



YOU BELONG HERE



Scan the QR Code to Learn More!



Welcome to
Secondary
School
2025-26

Welcome to Grand Erie

The transition from elementary to secondary school is an exciting journey for students and families.

You Belong Here: Welcome to Secondary is a useful guide with all the tools you need to take the next step!



Get your copy of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan at granderie.ca

Our Vision

Learn, Lead, Inspire.

Our Mission

Together, we build a culture of **learning**, **well-being** and **belonging** to inspire each learner.

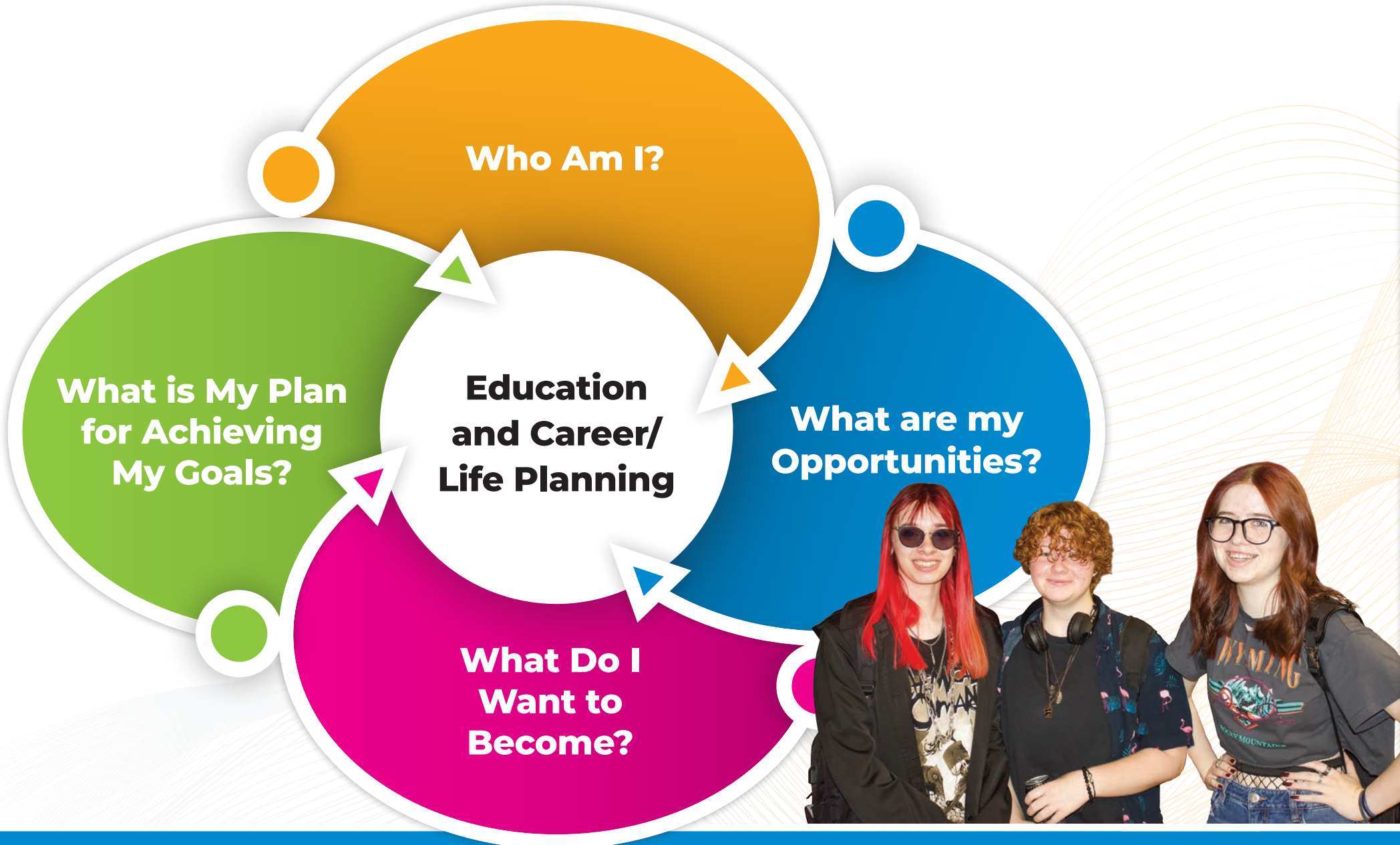
Our Collective Priorities

To nurture **curiosity** and **opportunity** for each learner.
To support the **cognitive**, **social emotional** and **physical needs** of each learner.
To support an **equitable**, **inclusive** and **responsive** environment for each learner.





Education and Career Life Planning



Pathways and Destinations

You've got the map. Where will it take you?



Apprenticeship

Offers a combination of on-the-job training and classroom instruction.



Community

Offers opportunities for students with disabilities to transition to community participation.



Workplace

Offers employment opportunities in many sectors following graduation.



College

Offers programs in Applied Arts, Business, Health and Human Services, Manufacturing and Technology.



University

Offers undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees in a variety of areas.





Graduation Requirements

Effective in 2024, students must complete **30 credits** to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). That's **17 compulsory** credits plus **13 elective** credits.

Compulsory Credits (Total Of 17)

- 4 Credits in **English** (1 credit per grade)
- 3 Credits in **Math** (at least 1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
- 2 Credits in **Science**
- 1 Credit in **The Arts**
- 1 Credit in **Canadian Geography** (Grade 9)
- 1 Credit in **Canadian History** (Grade 10)
- 1 Credit in **French as a Second Language**
- 1 Credit in **Health and Physical Education**
- 5 Credit in **Career Studies**
- 5 Credit in **Civics**
- 1 Credit in **Technology Education** (Grade 9 or 10)
- 1 Additional credit from the **STEM-Related** course group

**What is a Credit?**

A credit is granted upon completing a course with a minimum grade of 50%. Compulsory credits are mandatory, and elective credits are up to you!

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

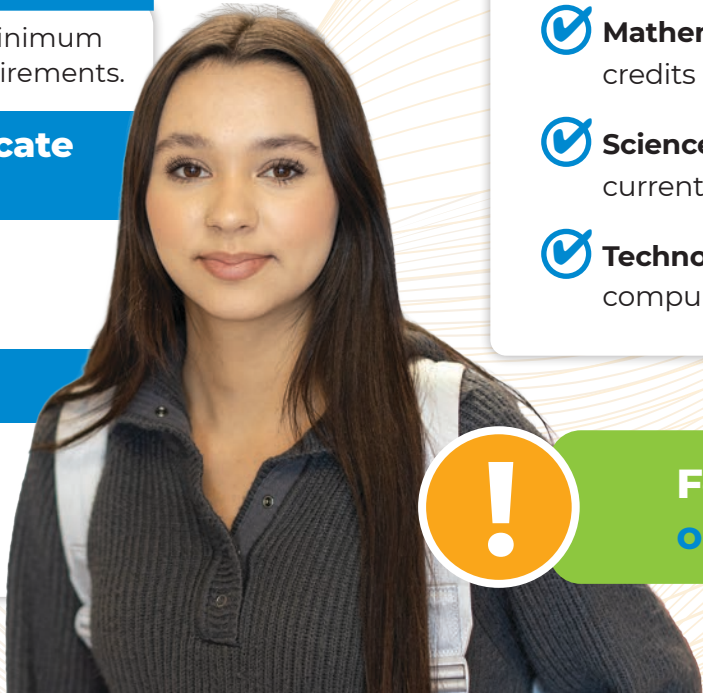
Students will earn an OSSD by completing a minimum of 30 credits and community involvement requirements.

Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC)

Students may be granted an OSSC by earning a minimum of 14 credits, including seven compulsory credits.

Certificate of Accomplishment

Students may be granted a Certificate of Accomplishment if leaving secondary school at age 21 without having met the requirements for the OSSD or OSSC.



For more information about earning your OSSD, visit: ontario.ca/page/high-school-graduation-requirements



Graduation Requirements

Effective in 2024, students must complete **30 credits** to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). That's **17 compulsory** credits plus **13 elective** credits.

STEM-Related Course Group

- ✓ **Business Studies**
- ✓ **Computer Studies**
- ✓ **Cooperative Education**
- ✓ **Mathematics** (in addition to the three compulsory credits currently required)
- ✓ **Science** (in addition to the two compulsory credits currently required)
- ✓ **Technological Education** (in addition to the one compulsory credit required)

Other Graduation Requirements

Elective Credits

In addition to 17 compulsory credits, students also earn 13 elective credits. These credits can be earned in a variety of subjects.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

Students must complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test as a graduation requirement. Those who don't pass on the first try will have an opportunity to rewrite the test or complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course.



Graduation Requirements

Effective in 2024, students must complete **30 credits** to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). That's **17 compulsory** credits plus **13 elective** credits.

eLearning

Students must complete a minimum of two **eLearning courses** to meet graduation requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

To opt-out, a parent/guardian must complete an opt-out form available at the school.

Financial Literacy Requirement

Starting in September 2026, you must earn a new **financial literacy graduation requirement** as part of your compulsory Grade 10 mathematics course. You will need to achieve a mark of 70% or higher to pass this new requirement and earn your high school diploma.

40 Hours of Community Involvement

Students must complete **40 hours** of community involvement as a requirement for graduation.

Download the [Community Involvement Activities Completion Form](#) here or visit: tinyurl.com/CIACForm.



Community Involvement Hours

Here's your chance to make a positive difference in your local community, build connections and explore career paths!



Grade 9 and Grade 10 Course Types

D Academic

Academic courses develop students' knowledge and skills through the study of theory and abstract problems. These courses focus on the essential concepts of a subject and explore related concepts as well. They incorporate practical applications as appropriate.

L Locally Developed (L)

Locally Developed courses are designed for students who have specific learning needs and require more direction in the classroom. Students will learn essential skills and practical concepts of a subject.

These courses should be chosen in consultation with the students and parent/caregiver if the student is working below grade level and has an IEP. They are also intended for students who require a measure of flexibility and support in order to meet the compulsory credit requirements in English, mathematics and science for the Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC).



O Open

Open courses, which comprise a set of expectations that are appropriate for all students, are designed to broaden students' knowledge and skills in subjects that reflect their interests and prepare them for active and rewarding participation in society. They are not designed with the specific requirements of university, college, or the workplace in mind.

P Applied (P)

Applied courses focus on the essential concepts of a subject and develop students' knowledge and skills through practical applications and concrete examples. Familiar situations are used to illustrate ideas, and students are given more opportunities to experience hands-on applications of the concepts and theories they study.

W De-streamed (W)

De-streamed courses prepare students with knowledge and skills, transferable skills and work habits to be successful in academic or applied courses in Grade 10.

Grand Erie has de-streamed courses to remove barriers and provide students with equal opportunity to succeed. If a course is not yet de-streamed, you will select the academic (D) course.

Grade 11 and 12 Course Types

C College (C)

College courses are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to meet the entrance requirements for most college programs or for admission to specific apprenticeship or other training programs.

E Workplace (E)

Workplace courses are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to meet the expectations of employers, if they plan to enter the workforce directly after graduation, or the requirements for admission to certain apprenticeship or other training programs.

M University/College (M)

University/College courses are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to meet the entrance requirements for specific programs offered at universities and colleges.

O Open (O)

Open courses, which comprise a set of expectations that are appropriate for all students, are designed to broaden students' knowledge and skills in subjects that reflect their interests and prepare them for active and rewarding participation in society. They are not designed with the specific requirements of university, college, or the workplace in mind.

U University (U)

University courses are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to meet the entrance requirements for university programs.



Selecting Your Grade 9 Courses

Students in Grand Erie use **myBlueprint** to select their courses and work on their Individual Pathway Plans (IPP). **myBlueprint** is a comprehensive IPP program that includes information on:

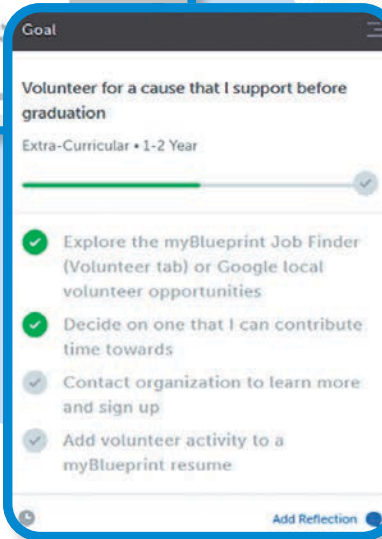
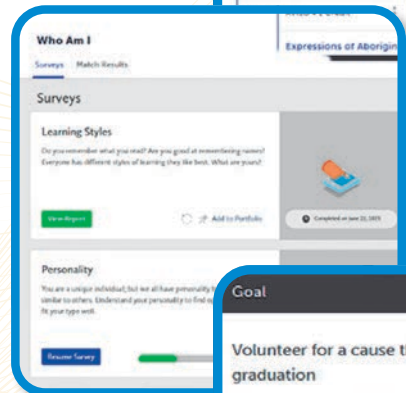
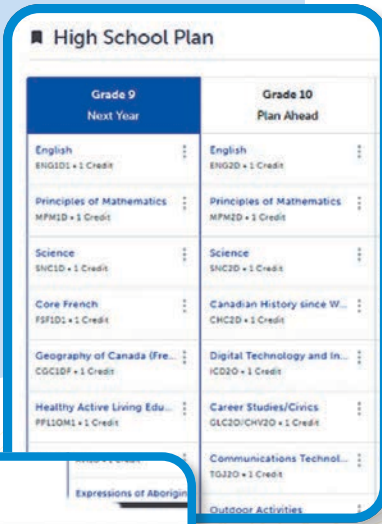
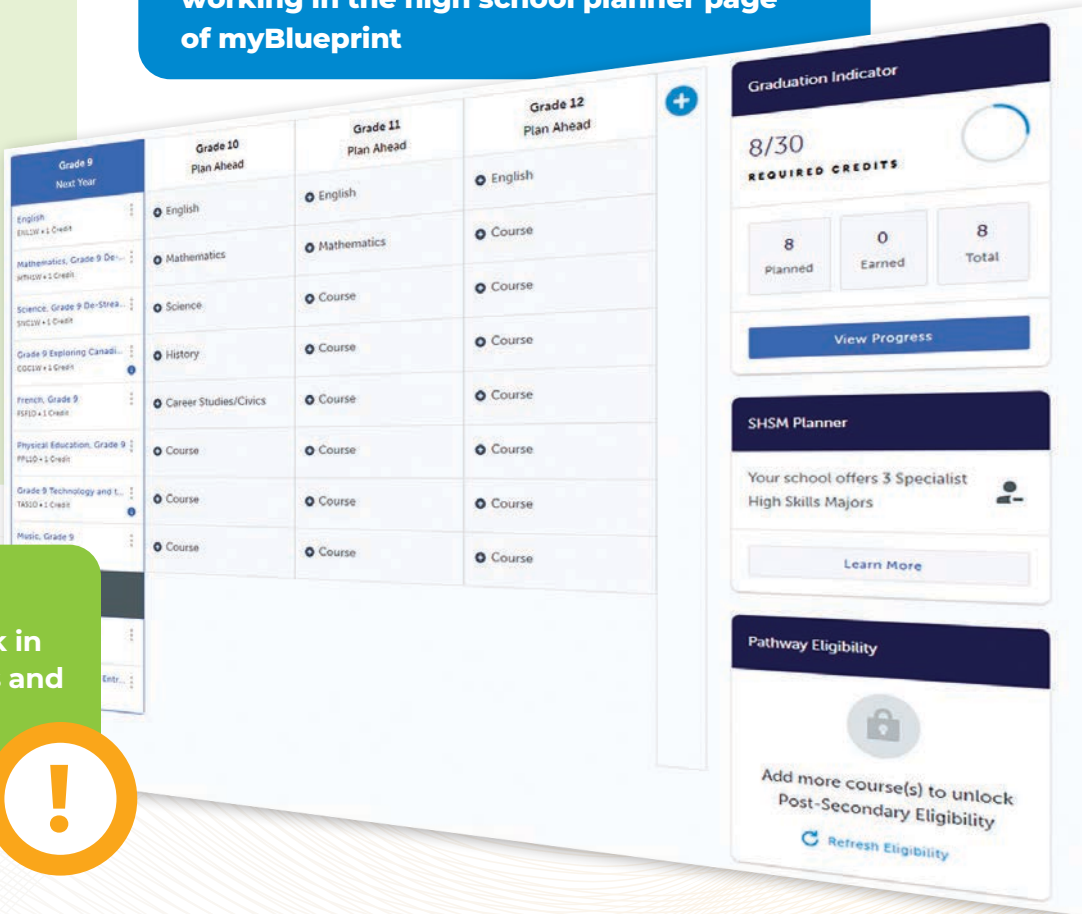
- ✓ Secondary Course Offerings
- ✓ Post-secondary Opportunities
- ✓ Résumé Writing
- ✓ Occupation Planning
- ✓ Goal Setting
- ✓ Secondary High School Major (SHSM)
- ✓ Portfolio Planning

What's an Individual Pathway Plan?

Individual Pathway Plans help students stay on track in their journey to graduation. Through regular reviews and revisions with a guidance counselor, students will uncover their goals, opportunities, pathways and plan for the future.



Here's an example of what you will see when working in the high school planner page of myBlueprint



Your tool for planning high school and beyond

High School Planner

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

SHSM Programs & Planner

Learn about SHSMs offered at your school to make informed pathway planning choices. Once enrolled in an SHSM, track your progress toward program completion.

Who Am I Surveys

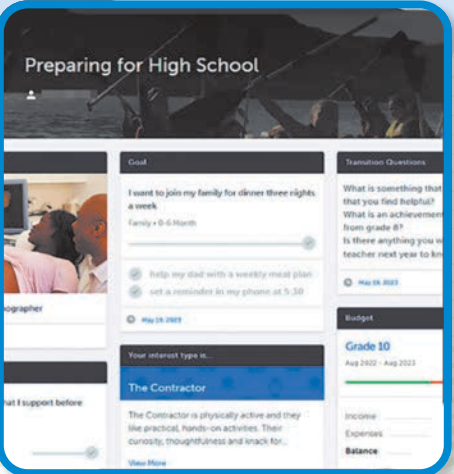
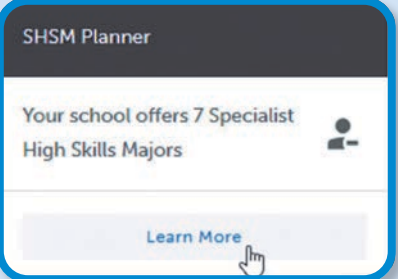
Complete assessments to discover more about yourself and align with occupation matches.

Pathway Planning

Prepare for future transitions with resume writing, occupation planning tools and goal setting to track personal growth.

Portfolios

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



Get started

- Visit myblueprint.ca/granderie
- Click **School Account** Login
- Enter your Grand Erie **email** and **password**
- For families, click **Sign Up** and select your student's school to create a **Family Account**

Decoding a Course Code

Every **course code** in Ontario consists of five mandated characters and a sixth character for school use. A code may be broken down as follows:

ENL

The first letter in the course code denotes the **subject area**:

A

Arts

B

Business

C

Canadian and World Studies

E

English/ESL

F

French

G

Guidance

H

Humanities and Social Sciences

I

Interdisciplinary or Information Technology

K

Alternative (Non-Credit)

L

International Languages

M

Mathematics

N

FNMI Studies/Native Languages

P

Physical Education

S

Sciences

T

Technological Studies

1

This number identifies the **grade**:

1

Grade 9

2

Grade 10

3

Grade 11

4

Grade 12

This letter identifies the **level**:

A

Level 1

B

Level 2

C

Level 3

D

Level 4

E

Level 5

W

This letter identifies the **stream or destination**:

C

College

D

Academic

E

Workplace

L

Locally Developed

M

College or University

O

Open

P

Applied

U

University

W

De-streamed

1

School-based **course identifier**.



First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies

Grand Erie offers a wide variety of Indigenous events and authentic learning opportunities.

✓

Courses taught through Indigenous perspectives

✓

Student support through Grad Coaches and Indigenous Counsellors

✓

Grade 8 Transition events

✓

Leadership opportunities such as United Indigenous Student Council and Indigenous Student Association

✓

Field trips, Indigenous guest speakers and year-end events

Courses offered within **First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies and Native Languages**

NAC10

Expressions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Cultures

Grade 9, Open

NAC20

First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Canada

Grade 10, Open

NBE3E/C/U*

English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices

*All Grand Erie secondary schools offer the NBE3E/C/U as the grade 11 compulsory English credit.

Grade 11, Workplace/ College/ University

NVB3E

World Views and Aspirations of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Communities in Canada

Grade 11 Workplace

LNAAO/LNABO

Native Languages – Cayuga

Level 1, Open/ Level 2, Open

LNABO/LNOAO

Native Languages – Ojibway

Level 1, Open/ Level 2, Open

LNMAO/LNMBO

Native Languages – Mohawk

Level 1, Open/ Level 2, Open





Additional Opportunities and Programs

Secondary school is a time to broaden your horizons, explore your interests and set the tone for what's next. Grand Erie has something for everyone, so dive in!

Dual Credit

Earn a college and secondary credit at the same time. Students receive college-level instruction aligned with the college curriculum, with the support of a secondary teacher. The **dual credit** program is often delivered at the same time and location as a secondary course. However, certain opportunities offer an on-site experience in a college lab. This program is available to Grade 12 students approaching graduation.

eLearning

Are you an independent learner with good organizational and time management skills? **eLearning** might be for you. Courses are taught asynchronously in a virtual learning environment called Brightspace, and they're led by a secondary teacher in Grand Erie, or from another Ontario school board. To be successful, students must regularly attend and participate, just as they would in face-to-face classes. Speak with your guidance counsellor to register.

Experiential Learning

Experiential learning is offered at all grade levels. Examples include hands-on projects, LEGO Spike, virtual reality experiences and more.

Co-operative Education (Co-Op)

Earn a secondary credit while exploring a potential career path. **Co-operative education** allows learners to gain real-world experience related to the school curriculum. Placements are guided by the company's employees and a Grand Erie co-op education teacher. Students can apply two co-op credits to their compulsory graduation requirements, and can even complete additional co-op placements as elective credits. Co-op placements are arranged by the secondary school's co-operative education teacher. Contact your school's guidance counselor for more information.

Co-operative education can also provide students with additional opportunities:

Job Shadowing
Student observes a worker in a specific occupation (e.g. Take Our Kids to Work Day)

Job Twinning
Student observes a co-operative education student at their work placement

Work Experience
Student obtains first-hand experience in the work environment.



Additional Opportunities and Programs

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Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

Explore a skilled trade and begin an apprenticeship while working toward your OSSD. **OYAP** students may begin work placements at 15 years old with 14 credits completed, though some workplaces may require a minimum age of 16. Through co-operative education, OYAP provides students with on-site work experience and the opportunity to register as an apprentice with an employer. Students can explore the skilled trades in either full-day or half-day placements.

OYAP – FAST

OYAP-FAST is an accelerated stream of OYAP that allows students in Grade 11 and 12 to participate in more apprenticeship learning while working towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

Reach Ahead Summer Courses

Grade 7 and 8 students can earn a secondary credit before starting secondary school with **Reach Ahead** summer courses.

Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM)

Receive training and experience in a subject of your choice while working toward your OSSD. Grand Erie provides this opportunity over a two-year period starting in Grade 11. **SHSM** students take part in a co-op placement and industry-related activities to learn more about career options. Upon completion of the SHSM program, students will receive a red seal on their diploma. Participating students will also be eligible to receive financial benefits to support post-secondary pathways in the industry.

Project | SEARCH

Project | SEARCH offers **workplace immersion for students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities**. Students learn transferable skills at a host site that can support a variety of employment opportunities in their community. 75% of Project | SEARCH Canada graduates secure quality employment within a year of graduation.



Additional Opportunities and Programs

Secondary school is a time to broaden your horizons, explore your interests and set the tone for what's next. Grand Erie has something for everyone, so dive in!

Specialized Programs

For information about specific **specialized programs** offered at your secondary school, speak to your Guidance Counsellor. Additional information may be found on your secondary school's website.

French Immersion Programming

Grand Erie offers two secondary French programs: **Core French** and **French Immersion**. Core French and French Immersion programs differ in intensity but share a common purpose: to develop a student's oral communication (listening and speaking), and reading and writing skills in the French language. Both French language programs provide benefits to students regardless of whether or not they plan post-secondary studies in French. Starting in September 2026, French Immersion will be offered at Brantford Collegiate Institute & Vocational School, McKinnon Park Secondary School and Simcoe Composite School.

Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF)

The Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) is an internationally recognized certification of proficiency in French for those learning French as an additional language. DELF exams take place in 175 countries worldwide. Grand Erie offers Grade 12 students in all French pathways (Core and Immersion) the opportunity to challenge the DELF exam level that best suits their proficiency.

International Student Opportunities

The Grand Erie District School Board welcomes all **international students** to study in our schools. Whether students seek long-term academic pursuits, a shorter-term exploration of our varied arts and technology programs, a French immersion experience, an environmental studies bundle, or a unique exposure to Canadian Indigenous perspectives, we offer exciting educational pathways tailored to student hopes and dreams. We recognize the importance of exemplary homestay services for international students and, as such, we work closely with MLI Homestay for its high experience level and broad recognition across Canada. If you are a new student to Grand Erie or a returning student, you will find information on admissions criteria, how to apply, and the applicable fees, our refund policy, and so much more on our website.

Extracurricular Activities

Grand Erie Secondary schools offer numerous and exciting **extracurricular activities**. As your child embarks on their secondary school journey, extracurricular activities offer a fantastic opportunity for personal growth and development. These activities, ranging from sports teams and music clubs to academic societies and volunteer groups, provide students with a chance to explore their interests, develop new skills, and build lasting friendships.





We're Here for You

You're not alone in the transition to secondary school. We've got your back!

School-Specific Supports

Guidance Counsellors

Guidance Counsellors can help you select your courses and plan your pathways – now and in post-secondary. They may also connect you with further supports, such as Child and Youth Workers, Attendance Counsellors, Public Health Nurses, Social Workers and more.

Learning Resource Teachers

Learning Resource Teachers can provide support to maximize student achievement and well-being. They work with staff to arrange committees and conferences, assist in evaluations and reporting, organize placements and work with community agencies.

Student Success Teacher

Student Success Teachers support students who are facing barriers to success. Their supports may include assisting students with developing self-advocacy and time management skills, providing strategies to support credit achievement, supports for successful transitions, and graduation achievement.

Homework Help

Students in Grades 9-12 may access after school help with their schoolwork from educators at their Secondary school. Speak to your Guidance Department at your school to learn more.

Indigenous Grad Coaches and Six Nations Education Counsellors

Indigenous Grad Coaches provide supplementary student achievement and well-being support for all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners. They provide culturally appropriate programming, facilitate student leadership, build relationships, and assist with student success. Six Nations Education Counsellors provide supplementary counselling and liaison services specifically to students from the Six Nations of the Grand River, enrolled at six secondary schools.

Find More Supports Online

Visit your home school website to find more supports under the **Student Services** menu.



District Support Locations

Technology and Innovation Hubs

A first-of-its-kind for **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) learning in Grand Erie, the purpose of this multifunctional space is to cultivate an ecosystem of exploration, imagination and future-ready skills development for learners in grades 7 through 12. Starting in September 2026, every student in Grand Erie will have access to a Technological Focused Education. This program is designed for students taking courses in all four OSSD pathways, and located at one of three Technological Hub locations.

Centre for Excellence

Centre for Excellence: Teaching, Learning and Belonging, is a unique space designed to foster inclusion and community in Grand Erie. The Centre, accessible to everyone in Grand Erie, plays a meaningful role in building community connections through shared learning experiences and access to resources, programming and opportunities for engagement.

The Grand Welcome Centre

The Grand Welcome Centre is a place where all students new to Canada, entering the Ontario school system for the first time, and their families are welcomed into the Grand Erie community.

To start the school registration process, families must make an appointment with The Grand Welcome Centre. Use one of the following:

**The Grand Welcome Centre**

Phone: 519-756-6301 ext. 281031 or toll-free 1-888-548-8878
Email: welcome@granderie.ca

Visit The Grand Welcome Centre online at:
granderie.ca/welcomecentre

Learning Commons

A **Learning Commons** is a modern, flexible space in schools designed to support students' learning and growth. Think of it as a combination of a library, a study area, and a technology hub, all rolled into one. It's a place where students can access books, digital resources, and technology, work on projects, create, and collaborate with their peers.



We're here for you

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Grand Erie Supports

Mental Health and Well-Being

Grand Erie is committed to building a culture of **well-being** to support the cognitive, social emotional and physical needs of each learner.

Grand Erie Mental Health Strategy

Grand Erie's Mental Health Strategy focuses on four pillars:

- ✓ Life Promotion
- ✓ Leading Safe and Mentally Healthy Schools
- ✓ Partnerships
- ✓ Identity-Affirming Mental Health Literacy

There is support for students struggling with their mental health. Guidance counsellors are here to help students and connect them with support professionals in their community.

Grand Erie Resources Online

- 🔗 granderie.ca/well-being
- 🔗 granderie.ca/specialized-services



Specialized Services

Grand Erie provides **specialized services** based on the strengths and needs of the student. These may include:

- ✓ A general education classroom with instruction, assessments and accommodations
- ✓ A self-contained special education classroom, which may be partially integrated or fully contained
- ✓ Connections to community supports and services

To honour inclusion, Grand Erie supports student placement in a general education classroom within their home school; however, a self-contained placement may be considered and confirmed by an Identification, Placement and Review committee.

We value your voice! Placement in self-contained programs, including integration and exit planning, is a collaborative process with parents, caregivers and students. Each year a student's placement is reviewed to ensure individual strengths and needs are being met.



Community Resources to Support Transition

Contact Brant

Transitional Aged Youth Planning

Contact Brant is your first place to contact for information, access to community services and for coordinated planning.

Call: 519-758-8228

Toll Free: 1-877-613-3422

Email: information@contactbrant.net

Haldimand-Norfolk REACH

Transitional Aged Youth Planning

Haldimand-Norfolk REACH is a multi-service agency, providing children's mental health services, developmental services, Autism services, youth justice services, family services, a residential program for transitional-aged youth and several early learning and care services including EarlyON Child and Family Centres and Community Action Program for Children.

Call: 519-587-2441 or 1-800-265-8087

Fax: 519-587-2682

Email: info@hnreach.on.ca

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

Disability Support

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) provides money to help you and your eligible family members with living expenses, including food, and rent, health benefits, prescription drugs, vision care, and employment support to help you find and keep a job, or advance your career.

Applying for ODSP takes 20 to 30 minutes using the website <http://www.officelocator.mcsc.gov.on.ca>. Submit one application for you and immediate family members who live with you.

Apply over the phone by contacting the Social Assistance Contact Centre **Toll-free:** 1-888-999-1142 or **Toll-free TTY:** 1-800-387-5559. Apply in-person by booking an appointment through a local ODSP office.

Developmental Services Ontario (DSO)

Adult Developmental Services

Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) is the access point for adult developmental services funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) in Ontario. Visit: dsontario.ca



Frequently Asked Questions

If you've got questions, we've got answers. Call us at **519-756-6301** during school hours, send your questions to **info@granderie.ca**, or visit our website at **granderie.ca**

Will de-streamed and open classes support any pathway?

Answer: Absolutely! Courses in grade 9 are designed to prepare students for any pathway they may choose after high school.

I need help choosing my courses and planning the best path for me. Who should I speak to?

Answer: Guidance Counsellors will support you with pathway planning and course selection. Further support may be found with your grade 8 classroom teachers, myBlueprint Career & Life Planning tasks, Administrators, Learning Resource Teachers, and Student Success Teachers.

How long are my classes?

Answer: Great question! Secondary school classes are 75 minutes long.

When can students start collecting community involvement hours?

Answer: Students may begin collecting their community involvement hours on July 1st of the year they graduate from grade 8.

What if I need extra help? How do I access academic or specialized supports (guidance, social worker, school officer, public health nurse)?

Answer: Make an appointment with your secondary school's guidance counsellor. They will connect you with specialized resources.

Where do I put my personal belongings?

Answer: In secondary school, students are assigned a locker to place personal belongings (backpack, binders, personal devices, etc). Purchasing a lock can ensure your belongings stay secure.



Frequently Asked Questions

If you've got questions, we've got answers. Call us at **519-756-6301** during school hours, send your questions to **info@granderie.ca**, or visit our website at **granderie.ca**

Does my Individual Education Plan (IEP) transfer to secondary school?

Answer: Yes, your IEP continues as you transition to secondary school. To learn more, connect with your new school's Learning Resource Teacher.

How do I sign up for summer school?

Answer: Summer school offerings are listed on granderie.ca in the spring. You can also speak with your guidance counsellor to help choose the course that's right for you.

Do you want to learn more about your Grand Erie Secondary school before you start grade 9?

Answer: Each secondary school hosts **Future Grade 9 nights** from November to January. Visit the Future Grade 9 website at granderie.ca/futuregrade9

What if a school event or exam falls on a culturally significant day for me and my family?

Answer: Speak to your specific school office for guidance.

How do I get to school? Which school zone is my child in?

Answer: Find your school zone by visiting the Transportation website at stsbhn.ca and selecting the option for **Which School do I attend?**





Grand Erie District School Board

349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, Ont., N3T 5V3

Telephone: 519-756-6301 | **Toll Free:** 1-888-548-8878 | **Email:** info@granderie.ca | granderie.ca



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