



Thames Valley
District School Board

**Don't miss our virtual LIVE
High School Information Session!
November 5, 2026**

Scan QR code below
for more information

GRADE 8

TRANSITION GUIDE TO HIGH SCHOOL



WELCOME!

The move to high school is an important and exciting time in your educational journey. Transition means change, and while change can be exciting, starting something new can make us feel nervous too. You may have many questions as you face this new adventure. We hope that this guide will answer your questions and help you feel more prepared and informed about transitioning to high school.
We wish you all the best as you embark on your high school journey!

HOW DO I PLAN FOR HIGH SCHOOL?

We want you to know that you will not be going through this transition alone! There will be many TVDSB staff supporting you through the planning and registration process including your teachers, learning support staff, and your Elementary Pathways Lead Teacher. Families, caregivers and older siblings may be another source of support.

In your grade 8 class, you have probably started working on your **IPP (Individual Pathways Plan)** and completing your **WHO AM I? surveys** in **myBlueprint**. These are great tools to help you explore the answers to the following questions:

• What makes me, me? • What are my interests? • How do I learn? • What are my goals? • Who can help me?

WHAT IS THE SEMESTER SYSTEM?

- | | | |
|----------|----------|---|
| Semester | 1 | September - January <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 classes a day (75 minutes each)• Lunch Period |
| Semester | 2 | February - June <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 classes a day (75 minutes each)• Lunch Period |

For more information about the transition to high school and Grade 8 information nights visit www.tvdsb.ca/grades7-8



You belong in **Thames Valley!**

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN? A Timeline to High School

October – December

- **Talk** with your Elementary Pathways Lead Teacher and parents/caregivers about the registration process for high school and your Individual Pathway Plan
- **Check** out Grade 8 High School Information Night Schedules
- **Attend** TVDSB Virtual Grade 8 Parent/Caregivers session and High School Open Houses to learn about registration process, course selection, OSSD requirements and more

January

- **Register** for high school and complete course selection for grade 9 with the help of your Elementary Pathways Lead Teacher and your family/caregivers

Welcome to a TVDSB Secondary School!

September – October

- Login to **myBlueprint**
- **Individual Pathways Plan (IPP)**
 - With your Elementary Pathways Lead Teacher and Learning Support Team you will start creating your IPP by completing the **WHO AM I? Surveys** in myBlueprint

March – June

- **Work** with your Elementary Pathways Lead Teacher on goal setting for high school, register for summer program options such as **High School Here I Come (HSHIC)**, volunteer opportunities and skill building

How do I decide what high school to go to?



Find My Local School Tool



Every Grade 8 student has an assigned secondary school based on their address. This is the high school you should attend based on your address at the time of registration. You may be interested in specialized programming at another school such as French Immersion or Emphasis Technology. Your Elementary Pathways Lead Teacher will assist you and your caregivers in understanding what processes need to be followed if you want to register at an out-of-area school.

You can learn more about what different high schools offer through Secondary School Grade 8 Information Nights.

www.tvdsb.ca/secondary-school-information-nights

How do I register for high school?

Your Elementary Pathways Lead Teacher will take you through the process of registering for high school. They will guide you through picking courses from your high school's course offerings using **myBlueprint** (www.myblueprint.ca/tvdsb). This process usually occurs in January. Your parent/caregiver must approve your course selection prior to being registered for high school.





How can I meet people and get involved?

Research shows that students who get involved are more likely to be well and succeed academically. By getting involved, you will explore your physical, creative, and social self while meeting new people and trying new things.

Taking part in extra and co-curricular activities as well as various school programs can significantly improve your school experience and help you develop skills and knowledge. TVDSB secondary schools offer many extra and co-curricular opportunities to enrich your learning experiences outside the classroom. Opportunities vary from school to school but may include:

- **Sports**
- **The Arts** (Dance or Drama club)
- **Clubs** (GSA, Indigenous Student Association, Black Students' Association, Muslim Student Association, plus many more!)

• Student Council

Here are some ways to get involved:

1. Check with your school for a list of extra and co-curricular activities.
2. Follow your school's social media accounts to learn about what activities are being offered.
3. Listen to announcements or ask a caring adult (teacher, administrator or your guidance counsellor) to find out how and when to join.
4. If a club of interest is not currently offered, students can propose a new club by speaking to a principal and/or teacher.



What do I need to graduate?

30

 CREDITS
in TOTAL

17 Compulsory + 13 Optional

13 Optional Credits

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

40

 HOURS of
COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT

40 Hours Community Involvement

Forty hours of Community Involvement is a requirement for graduation. Community Involvement is a set of self-directed activities in the community. Students may begin accumulating hours in the summer before Grade 9.

For more information visit

www.tvdsb.ca/HighSchool



ADDITIONAL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

Graduation Literacy Requirement

In Grade 10, students must take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) which will be administered through the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). There are EQAO permitted accommodations for students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students not working towards an OSSD may be exempted from writing the test. If you do not pass the OSSLT, there are other ways to meet the literacy requirement, such as the Ontario Literacy Course (OLC).

Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement

Students will complete this requirement as part of their compulsory Grade 10 Career Studies course.

2

 ONLINE
LEARNING CREDITS

Students are required to complete 2 online courses as part of their secondary school requirements. Parents/caregivers can request to opt out of this requirement through the Parent Portal.

PLANNING FOR GRADE 9 AND 10

As you plan for the next step in your educational journey, you will have the opportunity to select courses that meet your needs, allow you to explore areas of interest and tailor your education experience while earning credit requirements for graduation.

New this year! In Grade 8, students will now plan their courses for both Grade 9 and Grade 10. While only the Grade 9 courses will be submitted during the course selection process, it's important to consider both years when making your plans.

Grade 9 & 10 Courses		5 Optional Courses in Grade 9 and 10**:
GRADE 9	GRADE 10	The Arts* Physical Education* Business Studies Computer Studies Guidance and Career Education Indigenous Education Social Studies and Humanities Languages
 English	 English	
 Math	 Math	
 Science	 Science	
 Geography	 History	
 French	 Civics and Careers	
 Technology* (in Grade 9 or 10)		Please speak with your guidance counsellor for more information and support with pathways planning.

*Students require at least 1 Art, 1 Physical Education and 1 Technology credit to graduate. The Technology requirement must be taken in Grade 9 or 10. It is encouraged that students meet their Art and Physical Education requirements in Grade 9 and 10 as well, though there may be options to meet these requirements in the Senior grades.

**Additional courses in Grades 9 and 10 vary by school. For a full list of additional courses please refer to myBlueprint and the course calendar of the High School you are applying to.

STAY INFORMED:



Parent Portal

allows access to marks, attendance history, timetables, and complete online forms



Student Portal

allows secondary school students to access their marks, timetables, report cards, etc.



School Messenger

allows for reporting student absences, lates and early dismissal, as well as updates from the school

Where can I find more information about high school, including information about making course selections and the senior years?



Check Out

www.tvdsb.ca/highschool

