

# Experience Hodan Nalayeh Secondary School

## Welcome Students & Families



# 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.**

# Our School - Administrative Team



Vice-Principal:  
Dr. Hubert Brard-Smith



Principal:  
Mr. Vincent Chow



Vice-Principal:  
Ms. Nazila Reyhani

# Principal's Message - Mr. Chow



# What Do Grade 9's Say?

When we asked Grade 9's what they expected high school to be like, they said...

- I heard it would be more difficult
- I was worried that there'd be way more people and I'd get lost
- I was told to expect way more work and that it would be intense
- I heard your teachers don't care if you get a zero
- 



When we asked Grade 9's what they think Grade 8's should know about high school, they say...

- My teachers have been really nice and offer extra help if I need it
- The school is bigger and there's more people but you'll get used to it quickly
- I felt comfortable really quickly and I like high school better already
- Grade 8s should know that they will need to study but it's not too hard and that it's actually pretty fun

# Experience Leadership & Get Involved

- Student Council
- Athletic Council
- Mock Trial
- HOSA
- STEM
- Baking Club
- Chess Club
- Guitar Club
- World Action Council
- Model UN
- Math Club
- Tech Club
- Spanish Club
- Black Student Alliance
- Music Council
- Computer Science Club
- GSA Club
- Best Buddies
- Dance Squad
- Cultural Heritage Council
- Performance Arts Club
- Eco Club



# Our School Programs

At our school:

- French Immersion (FI)
- Advanced Placement (AP)
- SHSM Sectors (Health and Wellness, Arts and Culture, & Business)
- Co-operative Education (Co-Op)
- Dual credits at Ontario Colleges



# Hodan Nalayah Secondary School Cares

Administration

Student Success Teachers

Guidance Counsellors

Co-Op Education Teachers

Special Education Teachers

Literacy & MLL Teacher

Alternative Education Teachers

Classroom Teachers

## **Working together to support:**

- Student achievement
- A smooth transition to secondary school
- Success in secondary school
- Successful transition to post-secondary

# ESL Support Programs

- ESL courses are provided to help students develop proficiency in English.
- Students are assessed for their level of English proficiency in order to be placed in appropriate classes.
- Courses are developed from the curriculum policy documents.



\*MLL (Multilingual Language) Teacher

# Students Receiving Special Education Supports

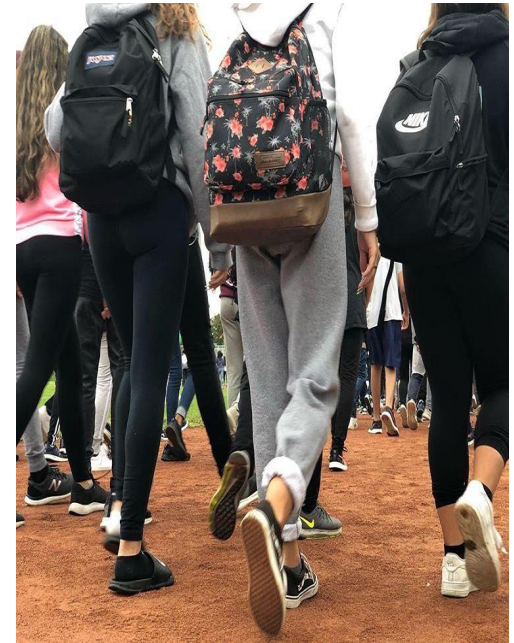
Students will receive support according to the needs outlined in their Individual Education Plan (IEP)

Such as:

- accommodations to the learning environment; monitoring/in-class resourcing
- methods to review student's progress
- alternative learning expectations
- modified curriculum expectations
- student transition plan to postsecondary education, work and/or community living

# Welcome to Grade 9 at Hodan Nalayah Secondary School

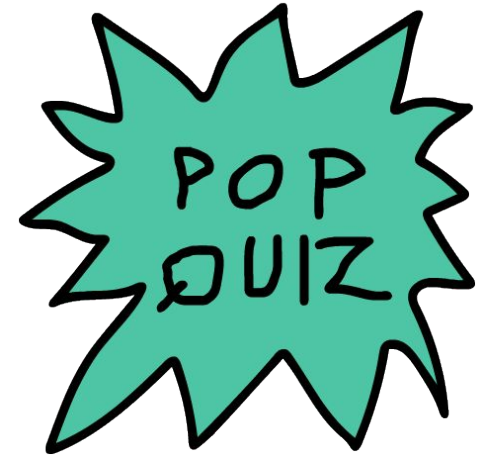
- Semestered system - four courses per semester, 75 minute classes
- Usually start day after Labour Day in September (official start date has not been announced for 2025-2026 school year)
- Wide range of courses to meet needs of individual students
- Excellent teaching and administrative staff



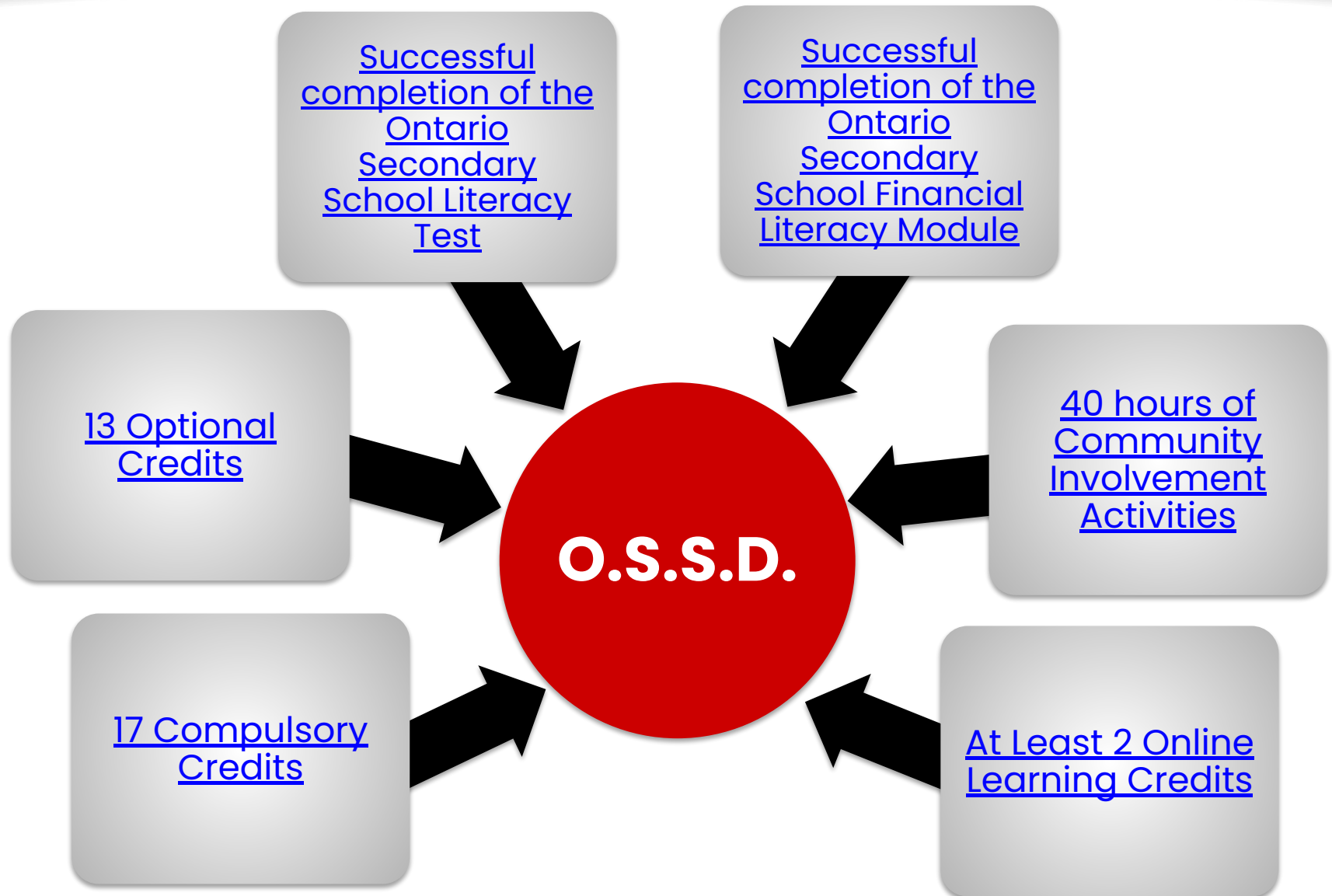
# Special Programs at Hodan Nalayah Secondary School

- **French Immersion Program** – Students complete 10 of their 30 Ontario Secondary School Diploma credits in courses where French is the main language of instruction. Grade 9 French Immersion students will take:
  - Grade 9 French Immersion French (FIF1DF);
  - encouraged to take Grade 9 French Immersion Geography (CGC1DF);
  - and are encourage to take two more electives (Visual Arts (AVI10F), Food and Nutrition (HFN10F), or Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset (BEM10F), as French Immersion as well.
- **Advanced Placement (AP)** – Offered in English, Math, Computer Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Biology. AP course offerings begin in Grade 11.

# What do I need to know about secondary schools?

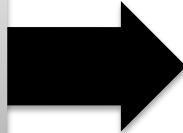


# Ontario Secondary School Diploma(O.S.S.D.)



# 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**) **NEW**
- 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](#)

# HOW TO READ A COURSE CODE

Every course in an Ontario Secondary School has a six-character course code.

**E N L**

**3 Letters  
Identify  
Subject**

**The first letter represent the course's subject area:**

A - The Arts  
B - Business Studies  
C - Canadian & World Studies  
E - English, English Development, English As a Second Language  
F - French  
G - Guidance & Career Education  
H - Social Sciences & The Humanities  
K - Alternative (Non-Credit)  
L - Classical, International & Indigenous Languages  
M - Mathematics  
N - First Nations, Métis & Inuit Studies  
P - Health & Physical Education  
I - Computer Studies or Interdisciplinary Studies  
S - Science  
T - Technological Education

**1**

**Number  
Reflects  
Grade/  
Level**

**Grades**

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

**W**

**Letter  
Shows  
Course  
Type**

**Course Types**

W - Destreamed  
D - Academic  
P - Applied  
L - Locally Developed  
O - Open  
U - University  
C - College  
M - University/College  
E - Workplace  
N - Non-Credit

**1**

**A  
Number  
to  
Distinguish**

**A Course  
Program or  
Different  
Sections**

[Choose My Courses – Reading Course Codes](#)

# HOW TO READ A COURSE CODE–Sixth Character

**E N L 1 W 1**



F– French Immersion  
G– Gifted  
L –ESL / ELD Subject Group  
M– Arts Programs  
Z– IB Program  
8– Female Identifying HPE  
9– Male Identifying HPE

**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	(ENLIW1)	(ENG1L1)	(ESLAO)/(ESLBO)/ (ESLCO)/ (ESLDO)/(ESLEO)
Mathematics	(MTH1W1)	(MAT1L1)	
Science	(SNC1W1)	(SNC1L1)	
Geography	(CGC1W)		

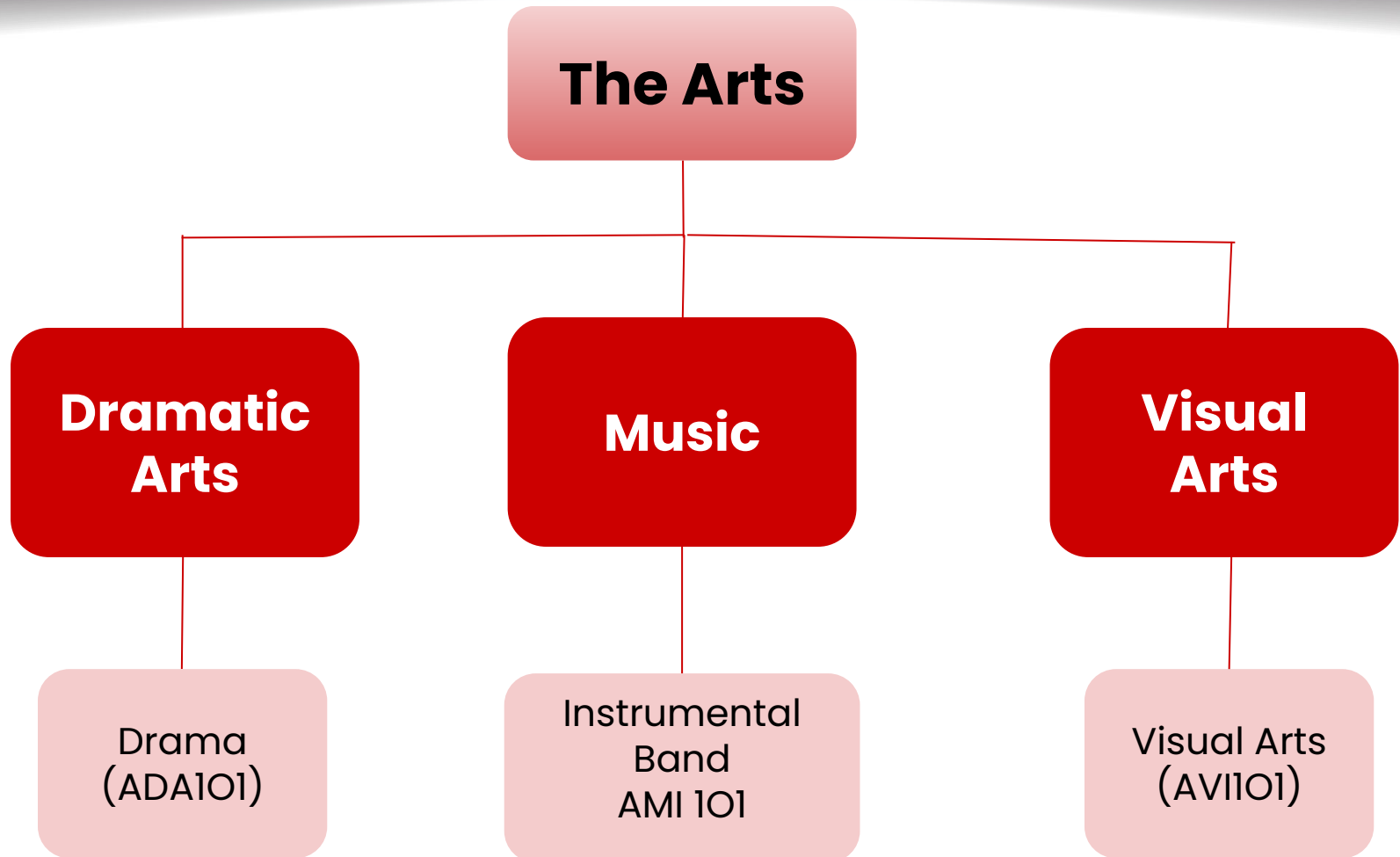


**Pick  
appropriate  
level for all  
4 Courses**

# Other Compulsory Courses

Courses	Academic (D)	OPEN (o)	More information can be found on
<b>Technological Education</b>	N/A	TDJ1O1, TAS1O1, TDJ2O1, TAS2O	Credit required in grade 9 or 10
<b>Arts</b>	N/A	ADA1O1, AMI1O1, AVI1O1	Slide 21
<b>Health and Physical Education (HALE)</b>	N/A	PPL1O1 (All-Ed) PPL1O8 (Female Identifying) PPL1O9 (Male Identifying)	 Pick up to 4 courses
<b>French</b>	(FSF1D1)	(FSF1O1)	Slide 22

# Possible Course Options for Arts in Grade 9



# Grade 9 French

## **Grade 9 Core French Academic (FSF1D1)**

This course 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 (*as per Ministry directive, no French hours were deemed lost during the 2019-2021 school years*)

- 600 hours of French instruction should not be used as the sole determining factor informing course selection.
- If the student has not met the 600 hours of instruction in French, course selection should be based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to, student interests, skills, needs, goals; and prior language experiences in French.

## **Grade 9 Core French Open (FSF1O)**

This is an introductory course recommended for students who have limited experience with French, or who have not accumulated the minimum of 600 hours of elementary Core French instruction.

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

## STEM-related course group

Of the 17 compulsory credits, you must complete **ONE** 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 credits may include up to 4 credits Dual Credits

# Optional Courses for Grade 9 Students

**Family  
Studies**



Exploring Family Studies **(HIF101)**

**Business  
Studies**



Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset,  
Grade 9, Open **(BEM10)**

**OR**

Launching and Leading a Business  
Grade 10, Open  
**(BEP20)**

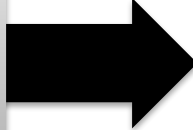
**Select  
one/two if  
you have  
space**

# CHOOSING GRADE 9 COURSES

- Families and students will select courses and may choose to collaborate with elementary school teachers, guidance counsellors, student success/support teachers and administrators
- Students often choose a combination of course types to support different learning interests and styles
- Remember that initial decisions made in Grade 8 are not “final” decisions. There are many pathways to initial post-secondary destinations

# Literacy Test

**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 Literacy Course (OLC4O1)

# 40 hours Community Involvement

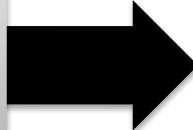
## 40 hours of Community Involvement



- A diploma requirement
- Volunteering in your community helps you learn about civic engagement and understand your role as a citizen. By being involved in your community and serving others, you:
  - develop transferable skills
  - explore different sectors and potential career opportunities
  - understand more about yourself and your role in society
- Complete 40 hours before graduation
- Can start in summer of Grade 8
- Must obtain approval **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.**
- Learn more at our [YRDSB Public Page](#)

# ONLINE LEARNING GRADUATION REQUIREMENT CONTINUED:

## OPTING OUT

Exemption from the online learning graduation requirements may be requested by:

- a parent or guardian of the secondary student
- students who are 18 years of age or older
- students who are 16 or 17 years of age and have withdrawn from parental control

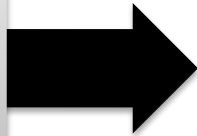
Students may opt out of the online learning graduation requirement during course selection time through **My Pathway Planner (myBlueprint)**.

Alternatively, parents who wish to opt out or exempt their child from the online graduation requirement may complete the opt out form available in the Guidance Department.

# NEW– Financial Literacy Requirement



**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.

- financial literacy graduation requirement as part of your compulsory **Grade 10 mathematics course**.
- You will need to achieve a **mark of 70%** or higher to pass

# SECONDARY SCHOOL PLANNING

## Planning Ahead

- Most secondary course have a prerequisites for courses
- How to plan for experiential learning opportunities and Job Skills programs
  - [Cooperative Education](#) / [Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program \(OYAP\)](#)
  - [Dual Credits](#)
  - [Specialist High Skills Major \(SHSM\)](#)
- Admission requirements for post-secondary opportunities (apprenticeship, college, university, workplace)
- Preparing for school-work transition

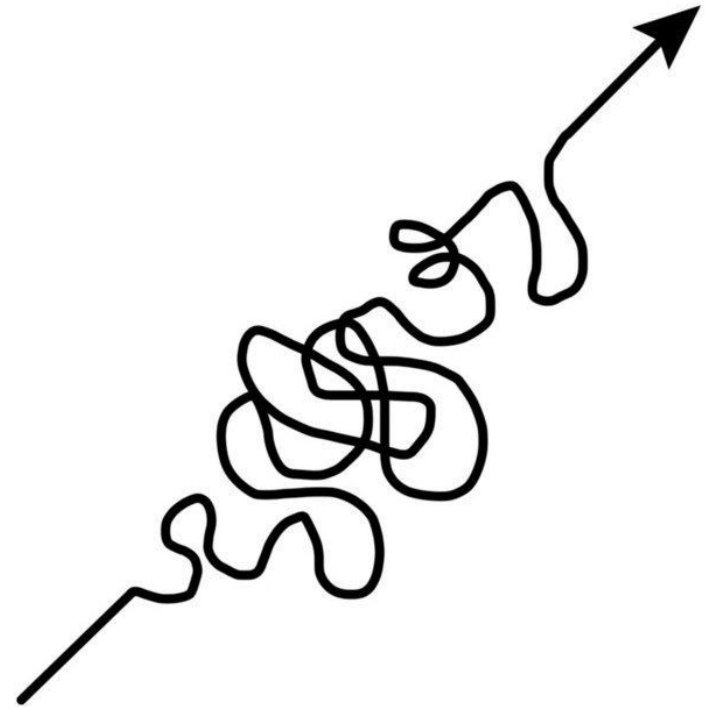
## Visit [\*\*EXPERIENCE YRDSB\*\*](#)

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

# Success



**What people  
think it looks like**



**What it actually  
looks like**

# Questions?



## Connect with us in Guidance