

Welcome to Bur Oak Secondary School

Information for Students and Families

November 18, 2024



Land Acknowledgement

We affirm that we are all treaty people and acknowledge that the York Region District School Board is located on the lands of two treaties. These treaties have been signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the First Nations of the Williams Treaties who are: the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Scugog Island; and the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Rama, and Georgina Island who is our closest neighbour and partner in education.

To honour this agreement we will take up our responsibility to be respectful of their traditions, knowledge and inherent rights as sovereign nations. We will respect their relationship with these lands and recognize that our connection to this land is through the continued relationship with these First Nations, and we acknowledge our shared responsibility to respect and care for the land and waters for future generations.

Welcome to Our Team

Administration Team

Principal:

Louis Lim

Vice Principals:

Erika Pridie

Stacey Sadacharan

Susan Sopha

Guidance Team

Gillian Andersen

Katrine Doganoglu

Ruth MacSween

Matthew Vittore

Jane Wong

Message from Principal, Mr. Lim



Tonight's Agenda

1. Learning about Bur Oak SS
2. Getting Involved at Bur Oak SS
3. OSSD Graduation Requirements
4. Secondary School Planning and Pathways
5. Course Selection and Registration for Grade 9



Learning about Bur Oak SS

Organization of the School Year and School Day at Bur Oak Secondary School

- 2 semesters
 - Semester 1: September to January
 - Semester 2: February to June
- Exams in the last 2 weeks of January and June
- 4 courses per semester → 8 courses per year
- School Day: 8:15 am to 2:55 pm
- 5 periods per day
 - 4 classes
 - Lunch (students do not sign out to leave school building)
 - 75 minutes per class
 - 5 minutes travel time between classes
- Lunch periods:
 - Grade 9 lunch is period 3
 - Grade 10 lunch is period 4
 - Grade 11s and 12s can have period 2, 3 or 4 lunch

How to Read a Timetable

Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
5 min homeroom + 75 min	75 min	75 min Grade 9 Lunch	75 min	75 min
8:15 AM - 9:35 AM	9:40 AM - 10:55 AM	11:00 AM - 12:15 PM	12:20 PM - 1:35 PM	1:40 PM - 2:55 PM

Here is an example of a grade 9 timetable:

Terms			P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	B1	A1
24-25	S1	S1T1	Healthy Active Living Education PPL1O9.1 Room: 1009B P1(1) S1	Instrumental Music - Band AMI1O1.1 Room: 1050 P2(1) S1	Lunch LUNCH.54 Room: Lunch P3(1) 24-25	Mathematics, Grade 9 MTH1W1.6 Room: 2042 P4(1) S1	English ENL1W1.8 Room: 2025 P5(1) S1		Repertoire AMR1O1.2 Room: 1051 A1(1) 24-25
		S1T2							
	S2	S2T1	Exploring Canadian Geography, Grade 9 CGC1W1.9 Room: 2006 P1(1) S2	Core French FSF1D1.11 Room: 1032 P2(1) S2		Science SNC1W1.13 Room: 2064 P4(1) S2	Drama ADA1O1.3 Room: 1054 P5(1) S2		
		S2T2							

Bring your own Device to BOSS

Bur Oak SS is a 1:1 school where all students are required to bring their own technological device to support their learning.

- Students' own chromebooks and laptops are both appropriate choices for school use.
- More information will be sent to elementary schools in the spring.
- For families who need support, there will be an option to borrow a school chromebook for the school year.

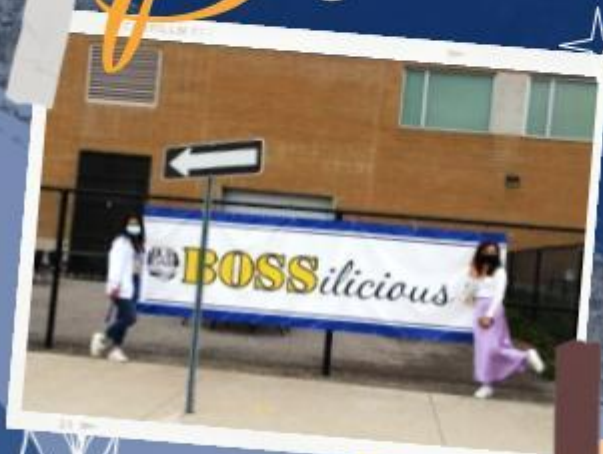
**Getting Involved
at BOSS!**

Bulldog Bliss

Fun Events Ahead!



BOSSILICIOUS



SEMI FORMAL



and more!



World fest



Bake Sales + Spirit Days



Winter Assembly



SAC OFFICE



BIGGIES RENTALS

OPEN



During Lunch, Rent out:

- ☐ Volleyballs
- ☐ Basketballs
- ☐ Soccer Balls
- ☐ Badminton Rackets
- ☐ Frisbees



When:
Periods 3 & 4



Where:
SAC Office



Follow us on Instagram for
School-Wide Events + Updates!



Instagram: @byroak__Sac



Extra - Curriculars here at BOSS

Clubs at Bur Oak S.S:

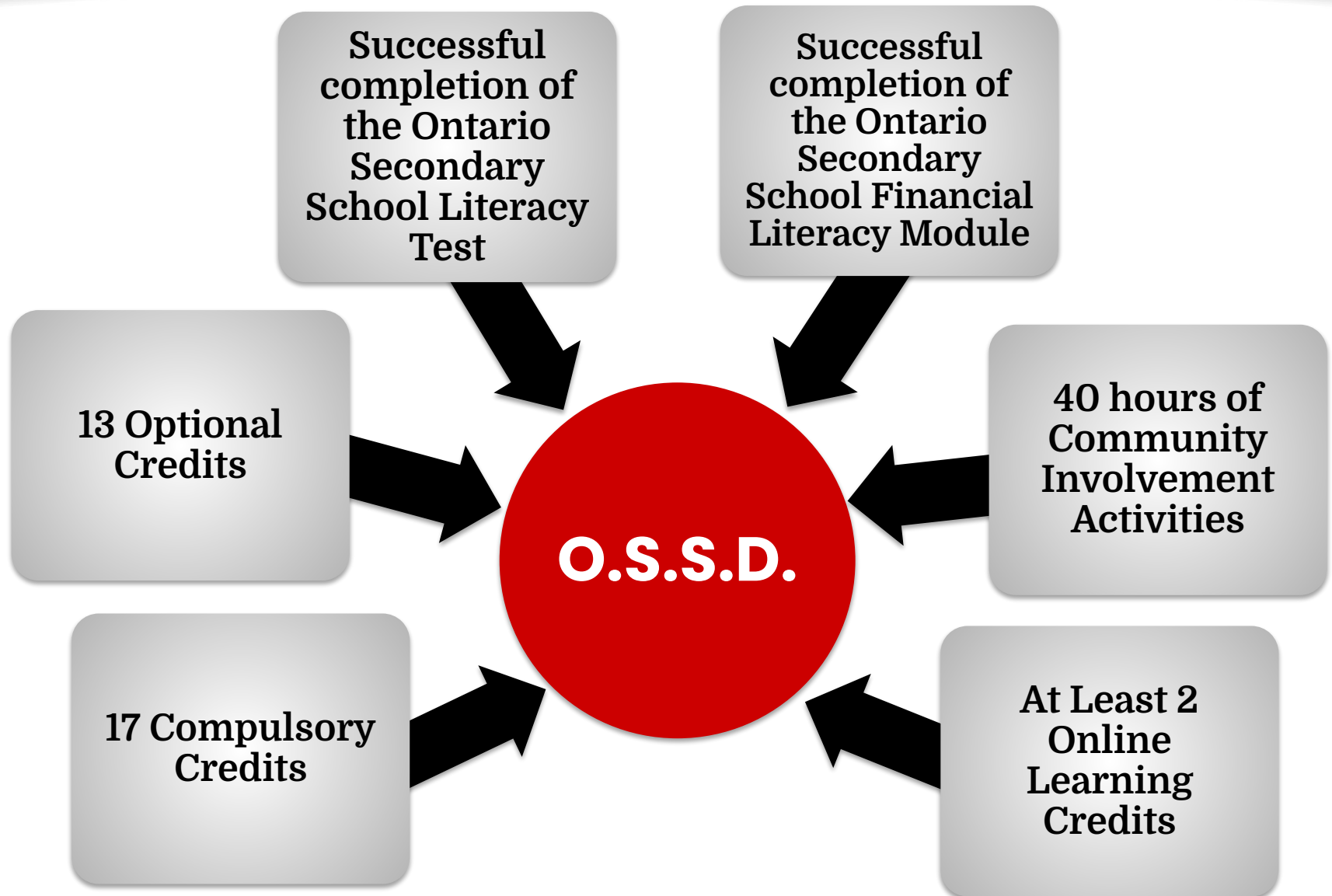
- Athletic Council
- Global Action
- Business Council
- Student Activity Council
- Music Council
- DECA
- BOSS Blue and Gold (School News)
- CHESS Club
- And Many More!!!

Sports Teams at Bur Oak S.S:

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Badminton
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Flag Football
- Golf
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track and Field

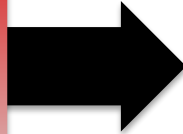
OSSD Graduation Requirements

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (O.S.S.D.)



17 Compulsory Credits

17 Compulsory Credits



You need the following 17 compulsory credits to get your O.S.S.D. :

- 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade)
- 3 credits in Mathematics (Grade 9, Grade 10 and 1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
- 2 credits in Science
- 1 credit in Technological Education (Grade 9 or Grade 10)
- 1 credit in Canadian History (Grade 10)
- 1 credit in Canadian Geography (Grade 9)
- 1 credit in the Arts
- 1 credit in Health and Physical Education
- 1 credit in French as a second language
- 0.5 credit in Career Studies
- 0.5 credit in Civics and Citizenship
- 1 credit from the STEM-related course group

**Grade 9's will select
8 courses**

Course Types in Grade 9

De-streamed

Academic

**Locally
Developed**

Open

Grade 9 Compulsory Courses

Courses	De-streamed (W)	Locally Developed (L)	Open (O)
English	(ENL1W1)	(ENG1L1)	(ESLAO)/ (ESLBO)/ (ESLCO)/ (ESLDO)/(ESLEO)
Mathematics	(MTH1W1)	(MAT1L1)	
Science	(SNC1W1)	(SNC1L1)	
Geography	(CGC1W)		



**Pick
appropriate
level for all 4
Courses**

Plus:

French - Academic or Open - more information on next slide; and
Health and Physical Education - Gender-specific or All-Ed

French as an Official Language

French is one of Canada's official languages and a compulsory subject from Grades 4-9.

Course Options

- Most students will select **Grade 9 Core French Academic (FSF1D1)**, which is for students who have been enrolled in Core French since Grade 4 and have the **prerequisite of 600 hours** or equivalent of French instruction.
- Students who have limited experience with French, or who have not accumulated the minimum of 600 hours of elementary Core French instruction, may select **Grade 9 Core French Open (FSF1O1)**



S.T.E.M.-Related Course Group

Of the 17 compulsory credits, you must complete **ONE** (1) from the following group:

- Business studies
- Computer studies
- Cooperative education
- Mathematics (in addition to the 3 compulsory credits currently required)
- Science (in addition to the 2 compulsory credits currently required)
- Technological education (in addition to the 1 compulsory credit required)



13 Optional Credits

**13 Optional
Credits**



You must earn 13 optional credits by successfully completing courses from your school's program and course calendar

Optional Courses for Grade 9 Students

The Arts

Drama, Music (Instrumental, Keyboarding, Vocal, and Repertoire), Visual Arts (Digital Medial, Visual Arts)

Business Studies

Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset

Learning Strategies

Learning Strategies 1: Skills for Success

Social Sciences & Humanities

Exploring Family Studies

Technological Education


Technology and the Skilled Trades

Remember:
Students need 1 credit in:

- the Arts
- Technological Education (in grade 9 or 10)
- the STEM-related course group

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

**Successful
completion of
the Ontario
Secondary
School Literacy
Test**



- A Diploma requirement
- Administered in the fall of the Grade 10 year
- A test based on language and communication (reading and writing) expectations of curricula up to and including Grade 9
- Accommodations, deferrals and exemptions may be appropriate for some students
- If the standard is not met in the first attempt, schools will provide support; test is re-administered until student successfully completes the test or the Grade 12 Ontario Literacy Course (OLC401)

40 hours Community Involvement


**40 hours of
Community
Involvement**



- A diploma requirement
- Helps students learn about civic engagement and understand their role as a citizen.
- Complete 40 hours before graduation
- **Can start in summer of Grade 8**
- Must check if activity is eligible **before starting** involvement
- Student responsibility to keep record of activities
- Guidelines and forms will be provided to help track community involvement
- <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/schools-programs/secondary-school/experience-secondary-school/graduation-requirements/community>

Online Learning

**2 Credits
must
be Online
Learning**

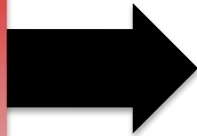


- Students must earn at least **TWO** online learning credits to get their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.
- **Opting out of the requirement is also possible.** Opting out can be done during course selection time through My Pathway Planner (myBlueprint), or by completing the opt-out form available in the Guidance office.
- Learn more at our [YRDSB Public Page](#)

NEW- Financial Literacy Requirement

NEW!

**Successful
completion of the
Ontario Secondary
School Financial
Literacy
Requirement**



New for **September 2025-2026** school year: In your Grade 10 Mathematics course you will write a financial literacy assessment.

You will need to achieve a **mark of 70% or higher** to pass.

Secondary School Planning and Pathways

Secondary School Planning

Planning Ahead

- Most courses in grade 11 and 12 have prerequisites in grade 9 and 10
- Consider and plan for experiential learning opportunities in grades 11 and 12
 - Cooperative Education/Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)
 - Dual Credits
 - Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)
- Consider admission requirements for post-secondary opportunities (apprenticeship, college, university, workplace)
- Preparing for school-work transition

Visit [Experience YRDSB](#)

- Explore YRDSB pathway programs and opportunities by sector that align with your interests, strengths, and skills

Pathways are flexible

What pathways
are available
after high
school?

High School

Apprenticeship

International
Travel/Education

Private
Training

Work

College

University

Note: As students' interests, skills and aptitudes develop and mature, students can transfer between pathways.

Experience Possibilities



my
PATHWAY
planner

34 Credit Threshold



Pathways Planning for Secondary Students
Helping Students to Graduate Within Four Years

What you
**NEED TO
KNOW!**



credit threshold →

What is the
34 CREDIT THRESHOLD
and how does it apply to me?

➔ **Did you know that...?**

- You need 30 credits to meet Ontario Secondary School Diploma graduation requirements. Most students will complete these credits within four years. If needed, you may earn up to 34 credits within five years.
- While enrolled in your first four consecutive years of secondary school, you may go beyond 34 credits.
- After secondary school, going beyond the 34 credit threshold is possible with:
 - E-learning • Night School • Summer School
 - Independent Learning Centres • Adult Day School

➔ **34 Credit Threshold does not apply...**

- If you have an Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- If you are not enrolled in secondary school
- To English as a Second Language (ESL) core language courses and/or English Literacy Development (ELD) core language courses

For more information about the
full Graduation Requirements
and **34 Credit Threshold**,

visit **www.yrdsb.ca/students**
or contact your school's guidance department.

www.yrdsb.ca @YRDSB YRDSBMedia



scan to visit the website

Programs and Activities that Support Post-Secondary Pathways Planning

There are many pathways programs at Bur Oak SS and within the YRDSB that can support your child with their post-secondary planning. For more information, check out the [Pathways Programs](#) and [Pathways Playlist](#) for YRDSB.



Pathways Programs

Some of the Possibilities at Bur Oak S.S

- Grade 12 Advanced Placement Calculus
- Cooperative Education
- Dual Credit Courses
- Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)
- Specialist High Skills Major
 - Business
 - Energy
 - Health and Wellness
- York Region Skills Challenge

Course Selection and Registration for Grade 9

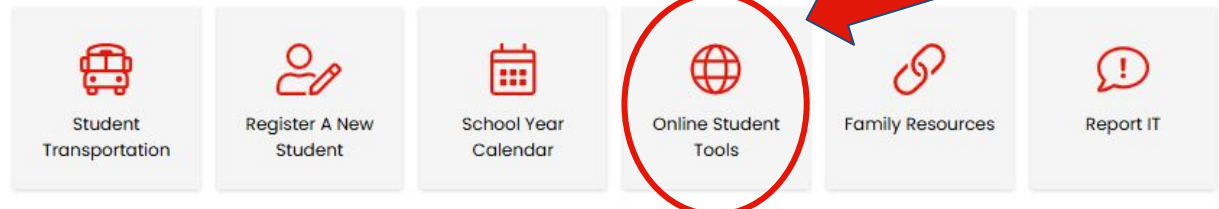
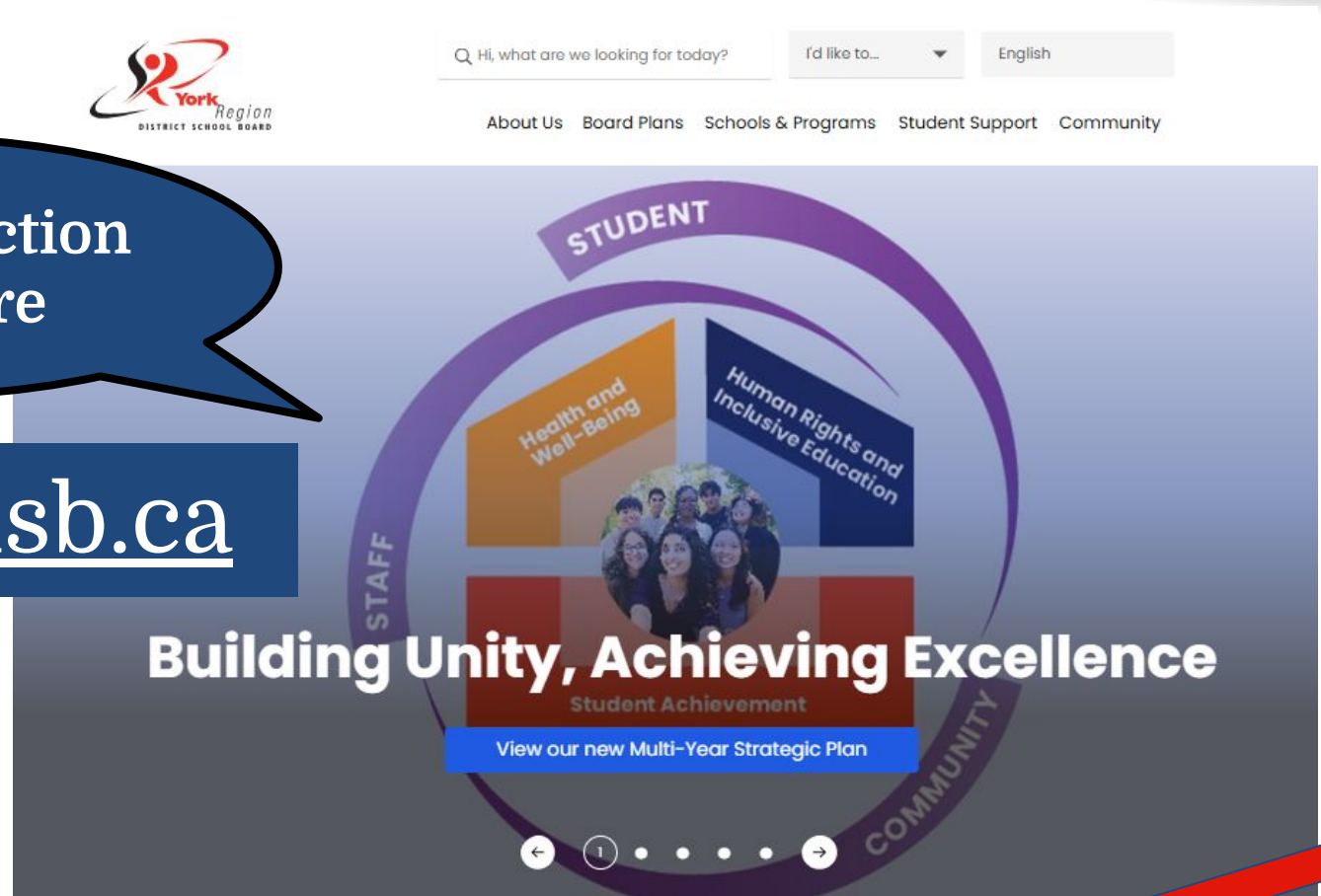
Choosing Courses for Grade 9

- Families and students will select courses and are encouraged to seek support from elementary school teachers, guidance counselors, student success/support teachers and administrators.
- Remember that initial decisions made in grade 8 are not “final” decisions. Pathways are changeable and flexible!
- Although we do our best to schedule students into their chosen elective courses, this is not always possible. Please choose alternate courses wisely as we will use these if there is a conflict!

Course Selection for YRDSB Students

Course selection
starts here

www2.yrdsb.ca



Course Selection for YRDSB Students

Student Tools and Resources

Please note, some of these resources are password protected. You may need to speak with your teacher to get password information.

[APPLY](#)[RESET](#)

Online Student Tools



Google Classroom

Platform enabling online learning and collaboration through Google Apps for Education. Students can access Google Meet through Classroom.

[Need help?](#)

Google Meet

A video conferencing tool for students to engage in online learning.

[Need help?](#)

GSuite

Digital tools that help students create and collaborate. Tools include Gmail, Docs, Slides, Sheets, Jam Board and Drive.

[Need help?](#)

Brightspace/D2L

Virtual Learning Environment that provides online courses and course content.

[Need help?](#)

TeachAssist

Online tool for secondary students, providing student course assessment data.

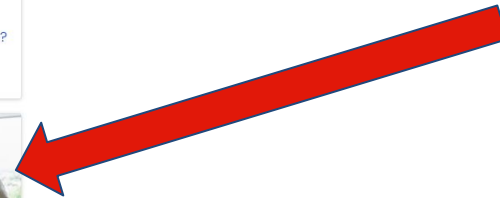
[Need help?](#)

My Pathway Planner

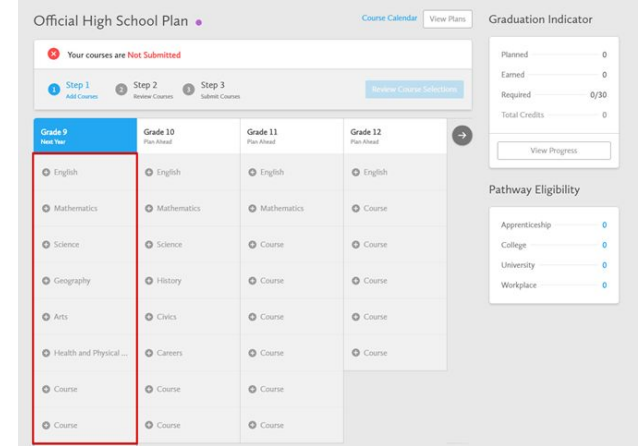
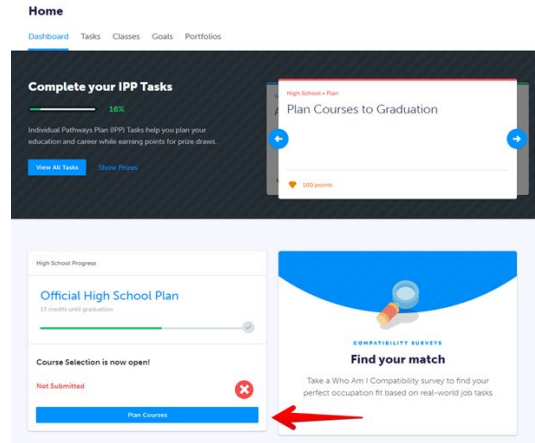
Tool helps Grade 7-12 students explore course selection, career options, and postsecondary planning.

[Need help?](#)

Clicking “**Online Student Tools**” takes you to this page; next click on “**My Pathway Planner**”



Course Selection: Step by Step



Step 1

Log in to My
Pathways Planner

Step 2

Click on “Official
High School Plan”

Step 3

Select and Submit
Course Requests

Important Information for our Elementary Partner Schools

Guidance counsellors from Bur Oak Secondary School will be visiting our elementary partner schools in **January** to speak to them about course selection in more detail:

- Donald Cousens P.S.
- Fred Varley P.S.
- Greensborough P.S.
- John McCrae P.S.
- Mount Joy P.S.
- Wismer P.S.

There is no paper registration form for students from our partner schools. Students will simply complete their course selection in My Pathway Planner (My Blueprint). Course selections need to be submitted between **Thursday February 13th and Friday February 21st**.

For all other grade 8 students

Please contact our school in January to book an appointment with a guidance counselor to register for next year.

At this time we do not know if Bur Oak SS will be open to transfers from outside of our boundaries for the 2025-2026 school year. YRDSB will announce this information in late November or early December.

Updated information will be posted here:

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/schools-programs/secondary-school/secondary-schools-open-closed-transfers>

What's Next this evening

- All parents can now go to the atrium and interact with the different departments at Bur Oak SS. If you have any questions about this presentation, guidance counsellors will be available at a table in the atrium.
- We also encourage families to walk around Bur Oak to get more of an idea of our layout and great facilities. *On the first floor, the Gymnasium, Music, and Tech rooms will showcase the work of our amazing students. The Art rooms on the second floor will also be open, showcasing student work.*
- Parents with children supported by Student Services (Identified and supported with an IEP) are asked to go to Room 1035 for a brief presentation.
- Our Student Ambassadors will be visible throughout the halls. If you have any questions or would like directions, please ask!
- We kindly ask that parents leave the building by 8:15 pm to allow for clean up.

Thank you for your time
and attention. We look
forward to working with
you and your children in
the coming years at Bur
Oak SS!



Questions?

