

Frequently Asked Questions about the *PHS Enhanced Program*

What is the advantage of being in the Enhanced Program?

Students in this program like to learn; they enjoy being challenged and they enjoy working hard on everything they do. They thrive in a class of like-minded individuals where discussions are encouraged and where project work is equally shared by students who excel in academics. Enrichment opportunities are available to Enhanced Learners such as field trips, advanced placement exams, competitions and contests, etc.

Where can I find information about the Enhanced Program?

Please join us at our information meeting **Thursday, November 29, 2018** from 5:45-6:30 p.m., in the PHS Library. This is an opportunity for students and parents to hear an overview of the program, to meet the teachers and to ask questions.

Is the program really hard?

The program emphasizes “different work”, not harder work. Students are completing the academic curriculum. It is a fast-paced learning environment which allows time to explore related areas in each subject area. The emphasis is not on homework; the program teachers encourage students to be active leaders and participants in school and community events.

Do I need over 80% in every subject to be accepted?

No, we are looking for an *overall* average of 80%. We want passionate learners. Learning can get messy. Students need to demonstrate confidence in their own learning ability and show that they are not afraid to be wrong. Students in the Enhanced program should enjoy learning for the sake of self-improvement; not for the goal of achieving a high mark.

How do I get an application for the Enhanced Program?

Download the application from the PHS website at <https://phs.wrdsb.ca/academics/enhanced/>. Please make sure that you have both an *application form* and a copy of your *final grade seven report card* included in your application. Also note that you are responsible to ask a teacher to complete the *teacher evaluation form* for you. Your teacher is able to fill this out online OR they may complete a paper copy of your evaluation and send it directly to PHS via courier **by January 18, 2019** labeled “**Attention: Mr. Donkers**”.

Can a grade seven teacher fill out the Teacher Evaluation Form?

Yes, a grade 7 or 8 teacher can complete this form. You should choose a teacher who knows you well and is willing to make additional comments about your character.

Where do I drop off the PHS Enhanced Program Application?

Please submit your application to your elementary guidance teacher who will forward it to PHS **by Friday, January 18, 2019**. For students who are NOT in the WRDSB, please drop the application off in the PHS Guidance Office **by 3:00 p.m. Friday, January 18, 2019**.

How will I know if I am accepted into the Enhanced Program? What is next?

Students accepted into the program will receive an email **by Monday, February 4, 2019**. You will have until **Friday, February 8, 2019** to confirm or deny your acceptance.

Please call the PHS guidance office to accept or deny your offer. You can contact the guidance secretary (Mrs. Shannon Sharp) or leave a message after school hours at this number: 519-653-2367 Ext. 5520.

If I am accepted into the Enhanced Program from a WRDSB (public) elementary school, do I need to bring my grade nine course selection sheet to PHS?

No, you do not. The next step is that your elementary teachers will be sent a list of students accepted into the PHS Enhanced Program. These students will pick the appropriate Enhanced course codes in their MYWAY account at the time of Grade Nine course selections done at the elementary school.

Students will choose the following course codes for the enhanced program: ENG1DW, SNC1DW, MPM1DW, CGC1DW, FSF1DW plus three elective courses.

If I am accepted into the Enhanced Program from a WCDSB (Catholic) elementary school, do I have to pick up a course selection sheet?

Yes, if you are currently attending a WCDSB (Catholic) elementary school, a **Course Selection Package can be picked up in the PHS Guidance Office** the night of our Grade 8 Open House, on **Thursday, November 29th from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** This event gives you a chance to tour the school to investigate course options. At **6:30 p.m.** and again at **7:45 p.m.** there will be a presentation in the PHS Library from the guidance department about course selections and the requirements of an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. If you are unable to attend that event, please come into the guidance office anytime that week to pick up a course selection package. The Enhanced Program Information meeting is on the same night, **Thursday, November 29 from 5:45-6:30 p.m.**

If I am accepted into the Enhanced Program from a WCDSB (Catholic) elementary school, when do I need to drop off my grade nine course selection sheet at PHS?

Yes, grade nine course selections should be dropped off directly to the PHS guidance office any time before **February 26, 2019 by 3:00 p.m.**

Is transportation provided by the WRDSB for students in the Enhanced Program?

No, transportation is the responsibility of the enhanced student and his/her family. To learn if you are eligible for a school bus add in your home address on the WRDSB transportation eligibility site: <http://www.stswr.ca/>

After grade nine, do I have to take my five compulsory subjects at the enhanced level?

The program is flexible. To continue being a PHS Enhanced Program student in grade ten, you must choose a minimum of three out of five courses offered at the enhanced level.

Can a grade 9 student apply for the enhanced program to start in their grade 10 year?

Yes; it is the same application process. Please ask Mrs. Sharp in Guidance for a Credit Counselling Summary to include in your application package. See Mr. Donkers **before the end of January in your grade 9 year** to notify him of your interest in the Grade 10 Enhanced Program. Print the Enhanced application package from the PHS website and submit it to Mr. Donkers **by February 15th in your grade 9 year**. A decision will be given to you before you choose your grade 10 course selections **in late February**. If accepted students will choose the following course codes for the enhanced program: ENG2DW, SNC2DW, MPM2DW, CHC2DW, CHV2OH/GLC2OH plus three elective courses.

Dates to remember

Grade 8 Enhanced Program Information Evening & Open House	Thursday, November 29, 2018
Application Due:	Friday, January 18, 2019
Acceptance email done by:	Monday, February 4, 2019
Confirmation of Acceptance by students:	Friday, February 8, 2019
Course Selection Sheets	WRDSB Grade 8 students will choose all courses on MYWAY with Grade 8 elementary teachers in February. WCDSB and other out of Board Grade 8 students will drop off their course selections to guidance by 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 26.