GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SUCCESS for Every Student



VALLEY HEIGHTS SECONDARY SCHOOL

2019-20 SCHOOL PROFILE





FIRST PLACE
NCF YOUNG CANADA DAY
SPECIAL EFFECTS

FIRST PLACE
NCF YOUNG CANADA DAY
HOMECRAFT

FIRST PLACE
NCF YOUNG CANADA DAY
MALE TUG OF WAR

YOUNG CANADA DAY
SECOND OVERALL CHAMPIONS!





VALLEY HEIGHTS SECONDARY SCHOOL





WELCOME TO VHSS!

Valley Heights Secondary School is a rich institution that takes pride in working with students throughout their high school career. Valley Heights instills strong academic beliefs, has a dedicated staff, and is supported by a wonderful surrounding community. We have a beautiful and vibrant campus. Valley Heights students become leaders within the school and caring, contributing members of society.

Whether you are enrolling at Valley Heights for the first time or a returning student, take advantage of the opportunities that can be found at this school. Get involved in sports teams, clubs, and after school activities. Make your years here the best that they can possibly be.

Welcome to BEAR country!



Ms. Alison High
PRINCIPAL



Mrs. Tina Baker
VICE-PRINCIPAL

VALLEY HEIGHTS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Langton, ON N0E 1G0

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granderie.ca/schools/vhss

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Grand Erie Administration:

Brenda Blancher
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Denise Martins
SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

VHSS SCHOOL COUNCIL

One of the best ways to understand your child's high school years is to get involved with the School Council. This group of parents discuss educational issues and help the school identify and respond to the educational needs of the community. Through Principals, School Councils are consulted by the school board on issues that affect student learning. They provide advice on both the development and implementation of policies.

The Valley Heights School Council meets five times throughout the school year. New members are always welcome.

VHSS QUICK FACTS

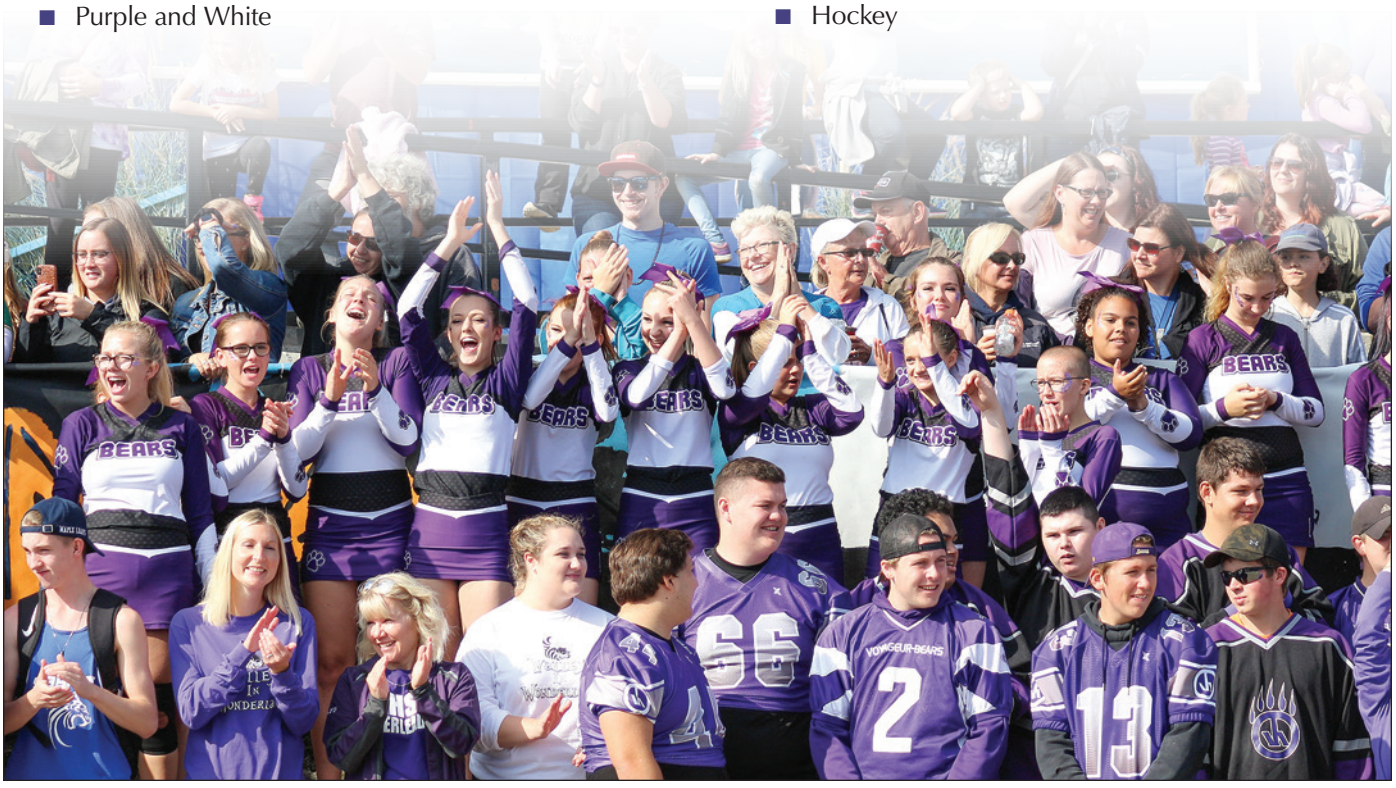
- Valley Heights was officially opened in 1971.
- The school is located on 100 acres of land which was formerly a dairy farm.
- The school's colours are purple and white.
- The school mascot's name is Val E. Bear.
- The school attracts students from Courtland, Houghton, Langton, Port Rowan, Walsh and surrounding areas.
- Valley Heights purifies its own sewage.
- Valley Heights generates 250 kW of electricity through the solar panels installed on the roof.
- The student-managed restaurant is called the Hidden Valley Café.
- Valley Heights does have an elevator.

CLUBS

- Band
- Computer Club
- Crimestoppers
- Drama Club
- Enviro Club
- Music Council
- Norfolk County Fair
- Purple and White
- Students' Council
- Vocal Ensembles
- Athletic Association
- The A Team

SPORTS TEAMS

- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Figure Skating
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Rowing
- Soccer
- Track & Field
- Tug-of-War
- Volleyball
- Wrestling



GUIDANCE

Guidance is an educational process designed to help students better understand themselves, relate effectively with others, develop appropriate educational plans, and design personal career paths. To meet these goals, we offer the following services:

- Student and parent consultations
- Individual and group counselling
- Timetable planning, changes, and special placements
- Referrals to school board and support services
- College and university application information
- Scholarship, bursary, OSAP applications and information
- Maintaining Ontario Student Records

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Students can make an appointment in the Guidance office to see the following:

- Addictions Counsellor;
- S.T.A.R. Counsellor (Start Talking About Relationships);
- School Nurse

DESTINATION PLANNING

Once you earn your Ontario Secondary School Diploma from Valley Heights, you are ready for many different challenges and opportunities. The Guidance Department can help you.

The Guidance Department has current information about university and college programs. They coordinate visits from university and college representatives that interested students can attend. They run tutorials for students outlining how to apply to universities or colleges. They also maintain current information about bursaries and scholarships.

UNIVERSITY GRAD PROFILE

Riley Fitch a 2018 graduate is studying Aeronautics & Flight at the University of Windsor. It's a unique program combining a university degree with pilot flight training. He is living in residence there and has classes on the university campus and his flight training is with Journey Air at the Windsor International Airport.

One of his favourite things about Valley Heights was the Café. He loved that he could get fresh homemade meals and treats there, especially Mrs. Hevesi's famous cookies! He also really connected to many of the teaching staff because not only were they were his teachers, but many of them live in the community so we were able to connect at school and at other events and places around the Valley.

Riley was an athlete and participated in as many sports as he could, including golf, volleyball, football, basketball, badminton and soccer. He also had the opportunity to participate in a couple of leadership programs that were awesome too! He felt that being at a small school really helped his chances of making teams and getting involved in school clubs and activities.

His proudest moment as a Bear was earning the right to compete at OFSAA with the senior boy's volleyball team. Being recognized as one of the best teams in not only the county and school board level, but in the entire province was pretty awesome! He was also pretty proud of the Sportsmanship Award from OFSAA because their team was chosen by the coaches and officials at the tournament for showing respect both on and off the court.

Although Valley Heights is a small school, the teachers and staff work hard to make sure that you get all of the courses, training and support that you need. He had the chance to take a few online courses while at Valley and I'm so glad that I did. They really help to prepare you for the independence needed at college and university.



CAREER CRUISING

At GEDSB we have a vision that all students leaving our secondary schools have a clear plan for their initial postsecondary destination, and have confidence that they can revise their plans as they and the world around them change. We support students with the tools needed so that they become architects of their future. The Ministry of Education in Ontario has mandated that all students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 use the Individualized Pathway Planner. This can be found and used through Career Cruising.

We have been working with Career Cruising to assist students with planning for their futures and also use the program for online course selections. Career Cruising is a powerful and complete, web-based solution that gives students and schools an easy and effective way to develop skills and knowledge needed for success. It can be used as a single, comprehensive solution or combined with the components in any combination to meet students immediate needs.

Students can start on Career cruising with interest inventories and aptitude type tests that allow them to answer questions like "Who am I?" - in Getting to Know Yourself, "What are my opportunities" - in the Exploring Opportunities section to "Who do I want to Become?" – in Making Decisions and Setting goals and ultimately, "What is my Plan" – in Achieving Goals and Making Transition plans. This is built upon for every grade and phase of career development for children and adults.

Together GEDSB and Career Cruising work together to create an Individual Pathway Plan (IPP) for all students. This plan becomes a valuable archive of student learning and a catalogue of resources they will need as they continue to plan for the future.

www.careercruising.com

CareerCruising
The Complete Guidance System

Students can access Career Cruising under the Secondary tab at granderie.ca.

On this site, they can research, plan and choose their courses.



ARTS

Visual Arts offers many opportunities for artists and art enthusiasts. We offer a wide variety of courses from the basics of drawing and painting, to design, to digital media, to photography and sculpture. There are opportunities to work on community projects, as well as within the school with the yearbook, and clubs like Purple and White. Our students progress to careers in art, animation, design and other art-related fields. We offer many trip possibilities locally, in Toronto (OCAD, the AGO, the Design Exchange), and even New York City and Europe.

MUSIC AND MUSIC THEATRE

Music and Music Theatre courses offer students various ways to practise and perfect their musical ideas. Whether it be singing, playing an instrument, strumming a guitar, composing, or acting on stage, our students are given the opportunity to learn and practise in a comfortable learning environment. They perform for themselves, their peers, and in front of live audiences. Students also learn to read music notation and will listen to, and appreciate music from a wide variety of musical sources.







Apprenticeships combine on-the-job training and classroom learning. Co-op students who are accepted into the OYAP program can count their Co-op placement hours towards their required number of apprenticeship hours should they complete an apprenticeship after high school.

Students who demonstrate a serious interest in their Co-op career may be registered as a young apprentice if the Co-op supervisor is agreeable. The OYAP program ends at the end of the student's Co-op placement.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

The Valley Heights Co-operative Education program allows students to gain first-hand work experience that compliments their classroom courses. The time spent "test driving" a career, earns the student credits that count towards their high school diploma.

Valley Heights is fortunate to offer students a broad number of placement opportunities. Former VHSS students have worked with mechanics, electricians, veterinarians, teachers, cabinet makers, welders, hairstylists, etc. They have worked in schools, business offices, and stores. Some students choose to work all day (and earn 4 credits) while others choose to work half days (and earn 2 credits).

In many cases, the networking and experience gained throughout their Co-op placement has helped students secure a job or apprenticeship after high school.

Students must select Co-op as an option when they select their courses. The Co-op program has limited enrolment; students are interviewed and
Co-op is scheduled into their timetable if they are accepted into the program.

BUSINESS STUDIES

The Business Department engages and challenges VHSS students by exposing them to real-world problems and current technologies. Taught by teachers with previous business experience, our students learn by solving common industry problems.

Grade 9 students work with industry standard software giving them the tools they need to succeed in other high school courses and in future years. Accounting students are challenged with both the preparation of financial statements and the analysis of the statements making their work more relevant. Our Computer Science students learn to control and manipulate computers at a deeper level as they create computer games and program robotic equipment.

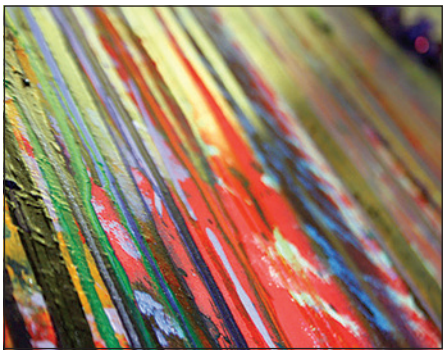
Former VHSS Business students have started successful careers as webpage designers, computer programmers, network administrators, and computer security experts.

Available only at VHSS, students interested in pursuing Business studies at the post secondary level could receive full tuition to McMaster University through the DeGroote Scholarship.

TECHNOLOGIES

If Technology is your interest, the Technology courses offered at Valley Heights Secondary School all involve a large emphasis on "hands - on" learning. This means that most of the class time is spent working in the 'shops'. Transportation students work on 'live' cars and the Manufacturing classes design and build small trailers and other useful projects. Our Transportation courses and Manufacturing courses offer a Specialist High Skills Major option. With a SHSM in Transportation, or Manufacturing, and a Red Seal on your diploma, you have an edge in finding employment in these industries. Our Hospitality course caters many events both in and outside the school, and it's a pretty tasty way to earn a credit! If wood working is your talent, then make sure you sign up for construction courses. The Construction class students build many projects around the school, thereby gaining valuable hands on experience. The Communications class is always creating innovative films and photographic exhibits. Tech at VHSS is where it's at!!





APPRENTICESHIP GRAD PROFILE

Martin McMillan graduated from VHSS in 2015. He went on to Fanshawe College where he completed the Motive Power Diesel program and he is now an apprentice at Premier Equipment in Simcoe. Martin's favourite thing about Valley was that the school had a home-like feeling. Martin feels, "the atmosphere at Valley allowed him to form good relationships with the staff". He played on the football team which is one of his best memories; playing with a good group of guys and winning a playoff game. He also mentions the mud truck project in his grade 12 Auto class as a highlight. Martin says, "Valley is a great school, I'd recommend it to any grade 8 students on the fence about where they want to go for high school.







Our manufacturing and construction courses are also offered through night school at our campus. A student can earn a dual credit which is a high school credit and a college credit.

MODERN LANGUAGES

In Spanish and French, learning takes place in a friendly and comfortable atmosphere. Aside from building their vocabulary and fluency, students experience authentic French and Spanish cuisine. Alternating years, language students are invited to travel to the Quebec Winter Carnival and Europe.

ENGLISH

At Valley Heights, the study of English is an adventure into the world of the imagination, into the world of great writers, into the world of ideas and ultimately into the world of wisdom. Taking an English class is much more than learning a subject; it is exploring oneself.

Classes from grades 9 to 12 study many genres of literature: short stories, poetry, drama, essays, and novels. English courses are designed to help students develop their skills in reading, writing, speaking/listening, and viewing/representing. In all English courses a variety of resources are used to promote skills and strategies for reading and to develop proficiency in oral and written communication.

Our English teachers are energetic and creative and incorporate many exciting activities, including drama and role play, into learning.

We realize the importance of classroom instruction; however, we also take our students on field trips, such as to the theatres in Stratford. In recent years, we have enjoyed To Kill A Mockingbird, Romeo and Juliet, Crazy For You and Camelot.

We encourage students to express themselves in their writing and to enter contests which interest them. We periodically receive contest information which we pass on to our students.

To ensure their success, we also encourage our students to read for pleasure outside of school. Research has shown that reading for pleasure is key to academic success in all subjects. We recommend reading for at least thirty minutes each day.











COLLEGE GRAD PROFILE

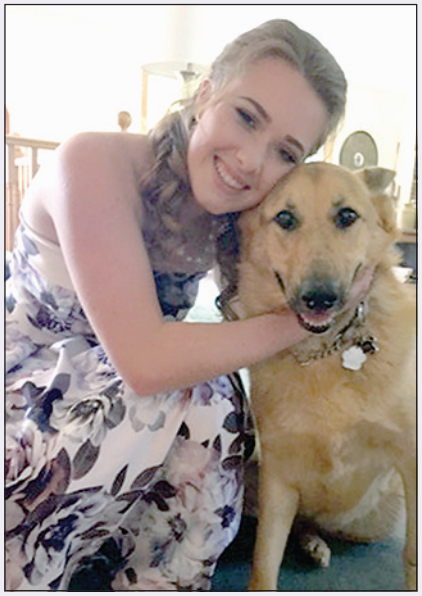
Carly Vanderstar graduated in 2018. She is now attending Humber College in Toronto for Travel Services Management in order to become a Flight Attendant.

Her favourite thing about Valley was the size of it, it gave her an opportunity to get to know just about everyone including the teachers/staff. Everyone knew everyone!

Carly loved that there were so many sports, clubs and volunteer opportunities available at Valley Heights. She was involved in volleyball, cheerleading, soccer, badminton, track and field, coaching Jr. boy's volleyball, students' council, and working in the cafe.

Carly has a lot of great memories to choose from at Valley but the one that tops them all was in Grade 11 when her senior girl's volleyball team had just won CWOSSA. She loved seeing the pure joy and excitement that they all had knowing that their season was continuing and they would be going to OFSSA as a volleyball family!

Carly final words about Valley Heights. "it is a great school where you can make lifelong friends, have fun and make some amazing memories; It was the best 4 years of my life."



SCIENCES

The Science department at Valley Heights offers a variety of topics that may be of interest to you. After two years of general Science, continue to explore your interests in the fields of Chemistry, Physics and Biology. Investigations in Science classes aren't contained within the classroom doors. Extra-curricular opportunities are available in all streams. Chemistry students, can test their knowledge with the University of Waterloo's Grade 11 Avogadro Test. Physics students design and build a wind turbine with their peers. Winning turbines may enter the wind tunnel in a competition at the University of Guelph. Science students have the opportunity to compete against schools and from all across Ontario.

Valley Heights is also located in a diverse area that is envied by most biologists. We regularly visit and work with local agencies like Bird Studies Canada and Long Point Regional Conservation Authority. Our campus is largely maintained by the Horticulture Science class. Horticulture students also run a productive greenhouse from which an annual spring sale finances future projects. Work has also taken us into the community. Some of the projects have involved groups such as Port Rowan Public School, Ministry of Natural Resources and Backus Community Council.

One of the best features of Valley Heights is our ability to work together with other departments and clubs to accomplish challenging goals. New initiatives are continually taking place. Some of the previous, and ongoing initiatives include; propagating and transplanting native plant species, wind and solar powered greenhouse, Eco school implementation … to name a few. Enrol yourself in Science today and become a part of our team!

MATHEMATICS

Today's mathematics curriculum must prepare students for tomorrow. The goal of the Math Department at Valley Heights is to spark students' curiosity. Students are given relevant real-world tasks. The curriculum is delivered by specialized and enthusiastic teachers who use a media-rich environment, utilizing the technology that is available in every classroom.

Students at the Valley Heights are given many experimental learning opportunities. Students have attended the Think About Math! Workshop hosted by the University of Waterloo. This workshop is designed to ignite enthusiasm in high school girls for mathematics and create links to exciting careers.

Supporting all students is a top priority at Valley Heights. An Achieving Excellent in Applied Courses teacher, a Student Success teacher and a Special Education Resource Teacher is available throughout the day to provide one on one assistance to help students who require a little extra support.

SOCIAL SCIENCES



The Social Science and Humanities Department, or Family Studies Department, teaches "the science of smart living."

Social Sciences and Humanities at VHSS offers a variety of courses in family studies and general social science. Designed to be stimulating and relevant, courses give students the opportunity to acquire practical skills, increase self-confidence, and improve interpersonal relationships needed to function effectively in a family and societal context. Learning experiences will prepare students for post secondary education, employment, and the realities of daily living.

Social Science, Humanities and Family Studies courses give students essential knowledge and transferable skills that are applicable in various areas of their lives. Individual courses provide students with a foundation for a variety of possible post-secondary destinations: positions in the retail and service industries; community college programs, creative arts, or business and university programs.

Social Sciences and Humanities gives you many options. Choose the courses that teach you about life and will help prepare you for the next step in your journey.



CANADIAN & WORLD STUDIES

The Canadian and World Studies program encompasses four subjects: civics, geography, history, and law. In studying these subjects, students learn how people interact with and within their social and physical environments today, and how they did so in the past. Students develop the knowledge and values they need to become responsible, active and informed Canadian citizens in the twenty-first century.

In addition, students develop practical skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, research, inquiry and communication skills. Courses in Canadian and World Studies contribute significantly to students' understanding of Canada's heritage and its physical, social, cultural, governmental, legal, and economic structures and relationships. Students learn to apply and transfer these skills and understandings in other secondary school subjects, in their future studies, and in today's rapidly changing world.

Canadian and World studies courses are the interest forming 'stepping stones' to rewarding careers as teachers, lawyers, law enforcement officers, museum and art galley curators, conservation officers, geologists, military personnel, librarians, civil engineers, journalists, town planners, and real estate agents. Canadian and World Studies provides the tools and skills for students to succeed not only in the classroom, but also in life!



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education Department offers six courses for the student population of Valley Heights. The goals of the courses are to develop lifelong physical skills, total fitness, and social interaction among peer group. In addition health concepts dealing with drugs, mental health, sexuality and personal growth will be studied.

Our grade 9 and 10 programs provide the foundation for more personal and independent sport and health development in grade 11 and 12. Our grade 12 Leadership course focuses on the importance of carryover sports than can be played in smaller groups or individually after graduation. Field Studies are an important component of this course as well as C.P.R. training. Successful completion of C.P.R. will allow students to receive their wallet card as proof of their knowledge of the modalities of C.P.R.

Exercise Science is a grade 12 Academic course that focuses on human movement and principles of human development. This course involves an in depth study and prepares students for university programs in the areas of Physical and Health Education, Kinesiology, and Recreation/Sports Administration.









TURNING POINT - VARIETY TO MEET YOUR NEEDS

Turning Point is an innovative program that combines academics with co-op and offers a flexible timetable with classes offered at main campus and/or alternative sites.

Students can achieve secondary school co-operative education (co-op) credits for their work placements/ employment. Successful completion of all assignments plus 110 hours of work entitles a student to one co-op credit. A student may earn up to 14 co-op credits toward their diploma.

Students must also complete 16 to 18 academic credits to meet graduation requirements through in class or online classes. Teacher support is available to students in a teacher supervised classroom. Tutorial support runs after school two nights per week as well. A satellite site located in Aylmer is also available two mornings each week to assist students who live out of the area. Turning Point teachers are excited to assist students with their academic and employment goals in this program.

TURNING POINT 9/10 (FORMERLY PATHFINDER)

Students earn credits in four terms:

TERM 1 (SEPT-MID NOV)

- Work or attend classes at Valley Heights to earn elective credits (art, physical education, business)

TERMS 2 AND 3 (MID NOV-MID APRIL)

- Focus on compulsory credits in face-to-face classes at Valley Heights (English, math, history, geography)

TERM 4 (MID APRIL-JUNE)

- Earn cooperative education credits through work or volunteer placements





TURNING POINT 11/12

Students earn credits in several ways:

FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES

- Valley Heights and/or Houghton Public School Portables

eLEARNING CLASSES WITH TEACHER SUPPORT

- Room 123 at Valley Heights
- Houghton Portables
- Aylmer EMMC Church

EVENING HOMEWORK HELP AT HOUGHTON

- Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm-9pm

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION CREDITS

ENGLISH LITERACY DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

- Building English reading and writing skills



Grand Erie… *SUCCESS* for Every Student

ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Join the thousands of high school students throughout Ontario who have chosen to take control of their future.

Earn high school credits while exploring the world of a skilled trade profession through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP). Discover the educational opportunities that can give you an advantage.

HOW DOES OYAP WORK?

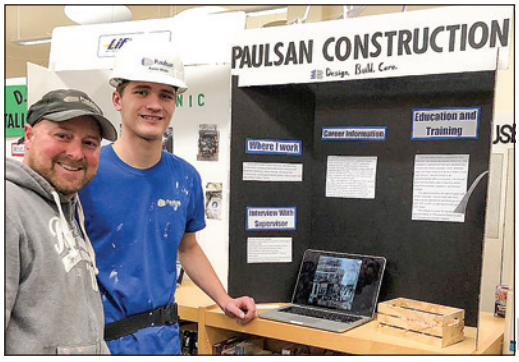
As an OYAP student, you will earn Co-op credits for work experience in an apprenticeship occupation while completing the requirements for your Ontario Secondary School Diploma. You may be formally registered as an apprentice while attending secondary school.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF OYAP?

- Gain a head start towards a chosen career
- Ease the transition from school to work
- Increase opportunities for post-secondary training and employment
- Earn work experience hours in addition to secondary school credits
- Develop general and specialized job skills
- Understand employer expectations
- Significant reduction in post-secondary tuition costs
- Increase of employable opportunities

"OYAP was the right program for me. After I completed my two construction technology credits, I applied to the four credit accelerated carpentry OYAP for semester two. My construction classes taught me so much about building. We were able to help build a house for Habitat for Humanity. It was awesome; we were doing the things that we had been taught about, a real hands-on experience.,"

Grand Erie OYAP student





ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN AN APPRENTICESHIP?

Apprenticeship is an education and training program for people who enjoy learning by doing and who want to work in a skilled profession.

Once education and training is complete, you can receive a Certificate of Qualification, which identifies you as a skilled professional. This can lead to a career in a trade sector such as construction, industrial, motive power and service.

HOW TO ENROLL?

Students, 16 years of age or older, who are enrolled full-time in secondary school with 16 completed credits can speak with a Guidance Counselor. Be sure to also ask about Specialist High Skills Major, Co-op and Dual Credit, three additional programs that feature OYAP.

GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Student Success
A Grand Erie Program
granderie.ca
oyap.com

CHOOSING COURSE TYPES

In order to ensure student success, Grand Erie encourages all students to give careful consideration to the course type chosen in each subject area.

GRADE 9 – 10 PROGRAMS:

Five types of courses are offered:

Academic courses emphasize theory and abstract thinking skills. These courses provide students the foundation for the University course type in grade 11.

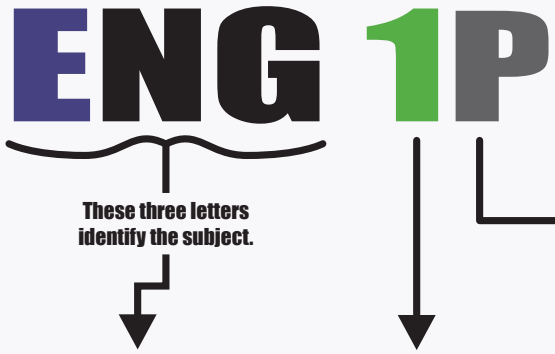
Special Education courses allow students to focus on functional life skills and/or job readiness skills within schools that have a self-contained special education setting and are non-credit bearing.

Locally Developed compulsory courses are designed to remediate students who are working below grade level and prepare students for the Workplace course type in grade 11.

Open courses are available to all students regardless of their destination after secondary school. These courses often present a balance of theory and practical work and offer an opportunity for students to explore particular areas of interest or skill.

Applied courses focus on practical applications and concrete examples. These courses prepare students for the College course type in grade 11.

EVERY COURSE IN SECONDARY SCHOOL HAS A UNIQUE COURSE CODE.
ALL COURSES HAVE THE FIRST FIVE CHARACTERS AS MANDATED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.



SUBJECT CODES

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

- **A** = Arts
- **B** = Business
- **C** = Canadian & World Studies
- **E** = English/ESL
- **F** = French
- **G** = Guidance
- **H** = Humanities & Social Sciences
- **I** = Interdisciplinary or Information Technology
- **K** = Alternative (Non-Credit)
- **L** = International Languages
- **M** = Mathematics
- **N** = Native Studies
- **P** = Physical Education
- **S** = Sciences
- **T** = Technological Studies

GRADE

This number identifies the grade:

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

LEVEL

This letter identifies the grade:

- **A** = Level 1
- **B** = Level 2
- **C** = Level 3
- **D** = Level 4
- **E** = Level 5

GRADE 9 - 10

- **D** = Academic
- **K** = Non-Credit
- **L** = Locally Developed Compulsory Credit
- **O** = Open
- **P** = Applied

GRADE 11 - 12

- **C** = College
- **E** = Workplace
- **M** = University/College
- **N** = Non-Credit
- **O** = Open
- **U** = University

GRADE 11 - 12

Five types of program pathways are offered:

- **COLLEGE COURSES** are designed to prepare students for college programs and apprenticeships.
- **WORKPLACE COURSES** are designed to prepare students for entry to the workplace and/or apprenticeship.
- **UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE COURSES** are designed to prepare students for either community college or university programs.
- **OPEN COURSES** are available to all students regardless of pathway.
- **UNIVERSITY COURSES** are designed to prepare students for transition to a variety of university programs or apprenticeship.

12 OPTIONAL CREDITS

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

CHOOSING COURSE TYPES

COMPULSORY CREDITS (TOTAL OF 18)

4 CREDITS IN ENGLISH (1 CREDIT PER GRADE)

- The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) may be used to meet either the Grade 11 or the Grade 12 English compulsory credit requirement.
- The Grade 11 Contemporary Aboriginal Voices course may be used to meet the Grade 11 English compulsory credit requirement.
- For English language learners, the requirement may be met through earning a maximum of 3 credits in English as a second language (ESL) or English literacy development (ELD); the fourth credit must be a Grade 12 compulsory English course.

3 CREDITS IN MATH (AT LEAST 1 CREDIT IN GRADE 11 OR 12)

2 CREDITS IN SCIENCE

1 CREDIT IN THE ARTS

- The Grade 9 Expressing Aboriginal Cultures course may be used to meet the compulsory credit requirement in the arts.

1 CREDIT IN CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY (GRADE 9)

1 CREDIT IN CANADIAN HISTORY (GRADE 10)

1 CREDIT IN FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

- Students who have taken Native languages in place of French as a second language in elementary school may use a Level 1 or 2 Native language course to meet the compulsory credit requirement for French as a second language.

1 CREDIT IN HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

0.5 CREDIT IN CAREER STUDIES

0.5 CREDIT IN CIVICS

3 ADDITIONAL CREDITS, CONSISTING OF 1 CREDIT FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

GROUP 1: English (including the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course), French as a second language, classical languages, international languages, Native languages, Canadian and world studies, Native studies, social sciences and humanities, guidance and career education, cooperative education

GROUP 2: French as a second language, the arts, business studies, health and physical education, cooperative education

GROUP 3: French as a second language, science (Grade 11 or 12), computer studies, technological education, cooperative education

Note: The following conditions apply to selections from the above three groups:

- A maximum of 2 credits in French as a second language may count as additional compulsory credits, 1 credit from Group 1, and 1 credit from either Group 2 or Group 3.
- A maximum of 2 credits in cooperative education may count as additional compulsory credits, selected from any of Groups 1, 2, or 3.

GRADE 10 - ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

All students must successfully complete this test which will be administered by the EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office). Students will first write this test in the spring of their grade ten year. Unsuccessful candidates will be given the opportunity for remediation at the school and will be able to rewrite the test. Students identified through an IPRC (Identification, Placement, and Review Committee) will be allowed accommodations for writing of the test. Students not working towards an OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma) may be exempted from writing the test.

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY COURSE (OSSLC)

Students who have written the OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) once and were unsuccessful are eligible to take the OSSLC (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course). Successful completion of the OSSLC satisfies the secondary school literacy graduation requirement.

40 HOURS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Forty hours of Community Involvement is a requirement for graduation. Community Involvement is a set of self-directed activities in the community that do not involve remuneration and do not replace a paid worker. A pamphlet entitled "Information on Community Involvement for Students and Parents" is available from the guidance office. The pamphlet will provide all the details concerning the Community Involvement requirement.

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

The Ontario Secondary School Certificate will be granted on request to students who leave school before earning the Ontario Secondary School Diploma, provided that they have earned a minimum of 14 credits as follows:

7 COMPULSORY CREDITS (2 English, 1 Canadian Geography or Canadian History, 1 Mathematics, 1 Health and Physical Education, 1 Science, 1 Arts or Technological Education or Computer Studies)

7 OPTIONAL CREDITS Selected by the student from available courses

CERTIFICATE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

Students who are not working towards an OSSD or an OSSC may be awarded a Certificate of Accomplishment upon leaving secondary school. The Certificate of Accomplishment is a useful means of recognizing achievement for students who plan to transition directly to employment after leaving school. The Certificate of Accomplishment is to be accompanied by the student's Ontario Student Transcript. For students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a copy of the IEP may be included.

% GRADE RANGE	ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL	SUMMARY DESCRIPTION
80-100%	Level 4	A very high outstanding level of achievement. Achievement is above the provincial standard
70-79%	Level 3	A high level of achievement. Achievement is at the provincial standard.
60-69%	Level 2	A moderate level of achievement. Achievement is below, but approaching the provincial standard.
50-59%	Level 1	A passable level of achievement. Achievement is below provincial standards.
Below 50%		Insufficient achievement of curriculum expectations. Credit will not be granted.

NIGHT SCHOOL/SUMMER SCHOOL

Night school classes are offered in Brantford, Haldimand and Norfolk. They are offered Tuesday and Thursday evenings. A wide variety of compulsory courses are offered. For additional information call Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) 519 753-6079.

Grand Erie District School Board will be offering summer school for grades 9 - 12 credits during the month of July. Locations will be sent to each school in the spring. For additional information call 519-753-6079.

GRAND ERIE LEARNING ALTERNATIVES (GELA)

GELA provides an alternate opportunity for secondary school students who, for various reasons, are not experiencing success in a regular school setting or who want to re-enter school after leaving.

Scheduled day programs, booklet and e-Learning are available.

STUDENT TRANSITION EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (STEP)

The STEP program is designed to engage students by ensuring that their individualized strengths, needs and interests are addressed in an alternative setting within the school.

The program provides students with the opportunity to earn credits, engage in experiential learning activities, explore career opportunities, and develop pathway plans and personal life management skills.

For more information, contact your school's Guidance Counsellor.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) AND PRE-AP

The Advanced Placement Program allows students to pursue university level studies while still attending secondary school. In May of each year, students may wish to write the standardized AP challenge exam in the course offered by their school. Students have an opportunity to receive advanced credit at many universities across Canada, the United States, and around the World.

Advanced Placement Exams train students in taking high level tests, get a head start on university-level work and develop the study habits necessary for tackling rigorous course work essential for success at the tertiary level of education. Students wishing to write the exam should contact their guidance department for more information.

Due to the rigorous nature of the AP exam, some schools will be offering a Pre-AP program for students prior to grade 12. A Pre-AP program allows students the time to expand and enhance their understanding of the subject material being tested during the exam while still meeting the requirements of the Ontario Curriculum. These programs may begin as early as grade 9 via enhanced classes and/or club formats. For more information, please talk to the guidance department at the secondary school you are attending.

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR (SHSM)

Grand Erie District School Board, in conjunction with the Ontario Ministry of Education, offers SHSM programs to secondary school students.

Students enrolled in a Specialist High Skills Major program are required to complete a bundle of classroom courses, workplace experiences and sector certifications to receive a special designation on their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Grand Erie District School Board has programs in the following sectors:

- **ARTS & CULTURE**
  Performance and Production, Journalism and Media
- **CONSTRUCTION**
- **ENVIRONMENT**
- **HEALTH & WELLNESS**
  Fitness, Healthy Living, Health Care, Hairstyling
- **HORTICULTURE & LANDSCAPING**
- **HOSPITALITY & TOURISM**
- **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**
- **MANUFACTURING**
- **SPORTS**
- **TRANSPORTATION**

Participation in an SHSM program can help students prepare for apprenticeships, college, university or transition to work.

DUAL CREDITS

Grand Erie District School Board has partnered with Conestoga College, Fanshawe College and Mohawk College to allow students to earn college credits before they graduate secondary school. These credits are delivered in three different ways within the Board.

- **SCHOOL WITHIN A COLLEGE (SWAC)**

Is offered by Conestoga in Brantford (Fit and Wellness / Media), Fanshawe in Simcoe (Human Services / Intro to Trades) and Mohawk in Ohsweken (Intro to Trades). If you are between the ages of 17 and 20 years old and need 5 – 10 credits to graduate, speak to your guidance counsellor about this program.

- **TEAM TAUGHT**

Is taught in combination with a college instructor and secondary school teacher during a student's regularly scheduled class.

- **AFTER SCHOOL**

Is taught by a college instructor (and supported by a secondary school teacher) after school in one of the local secondary schools. Students from other schools are welcome to enrol. Speak with your guidance counsellor for further information.

PROGRAMS

E-LEARNING COURSES

Virtual Courses are often called e-Learning courses. e-Learning courses use a virtual classroom and are accessed by a computer, tablet or smart phone. Your teacher may be a teacher from a school in the Grand Erie District School Board, or he/she may be in another city somewhere across Ontario.

e-Learning courses are typically taken by senior students. e-Learning courses provide opportunities for students to be able to access courses that they might not otherwise be able to take in a face to face class. As well, e-Learning is a now commonly found at the post-secondary level (apprenticeships, college, or university), and is often used in workplace training.

In order to register for an e-Learning course you need to see your guidance counsellor. You will need to have a "Change of Program" form completed and signed by your parents and the school Principal.

More information, including what e-Learning is all about, the characteristics of successful e-Learning students, and the technological requirements for taking an e-Learning course can be found under the Secondary tab at granderie.ca

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Grand Erie believes in providing an inclusive culture for students on a continuum from "most enabling" to "least restrictive". Each one of our secondary schools has a Special Education department with Learning Resource teachers ensuring Individual Education Plans are in place and implemented. Our schools have Self-Contained programs to support the learning needs of individuals that require intensive support. In addition, we have a system Student Support Services that offer services such as, Psychological Consultation, Behaviour Counselling, Child and Youth Work and Social Work.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION (CO-OP)

Co-op is a planned learning experience that integrates classroom theory and learning experiences at a workplace which enable students to apply and refine the knowledge and skills acquired in a related curriculum course or a locally developed course. Co-op courses include a classroom component comprised of pre-placement and integration activities and a placement component.

Students earn co-op credits by integrating classroom theory with planned learning experiences in the community. Students are assessed and evaluated on their demonstration of tasks linked to curriculum expectations of the related course(s) as outlined in Students' Cooperative Education Learning Plan.

Students interested in Co-op Education must apply for the program and complete an interview. Successful candidates will be notified and the recruitment process of an appropriate placement will follow. There is no formal restriction on the total number of co-op credits that students may earn in secondary school.

ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (OYAP)

Students gain knowledge and experience in an apprenticeable trade while working at an eligible work placement. Students acquire hours toward the completion of their apprenticeship while earning credits.

An apprenticeship is an agreement between the student (who wants to learn a skilled trade), the school, the employer (who teaches the skills) and the Students' Cooperative Education Learning Plan.

Students will get a head start on becoming a fully qualified journey person with a skill set that is in demand. Apprenticeships are an excellent way of learning valuable work skills and are a viable alternative to traditional post secondary programs.

For more information speak to your school's Co-op or OYAP teacher.

Visit **www.apprenticesearch.com**

TO BEGIN AN APPRENTICESHIP DURING SECONDARY SCHOOL A STUDENT MUST:

- successfully complete 16 credits and be enrolled full-time in school
- be 16 years of age or older
- successfully complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Requirement
- complete all compulsory credits required for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma

ACCELERATED OYAP

Accelerated OYAP is a specialized program being offered in partnership with local post-secondary institutions, the MTCU and other local school boards. This program is offered to senior students from every secondary school in GEDSB. In Dual Credit programs, students can earn up to 4 credits toward their OSSD.

The in-school component is facilitated by a post-secondary instructor.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ONTARIO STUDENT RECORD AND TRANSCRIPT:

The Ontario Student Record (OSR) is the official, on-going educational record for each student and is stored in the school most recently attended by the student. Teaching staff, each student, and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of a student are entitled to have access to the student's OSR. Supervised access can be arranged by appointment during normal business hours. Transcripts of marks are issued on written or personal request. Once a student reaches the age of 18, by law, they control access to the OSR by anyone not mentioned above. Parents of adult students will only have access to a student's academic records upon written authorization from the student. All senior level courses remaining on a student's timetable five days after the first provincial report will be recorded on the transcript.

Transcripts requested after a student has graduated and is no longer attending secondary school are subject to a charge of $5.00 per copy.

WITHDRAWAL FROM A COURSE - GRADES 11 & 12:

If a student (including a student with a completed Individual Education Plan) withdraws from a Grade 11 or 12 course within five instructional days following the issue of the first provincial report card in a semestered or non-semestered school, the withdrawal is not recorded on the Ontario Student Transcript (OST). If a student withdraws from a course after five instructional days following the issue of the first provincial report card in a semestered or non-semestered school, the withdrawal is recorded on the OST by entering a 'W' in the 'Credit' column. The student's percentage grade at the time of the withdrawal is recorded in the 'Percentage Grade' column.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS THROUGH REFERRAL PROCESS:

While the focus of Guidance and Career Education is to assist students with the development of the entire student, some families and students may require additional social support from Board employees. Students under the age of 18 must have their parent/guardian sign the referral form for the student/support intervention.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC):

SEAC is an advisory committee mandated through the Education Act as a standing committee of each school Board. The committee reports to the school Board and makes recommendations to the board on special education programs and services. The committee is comprised of Trustees, Board personnel, community members, and associations representing a wide variety of interests related to students with exceptional needs.





THE INDIGENOUS EDUCATION-ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IEAC):

IEAC is an advisory committee mandated by the Ministry of Education in September of 2017. The mandate of the committee is to enhance and improve Indigenous Education for all students. The committee reports to the board on the Board Action Plan and programming for both Elementary and Secondary panels. The committee is comprised of board personnel, community members and organizations with an interest in Indigenous Education, including parents.

CREDIT RECOVERY:

Our provincially-recognized Credit Recovery program is an in-school program for students who have not successfully completed some of their courses. In a credit recovery classroom, students work on recovering previously failed courses and have the opportunity to get their credit accumulation back on track. Credit Recovery offers students a supportive environment that focuses on the key expectations of a course and also assists students with pathway planning and developing improved learning skills that will help them in earning their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

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