LKDSB Pathways
Grow. Explore. Soar.

CREATING PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

TRANSITION | COURSES | PATHWAYS | GRADUATION



A TRANSITION GUIDE FOR GRADE 8 STUDENTS & FAMILIES

2026-2027

Every student is on a journey, growing, exploring, & gaining the confidence to soar.

CLASS OF 2031

Your Pathway to Graduation Starts Now

Your Metamorphosis Begins Here

Moving to secondary school is a time of transformation. You are entering a stage of growth and change. Every student possesses unique wings and strengths. This guide uses the Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) to help you chart your course and discover who you want to become.



WHO AM I?

Stage 1: Grow

Your journey begins with self-discovery. In Grade 8, you reflect on your interests, values, and skills to build a strong foundation.

1. Open Houses

Each secondary school hosts a Grade 8 open house or tours. This is your chance to explore the environment at your local school prior to registering.

2. Course Selection

Prior to the end of February, you will work with your Grade 8 teacher, parents, and guidance staff to pick your courses for Grade 9.

3. myBlueprint & The IPP

You will use a web-based tool called myBlueprint to create your Individual Pathways Plan (IPP). This tool helps you discover who you have the potential to become.

WHAT ARE MY OPPORTUNITIES?

Stage 2: Explore



As you enter Grade 9, you discover new possibilities through academic paths and optional courses.

Compulsory Courses

You must take these to build core skills:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Canadian Geography
- Health and Physical Education
- French as a Second Language

(Or Native Language)

Optional Courses

Choose 2 courses to explore interests:

- The Arts (Dance, Drama, Music, Art)
- Business Studies
- Guidance and Career Education
- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies
- Technological Education

EQAO Math: Written in Grade 9 (if enrolled in MTH1W1)

De-streamed (W) Courses

De-streamed courses are designed to support all students. They build the knowledge, skills, and work habits needed for success in Grade 10 academic or applied courses.
At LKDSB, most Grade 9 courses are de-streamed to help students explore learning and make informed pathway decisions in Grade 10.
If a Grade 9 course is not yet de-streamed, students will select the academic course.

Decoding the Map: Course Codes

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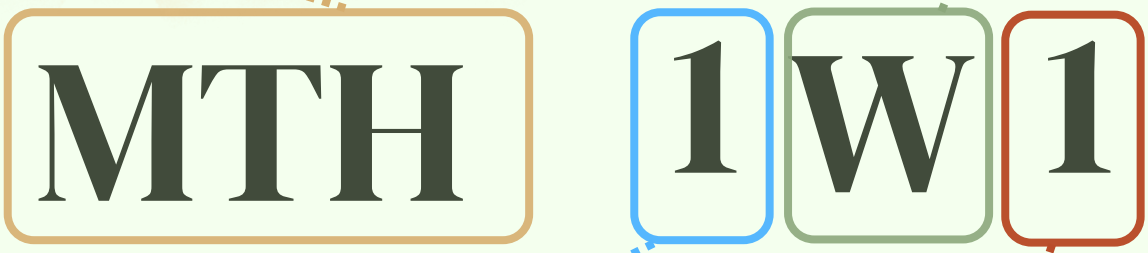
How to Decode a Course Code? Every course in secondary school has a unique course code. The first five characters of all course codes are mandated by the Ministry of Education

Subject Codes: The first letter in the course code denotes the subject area

A = The Arts
B = Business Studies
E = English
F = French as a Second Language
M = Mathematics
N = First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies
P = Health and Physical Education
S = Sciences
T = Technological Education

Course Codes: This letter identifies the course type.

Grade 9-10
D = Academic
L = Locally Developed
O = Open
P = Applied
W = De-streamed



This number identifies the grade:
1 = Grade 9
2 = Grade 10
3 = Grade 11
4 = Grade 12

Identifies credit value and section details (used by the school for scheduling).
1=Credit Value
Y=Male
W=Female
Z=French Immersion

Navigating Your Day

Most secondary schools use a Day 1 / Day 2 schedule.

- Morning classes usually stay the same
- Afternoon classes switch order on Day 2

Example:

Day 1: A • B • Lunch • C • D
Day 2: A • B • Lunch • D • C

WHO DO I WANT TO BECOME?

Stage 3: Transform



In Grade 10, courses begin to branch into different streams. This is the time to connect your learning style with your future goals.

Grade 10 Streams

Academic (D)

Focuses often essential concepts with an emphasis on theoretical and abstract applications.

Applied (P)

Focuses on essential concepts with an emphasis on practical, concrete applications.

Locally Developed (L)

Accommodates educational needs not met by the provincial curriculum.

Open (O)

Appropriate for all students, regardless of post-secondary destination (e.g., Arts, Phys Ed).

Graduation Essentials

OSSLT (Literacy Test)

Written in Grade 10. Successful completion is required for graduation.

Financial Literacy

Students must pass a module (70%+) integrated into Grade 10 Careers.

Tip for Families: Students are encouraged to consider academic courses in grade 10 to support future flexibility. Guidance staff can help families explore options and make informed choices.

WHAT IS MY PLAN?

Stage 4: Soar



In grade 11 and 12, specialized programs allow you to customize your experience and gain real-world skills.

Co-operative Education

Earn credits through real workplace experience.

SHSM Specialist High Skills Major

Earn sector-specific certifications (like First Aid or CPR) and training while focusing on a specific career sector.

Dual Credit

Take a course at a local college to earn both a high school and college credit simultaneously.

OYAP Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

Explore the skilled trades and earn credits toward your diploma.

OYAP FAST Focused Apprenticeship Skills Training

Accelerated stream. Get more Co-op credits & apprenticeship training while earning your OSSD.

Pre-Flight Checklist

- ☑ **Online Learning Requirement:** Students must earn 2 online credits to graduate (opt-out available).
- ☑ **Community Involvement**: You must complete 40 hours of community service before graduation. You can start these in the summer before Grade 9!

Your Ticket to Graduation

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). To graduate, students need a total of 30 credits (17 compulsory + 13 optional).

17 COMPULSORY CREDITS

4	English
3	Math
2	Science
1	Canadian History
1	Canadian Geography
1	Arts
1	Health and Physical Education
1	French
1	Tech Ed (Gr. 9 or 10)
0.5	Civics
0.5	Careers
1	STEM Group

13 OPTIONAL CREDITS

Choose these to explore your interests!

LKDSB 2031 NO.1234567

Additional Requirements

- 40 Hours Community Involvement
- Provincial Literacy Requirement
- Online Learning Requirement (Opt out available)
- Financial Literacy Requirement (Part of Gr. 10 Careers)

A Continuous Flight

Need Help?

Grade 8 Teachers: Assist with initial course selection.

Guidance Department: Call your future high school for detailed info

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Family: Parents/Guardians are vital partners in planning your route.

Alternatives

Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC)

- Who it's for: Students identified via the I.P.R.C. process.
- 7 Compulsory Credits: 2 English, 1 Math, 1 Science, 1 Cdn Hist/Geog, 1 Arts/Tech, 1 Phys Ed.
- 7 Optional Credits

Certificate of Accomplishment

- Granted to students who leave school before fulfilling OSSD or OSSC requirements.
- Recognizes your achievement and is a useful record for future employment, vocational programs, or further training.