hours towards the 40 you must have to graduate with an OSSD.

Community Involvement Hours are important learning opportunities for students to explore career options, develop their skills and interests, and promote community values.

How to Document and Submit Your Hours

For additional information including a copy of the Community Involvement Tracking form

Visit: www.wcdsb.ca/our-schools/student-community-involvement



Remember!

Post-Secondary Scholarships are often based on extracurricular and community involvement.

Other Helpful Hints...

- ✓ Purchase your uniform before September
- ✓ Plan your travel to and from school in advance

Once School Starts:

- ✓ Get involved in activities or clubs that interest you
- ✓ Develop good study habits and organizational skills
- ✓ Attend class and complete assignments on time



Terms & Definitions

Compulsory Course - Refers to a specific course students must take and which fulfills part of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or the Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC) requirements.

Course Calendar - Course calendars are available on secondary school websites and in myBlueprint. The calendar describes courses and diploma requirements.

Credit - A credit is what you earn after successfully completing a course with a minimum of 50%. A one-credit course is scheduled for a minimum of 110 hours.

Credit Recovery Programs - Credit recovery may be offered to a student who has not been successful in demonstrating all of the curriculum expectations in a specific course.

Credit Rescue - Credit Rescue may be offered to a student who is at risk of not successfully completing course expectations that he/she is presently enrolled in.

Elective Courses - Students will select courses that are of specific interest to them and will count towards the OSSD/OSSC requirements.

Individual Education Plan (IEP) - IEP is a written working document describing the special education program and/or services required by a particular student, based on a thorough assessment of the student's strengths and needs.

Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) - Throughout your school years, students will explore and assess their opportunities, goals and plans for their future careers. Individual Pathways Plans (IPP) will be saved online in myBlueprint.

Prerequisite - A prerequisite course is a course that you must pass before moving on to the next level. For example, you must pass Grade 10 Applied English before you take Grade 11 College English.

Semester - The school year is divided into two semesters; September - January & February - June. A student will take 4 courses in each semester.

Timetable - You will receive a timetable that will indicate the courses you take, what time each class takes place, the room number and your teacher's name.

Transition Plan - Is a component of the IEP that assists students to identify goals and actions necessary for successful transitions.

FAQ's

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Where do you buy a uniform?** Uniforms can be purchased at R. J. McCarthy, 44 Saltsman Dr Unit #1, Cambridge, ON.
Visit: www.rjmccarthy.com
- **How do you get to school?** The following website has been developed to provide information about school locations, boundaries and transportation eligibility. Visit: www.stswr.ca
- **Can I complete my 40 hours community involvement at any time?** Students may start accumulating community involvement hours in the summer before entering grade 9.
Visit: www.wcdsb.ca/our-schools/student-community-involvement/
- **Can course types be changed during or after grade 9?** Yes. Course types can be changed in consultation with teacher, parent and guidance teacher and is dependent upon availability.
- **Do all compulsory courses have to be taken at the same level?** No, students are encouraged to take the courses that best suit their interests, academic ability, goals and learning styles.
- **How do you get involved in a club or team?** School activities are communicated to students in a variety of ways. Listen and look for school announcements for details about getting involved. Many clubs and sports begin the first week of school.
- **Where do you go to get important dates and information about your secondary school such as report cards, PD days, parent nights, exam schedule, student activities?**
Check the school's website for details or sign up for the school newswire to receive the most up-to-date information.
- **How do you get your locker and timetable?** You will receive your registration information the summer before you begin grade 9. Locks must be purchased through the school and are a part of your registration fee.
- **What if you can't find a class or open your locker?** Link Crew or Phoenix Friends are senior student mentors who can help answer any questions you have as you adjust to life in secondary school.
- **How do you find information about summer learning programs?** Updated information and registration forms for HeadStart, Summer Expedition, Bridge to Success and other programs are available at: stlouis.wcdsb.ca/summer-programs/

Our Catholic Secondary Schools

Quality, Inclusive, Faith Based Education



The following chart represents the Catholic associate elementary schools for each of the Catholic secondary schools. A student's qualification for registration at a particular secondary school is based on the address of the custodial parent's/guardian's principal residence and not exclusively on the elementary school which they attended.



St. David CSS	Resurrection CSS	St. Mary's HS	Monsignor Doyle CSS	St. Benedict CSS
4 High Street, Waterloo (519) 885-1340 Principal: Glenda Leusink stdavid.wcdsb.ca	455 University Ave. West, Waterloo (519) 741-1990 Principal: Marisa Munroe resurrection.wcdsb.ca	1500 Blockline Road, Kitchener (519) 745-6891 Principal: John Dietrich stmary.wcdsb.ca	185 Myers Road, Cambridge (519) 622-1290 Principal: Lou Bellini doyle.wcdsb.ca	50 Saginaw Parkway, Cambridge (519) 621-4050 Principal: Marg Ingoldsby stbenedict.wcdsb.ca

St. David Family	Resurrection Family	St. Mary's Family	Monsignor Doyle Family	St. Benedict Family
Sir Edgar Bauer St. Agnes St. Boniface St. Clement St. Luke St. Matthew St. Teresa of Avila St. Teresa, Kitchener	Holy Family Holy Rosary Our Lady of Lourdes St. Dominic Savio St. John's St. Mark St. Nicholas St. Paul	Blessed Sacrament Canadian Martyrs John Sweeney Monsignor Haller Our Lady of Grace Saint John Paul II St. Aloysius St. Anne, Kitchener St. Bernadette St. Daniel St. Kateri Tekakwitha St. Timothy	Holy Spirit St. Anne, Cambridge St. Augustine St. Brigid St. Gregory St. Vincent de Paul	Christ the King Our Lady of Fatima St. Elizabeth St. Gabriel St. Joseph St. Margaret St. Michael St. Peter St. Teresa of Calcutta





Create your Pathway to Success

Begin planning your own Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) by
going to: www.myblueprint.ca/waterloocatholic

Your Path • Your Choice • Your Future



**Waterloo Catholic
District School Board**
Quality, Inclusive, Faith Based Education

35 Weber Street West Kitchener
ON, N2G 4G2 | 519-578-3660

www.wcdsb.ca

"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world." MATTHEW 5:13-14