



## NORFOLK COUNTY FAIR 2017 MEN'S TUG OF WAR CHAMPS



GRAND ERIE | 2018-19

VALLEY HEIGHTS  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

**PURPLE  
PROUD**

**WELCOME HOME!**



# VALLEY HEIGHTS SECONDARY SCHOOL



## Welcome to VHSS!

Valley Heights Secondary School is a rich institution that takes pride in working with students throughout their high school career. Valley Heights instills strong academic beliefs, has a dedicated staff, and is supported by a wonderful surrounding community. We have a beautiful and vibrant campus. Valley Heights students become leaders within the school and caring, contributing members of society.

Whether you are enrolling at Valley Heights for the first time or a returning student, take advantage of the opportunities that can be found at this school. Get involved in sports teams, clubs, and after school activities. Make your years here the best that they can possibly be.

Welcome to BEAR country!



Ms. Alison High  
Principal



Mr. Jim Merrick  
Vice-Principal

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Langton, ON N0E 1G0  
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### ***GEDSB Administration:***

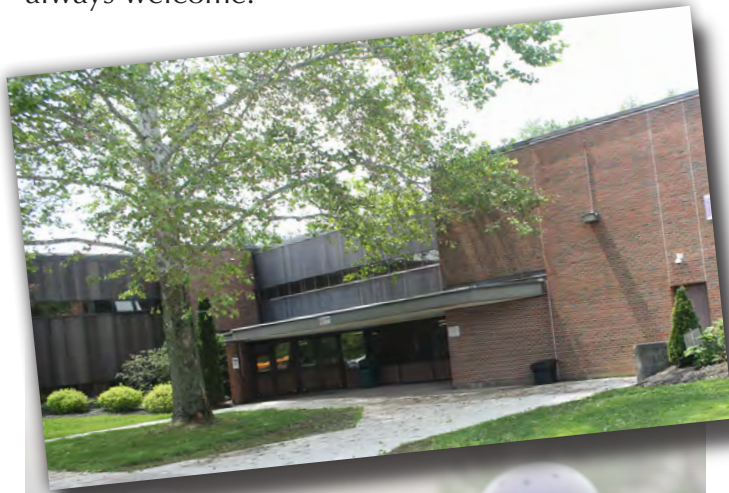
***Brenda Blancher***  
***Director of Education***

***Denise Martins***  
***Superintendent of Education***

# VHSS SCHOOL COUNCIL

One of the best ways to understand your child's high school years is to get involved with the School Council. This group of parents discuss educational issues and help the school identify and respond to the educational needs of the community. Through principals, School Councils are consulted by the school board on issues that affect student learning. They provide advice on both the development and implementation of policies.

The Valley Heights School Council meets five times throughout the school year. Typically, they meet on a Monday night at 6:30 p.m. New members are always welcome.



# VHSS QUICK FACTS

- Valley Heights was officially opened in 1971.
- The school is located on 100 acres of land which was formerly a dairy farm.
- The school's colours are purple and white.
- The school mascot's name is Val E. Bear.
- The school attracts students from Courtland, Houghton, Langton, Port Rowan, and Walsh.
- Valley Heights purifies its own sewage.
- Valley Heights generates 250 kW of electricity through the solar panels installed on the roof.
- The student-managed restaurant is called the Hidden Valley Café.
- Valley Heights does have an elevator.

## CLUBS

- Band
- Computer Club
- Crimestoppers
- Drama Club
- Enviro Club
- Music Council
- Norfolk County Fair
- Purple and White
- Students' Council
- Vocal Ensembles
- Athletic Association
- W.O.W. (Welcome to Overall Wellness)

## SPORTS TEAMS

- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Figure Skating
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Rowing
- Soccer
- Track & Field
- Tug-of-War
- Volleyball
- Wrestling



# GUIDANCE

Guidance is an educational process designed to help students better understand themselves, relate effectively with others, develop appropriate educational plans, and design personal career paths. To meet these goals, we offer the following services:

- Student and parent consultations
- Individual and group counselling
- Timetable planning, changes, and special placements
- Referrals to school board and support services
- College and university application information
- Scholarship, bursary, OSAP applications and information
- Maintaining Ontario Student Records

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Students can make an appointment in the Guidance office to see the following:

- Addictions Counsellor;
- S.T.A.R. Counsellor (Stop Abusive Relationships);
- School Nurse



## DESTINATION PLANNING

Once you earn your Ontario Secondary School Diploma from Valley Heights, you are ready for many different challenges and opportunities. The Guidance Department can help you.

The Guidance Department has current information about university and college programs. They coordinate visits from university and college representatives that interested students can attend. They run tutorials for students outlining how to apply to universities or colleges. They also maintain current information about bursaries and scholarships.

## E-LEARNING COURSES

Online classes are typically taken by senior students. Students log in to their course and complete assignments independently which they email to their instructors. If a student wishes to take an online class they should make an appointment in Guidance.

More information, including what eLearning is all about, the characteristics of successful eLearning students, and the technological requirements for taking an eLearning course can be found at [www.granderie.ca/elearning/](http://www.granderie.ca/elearning/)



# CAREER CRUISING

At GEDSB we have a vision that all students leaving our secondary schools have a clear plan for their initial postsecondary destination, and have confidence that they can revise their plans as they and the world around them change. We support students with the tools needed so that they become architects of their future. The Ministry of Education in Ontario has mandated that all students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 use the Individualized Pathway Planner. This can be found and used through Career Cruising.

We have been working with Career Cruising to assist students with planning for their futures and also use the

program for online course selections. Career Cruising is a powerful and complete, web-based solution that gives students and schools an easy and effective way to develop skills and knowledge needed for success. It can be used as a single, comprehensive solution or combined with the components in any combination to meet students immediate needs.

Students can start on Career cruising with interest inventories and aptitude type tests that allow them to answer questions like “Who am I?” - in Getting to Know Yourself, “What are my opportunities” - in the Exploring Opportunities section to “Who do I want to Become?” – in

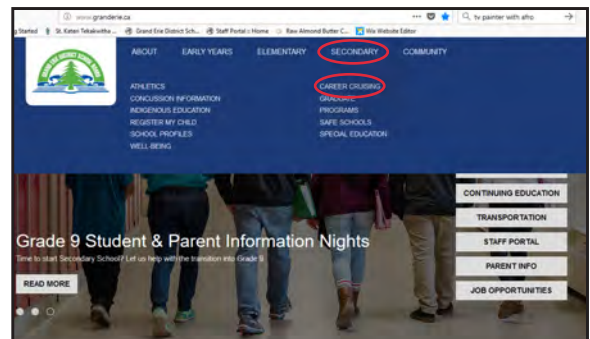
Making Decisions and Setting goals and ultimately, “What is my Plan” – in Achieving Goals and Making Transition plans. This is built upon for every grade and phase of career development for children and adults.

Together GEDSB and Career Cruising work together to create an Individual Pathway Plan (IPP) for all students. This plan becomes a valuable archive of student learning and a catalogue of resources they will need as they continue to plan for the future.

[www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com)



Students can access career cruising under the student tab at [granderie.ca](http://granderie.ca). On this site, they can research, plan and choose their courses.







Apprenticeships combine on-the-job training and classroom learning. Co-op students who are accepted into the OYAP program can count their Co-op placement hours towards their required number of apprenticeship hours should they complete an apprenticeship after high school.

Students who demonstrate a serious interest in their Co-op career may be registered as a young apprentice if the Co-op supervisor is agreeable. The OYAP program ends at the end of the student's Co-op placement.

## CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

The Valley Heights Co-operative Education program allows students to gain first-hand work experience that compliments their classroom courses. The time spent "test driving" a career, earns the student credits that count towards their high school diploma.

Valley Heights is fortunate to offer students a broad number of placement opportunities. Former VHSS students have worked with mechanics, electricians, veterinarians, teachers, cabinet makers, welders, hair-stylists, etc. They have worked in schools, business offices, and stores. Some students choose to work all day (and earn 4 credits) while others choose to work half days (and earn 2 credits).

In many cases, the networking and experience gained throughout their Co-op placement has helped students secure a job or apprenticeship after high school. Students must select Co-op as an option when they select their courses. The Co-op program has limited enrolment; students are interviewed and Co-op is scheduled into their timetable if they are accepted into the program.

## BUSINESS STUDIES

Our award winning Business Department prepares VHSS students for life after high school by exposing them to real-world problems. Taught by teachers with prior business experience, our students tackle common industry problems.

Our grade 9 students are taught industry standard software giving them the tools they need to succeed in other courses and in future years. Accounting students are challenged with both the preparation of financial statements and also the analysis of the statements making their work more relevant. Our computer science students design their own computer software.

Former VHSS Business students have careers as webpage designers, computer programmers, computer analysts, network administrators, and computer security experts.

VHSS students interested in Business at post secondary could receive full tuition through the DeGroote Scholarship at McMaster University.

# ARTS

Visual Arts offers many opportunities for artists and art enthusiasts. We offer a wide variety of courses from the basics of drawing and painting, to design, to digital media, to photography and sculpture. There are opportunities to work on community projects, as well as within the school with the yearbook, and clubs like Purple and White. Our students progress to careers in art, animation, design and other art-related fields. We offer many trip possibilities locally, in Toronto (OCAD, the AGO, the Design Exchange), and even New York City and Europe.

MUSIC AND  
MUSIC THEATRE

Music and Music Theatre courses offer students various ways to practise and perfect their musical ideas. Whether it be singing, playing an instrument, strumming a guitar, composing, or acting on stage, our students are given the opportunity to learn and practise in a comfortable learning environment. They perform for themselves, their peers, and in front of live audiences. Students also learn to read music notation and will listen to, and appreciate music from a wide variety of musical sources.

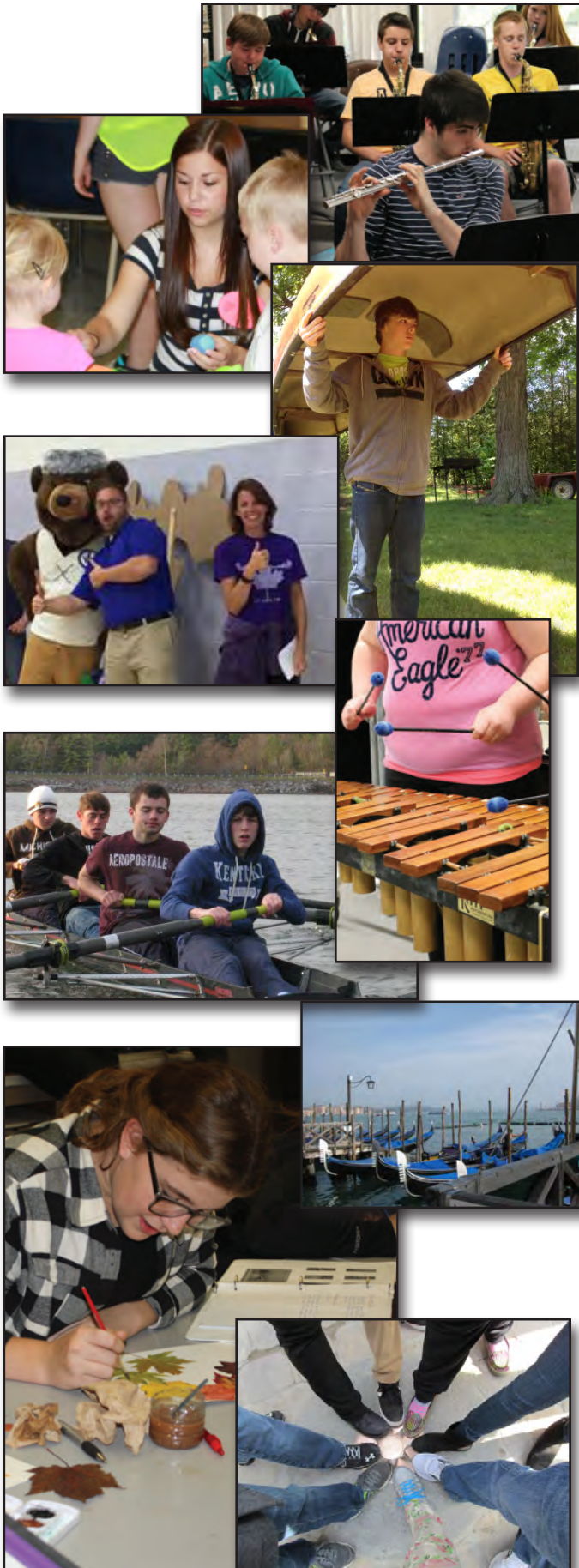
# TECHNOLOGIES

If Technology is your interest, the Technology courses offered at Valley Heights Secondary School all involve a large emphasis on “hands - on” learning. This means that most of the class time is spent working in the ‘shops’. Transportation students work on ‘live’ cars and the Manufacturing classes design and build small trailers and other useful projects. Our Transportation courses and Manufacturing courses offer a Specialist High Skills Major option. With a SHSM in Transportation, or Manufacturing, and a Red Seal on your diploma, you have an edge in finding employment in these industries. Our Hospitality course caters many events both in and outside the school, and it’s a pretty tasty way to earn a credit! If wood working is your talent, then make sure you sign up for construction courses. The Construction class students build many projects around the school, thereby gaining valuable hands on experience. The Communications class is always creating innovative films and photographic exhibits. Tech at VHSS is where it’s at!!

Our manufacturing and construction courses are also offered through night school at our campus. A student can earn a dual credit which is a high school credit and a college credit.







## MODERN LANGUAGES

In Spanish and French, learning takes place in a friendly and comfortable atmosphere. Aside from building their vocabulary and fluency, students experience authentic French and Spanish cuisine. Alternating years, language students are invited to travel to the Quebec Winter Carnival and Europe.

## ENGLISH

At Valley Heights, the study of English is much more than grammar and book reports. It is an adventure into the world of the imagination, into the world of great writers, into the world of ideas and ultimately into the world of wisdom. Taking an English class is much more than learning a subject; it is exploring oneself. Classes from grades 9 to 12 study short stories, drama, a novel and poetry. Our English teachers are energetic and creative, and incorporate many exciting activities, including drama and role play, into learning. While you explore literary analysis, you will be actively engaged. While you learn the basics of sentence structure, punctuation, and logical argumentation, you will improve your writing style. You will graduate with the necessary skills to engage the world with strong written and oral language.

Another exciting aspect of our English Department is technology. Every English classroom at Valley Heights is equipped with white boards and Smart software so that our learning is more exciting and interactive.

We know the importance of class instruction; however, we also take our students on field trips, such as to the theatres in Stratford. In recent years, we have enjoyed *King Lear*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Camelot*, and *Crazy For You*. Supporting curriculum through these excursions allows the experience of literature to come alive.

# SCIENCES

The Science department at Valley Heights offers a variety of topics that may be of interest to you. After two years of general Science, continue to explore your interests in the fields of Chemistry, Physics and Biology. Investigations in Science classes aren't contained within the classroom doors. Extra-curricular opportunities are available in all streams. Chemistry students, can test their knowledge with the University of Waterloo's Grade 11 Avogadro Test. Physics students design and build a wind turbine with their peers. Winning turbines may enter the wind tunnel in a competition at the University of Guelph. Science students have the opportunity to compete against schools and from all across Ontario.

Valley Heights is also located in a diverse area that is envied by most biologists. We regularly visit and work with local agencies like Bird Studies Canada and Long Point Regional Conservation Authority. Our campus is largely maintained by the Horticulture Science class. Horticulture students also run a productive greenhouse from which an annual spring sale finances future projects. Work has also taken us into the community. Some of the projects have involved groups such as Port Rowan Public School, Ministry of Natural Resources and Backus Community Council.

One of the best features of Valley Heights is our ability to work together with other departments and clubs to accomplish challenging goals. New initiatives are continually taking place. Some of the previous, and ongoing initiatives include; propagating and transplanting native plant species, wind and solar powered greenhouse, Eco school implementation ... to name a few. Enroll yourself in Science today and become a part of our team!

# MATHEMATICS

Today's mathematics curriculum must prepare students for tomorrow. Math Courses at VHSS will equip them with essential mathematical knowledge and skills: problem solving, reasoning, reflecting, communication, and most importantly, the ability to continue learning on their own in an ever-changing world.

The Mathematics Department at Valley Heights is well equipped to deliver the curriculum using the latest technological tools and expertise. Each math classroom is equipped with a smart-board, eight tablets, and a class set of TI-83 graphing calculators. Specialized and enthusiastic teachers use blended learning, graphing software, spreadsheets, geometry sketchpad, and much more in their classroom.

The grade nine academic and applied students are well prepared for the EQAO testing that takes place each semester. In the last three years the percentage of applied level students at or above provincial standards has surpassed that of the board and the province.





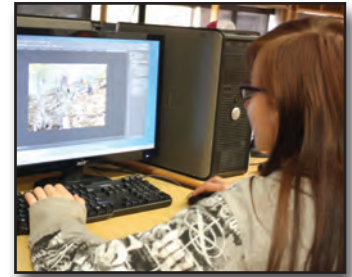
# SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Social Science and Humanities Department, or Family Studies Department, teaches “the science of smart living.”

Social Sciences and Humanities at VHSS offers a variety of courses in family studies and general social science. Designed to be stimulating and relevant, courses give students the opportunity to acquire practical skills, increase self-confidence, and improve interpersonal relationships needed to function effectively in a family and societal context. Learning experiences will prepare students for post secondary education, employment, and the realities of daily living.

Social Science, Humanities and Family Studies courses give students essential knowledge and transferable skills that are applicable in various areas of their lives. Individual courses provide students with a foundation for a variety of possible post-secondary destinations: positions in the retail and service industries; community college programs, creative arts, or business and university programs.

Social Sciences and Humanities gives you many options. Choose the courses that teach you about life and will help prepare you for the next step in your journey.



# CANADIAN & WORLD STUDIES

The Canadian and World Studies program encompasses four subjects: civics, geography, history, and law. In studying these subjects, students learn how people interact with and within their social and physical environments today, and how they did so in the past. Students develop the knowledge and values they need to become responsible, active and informed Canadian citizens in the twenty-first century.

In addition, students develop practical skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, research, inquiry and communication skills. Courses in Canadian and World Studies contribute significantly to students' understanding of Canada's heritage and its physical, social, cultural, governmental, legal, and economic structures and relationships. Students learn to apply and transfer these skills and understandings in other secondary school subjects, in their future studies, and in today's rapidly changing world.

Canadian and World studies courses are the interest forming 'stepping stones' to rewarding careers as teachers, lawyers, law enforcement officers, museum and art gallery curators, conservation officers, geologists, military personnel, librarians, civil engineers, journalists, town planners, and real estate agents. Canadian and World Studies provides the tools and skills for students to succeed not only in the classroom, but also in life!

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education Department offers a variety of courses for the student population of Valley Heights. The goals of the courses are to develop lifelong physical skills, total fitness, and social interaction among peer group. In addition health concepts dealing with drugs, mental health, sexuality and personal growth will be studied.

Our grade 9 and 10 programs provide the foundation for more personal and independent sport and health development in grade 11 and 12. Our grade 12 Leadership course focuses on the importance of carryover sports than can be played in smaller groups or individually after graduation. Field Studies are an important component of this course as well as C.P.R. training. Successful completion of C.P.R. will allow students to receive their wallet card as proof of their knowledge of the modalities of C.P.R. Exercise Science is a grade 12 Academic course that focuses on human movement and principles of human development. This course involves an in depth study and prepares students for university programs in the areas of Physical and Health Education, Kinesiology, and Recreation/Sports Administration.





# TURNING POINT

Turning Point is an innovative program that combines academics with co-op and offers a flexible timetable with classes offered at main campus and/or alternative sites. Students can achieve secondary school co-operative education (co-op) credits for their work placements/employment. Successful completion of all assignments plus 110 hours of work entitles a student to one co-op credit. A student may earn up to 14 co-op credits toward their diploma. Students must also complete 16 to 18 academic credits to meet graduation requirements through in class or online classes. Teacher support is available to students in a teacher supervised classroom. Tutorial support runs after school two nights per week as well. A satellite site located in Aylmer is also available two mornings each week to assist students who live out of the area. Turning Point teachers are excited to assist students with their academic and employment goals in this program.

*A special thank you to the photography class for contributing photographs to this production, as well as the students and teachers in them.*



# PATHFINDER

Pathfinder is a grade 9 and 10 program that offers credits in a quad-mester system. It is structured around the seasonal work in our area. Students who are involved in the fall harvest may request a Supervised Alternative Learning Plan (SALP), then enter the Pathfinder classes when the seasonal work ends. Although work may prevent them from benefiting from the first two credits offered, the adjusted schedule provides students the opportunity to be successful in their courses by having a fresh start at midterm when new classes begin. In the spring, Pathfinder students use their seasonal work toward cooperative education credits. Pathfinder is offered at Valley's main campus where students have access to all that Valley has to offer, including technology classes, the gymnasium, library and café.



# Choosing course types:

In order to ensure student success, Grand Erie encourages all students to give careful consideration to the course type chosen in each subject area.

## GRADE 9 – 10 PROGRAMS:

Four types of courses are offered:

Academic courses emphasize theory and abstract thinking skills. These courses provide students the foundation for the University course type in grade 11.

Applied courses focus on practical applications and concrete examples. These courses prepare students for the College course type in grade 11.

Locally Developed compulsory courses are designed to remediate students who are working below grade level and prepare students for the Workplace course type in grade 11.

Open courses are available to all students regardless of their destination after secondary school. These courses often present a balance of theory and practical work and offer an opportunity for students to explore particular areas of interest or skill.

Special Education courses allow students to focus on functional life skills and/or job readiness skills within schools that have a self-contained special education setting and are non-credit bearing.

## GRADE 11 - 12

Five types of program pathways are offered:

College courses are designed to prepare students for college programs and apprenticeships.

College/University courses are designed to prepare students for either community college or university programs.

Workplace courses are designed to prepare students for entry to the workplace and/or apprenticeship.

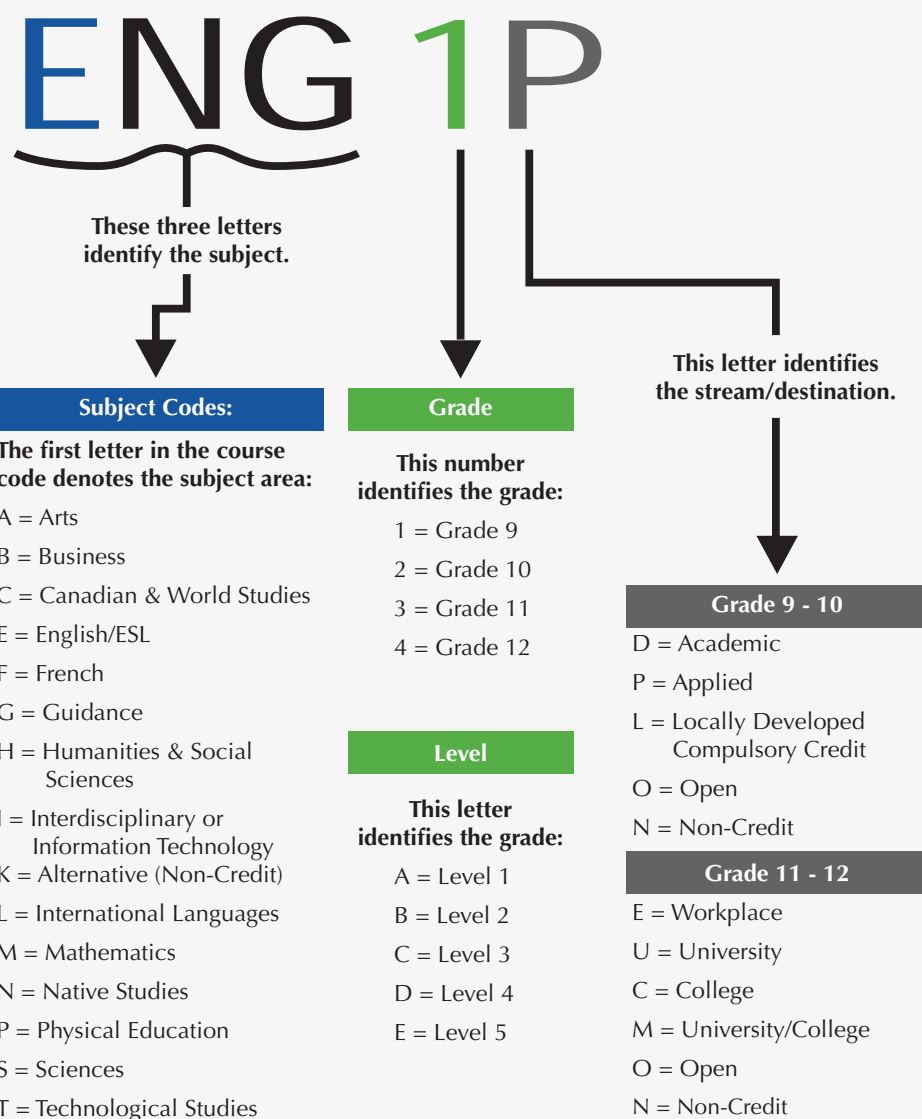
University courses are designed to prepare students for transition to a variety of university programs or apprenticeship.

Open courses are available to all students regardless of pathway.

## 12 OPTIONAL CREDITS

Optional credits may be earned in all subjects, including those named in the compulsory credit list, provided that such optional credits are additional to the compulsory credits. The optional credits allow for concentration in a curriculum area of special interest.

Every course in secondary school has a unique COURSE CODE.  
All courses have the first five characters as mandated by the Ministry of Education.





# What do you need to graduate?

COMPULSORY CREDITS (TOTAL OF 18)
<b>4 credits in English (1 credit per grade)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) may be used to meet either the Grade 11 or the Grade 12 English compulsory credit requirement.</li> <li>The Grade 11 Contemporary Aboriginal Voices course may be used to meet the Grade 11 English compulsory credit requirement.</li> <li>For English language learners, the requirement may be met through earning a maximum of 3 credits in English as a second language (ESL) or English literacy development (ELD); the fourth credit must be a Grade 12 compulsory English course.</li> </ul>
<b>3 credits in math (at least 1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)</b>
<b>2 credits in science</b>
<b>1 credit in the arts</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Grade 9 Expressing Aboriginal Cultures course may be used to meet the compulsory credit requirement in the arts.</li> </ul>
<b>1 credit in Canadian geography (Grade 9)</b>
<b>1 credit in Canadian history (Grade 10)</b>
<b>1 credit in French as a second language</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students who have taken Native languages in place of French as a second language in elementary school may use a Level 1 or 2 Native language course to meet the compulsory credit requirement for French as a second language.</li> </ul>
<b>1 credit in health and physical education</b>
<b>0.5 credit in career studies</b>
<b>0.5 credit in civics</b>
<b>3 additional credits, consisting of 1 credit from each of the following groups:</b>
<p><b>Group 1:</b> English (including the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course), French as a second language, classical languages, international languages, Native languages, Canadian and world studies, Native studies, social sciences and humanities, guidance and career education, cooperative education</p> <p><b>Group 2:</b> French as a second language, the arts, business studies, health and physical education, cooperative education</p> <p><b>Group 3:</b> French as a second language, science (Grade 11 or 12), computer studies, technological education, cooperative education</p> <p><i>Note:</i> The following conditions apply to selections from the above three groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A maximum of 2 credits in French as a second language may count as additional compulsory credits, 1 credit from Group 1, and 1 credit from either Group 2 or Group 3.</li> <li>A maximum of 2 credits in cooperative education may count as additional compulsory credits, selected from any of Groups 1, 2, or 3.</li> </ul>

## GRADE 10 - ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

All students must successfully complete this test which will be administered by the EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office). Students will first write this test in the spring of their grade ten year. Unsuccessful candidates will be given the opportunity for remediation at the school and will be able to rewrite the test. Students identified through an IPRC (Identification, Placement, and Review Committee) will be allowed accommodations for writing of the test. Students not working towards an OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma) may be exempted from writing the test.

## ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY COURSE (OSSLC)

Students who have written the OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) once and were unsuccessful are eligible to take the OSSLC (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course). Successful completion of the OSSLC satisfies the secondary school literacy graduation requirement.

## 40 HOURS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Forty hours of Community Involvement is a requirement for graduation. Community Involvement is a set of self-directed activities in the community that do not involve remuneration and do not replace a paid worker. A pamphlet entitled "Information on Community Involvement for Students and Parents" is available from the guidance office. The pamphlet will provide all the details concerning the Community Involvement requirement.

## ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

The **Ontario Secondary School Certificate** will be granted on request to students who leave school before earning the Ontario Secondary School Diploma, provided that they have earned a minimum of 14 credits as follows:

**7 Compulsory Credits** (2 English, 1 Canadian Geography or Canadian History, 1 Mathematics, 1 Health and Physical Education, 1 Science, 1 Arts or Technological Education or Computer Studies)

**7 Optional Credits** Selected by the student from available courses

## CERTIFICATE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

Students who are not working towards an OSSD or an OSSC may be awarded a Certificate of Accomplishment upon leaving secondary school. The Certificate of Accomplishment is a useful means of recognizing achievement for students who plan to transition directly to employment after leaving school. The Certificate of Accomplishment is to be accompanied by the student's Ontario Student Transcript. For students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a copy of the IEP may be included.

% Grade Range	Achievement Level	Summary Description
80 – 100%	Level 4	A very high outstanding level of achievement. Achievement is above the provincial standard.
70 – 79%	Level 3	A high level of achievement. Achievement is at the provincial standard.
60 – 69%	Level 2	A moderate level of achievement. Achievement is below, but approaching, the provincial standard.
50 – 59%	Level 1	A passable level of achievement. Achievement is below provincial standard.
Below 50%		Insufficient achievement of curriculum expectations. A credit will not be granted.

# Programs

## NIGHT SCHOOL/SUMMER SCHOOL

Night school classes are offered in Brantford, Haldimand and Norfolk. They are offered Tuesday and Thursday evenings. A wide variety of compulsory courses are offered. For additional information call Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) 519 753-6079.

Grand Erie District School Board will be offering summer school for grades 9 - 12 credits during the month of July. Locations will be sent to each school in the spring. For additional information call 519-753-6079.

## GRAND ERIE LEARNING ALTERNATIVES (GELA)

GELA provides an alternate opportunity for secondary school students who, for various reasons, are not experiencing success in a regular school setting or who want to re-enter school after leaving.

Scheduled day programs and Independent Learning Courses (ILC) and e-Learning are available.

## STUDENT TRANSITION EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (STEP)

The STEP program provides students with the opportunity to earn credits, gain work experience and develop a career plan. The STEP Program is designed for students transitioning to work upon completion of secondary school. The program is appropriate for students that experience difficulty in an academic timetable and who may be at-risk of not completing their secondary school diploma.

The program consists of training in health and safety for the workplace, workplace literacy, reading and numeracy. In addition, students will participate in a wide variety of experiential learning activities.

STEP programs are uniquely designed to meet the needs of students in a particular setting or community. For more information contact your guidance counsellor.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) AND PRE-AP

The Advanced Placement Program allows students to pursue university level studies while still attending secondary school. In May of each year, students may wish to write the standardized AP challenge exam in the course offered by their school. Students have an opportunity to receive advanced credit at many universities across Canada, the United States, and around the World. Advanced Placement Exams train students in taking high level tests, get a head start on university-level work and develop the study habits necessary for tackling rigorous course work essential for success at the tertiary level of education. Students wishing to write the exam

should contact their guidance department for more information.

Due to the rigorous nature of the AP exam, some schools will be offering a Pre-AP program for students prior to grade 12. A Pre-AP program allows students the time to expand and enhance their understanding of the subject material being tested during the exam while still meeting the requirements of the Ontario Curriculum. These programs may begin as early as grade 9 via enhanced classes and/or club formats. For more information, please talk to the guidance department at the secondary school you are attending.

## SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR (SHSM)

Grand Erie District School Board, in conjunction with the Ontario Ministry of Education, offers SHSM programs to secondary school students.

Students enrolled in a Specialist High Skills Major program are required to complete a bundle of classroom courses, workplace experiences and sector certifications to receive a special designation on their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Grand Erie District School Board has programs in the following sectors:

- **Arts & Culture** – Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School: Performance and Production; Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School: Journalism and Media;
- **Construction** – Cayuga Secondary School, Dunnville Secondary School, McKinnon Park Secondary School, North Park Collegiate-Vocational School, Waterford District High School
- **Environment** – Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School and Paris District High School
- **Health & Wellness** – Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School: Fitness; Dunnville Secondary School: Healthy Living; North Park Collegiate-Vocational School: Health Care; Waterford District High School: Fitness; Tollgate Technological Skills Centre: Hairstyling
- **Horticulture & Landscaping** – McKinnon Park Secondary School
- **Hospitality & Tourism** – Hagersville Secondary School, McKinnon Park Secondary School and Tollgate Technological Skills Centre
- **Information & Communications Technology** – North Park Collegiate-Vocational School, Paris District High School and Simcoe Composite School
- **Manufacturing** – Cayuga Secondary School, Dunnville Secondary School, Valley Heights Secondary School and Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School

- **Sports** – North Park Collegiate-Vocational School
- **Transportation** – Cayuga Secondary School, Delhi Secondary School, Dunnville Secondary School, Hagersville Secondary School, Simcoe Composite School and Valley Heights Secondary School, Tollgate Technological Skills Centre

Participation in an SHSM program can help students prepare for apprenticeships, college, university or transition to work.

## DUAL CREDITS

Grand Erie District School Board has partnered with Conestoga College, Fanshawe College and Mohawk College to allow students to earn college credits before they graduate secondary school. These credits are delivered in three different ways within the Board.

- **School Within A College (SWAC)** - Is offered by Conestoga in Brantford (Fit and Wellness / Media), Fanshawe in Simcoe (Human Services / Intro to Trades) and Mohawk in Ohsweken (Intro to Trades). If you are between the ages of 17 and 20 years old and need 5 – 10 credits to graduate, speak to your guidance counsellor about this program.
- **Team Taught** - Is taught in combination with a college instructor and secondary school teacher during a student's regularly scheduled class.
- **After School** - Is taught by a college instructor (and supported by a secondary school teacher) after school in one of the local secondary schools. Students from other schools are welcome to enrol. Speak with your guidance counsellor for further information.





## e-LEARNING COURSES

Virtual Courses are often called e-Learning courses. e-Learning courses use a virtual classroom and are accessed by a computer, tablet or smart phone. Your teacher may be a teacher from a school in the Grand Erie District School Board, or he/she may be in another city somewhere across Ontario.

e-Learning courses are typically taken by senior students. e-Learning courses provide opportunities for students to be able to access courses that they might not otherwise be able to take in a face to face class. As well, e-Learning is now commonly found at the post-secondary level (apprenticeships, college, or university), and is often used in workplace training.

In order to register for an e-Learning course you need to see your guidance counsellor. You will need to have a "Change of Program" form completed and signed by your parents and the school Principal.

More information, including what e-Learning is all about, the characteristics of successful e-Learning students, and the technological requirements for taking an e-Learning course can be found under the Secondary tab at [granderie.ca](http://granderie.ca)

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

Grand Erie believes in providing an inclusive culture for students on a continuum from "most enabling" to "least restrictive". Each one of our secondary schools has a Special Education department with Learning Resource teachers ensuring Individual Education Plans are in place and implemented. Our schools have Self-Contained programs to support the learning needs of individuals that require intensive support. In addition, we have a system Student Support Services that offer services such as, Psychological Consultation, Behaviour Counselling, Child and Youth Work and Social Work.

## CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION (CO-OP)

Co-op is a planned learning experience that integrates classroom theory and learning experiences at a workplace which enable students to apply and refine the knowledge and skills acquired in a related curriculum course or a locally developed course.

Co-op courses include a classroom component comprised of preplacement and integration activities and a placement component. Students earn co-op credits by integrating classroom theory with planned learning experiences in the community. Students are assessed and evaluated on their demonstration of tasks linked to curriculum expectations of the related course(s) as outlined in students' Personalized Placement Learning Plans.

Students interested in Co-op Education must apply for the program and complete an interview. Successful candidates will be notified and the recruitment process of an appropriate placement will follow.

There is no formal restriction on the total number of co-op credits that students may earn in secondary school.

## ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (OYAP)

Students gain knowledge and experience in an apprenticeable trade while working at an eligible work placement. Students acquire hours toward the completion of their apprenticeship while earning credits. An apprenticeship is an agreement between the student (who wants to learn a skilled trade), the school, the employer (who teaches the skills) and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) (Apprenticeship Branch).

Students will get a head start on becoming a fully qualified journey person with a skill set that is in demand. Apprenticeships are an excellent way of learning valuable work skills and are a viable alternative to traditional post-secondary programs.

For more information speak to your school's Co-op or OYAP teacher.  
Visit [www.apprenticesearch.com](http://www.apprenticesearch.com)

## TO BEGIN AN APPRENTICESHIP DURING SECONDARY SCHOOL A STUDENT MUST:

- successfully complete 16 credits and be enrolled full-time in school
- be 16 years of age or older
- successfully complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Requirement
- complete all compulsory credits required for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma

## ACCELERATED OYAP

Accelerated OYAP is a specialized program being offered in partnership with local post-secondary institutions, the MAESD and other local school boards. This program is offered to senior students from every secondary school in GEDSB. In Dual Credit programs, students can earn up to 4 credits toward their OSSD. The in-school component is facilitated by a post-secondary instructor.

## GRAND ERIE IS COMMITTED TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.

Besides our regular secondary school programs we offer:

Special Education • e-Learning  
Alternative Education • Cooperative Education • Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program • Specialist High Skills Major Programs  
• Credit Recovery

*Grand Erie...*

**More Programs,  
More Choices**



# Additional Information

## COMPULSORY SUBSTITUTIONS:

In order to allow flexibility in designing a student's program and to ensure that all students can qualify for the secondary school diploma, substitutions may be made for a limited number of compulsory credit courses. To meet individual student needs, principals may substitute up to three compulsory credits with courses from other subject areas that meet compulsory credit requirements, including all Guidance and Career Education courses. Substitutions will be made to promote and enhance student learning or to meet special needs and interests.

## CREDITS:

A credit is granted in recognition of the successful completion of a course for which a minimum of 110 hours has been scheduled. Scheduled time does not include additional time spent on a course, for example time spent on homework.

## PLAR:

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is the formal evaluation and credit-granting process whereby students may obtain credits for prior learning. Prior learning includes the knowledge and skills that students have acquired, in both formal and informal ways, outside secondary school. Students may have their knowledge and skills evaluated against the expectations outlined in provincial curriculum policy documents in order to earn credits toward the secondary school diploma. The PLAR process involves two components: "equivalency" and "challenge".

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS:

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. A Grade 12 English course must be completed to earn the fourth credit.

## ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION:

The primary purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning. Information gathered through assessment helps teachers to determine students' strengths and weaknesses in their achievement of curriculum expectations. This information also serves to guide the teachers in adapting instructional approaches to students' needs and in assessing the overall effectiveness of program and classroom practices.

Assessment is the process of gathering information from a variety of sources, including assignments, quizzes, demonstrations, and performances, that accurately reflects how well a student is achieving the curriculum expectations in a course. As part of the assessment, teachers provide students with descriptive feedback that guides their efforts towards improvement.

Evaluation refers to the process of judging the quality of student work on the basis of established criteria, and assigning a value to represent the level of achievement. In Ontario secondary schools, the value assigned will be in the form of a percentage grade.

Assessment and evaluation will be based on the provincial curriculum expectations and the achievement charts. For more information on specific course curriculum expectations go to [www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca)

As of September 2010, assessment, evaluation, and reporting in Ontario schools is based on the policies and practices described in Growing Success. (also available on the above website)

## REPORT CARD:

The report card focuses on two distinct but related aspects of student achievement:

- achievement of curriculum expectations
- development of learning skills.

To more clearly reflect these two aspects of student achievement, the report card contains separate sections for reporting on achievement of the curriculum expectations, and for the reporting on demonstrated skills required for effective learning.

## EXAMINATIONS /CULMINATING ASSIGNMENTS:

Summative evaluations take place at the end of a unit or period of time. The purpose is to judge the student's achievement in relation to the course curriculum expectations. Formally scheduled examinations and/or culminating assignments shall be held in most if not all courses. The precise weighting of final examinations/culminating activities will be communicated to students the first week of the course. The only acceptable reasons for failure to write a formally scheduled examination and/or culminating assignment are illness, bereavement or subpoena. Supporting documentation must be presented.



**SEE YOUR GUIDANCE  
COUNSELLOR FOR MORE  
INFORMATION.**



## ONTARIO STUDENT RECORD AND TRANSCRIPT:

The Ontario Student Record (OSR) is the official, on-going educational record for each student and is stored in the school most recently attended by the student. Teaching staff, each student, and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of a student are entitled to have access to the student's OSR. Supervised access can be arranged by appointment during normal business hours. Transcripts of marks are issued on written or personal request. Once a student reaches the age of 18, by law, they control access to the OSR by anyone not mentioned above. Parents of adult students will only have access to a student's academic records upon written authorization from the student. All senior level courses remaining on a student's timetable five days after the first provincial report will be recorded on the transcript.

Transcripts requested after a student has graduated and is no longer attending secondary school are subject to a charge of \$5.00 per copy.

## WITHDRAWAL FROM A COURSE - GRADES 11 & 12:

If a student (including a student with a completed Individual Education Plan) withdraws from a Grade 11 or 12 course within five instructional days following the issue of the first provincial report card in a semestered or non-semestered school, the withdrawal is not recorded on the Ontario Student Transcript (OST). If a student withdraws from a course after five instructional days following the issue of the first provincial report card in a semestered or non-semestered school, the withdrawal is recorded on the OST by entering a 'W' in the 'Credit' column. The student's percentage grade at the time of the withdrawal is recorded in the 'Percentage Grade' column.

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS THROUGH REFERRAL PROCESS:

While the focus of Guidance and Career Education is to assist students with the development of the entire student, some families and students may require additional social support from Board employees. Students under the age of 18 must have their parent/guardian sign the referral form for the student/support intervention.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC):

SEAC is an advisory committee mandated through the Education Act as a standing committee of each school Board. The committee reports to the school Board and makes recommendations to the board on special education programs and services. The committee is comprised of Trustees, Board personnel, community members, and associations representing a wide variety of interests related to students with exceptional needs.

## CREDIT RECOVERY:

Our provincially-recognized Credit Recovery program is an in-school program for students who have not successfully completed some of their courses. In a credit recovery classroom, students work on recovering previously failed courses and have the opportunity to get their credit accumulation back on track. Credit Recovery offers students a supportive environment that focusses on the key expectations of a course and also assists students with pathway planning and developing improved learning skills that will help them in earning their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC COURSE CURRICULUM EXPECTATIONS GO TO  
[www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca)





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