

DEFINITION OF A CREDIT

A credit is recognition of the successful completion of a course for which a minimum of 110 hours is scheduled. A credit is granted to a student by the principal of a secondary school on behalf of the Minister of Education.

DEFINITION OF TYPES OF COURSES

In grade 9 the courses offered are:

- **Academic/One Stream** courses emphasize theory and abstract problems. Working towards an apprenticeship, college or university pathway.
- **De-streamed** courses emphasize theory and abstract problems, while spending time on practical applications and examples. Working towards an apprenticeship, college or university pathway.
- **Locally Developed** courses are designed to focus on core knowledge and skills to meet individual student needs. Working towards a workplace pathway or apprenticeship and college (with additional courses).
- **Open** courses are designed to prepare all students for further study in certain subjects and to enrich their education.

DECODING A COURSE CODE

MTH1WI—Mathematics De-streamed

MTH—the first 3 letters identify the subject. Subject codes—the first letter in the course code denotes the course’s department area.

The number identifies the grade:

1 = grade 9

2 = grade 10

3 = grade 11

4 = grade 12

The 5th character identifies the course type. D = Academic/One Stream, O = Open, L = Locally Developed, W = De-streamed

COMPULSORY COURSES

ENGLISH

ENL1WI English, De-streamed

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

ENG1LI English, Locally developed

This course provides foundational literacy and communication skills to prepare students for success in their daily lives and in the workplace. The course is organized by strands that develop listening and talking skills, reading and viewing skills, and writing skills. In all strands, the focus is on developing foundational literacy skills and in using language clearly and accurately in a variety of authentic contexts. Students develop strategies and put into practice the processes involved in talking, listening, reading, viewing, writing, and thinking and reflect regularly upon their growth in these areas. This course is intended to prepare students for the Grade 10 locally developed English course which leads to the workplace preparation courses in Grades 11 & 12.

FRENCH

FSF1DI Core French, Academic (One Stream)

This course provides opportunities for students to communicate and interact in French with increasing independence, with a focus on familiar topics related to their daily lives. Students will continue to develop language knowledge and skills by using language-learning strategies introduced in the elementary Core French program and will apply creative and critical thinking skills in various ways. They will also enhance their understanding and appreciation of diverse French-speaking communities and will develop the skills necessary to become life-long language learners.

Prerequisite: Minimum of 600 hours of elementary Core French instruction or equivalent.

FRENCH IMMERSION

Students who have French Immersion background and 3800 hours of French instruction may take FSF1DV, PPL1OV, CGC1DV with courses offered in French language instruction.

FIF1DV French Immersion, Grade 9 Academic

This course provides opportunities for students to speak and interact in French independently in a variety of real-life and personally relevant contexts. Students will develop their skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, as well their ability to communicate in French with confidence, by using language-learning strategies introduced in the elementary French Immersion program. Students will enhance their knowledge of the French language through the study of French-Canadian literature. They will also increase their understanding and appreciation of diverse French-speaking communities and will develop skills necessary for lifelong language learning.

GEOGRAPHY

CGC1WI Exploring Canadian Geography, De-streamed

This course builds on learning in Grades 7 and 8 in geography. Students will explore relationships within and between Canada’s natural and human systems and how they interconnect with other parts of the world. Students will also examine environmental and economic issues, and their impact related to topics such as natural resources and industries, careers, land use and responsible development and sustainability. In addition, students will understand the connections that diverse communities and individuals have with the physical environment and each other throughout Canada, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives. Students will apply geographic thinking, use the geographic inquiry process, and use geospatial technologies throughout their investigations.

CGC1WV Exploring Canadian Geography, French Immersion

This course examines interrelationships within and between Canada’s natural and human systems and how these systems interconnect with those in other parts of the world. Students will explore environmental, economic, and social geographic issues relating to topics such as transportation options, energy choices, and urban development. Students will apply the concepts of geographic thinking and the geographic inquiry process, including spatial technologies, to investigate various geographic issues and to develop possible approaches for making Canada a more sustainable place in which to live. This course is taught in French.



MATHEMATICS

MTH1WI Mathematics, De-streamed

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

MAT1LI Mathematics, Locally developed

This course emphasizes further development of mathematical knowledge and skills to prepare students for success in their everyday lives, in the workplace, in the Grade 10 locally developed course, and in the Mathematics Grade 11 and Grade 12 Workplace Preparation courses. The course is organized by three strands related to money sense, measurement, and proportional reasoning. In all strands, the focus is on developing and consolidating key foundational mathematical concepts and skills by solving authentic, everyday problems. Students have opportunities to further develop their mathematical literacy and problem-solving skills and to continue developing their skills in reading, writing, and oral language through relevant and practical math activities.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

HRE1OI Religious Education, Open

This course invites students to a deeper understanding of both the joy and the demands of following in the way of Christ and living out the call to discipleship as it is described in the Scriptures. Using the Beatitudes as a touchstone, students examine the attitudes and actions that characterize the Christian life. In the Family Life Education strand, students explore a variety of topics related to the themes of personhood, inter-personal relationships and sexuality. They are encouraged to understand and nurture within themselves the virtues, which will enable them to deepen their relationship with God in and through Christ in the context of a Spirit-filled community.

SCIENCE

SNC1WI Science, De-streamed

This course enables students to develop their understanding of concepts related to biology, chemistry, earth and space science, and to relate science to technology, society, and the environment. Throughout the course, students will develop and refine their STEM skills as they use scientific research, scientific experimentation, and engineering design processes to investigate concepts and apply their knowledge in situations that are relevant to their lives and communities. Students will continue to develop transferable skills as they become scientifically-literate global citizens.

SNC1LI Science, Locally developed

This course emphasizes reinforcing and strengthening science-related knowledge and skills, including scientific inquiry, critical thinking and the relationship between science, society, and the environment, to prepare students for success in everyday life in the workplace. Students explore a range of topics including science in daily life, properties of common materials, life-sustaining processes in simple and complex organisms, and electrical circuits. Students have the opportunity to extend mathematical and scientific process skills and to continue developing their skills in reading, writing, and oral language through relevant and practical science activities.

ACTIVE & COMMUNITY LIVING

These courses are non-credit bearing courses developed by the school. The course expectations are individualized for the student and generally focus on preparing the student for daily living.

KEN Language and Communication Development

KMM Numeracy and Numbers

KG Personal Life Skills

For more information visit:

www.wcdsb.ca/spec-ed/programs.html

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Every student who begins secondary school during or after the 1999-2000 school year must complete **40** hours of community involvement. Hours may be accumulated during the **summer before** a student begins high school.

Visit the school website for a listing of volunteer opportunities.

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST

All students who entered Grade 9 in the 2000-2001 school year or in subsequent years must successfully complete the Ministry literacy requirement in order to earn a secondary school diploma. This may be accomplished by either successfully passing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC). The standard method for assessing the literacy skills of students in Ontario for purposes of meeting the literacy requirement for graduation is the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. Students will normally be administered the literacy test when they are in Grade 10. The test is based on Ontario curriculum expectations for language and communication, particularly reading and writing, up to and including Grade 9. There is no limit to the number of times the test may be re-taken.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course has been developed to provide students who have been unsuccessful on the test with intensive support in achieving the required reading and writing competencies and with an alternative means of demonstrating their literacy skills. Students who have been unsuccessful on the OSSLT may be eligible to take the course.

ONLINE LEARNING GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

All students who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-2021 school year (or in subsequent years) must earn at least two online learning credits as part of the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

Parents who wish to opt out or exempt their child from the online graduation requirement must complete the opt-out form available from the school.

Students must take online learning courses at a school that is authorized to offer credits towards the OSSD.

Online learning, also known as eLearning, offers secondary students an opportunity to take courses that are delivered entirely using the internet and do not require students to be physically present in the classroom.

Students in grades 9 to 12 can use online courses to gain experience with online learning and help prepare for life after secondary school, where learning and working online is becoming the norm in many sectors.

FINANCIAL LITERACY REQUIREMENT

Starting in September 2025, students must earn a new financial literacy graduation requirement as part of the compulsory Grade 10 mathematics course. Students will need to achieve a mark of 70% or higher to pass the new requirement.

ELECTIVE COURSES

THE ARTS

ADA10I Dramatic Arts, Open

This course emphasizes the active exploration of dramatic forms and techniques, using material from a wide range of authors, genres, and cultures. Students will learn the art of dramatic expression through tableau, mime, improvisation and scripted scenes. Students will construct, discuss, perform, and analyze drama and then reflect on the experiences to develop an understanding of themselves, the art form, and the world around them.

AMU10I Instrumental Music - Band, Open

This course emphasizes the performance of music at a level that strikes a balance between challenge and skill aimed at developing technique, sensitivity and imagination. Students will participate in creative activities that teach them to listen with understanding. They will also learn correct musical terminology and its appropriate use.

AVI10I Visual Arts, Open

This course is exploratory in nature, offering an overview of visual arts as a foundation for further study. Students will become familiar with the elements and principles of design and the expressive qualities of various materials by using a range of media, processes, techniques and styles. Students will use the creative and critical analysis processes and will interpret art within a personal, contemporary and historical context.

BUSINESS

BEM10I Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset, Open

In this course, students will learn what makes an entrepreneur thrive and the skills required to succeed in today's business environment. Students will begin to develop their own entrepreneurial mindset, and learn why it's important to take initiative, adapt to change, find creative solutions, and understand the financial considerations of entrepreneurship. This hands-on course will use business software and applications to help students plan and develop their entrepreneurial ideas and learn how to present them to a target audience. Throughout the course, students will enhance their communication skills as well as develop and refine their project management skills, including goal setting, time management, and networking.



Select your courses at:
www.myBlueprint.ca/waterloocatholic

PHYSICAL & HEALTH EDUCATION

PPL10I, PPL10F, PPL10M Healthy Active Living Education, Open

This course emphasizes students' daily participation in a variety of enjoyable physical activities to promote lifelong healthy active living. Students will learn movement techniques and principles, ways to improve personal fitness and physical competence and safety/injury-prevention strategies. They will investigate issues related to healthy sexuality and the use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Students will participate in activities designed to develop goal setting, communication and social skills.

Note: PPL10I open to all students, PPL10F for female students and PPL10M for male students.

PAI10I LEAP Leaders and Exceptional Athletes Program, Open

LEAP is a cross-training program for self-motivated student-athletes who demonstrate exceptional athletic potential in a given sport. Applicants to the program should also possess strong academic commitment and be positive contributors to the St. Benedict community. Applicants should be working toward a provincial/ national/ international championship outside of high school sport (e.g. rep sports teams, travel OBA, OVFL, etc.). LEAP will focus on developing transferable performance-related sports skills including strength, speed, agility, coordination, endurance, power, and flexibility. It is the student's responsibility to return completed applications to St. Benedict. Please do not expect your elementary school to courier your application. You will not be registered for LEAP unless your application is complete and received on time. There are no exceptions to this policy. All students enrolled in LEAP will occasionally travel to community facilities such as the YMCA.

COURSE NOTE: Students must complete an application package (available online) and submit it by the deadline outlined in the application package. If you are unsuccessful in your LEAP application, you will be scheduled into a Healthy Active Living Education course.

Search LEAP online at www.stbenedict.wcdsb.ca.

PPL10V Healthy Active Living Education, Grade 9 French Immersion

This course equips students with the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy choices now and lead healthy, active lives in the future. Through participation in a wide range of physical activities, students develop knowledge and skills related to movement competence and personal fitness that provide a foundation for active living. Students also acquire an understanding of the factors and skills that contribute to healthy development and learn how their own well-being is affected by, and affects, the world around them. Students build their sense of self, learn to interact positively with others, and develop their ability to think critically and creatively. This course is co-ed and is taught in French.

TECHNOLOGY

TAS10I Technology and the Skilled Trades, Open

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

GETTING READY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

Things to do in the summer before Grade 9 . . .

Gr. 9 Credit Courses

In-Person Monday—Thursday/ Asynchronous Fridays

Hands-on courses enable student to develop technological knowledge and skills. Students will safely work with and create products and/or services, working with tools and technologies from the specific industries the course focuses on. **Online registration is required.**

Specific courses will be available on the [St. Louis summer programs website](#).

HIF10I Individual and Family Living ONLY AVAILABLE ONLINE - Students learn how individuals relate to others, how to manage resources and how to become responsible members of society.

SUMMER BOOST AND SUMMER EXPEDITION

St. Louis program—locations to be determined.
 July –15 half days non-credit

FREE 3 – week FUN learning journey to improve numeracy and literacy achievement. Lessons leverage use of new technology and math tools to decrease learning gaps, develop vocabulary and increase confidence.

Online registration is required for all of these courses.

HEAD START

St. Louis program—offered at every WCDSB secondary school
 End of August— 2 days

Prepare for those first few weeks/months of Grade 9. Head Start is a FREE practical summer program with school orientation, timetables, lockers, study tips and a chance to meet new peers. Offered just before school begins.

Online registration is required.
For the latest program updates on Summer Boost, Expedition and Head Start visit: stlouis.wcdsb.ca

Please contact a guidance counsellor if you have any questions:

(519-621-4050)

Lesley O'Toole (A to CI): lesley.otoole@wcdsb.ca ext. 5190

Laura Varriano Lane (Co to Ha): laura.varrianolane@wcdsb.ca ext. 5635

Melissa Novakovich (He to Mc): melissa.novakovich@wcdsb.ca ext. 5636

Nick Betik (Me to R): nicholas.betik@wcdsb.ca ext. 5633

Laura O'Neill (S-Z): laura.oneill@wcdsb.ca ext. 5634

Chantal Kot (International students): chantal.kot@wcdsb.ca ext. 5269

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

We encourage students to take advantage of the opportunities provided in secondary school to know themselves, identify strengths, set educational and career goals, and create a pathways plan to achieve those goals.

Consider becoming involved in these programs in grade 11 or 12:

College Cooperative Education Program (CCEP)

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

University Cooperative Education Program (UCEP)

University Dual Credit

<https://el.wcdsb.ca/programs/>

ST. BENEDICT

Catholic Secondary School

COURSE OFFERINGS



2025-2026

Ontario Secondary School Diploma Requirements

- 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade)
- 1 credit in French as a second language
- 3 credits in Mathematics (at least one credit in grade 11 or 12)
- 2 credits in Science
- 1 credit in Canadian History
- 1 credit in Canadian Geography
- 1 credit in the Arts
- 1 credit in Health and Physical Education
- 1 credit in grade 9 or 10 Technology
- 0.5 credit in Civics
- 0.5 credit in Career Studies
- 1 credit from a STEM related course group;
 - ◆ Business studies
 - ◆ Computer studies
 - ◆ Cooperative education
 - ◆ an additional credit in Mathematics
 - ◆ an additional credit in Science
 - ◆ an additional credit in Technological education

Plus 13 Optional Credits

Students at WCDSB are required to take 4 Religious education courses, one each year in grades 9-12
 9 Optional credits that match their interests or develop their skills

- ★ complete **40 hours of community involvement** activities
- ★ successfully complete **the provincial secondary school literacy requirement**
- ★ complete **2 eLearning** credits
- ★ achieve 70% or higher in financial literacy as part of Grade 10 mathematics

*A maximum of 3 credits in English as a second language (ESL) or English literacy development (ELD) may be counted towards the 4 compulsory credits in English, but the fourth must be a credit earned for a Grade 12 compulsory English course.

For a complete course calendar please visit
<https://stbenedict.wcdsb.ca/student-services/guidance/course-catalogue-cc/>