

A PATHWAYS PLANNING GUIDE



**FOR STUDENTS STARTING HIGH SCHOOL
&
THEIR PARENTS**

Introduction

Dear Students, Parents and Educator,

Welcome to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board Pathways Planner!

Maybe you already have a career in mind — you know where you want to go and you've got a pretty good idea how you want to get there. It's important that you choose the right high school courses that will lead you to your post-secondary goals. This guide explains the steps you need to take to plan your pathway, choose courses and gain experience.

Maybe you are not sure what you want to do after high school. Don't worry! You don't need to make any really big decisions yet. In Grades 9 and 10, you will get a better sense of yourself through many career exploration activities. Once you know your interests and abilities, you've already made it through the first step toward finding the career and post-secondary destination that's perfect for you.

We hope that this planner will be a valuable resource for building your pathway to future success!



Guiding you along the way.

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Meet your guidance counsellor

When you start high school, you will be assigned a guidance counsellor, who will help you plan your courses and career options. Along with the other staff in the Student Services Department, your guidance counsellor takes care of new student registrations, arranges course timetables, keeps track of student records, and a whole lot more.

If you have a personal problem, your guidance counsellor can help you work it out, either on your own or with support from the school chaplain or a community worker.

Guidance counsellors can help you get extra help if you're having trouble with your schoolwork, or if you need help preparing for exams. At any time, you or your parents can contact your guidance counsellor to discuss concerns or make important decisions.

What's a "pathway"?

What does it have to do with success?



The first thing you should know about pathways is that they all lead to the same place: work. All work has value, and each of us has an important role to play in God's creation.

The first couple of years in high school are a time to discover your own unique talents and think about careers that suit your interests. You might even start thinking about life after

Grade 12 — apprenticeship, college, university, or work.



Your program pathway is your very own map that leads you to the career that's right for you. It's not necessarily a straight line! Your experiences in high school might lead you in a number of possible directions.

You'll try new things and discover more about yourself.



This guide will help you make some decisions that keep your options open, while setting yourself up for success.



And don't worry about making a wrong turn — your guidance counsellor will be right there to guide you along the way!



What are your interests & abilities?

Career Cruising

Career Cruising is an easy and fun way to learn about careers that interest you. A simple on-line questionnaire will help you find careers that match your interests, and you can explore the job descriptions, working conditions, earnings and education requirements of each career.

You can even watch and listen to interviews with people in your career of choice. They talk about what they like about their jobs (and even what they don't like so much), and they offer great advice.

Career Cruising will show you the pathway of high school courses and post-secondary training that is needed for each career. You can use the Career Cruising website to plan your Grade 9 courses too! Ask your teacher for your username and password.

www.careercruising.com



Here's an overview of five main employment sectors. To learn more about jobs that are related to your interests and abilities, talk with your guidance counsellor.

Arts, Communications and Recreation

People attracted to careers in this sector like to write stories, poetry and music, sketch, draw, paint, play musical instruments, sing, dance, act, take photos and be physically active.

This sector includes jobs in architecture, creative writing, film studies, fine arts, graphic design, journalism, foreign languages, radio and television broadcasting, advertising, public relations, coaching, instructors in recreation and sport.

Business, Finance, Sales and Service

People attracted to careers in this sector like to lead, or manage in order to meet organizational goals for economic gain. They like to make decisions, initiate projects, give talks and speeches, organize activities or lead a group. Many like to work with data, use clerical skills and carry out detailed tasks.

This sector includes jobs in entrepreneurship, sales, marketing, hospitality and tourism, computer information systems, finance, accounting, personnel, economics and management.

Health, Natural & Applied Sciences and Information Technology

People attracted to careers in this sector like to work with people. They like to observe, learn, analyse, investigate, evaluate and solve problems. They work independently or in teams, do research, explore ideas, perform experiments, do complex calculations, and understand scientific methods and theories.

This sector includes jobs in medicine, dentistry, nursing, therapy, rehabilitation, nutrition, fitness, hygiene, engineering and computers.

Social Sciences, Government and Human Services

People attracted to careers in this sector like to work with people. This career path includes programs related to economic, political, and social systems.

This sector includes jobs in education, law, policing, public administration, child and family services, religion and social services.

Trades, Transport and Industrial Technology

People attracted to careers in this pathway like to work with their hands. They like to work with objects, machines, tools, plants, or animals.

This sector includes jobs in engineering, mechanics and repair, manufacturing technology, precision production, electronics, construction, fisheries management and forestry.

Exploring Choices

Grade 7 and 8

Creating Pathways
What Makes Our Community Work
Grade 8 student day at High Schools
Co-op, OYAP, and SHSM Presentation
Grade 8 Career Fair
Grade 8 Parent Night at High School



Career exploration begins in Grades 7 and 8 with learning about your individual interests and abilities, development of an Annual Education Plan, and an introduction to the world of work. In these grades, you work with “Choices into Action” to get ready for high school decisions. You are also introduced to the web-based “Career Cruising” program, which leads you through skills and interests surveys, and helps you create an e-Portfolio of your personal, academic, extracurricular, and skills development goals. These portfolios can be reviewed on-line by parents at home or at the public library. In Grade 8, your high school will offer tours, presentations and special events.

In Grade 9, each high school student is assigned a guidance counsellor who can be contacted by the student or their parents to answer questions and give advice. Throughout high school, students are introduced to the many opportunities available in each career sector. The Career Studies course helps Grade 10 students explore career interests, pathway choices, and required education and training. Career and volunteer fairs introduce Grade 11 students to potential employers. Cooperative education and youth apprenticeship programs are popular ways to gain experience and learn more about a possible career choice.

Grades 9 & 10

Grade 9 Parents Night
Take Our Kids to Work Day
Cooperative Education
Career Studies Course
Pathway Information Night

Grades 11 & 12
Cooperative Education
Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program
Accelerated OYAP
Specialist High Skills Major
Dual Credit



Map out your pathway

In Grades 9 and 10, you should choose courses based on your interests and your abilities. In Grades 11 and 12, you'll choose courses based on whether you plan to go on to post-secondary education or go directly into the workforce or apprenticeship. Your guidance counsellor can help you plan your pathways.

A Catholic graduate is...

- A discerning believer.
- An effective communicator.
- A reflective, creative and holistic thinker.
- A self-directed, responsible, life-long learner.
- A collaborative contributor.
- A caring family member.
- A responsible citizen.

In Grades 9 and 10, you can choose two electives each year. In Grades 11 and 12, you will choose five or six electives each year.

True or False: Choosing "academic" courses in Grade 9 is the best way to keep your options open.

Answer: False! The best option is always choosing the level of study that matches your abilities! Both academic and applied levels can lead to all pathways. Set yourself up for success!

O.S.S.D. opens doors

to all pathways:

apprenticeship, college,

university or workplace.

Ontario Secondary School Diploma Requirements

4 credits in English (1 credit per grade)
3 credits in Mathematics (1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
2 credits in Science
1 credit in Canadian Geography
1 credit in Canadian History
1 credit French as a Second language
1 credits in The Arts
1 credits in Health and physical education
0.5 credits in Civics
0.5 credits in Careers

Plus one credit from each of the following groups:

Group 1: additional credit in English, or French as a second language,** or a Native language, or a classical or an international language, or social sciences and the humanities, or Canadian and world studies, or guidance and career education, or cooperative education***

Group 2: additional credit in health and physical education, or the arts, or business studies, or French as a second language,** or cooperative education***

Group 3: additional credit in science (Grade 11 or 12), or technological education, or French as a second language,** or computer studies, or cooperative education***

In addition, students must complete:

4 religion credits
Any 8 optional credits
Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (Grade 10)
40 hours of community service over four years

18 compulsory credits

Literacy Requirements

During the Grade 10 year, students will be given the opportunity to write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). Students must pass this test (or the OSSLC) in order to graduate. Students who have been eligible to write the OSSLT at least twice, and who have been unsuccessful at least once are eligible to take the Grade 12 Ontario School Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC). When these students successfully complete the OSSLC, they will have met the provincial literacy requirements for graduation.

Community Involvement Guide



Expectation

One of the requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) is each student must complete a minimum of 40 hours of Community Involvement.

Guiding Principle

Community service provides Catholic students a valuable opportunity to respond to the Christian call to serve others, especially those “who are least among us” (Mt 25:35-36, 40), all the while fulfilling their graduation requirements, 40 hours of community service. Alongside learning the teachings and traditions of the Catholic faith, it is vital that students have opportunities to witness their faith by reaching out to help others through Christian service.

General Information

Students may complete the requirement at any time starting in the summer before entering grade 9 and preferably finish prior to January of their graduating year. Students may complete one activity of 40 hours or several activities which add up to 40 hour time commitment. The requirement must be completed outside of the scheduled class time.

- During the lunch hour or spare(s)
- In the evening
- During the summer
- On the weekends
- During school holidays

Students under the age of 18 years should plan and select their activities in consultation with their parents. Early completion of the 40 hours of Community Involvement is strongly recommended.

Explore the Code:

Your guide to course codes and levels

Course codes are decided by the Ministry of Education. All schools in Ontario use the same system for identifying courses.

This number identifies the grade level.

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

SNC 1P1

This number identifies how many credits the course offers.

These three letters identify the course. The first letter in the course code tells you the general field of study and the rest identifies the specific subject:

- A Arts
- B Business
- C Canadian & World Studies
- E English
- F French
- G Guidance
- H Social Science and Humanities
- L International Languages
- M Mathematics
- P Physical Education
- S Sciences
- T Technology

This letter identifies the level or destination.

- Grade 9/10:
- D Academic
 - P Applied
 - L Locally Developed
 - O Open

- Grade 11/12:
- U University
 - C College
 - E Workplace
 - O Open
 - M University/College

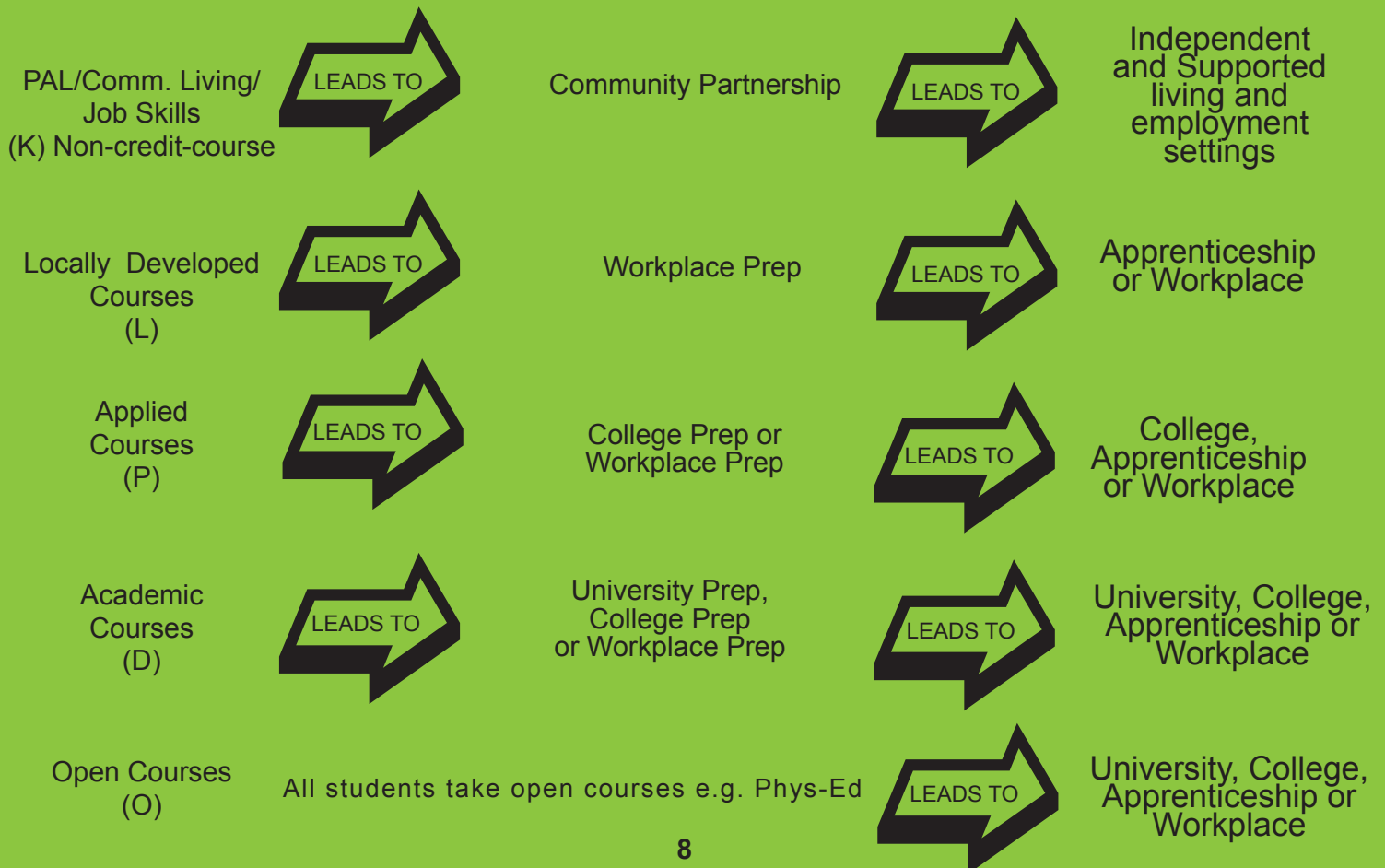
(So, this code is Grade 9 Science at the Applied Level)

G R A D E 9&10

in Grade 9 & 10 you can take many pathways...

G R A D E 11&12

POST SECONDARY





Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board

Academic/Applied/Locally Developed/ Alternative Courses Information Sheet

Academic Courses

In an academic course, students will learn the essential concepts of a subject and explore related material. Although knowledge and skills in the subject will be developed through both theory and practical applications, the emphasis will be on theory and abstract thinking as a basis for future learning and problem solving.

Academic courses are designed for students who:

- Appreciate opportunities to work independently
- Enjoy a theoretical orientation
- Are abstract, reflective learners
- Analyze results and findings
- Utilize research from many sources

Applied Courses

An applied course covers the essential concepts of a subject. Knowledge and skills will be developed through both theory and practical applications, but focus will be on practical applications. In applied courses, familiar, real-life situations will be used to illustrate ideas, and students will be given more opportunities to experience hands-on applications of concepts studied.

Applied courses are created for students who:

- Learn by doing
- Appreciate input from others before beginning independent work
- Like to focus on applications in the community
- Need to know why things are relevant
- Learn from practical experiences

Locally Developed Courses

A locally developed course covers the necessary compulsory credits requirements. Real-life situations and practical applications are used throughout the course. The focus of this course is to prepare students with essential skills to be successful in the school-to- work pathway.

Locally Developed courses are created for students who:

- Learn by doing
- Benefit from work experience or school to work transition programs
- Require flexibility and additional support in the classroom

Alternative Courses (K)

The Special Education Department offers three specific programs for identified students. These programs support academic, vocational, and personal growth to prepare students for independent or supported living and employment settings. The three non-credit programs are:

1. Personal Active Learning Program (PAL)
2. Community Living Program
3. Job Skills Program

These programs are designed to serve students in a non-credit program with intensive supports to enhance student learning. Student strengths are developed and their needs met as outlined in their IEP. Placements can be fully self-contained or partially integrated based on the student's IPRC placement.

Frequently Asked Questions.

What is the difference between Academic, Applied and Locally Developed Courses?

Academic, Applied and Locally Developed courses give students the opportunity to experience different ways of learning. Academic courses draw more heavily on theory and abstract examples and problems. Applied courses focus more on practical applications and concrete examples. Locally Developed courses are intended for students who require a measure of flexibility and support in order to meet the compulsory credit requirements for Mathematics, Science and English for an OSSD or OSSC.

For which Grade 9 subjects will my child have to make a choice between Academic, Applied and Locally Developed?

Students must choose between the different types of courses in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, French and Geography. In disciplines such as Creative Arts, Health and Physical Education, and Business Studies, all students will take the same type of course, called an Open course.

Will my child's post secondary options be limited by taking an Applied course?

Over the course of their high school career, the interests and goals of a student may change as they gain experience and learn new career options. If this should happen, students will be able to change pathways in all subjects except math which requires a transfer course. For example, if a student is very successful in Grade 9 Applied Math and wanted to take Grade 10 Academic Math, they would be able to change pathways by taking a transfer course. However, if you experienced great success in Grade 9 applied English you can take Grade 10 Academic English without taking a transfer course.

Can I take courses at different levels of study?

Yes. Depending on your strengths, you may take a combination of Academic and Applied Courses. For example, a student can take academic English and Geography and applied Math, Science and French.

The Grade 8 teachers have made recommendations regarding appropriate levels from Grade 9 on my child's option sheet. What criteria were used for these recommendations?

The Grade 8 teacher's recommendations are based on a number of criteria, such as:

- Student success in areas that are deemed critical for preparation for Grade 9
- Amount of support student received in Grade 8
- Work habits and study skills observed in Grade 8

Can I choose to go against the recommendations of the Grade 8 teachers?

Of course, the final decision is up to you. Our purpose in making the recommendation is to ensure your child is appropriately placed in their first year of high school. Success in the grade 9 is the most important factor leading to graduation. Choosing the appropriate level of study will ensure your child's success in the first year of high school.

If my child would like further information about filling out the option sheet, whom should he/she talk to?

Guidance counselors and the Student Success Teacher will make visits to every Grade 8 classroom to clarify the process and answer any questions your child may have. In addition, students are free to make an individual appointment with the Guidance counselor or the SST.

Questions about starting high school?

Starting high school is really exciting and a bit scary too. You're pretty sure it's going to be great, but who hasn't heard a horror story or two? Here are some answers to what might be on your mind.

The school's so big! I'll get totally lost!

The first couple of days might be a little confusing, but just remember that everyone figures it out eventually. Here's a tip: Visit the school with your timetable ahead of time, and practice finding your classrooms!

How will I be able to make new friends?

High school is a great time for a fresh start or just to meet new friends. If you try out for the school play, try out for a sports team, or join the social justice club, you'll meet people with similar interests.

I'm worried that I won't do well in my classes. Help!

The work you do in Grade 9 will build on what you already learned in Grade 8. Choose courses that fit your interests and abilities so that you'll be more likely to succeed. Talk to your teacher or your guidance counsellor about your concerns, and find out what extra help might be available.

I heard there will be mountains of homework. How will I ever get it done?

In high school, you should expect to have some homework every night. This could be assignments or studying for tests. Use your student planner to keep track of when your assignments are due, and get started on them early. A good way to get ready for high school homework is to develop some good study habits now. Have a look at the next page for homework tips.

Should I be worried about initiation?

The first days of school are filled with fun activities and games to welcome you to your school and help you get to know new people. While they're sometimes a little wacky, they're all meant to be fun.

Are there any activities that I will like?

There is a wide variety of clubs and organizations for you to participate in. Below is a sample:

Clubs & Organizations

Art Club
Chess Club
Fashion Show
Mock Trial
Students Against Impaired Driving
Liturgy Ministry
Peer Ministry
Peers Against Drugs
Semi-formal Committee
Peer Tutors
Parade Committee

Science Club
School Newsletter
Student Council
Student Senate
Tech Olympics
Tuck Shop
School website
Televised morning announcements
Yearbook

Sports

Basketball
Baseball
Curling
Football
Wrestling
Soccer
Volleyball
Badminton
Rugby

Swimming
Track & Field
Cross-country running
Rowing
Golf
Tennis
Curling
Hockey (girls/boys)

Experiential Learning

ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

What is the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)?

OYAP is a specialized program that will provide secondary school students the opportunity to train as an apprentice while still enrolled in secondary school. OYAP students have an opportunity to become registered apprentices and work towards a Certificate of Qualification in a skilled profession while earning their OSSD.



What is an Apprenticeship?

Apprenticeship is a hands-on training program for people who want to work in the skilled trades and enjoy learning by doing. Apprenticeship training allows you to learn the skills while working with qualified trades people. A majority of the training occurs in the actual workplace, however, some training takes place in the classroom.

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

What is the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)?

The SHSM is a ministry approved program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements for their OSSD. SHSM allows students to customize their secondary school experience to suit their interests and talents, while preparing them for a successful post secondary transition.



Why become a SHSM Student?

SHSM students are given more opportunities to earn industry recognized certifications, participate in reach ahead activities and cooperative education centered around their goals and interests. Students will achieve the SHSM designation on their diploma with a RED Seal and receive a special transcript listing certifications and training programs to which they have been exposed.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

What is Cooperative Education?

The cooperative education program allows senior students to apply and refine, in a supervised work placement, skills and knowledge gained in the classroom. Students can earn two credits for each co-op experience.

DUAL CREDITS

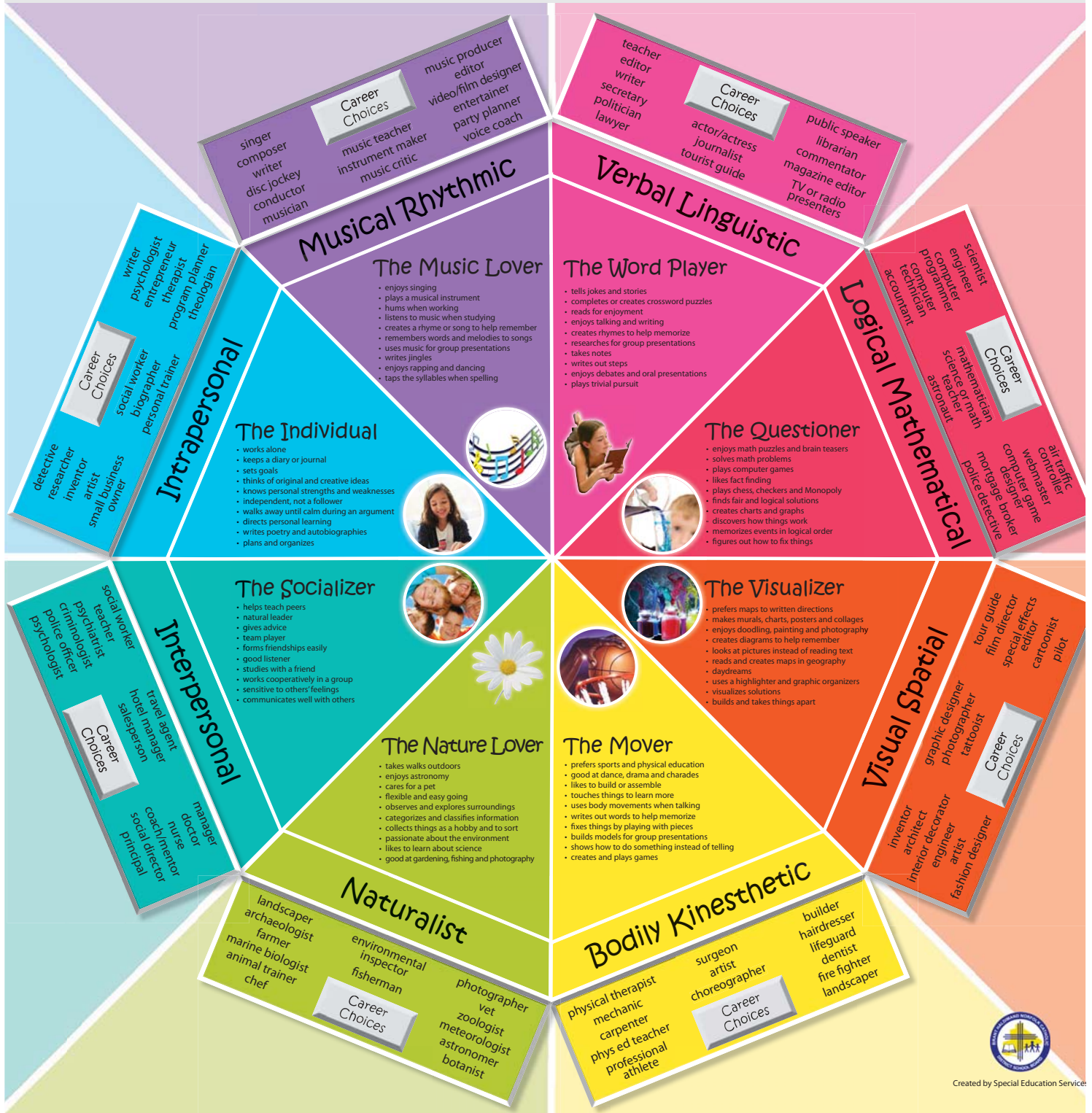
What are Dual Credits?

Dual credit programs are ministry-approved programs that allow students, while they are still in secondary school, to take college or apprenticeship courses that count towards both the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and a postsecondary certificate, diploma, degree or a Certificate of Apprenticeship.

OTHER FORMS OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Job Twinning or Job Shadowing provides an opportunity for the students to accompany or observe a placement for one-half to one day. A student may participate in more than one experience, thereby obtaining a broader range of career information through observation in typical workplace environments.

MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES



Created by Special Education Services



Apprenticeship

Skilled trades play an important role in our economy and our society. Think about it — the sector touches almost every aspect of our lives, from the homes we live in, to the cars we drive, to the food we eat. With over 130 careers to choose from, the skilled trades sector truly does offer something for everyone. Skilled tradespeople are in demand all across the country, and the demand is growing. Not only are there going to be a lot of job opportunities, but people in skilled trades get paid well, too! In fact, as an apprentice, you can start making money right away because you “earn while you learn”.

An apprenticeship is a hands-on training program for people who want to work in a skilled trade and enjoy learning by doing. About 90% of the training is on the job, under the supervision of a licenced journeyman. The rest of the time is spent learning in the classroom. Depending on the trade, an apprenticeship lasts from two to five years. After the completion of their apprenticeship, apprentices write an exam to qualify for a Certificate of Qualification.

You can even get a head start on your apprenticeship while you're in high school. The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) is a course you can take in Grade 11 or 12 to learn a skilled trade and begin registering your apprenticeship hours, while earning credits toward your high school diploma.

www.apprenticesearch.com



College

Ontario's colleges of applied arts and technology, with more than 100 campuses across the province, provide students with the opportunity to develop the skills that can lead to rewarding careers in business, applied arts, technology, and health sciences.

Colleges offer a variety of full- and part-time career-oriented programs for secondary school graduates and for mature students who may not have completed secondary school. Most college programs are either diploma programs (which may be either two or three years in length) or certificate programs (which run one year or less). Some courses of study lead to official certification in skilled trades that are regulated by professional associations. In addition, many colleges offer programs of study leading to bachelor degrees in applied areas of study.

Employment rates for college graduates are high provincially. There are co-op options available in several programs. Generally speaking, all programs require an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, with Grade 12 English at the “C”, “U/C” or “U” level. (See “Explore the Code” on page 9). Some programs also require senior mathematics and science “C”, “U/C”, or “U”. Check individual colleges and programs to determine the specific pre-requisites for the program of your choice. Pre-requisites change frequently.

Admission decisions are usually based on grades, and sometimes questionnaire completion and attendance at information sessions. Some program areas, such as health, human services and media, are more competitive than others.

www.ontariocolleges.ca



University

Universities offer undergraduate degrees (bachelor), professional degrees (eg. MD, LLB), and graduate degrees (master's and doctorate.) Students can often combine programs to complete. For example, a degree in two subject areas such as chemistry and physics, English and history, or environmental studies and geography. Some universities and colleges of applied arts and technology have joint programs that let students earn a university degree and a college diploma simultaneously.

University graduates generally do very well upon graduation, with employment rates at approximately 97%. Most undergraduate degree programs are three or four years in length. The basic requirement for admission is 6 "U" or "U/C" (M) courses. Most programs have specific subject requirements and some universities require a minimum number of "U" courses. See individual university calendars for the requirements for specific programs. Some programs are more competitive than others and require higher grade averages for admission. Admission decisions are based on grades, although some programs/universities require supplemental information, portfolios, or auditions for admission.

www.electronicinfo.ca



Workplace

Many opportunities exist for people who decide to go right to work after high school, and there are lots of options for you to think about. Most employers are looking for certain "essential skills". Depending on the job, those skills might include reading, writing, computer use, money math, decision making, problem solving, or measurement and calculation. You will also have a better chance of getting a good job if you can show that you have good work habits, such as working safely, teamwork, reliability, initiative, customer service, and entrepreneurship.

During high school, you can get ready for the world of work through cooperative education, youth apprenticeship opportunities and volunteer experiences. If you're thinking about going right to work after high school, talk to your guidance counsellor about how you can get ready.

Even after you finish high school, you continue to learn. The more you're willing to learn, you're more likely to succeed at work, at home and in your community. There are lots of ways to continue learning. Self-study programs, on-the-job training, part-time courses and online learning are all great ways for you to develop your skills and knowledge if you go directly to work after high school.

www.jobsetc.gc.ca

Guiding you along the way.



Contact Us

Assumption College School 519-751-2030
www.assumptionlions.com

Holy Trinity Catholic High School 519-429-3600
www.trinitycatholic.ca

St. John's College 519-759-2318
www.sjconline.ca

Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB 519-756-6505
www.bhncdsb.ca

Tips for Parents

Attend open houses and parent information sessions to learn about courses offered and diploma requirements.

Talk to your child about what he or she would like to do after high school. Encourage your child to engage in the process of exploring career choices, as well as post-secondary education and training opportunities.

Get the secondary school course calendar from your child's teacher, from your secondary school website, or from the bhncdsb website.

Make an appointment with your child's teacher or guidance counsellor to get help making choices that best suit your child's interests and abilities.

Review your child's Annual Education Plan regularly.

Talk to your children about the work you and other family members do.

Help your children expand their list of possibilities. Encourage a "plan A" and a "plan B".

Use the internet or your local Career Resource Centre to access current accurate information.

Find out about costs and financial assistance for post-secondary education and training.

Keep in touch with your child's teachers and guidance counsellor. Don't wait until problems get big.

Support your children in their decision-making. Honour their choices.

Find out how to get involved in your child's school, such as joining school council or volunteering at career days.

How can parents help?

In secondary school, parents help their children choose courses each year. The courses that students choose can affect their opportunities in higher grades and after they leave high school.

It is important to discuss the options with your child and to make sure that choices are appropriate for their interests and abilities. You have the responsibility of approving your child's course selections. The choices may seem complicated, but school guidance counsellors can provide information and advice.

