Thames Valley
District School Board



2027 - 2028

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE SELECTION GUIDE

Each student's unique potential is strengthened.

GEARED 2 Graduate

Thames Valley District School Board

www.tvdsb.ca/HighSchool



Available for students **Grades 7-12**

myBlueprint

Login: www.tvdsb.ca/myBlueprint

Know yourself. Know your options.

Pathway Guide

Making Sense of Course Codes

MTH 1W1

Every subject is identified by a common course code designated by the Ministry of Education.
The code consists of 5 mandated characters and a 6th character for school use.

e.g. **MTH 1W1** is Grade 9 De-streamed Math

The first three characters identify the subject. The first letter identifies the department:

- **A:** Arts
- **B:** Business
- **C:** Canadian & World Studies
- **E:** English
- **F:** French
- **G:** Guidance
- **H:** Social Studies and Humanities
- **I:** Computer Studies
- **I:** Interdisciplinary Studies
- **L:** Indigenous Languages
- **L:** Classical and International Languages
- **M:** Mathematics
- **N:** First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies
- **P:** Physical Education
- **S:** Science
- **T:** Technology

The fourth character identifies:

- **1:** Grade 9
- **2:** Grade 10
- **3:** Grade 11
- **4:** Grade 12

The fifth character identifies types of courses:

- **C:** College
- **D:** Academic
- **E:** Workplace
- **L:** Locally Developed
- **M:** University/ College
- **O:** Open
- **U:** University
- **W:** De-streamed

The sixth character is school-specific.

Used to distinguish course characteristics and specialized programs. e.g.

- **1:** Regular Course/1 Credit
- **X:** French Immersion
- **V:** Asynchronous Online Learning

TYPES OF COURSES

You may choose a variety of course types, based on your interests, strengths and goals.

Grades 9 and 10

Courses equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to meet both the university and college pathways in Grades 11 and 12

GRADE 9 AND 10 DE-STREAMED (W) AND ACADEMIC (D)	• Develop students' knowledge and skills by emphasizing practical, concrete applications of the concepts and incorporating theoretical applications
Grade 10 **APPLIED (P)**	• Develop students' knowledge and skills by emphasizing practical, concrete applications of the concepts and incorporating theoretical applications.
Grade 9 and 10 **LOCALLY DEVELOPED COMPULSORY CREDIT COURSES (L)** Focus on building skills	• Use relevant and practical activities that provide opportunities for students to develop their literacy, numeracy, problem-solving, decision-making and communication skills • Prepare students for future studies in Grade 11 and 12 workplace courses, and Grade 9 and 10 de-streamed & academic courses
Grade 9 to 12 **OPEN (O)** Offered in all subjects other than those listed as academic, de-streamed, applied or locally developed.	• Are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed for various post-secondary pathways (e.g. Apprenticeship, Workplace, etc.) • Emphasize theoretical aspects of the course content, but also include concrete applications

Grades 11 and 12

In Grades 11 and 12, courses offered to prepare students for post-secondary destinations include:

UNIVERSITY PREPARATION (U)	• Are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to meet entrance requirements for university programs • Emphasize theoretical aspects of the course content, but also include concrete applications
UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE PREPARATION (M)	• Are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to meet the entrance requirements for specific university and college programs • Emphasize both theoretical aspects and related concrete applications of the course content
COLLEGE PREPARATION (C)	• Are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to meet entrance requirements for college and apprenticeship programs • Emphasize concrete applications of the theoretical material covered in the course
WORKPLACE PREPARATION (E)	• Are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed for direct entry into the workplace or for admission to apprenticeship programs and other training programs offered in the community • Allow students to prepare for a variety of jobs, and training programs

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

OSSD Requirements

Your high school journey is an exciting time full of change, growth, and possibility!

30 CREDITS IN TOTAL

2 ONLINE COURSES[f]

40 HOURS of COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

COMPLETION OF THE PROVINCIAL **LITERACY REQUIREMENT** (OSSLT OR OSSLC)

COMPLETION OF THE PROVINCIAL **FINANCIAL LITERACY** GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Entering Grade 9 in 2023 or Earlier

18 Compulsory Credits

- **4** credits in English (1 per grade)[a]
- **3** credits in Mathematics (1 Senior)
- **2** credits in Science
- **1** credit in Canadian Geography
- **1** credit in Canadian History
- **1** credit in the Arts[b]
- **1** credit in Health and Physical Education
- **1** credit in French as a Second Language [g]
- **0.5** credit in Career Studies
- **0.5** credit in Civics and Citizenship
- **3** credits from each of Group 1, 2, and 3
- **12** optional credits[e]

Group 1: Additional English, French as a Second Language[c], a Native, Classical, or International Language, Social Science, FNMI Studies, Humanities, Canadian and World Studies, Guidance And Career Education, Cooperative Education[d]

Group 2: Health and Physical Education, Arts, Business, French as a Second Languagec, Cooperative Educationd

Group 3: Science, Technological Education, Computer Studies, French as a Second Language, Cooperative Education[d]

Certificate of Accomplishment

Students who leave school before fulfilling the requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Certificate may be granted a Certificate of Accomplishment. This certificate may be a useful means of recognizing achievement for students who plan to take certain vocational programs or other kinds of further training, or who plan to find employment after leaving secondary school.

Entering Grade 9 in 2024 or Later

17 Compulsory Credits

- **4** credits in English (1 per grade)[a]
- **3** credits in Mathematics (grade 9, grade 10, 1 credit in either grade 11 or 12)
- **2** credits in Science
- **1** credit in Canadian Geography
- **1** credit in Canadian History
- **1** credit in the Arts[b]
- **1** credit in Health and Physical Education
- **1** credit in French as a Second Language [g]
- **1** credit in Technological Education (grade 9 or 10)
- **0.5** credit in Career Studies
- **0.5** credit in Civics and Citizenship
- **1** credit from the STEM-related course group
- **13** optional credits[e]

STEM-related Course Group

- Business Studies
- Mathematics
- Cooperative Education
- Science
- Computer Studies
- Technological Education

Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC)

On request, students will be granted the OSSC when they leave school before earning the OSSD, provided that they have earned a minimum of 14 credits.

7 Compulsory Credits:

2 English, 1 Canadian Geography or Canadian History, 1 Mathematics, 1 Health and Physical Education, 1 Science, 1 Arts, Computer Studies or Technological Education

7 Elective Credits:

Selected by the student from available courses

[a] A maximum of 3 credits in ESL/ELD can count towards the 4 compulsory English; the fourth must be a grade 12 compulsory English course

[a] Grade 11 English: Understanding Contemporary FNMI Voices is the grade 11 English requirement.

[b] Grade 9 Expressions of FNMI Cultures course can meet the credit requirement in the arts.

[c] A maximum of 2 FSL credits can count towards compulsory groups

[d] A maximum of 2 coop credits can count towards compulsory credits

[e] May include up to 4 Dual Credit Courses

[f] Parents/guardians can request to opt out of this requirement through the Parent Portal

[g] Students who have taken Indigenous languages in place of French as a second language in elementary school may use a Level 1 or 2 Indigenous languages course as the compulsory credit for French as a second language

Experiential Learning



Experiential learning is hands on learning that provides opportunities for students to:

- **Participate** in rich experiences connected to the world outside the school;
- **Reflect** on the experiences to derive meaning; and
- **Apply** the learning to their decisions and actions.

There are many Experiential Learning opportunities for students in TVDSB. Check out the following information to see just a few!

ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (OYAP)

The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) is a School to Work program that opens doors for students to explore and work in apprenticeship occupations starting in Grade 11 or Grade 12 through the Cooperative Education program.

OYAP-FAST: Focused Apprenticeship Skills Training (FAST) is an accelerated stream within OYAP. OYAP-FAST will allow students in Grades 11 and 12 to participate in more apprenticeship learning through additional co-operative education credits while completing their OSSD.

To find out more: www.tvdsb.ca/**OYAP**

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR (SHSM)

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a specialized high school program that allows students to earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and focus their learning on a specific economic sector at the same time.

Students develop skills for their future careers, graduate high school with industry certifications and training and earn an SHSM seal on their secondary school diploma.

To find out more: www.tvdsb.ca/**SHSM**

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION (CO-OP)

Cooperative Education is a planned learning experience through which students can earn credits and work experience. Placement experiences assist students in developing knowledge, skills and attitudes that areessential in today's society.

To find out more: www.tvdsb.ca/**CO-OP**

OTHER FORMS OF Experiential Learning

Job Shadowing — a one-on-one observation of a worker at a place of employment for up to three days

Job Twinning — a one-on-one observation of a cooperative education student at a place of employment for up to three days

Work Experience — a planned learning opportunity within a course which allows students a relatively short-term work experience, usually of one or two weeks at a time, for a total of up to four weeks

Don't forget

You are responsible!
Choose your courses with your aspirations in mind.

Planned learning experiences in the community provide opportunities for students to see the relevance of their classroom learning and its connection to the broader world.

SCHOOL WITHIN A COLLEGE (SWAC)

The **School Within A College** program allows students to complete high school by attending school on campus at college. These students also enroll in college dual credits. Each successfully completed college credit also results in the awarding of a high school credit which can be used toward completion of the OSSD. Currently, TVDSB has a SWAC program at Fanshawe College in London, St. Thomas, and Woodstock.

*First Nations, Métis, Inuit SWAC programs also available.

To find out more:
Visit *www.ontario.ca/morestudentsuccess* and click on Dual Credit Program or talk to your school's guidance counsellor.

SCHOOL WITHIN A UNIVERSITY (SWAU)

The **School Within A University** program allows students experiencing changes and challenges in life to complete secondary school by attending school on campus at Huron and Western Universities in London, Ontario. These students also enroll tuition free in one first year university course.

DUAL CREDIT COURSES

Area colleges are pleased to offer senior students the opportunity to enroll in college-level courses during the Fall and Winter semesters under the School to College to Work Initiative (SCWI) project. This unique arrangement allows post-secondary bound students the chance to experience life and learning at the college level.

To find out more: www.tvdsb.ca/**DualCredit**

Reaching Every Student

Each student has their own unique interests, goals and strengths. Every student should have the same opportunity to succeed and graduate from secondary school. TVDSB schools are working with you to improve the learning experience for all students.

We share a common goal to help all students build a promising future for themselves. We are responding by focusing on:

- Quality course options and programs inside and outside of the classroom, leading to all destinations (apprenticeship, college, community, employment, and university)
- Literacy and numeracy skills in all subject areas
- One-on-one support when students need extra help
- Building community, diversity, culture, safety, and caring in all schools

There is a **Student Success Team** in every secondary school. Members of this team include the Principal, the Head of Guidance, Learning Support Teacher, the Head of Special Education, the Student Success Teacher, and other staff members as appropriate to the school (e.g. Cooperative Education Teacher, Social Worker, etc.).

Student Success Teams continue to monitor the progress of students throughout their time at secondary school, setting and revisiting career life goals with students and providing support as needed to maximize student opportunities and achievement.



Enhanced PARENT PORTAL

BENEFITS:

A single landing page allows you to easily navigate all your children's information.

Update consent for Release of Student Personal Information online.

Submit community involvement hours.

Mobile, friendly! You can use the Parent Portal from anywhere, on any device!

View student, attendance, marks, timetables, course requests, and much more!

www.tvdsb.ca/ParentPortal

Attendance Reporting

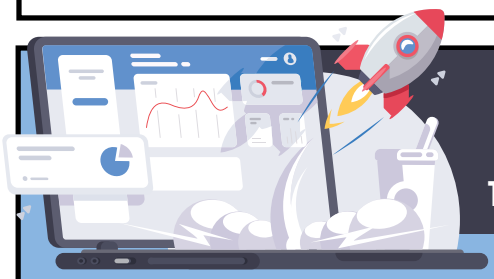
www.tvdsb.ca/attendance

Students who attend school regularly tend to be more engaged in their learning, feel more connected to the school and have better academic outcomes than students who miss a lot of school.

If your child is going to be absent, notify the school by:

- www.tvdsb.ca/schoolmessenger
- Call the toll free number: 1-844-305-3756
- Report the absence through our smartphone mobile application: App Store: SchoolMessenger and/or Google Play: SchoolMessenger





ONLINE Learning Options

TVDVA Online Learning Options: www.tvdsb.ca/OnlineLearning

Students are required to earn two online learning credits to graduate from secondary school, beginning with every student who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-21 school year. The graduation requirement is intended to support students in developing familiarity and comfort with learning and working in a fully online environment, as well as developing digital literacy and other important transferable skills that they will need for success after secondary school, including in post-secondary education and the workplace.

Eligible Credit Requirements

Grades 9 to 12 credit courses that are delivered entirely using the internet and do not require students to be physically present with one another or with their educator in the school.

- Credits earned through online summer school virtual learning (asynchronous)
- Credits earned asynchronously through TVDVA (Thames Valley District Virtual Academy) e-Learning

Credits that are NOT Eligible

Credits that DO NOT count towards the online learning graduation requirement include:

- Credits earned through a blended model, in which digital resources are used in an in-person environment or students are taught part of the time in person and part of the time online.
- Credits earned during full remote learning in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

Opt Out Process

Parents, caregivers, or students over the age of 18 have the option to opt their child out of this online learning graduation requirement through the parent portal or in hard copy. Hard copies are available from the school or the TVDSB website.

In the Know

Ontario Student Record (OSR)

Each student's record (OSR) is kept at the student's home school and follows the student when that student changes schools. The OSR contains the Ontario Student Transcript (OST) and other notes, assessment, evaluations and records made while the student attends elementary and secondary school. The OSR is available for adult students, parent/guardian of minor students, teaching staff and administration.

Course Outline

Course outlines are provided to students during the first week of classes. Copies of course outlines are available through the main office at each school.

Prerequisite/Corequisite

A prerequisite is a course that students must complete prior to attempting a course of the next year level. A corequisite is a course that must be taken at the same time as another course.

Substitution of Compulsory Credits

In unique circumstances, the principal of a school may replace up to three of the compulsory credit requirements in order to meet an individual student's need.

Full Disclosure

If a student withdraws from a Grade 11 or 12 course after 5 instructional days following the issue of the first provincial report card (mid-term), the withdrawal and percentage grade must be recorded on the Ontario Student Transcript (OST).

Credit Recovery

Credit recovery is designed to help regular day school students at the secondary level meet the expectations of a course they have completed but for which they have received a failing grade. Please contact your school's student success team for more information.

Stay Informed

Information about Programs and Policies

Graduation Requirements
www.tvdsb.ca/students/high-school/graduation-requirements

Curriculum Policy Documents
https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en

Online Learning
www.tvdsb.ca/OnlineLearning

The French Program
www.tvdsb.ca/French

English as a Second Language (ESL) & English Literacy Development (ELD)
www.tvdsb.ca/ESL

Special Education
www.tvdsb.ca/programs/special-education

Specialty Programs
www.tvdsb.ca/SpecialtyPrograms

Summer Programs & Camps
www.tvdsb.ca/programs/summer-programs-and-camps

General High School Pathway Planning
www.tvdsb.ca/HighSchool

Create a digital plan using myBlueprint
Login: www.tvdsb.ca/myBlueprint

Tips for planning Post-secondary PATHWAYS

1. **Start Early.** It is never too soon to start talking to children about their goals for secondary school and beyond.
   - Use the TVDSB pathway planning resources together
   - Start planning for high school and post-secondary at **www.myblueprint.ca/tvdsb**
2. **Help Your Teens Know Their Goals and Interests.** Encourage them to understand who they are and connect their interests and abilities to careers.
   - Choose courses wisely and explore a variety of courses and experiences
   - Do the self-assessments at **www.myblueprint.ca/tvdsb**
3. **Understand the New Realities of Work.** Remember your child will likely have 6-10 occupations and some of those jobs do not exist yet.
   - Transferable skills are the key to success
4. **Encourage Your Teen to Explore All Pathways.** Talk equally about all possibilities.
5. **Investigate the Specifics of Career Choices.** Attend information sessions about all five destinations available in your school.
   - Encourage experiential learning such as Coop, Dual Credits, SHSM and Volunteer Opportunities
6. **Community Involvement (40 hours).** It is important to start early, and you can begin in the summer before grade 9.
7. **Research Financial Responsibilities.**
   - Plan ahead.
   - Investigate support options available such as loans, scholarships and bursaries
   - Check out the Financial Planner at **www.myblueprint.ca**

Continue your effort to communicate with your child, the school and the community.

Visit: **www.tvdsb.ca/HighSchool**

ALL ABOUT ME

Who am I?

- How would I describe myself right now (strengths, interests, values)?
- How can I connect who I am to the choices I make?

What are my opportunities?

- What opportunities should I try while I'm in school?

Who do I want to become?

- What are my goals now and for the near future?
- Where can I find information about my initial post-secondary destination?

What is my plan for achieving my goals?

- How do I develop and review my plan?
- Who can support me in achieving my goals?

Adapted from Halton District School Board: www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/cps/creatingpathwayssuccess.pdf



APPRENTICESHIP

Is apprenticeship for you?

Check out the websites below to learn more about the apprenticeship pathway.

www.oyap.com
www.careersintrades.ca
www.skilledtradesontario.ca
www.trades.ontariocolleges.ca

COLLEGE

Is college for you?

Check out the websites below to learn more about the college pathway.

www.ontariocolleges.ca
www.gotocollege.ca
www.edu.gov.on.ca

COMMUNITY

Is community training for you?

Check out the websites below to learn more about the community training pathway.

www.tvdsb.ca
> Programs
> Special Education

EMPLOYMENT

Is on-the-job training for you?

Check out the websites below to learn more about the on-the-job training and employment pathway.

www.servicecanada.gc.ca
www.jobfutures.ca
www.edu.gov.on.ca

UNIVERSITY

Is university for you?

Check out the websites below to learn more about the university pathway.

www.ouac.ca
www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca
www.edu.gov.on.ca