

PREPARING FOR GRADE 9

THE TRANSITION FROM GRADE 8 to GRADE 9



Where is my “Home School?”

- Which school you attend as your “home school” is based on geographic boundaries (i.e. where you live). Note: It will be either:
 - WCI,
 - KCI or
 - Bluevale



Ontario Secondary School Diploma

- 30 credits are required to earn your OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma)
 - 18 compulsory credits
 - 12 optional credits
- Community Involvement – 40 hours
- Literacy Requirements – Ontario Literacy Test (written in grade 10)



Ontario Secondary School Diploma

- 18 Compulsory Credits:
 - 4 English (1 per grade)
 - 1 French
 - 3 Math (at least one in gr.11 or 12)
 - 2 Science (gr. 9 & 10)
 - 1 Canadian Geography (gr. 9)
 - 1 Canadian History (gr. 10)
 - 1 Arts
 - 1 Health and Physical Education
 - 0.5 Career Studies / 0.5 Civics (gr. 10)



Ontario Secondary School Diploma

- 12 Optional Credits – choose from courses such as ...
 - Food and Nutrition (gr. 9)
 - Individual, Family and Social Living (gr. 9)
 - Living and Working with Children (gr. 11)
 - Fashion and Creative Expression (gr. 11)
 - Intro. to Anthropology, Psychology & Sociology (gr. 11)
 - World Religions (gr. 11)
 - Philosophy: The Big Questions (gr. 11)
 - Integrated Technologies (gr. 9)
 - Medical Technologies (gr. 12)
 - Computer Engineering (gr. 10, 11, 12)



Decisions to be Made for Grade 9

Compulsory Course Level Decisions

- English, Math, and Science
 - Academic or Applied

- Geography, French
 - Academic or Applied



Academic Courses



- Offered in core areas:
 - Math, English, Science, French, Geography
- Cover essential concepts plus additional material
- Greater emphasis on **THEORY** as a basis for future learning and problem solving
- Focus on **ABSTRACT** applications of essential concepts
- Prepare students for university and college level courses in grades 11 and 12
- Guideline: Careful consideration of the student's ability



Applied Courses



- Offered in core areas:
 - Math, English, Science, French, Geography
- Focus on the essential concepts
- Emphasize **PRACTICAL** and **CONCRETE** applications
- Relate to familiar real-life situations and provides students with the opportunity for HANDS-ON APPLICATION of the concepts they learn
- Prepare students for college, apprenticeship and skilled trades, and workplace courses in grades 11 and 12

Guideline: Careful consideration of the student's ability



Open Courses

- Have a set of expectations that is suitable for all students at a given grade level
- Provides students with a broad educational base
 - e.g. Arts, Phys. Ed., Family Studies, Technological Education, Cooperative Education



Decisions to be Made for Grade 9

Choose 3 from a variety of Elective (Open) Courses, such as:

- ADA 10I Dramatic Arts
- AMI 10I Instrumental Music (experienced)
- AMI 10X Instrumental Music (beginner)
- AMV 10I Vocal/Choral Music
- AVI 10I Visual Arts
- ATC 10I Dance
- BBI10I Introduction to Business
- BTT 10I Intro to Information Tech. in Business
- PPL 10X Healthy Active Living Education (females)
- PPL 10Y Healthy Active Living Education (males)
- TTI 10I Integrated Technologies



Course Selection Process

- All course selections will be done via an online portal (**one week in Feb., 2018**)
- Login to '[My Way](#)' at home, review teacher recommendations, discuss course selection with child, then input information at school with assistance from high school guidance staff
 - <https://myway.wrdsb.ca/>

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***Will there be an opportunity to switch courses (e.g. applied → academic) during the grade 9 year?***
 - Not likely, due to timetable constraints.
- ***Is it possible to change course types from Grade 9 to Grade 10?***
 - Yes. This is easier for courses such as English or Geography, but more difficult for Math.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***What happens when a student / parent chooses a different course type than that recommended by teachers / guidance?***
 - Final decisions rest with the students/parents.
- ***Does the student have to take all the same type of course?***
 - No, students can select different course types depending on their strengths (i.e. academic math, applied English)

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***Can my child attend a school other than their home school?***
 - Only if they are applying for and are accepted into a specialized program (i.e. Arts, IB, Fast Forward). “Principal-to-Principal Transfer Requests” may be approved if there are exceptional personal circumstances to support the transfer request, which is in turn supported by documentation from an appropriate source (i.e. doctor, professional counsellor, etc.)



QUESTIONS?

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