



GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



Valley Heights Secondary School

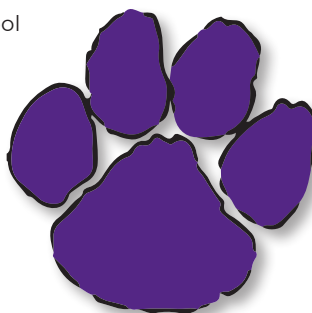
2022-23 SCHOOL PROFILE

Valley Heights Secondary School

Welcome to Valley Heights Secondary School

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!

Valley Heights Secondary School 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.



Ms. Alison High
PRINCIPAL



Mrs. Tina Baker
VICE-PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Kristin Barrett
OFFICE COORDINATOR




Mrs. Leanne Buchanan
HEAD OF GUIDANCE

Mrs. Elena Stephen
LEARNING RESOURCE TEACHER

Valley Heights Secondary School

2561 Highway 59 South,
Langton, ON N0E 1G0
Phone: (519) 586-3522 (main)
(519) 586-3524 (fax)

granderie.ca/schools/vhss

 Valley Heights Secondary School
 @VHSS_Bears
 [vhss.bears](https://www.instagram.com/vhss.bears)

Grand Erie Administration:

Director Of Education

JoAnna Roberto

Superintendent of Education

Kevin Graham

Guidance and Career Education



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

Student Responsibilities

Valley Heights Secondary School is a community that promotes responsibility, respect, civility and academic excellence in a safe learning and teaching environment. All students, parents, teachers, and staff have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in their school community. Everyone has the right to be respected and the responsibility to respect others.



Destination Planning

Once students earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma from Valley Heights, they are ready for many different challenges and opportunities.

University and College Bound students can access current information about programs, as well as attend presentation with representatives from the various post-secondary institutions. There are tutorials for students applying to school, and current information about bursaries and scholarships is available.

Some students are interested in apprenticeships. 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.

Some students will be interested in joining the work force after secondary school. The Guidance Department can help with resumes and job searches.

A new feature for all students at VHSS is the Virtual Guidance classroom where students can log into their Brightspace, and have easy access to information and resources, including everything from announcements, volunteer opportunities, news in the community, and post-secondary resources.

Learning Resource (The Workshop)

VHSS has a Student Success Team which includes administration, guidance counsellor, learning resource teacher, and student success teachers. They meet at least once each month to discuss any student concerns that have been referred to us by staff and/or parents. We work collaboratively to develop a plan to support these students who may need extra help or services. The Workshop is an alternate space where students can work quietly if the classroom teacher feels it appropriate and the learning resource teacher or student success teacher is available.

Programs

Co-Operative Education (Co-Op) and Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

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.

OYAP

Students gain knowledge and experience in an apprenticeship 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



Graduation Requirements

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.
- Grade 11 English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit 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 Expressions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit 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, FNMI 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.

Community Involvement

Students are responsible to complete 40 hours of community service as a requirement for graduation. Grade 8 graduated students can start accumulating during the summer prior to entering grade 9. Grade 12 graduating students are required to have all hours submitted by June 30 of their graduating year. If hours handed in after that date, there is no guarantee that they will be included in the Fall Graduation preparations.

It is the responsibility of the student to find opportunities for achieving community service hours. Various opportunities are communicated through the announcements, Twitter, or on the bulletin board outside of the Guidance office throughout the year.

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.

Courses

Grade 9 – 10 Course Pathways

ACADEMIC COURSES (D)

Academic Courses are suited to students who are comfortable with theoretical concepts and enjoy solving problems by applying what they have learned.

ACADEMIC COURSES:

- Focus on the essential concepts of a subject and explore related concepts
- Develop students' knowledge and skills through the study of theory and abstract problems
- Incorporate practical applications as appropriate
- Present and evaluate curriculum at a measured/brisk pace according to students' needs
- Often lead to post-secondary education, including College, University, and Apprenticeship, or to Workplace.

SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSES (K)

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. Expectations are individualized for students who have a variety of strengths and needs. In some cases, these courses can be preparation for participation in Locally Developed Compulsory Courses.

SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSES:

May lead to a Certificate of Accomplishment, support work/ living, and in some cases, an Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC).

LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES (L)

Locally Developed Courses are designed for students who have specific learning needs and require more direction in the classroom. Students will learn essential and practical concepts of a subject.

LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES:

- Are intended for students who require a measure of flexibility and support in order to meet the compulsory credit requirements in English, mathematics and science for the OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma) or (OSSC).
- May lead directly to the Workplace.

OPEN COURSES (O)

Open Courses allow students to learn concepts and skills designed to prepare them for further study in the subject area. Generally, in Grade 9, optional courses are offered as open courses, for example music, art, drama, business studies, family studies, physical education and technological studies. Expectations are created for all students and these students can have a variety of learning skills.

APPLIED COURSES (P)

Applied Courses teach students using real-life ideas and offer the chance to apply what they have learned to the work around them.

DE-STREAMED COURSES (W)

A de-streamed course is a course that is taught to all learners at that grade level. It will use a variety of teaching and learning

strategies to engage students. It will be a progression of skills and topics from previous courses that will lay a foundation for further courses in that subject area. Currently, the only de-streamed course being offered in secondary school is mathematics (MTH1W).

THESE COURSES:

- Focus on the essential concepts of a subject
- Develop students' knowledge and skills through practical applications and concrete examples
- Use familiar situations to illustrate ideas
- Present and evaluate curriculum at a gradual pace according to students' needs
- May lead to post-secondary education, including College or Apprenticeship; or to Workplace

What Courses Do I Choose For Grade 9?

Grade 9 students will select De-streamed Math and Science as well as Academic English, French and Geography. Each student will choose optional credits based on offerings at their secondary school.



Choosing Courses

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 11 - 12

There are 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

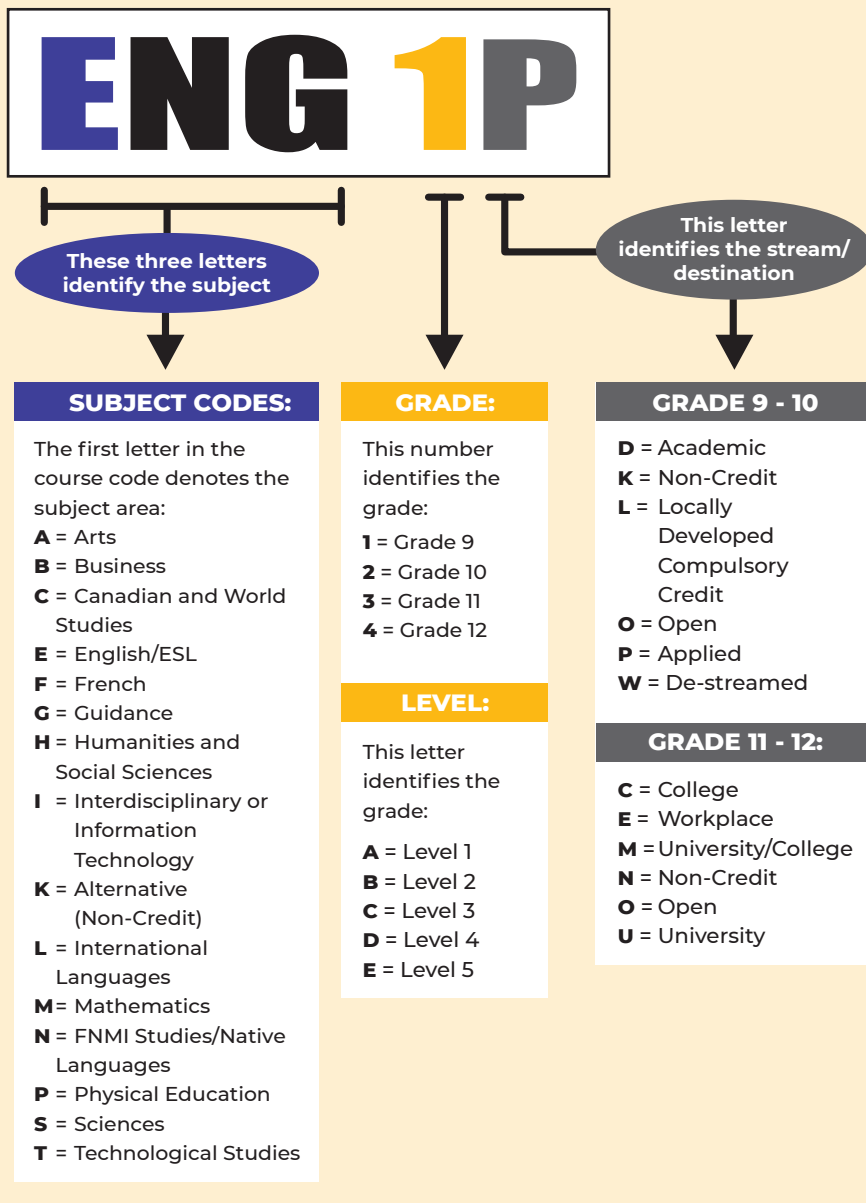
Are designed to prepare students for transition to a variety of university programs or apprenticeship.

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.

Every subject is identified by a common course code. The code consists of five mandated characters and a sixth character for school use. Every course in secondary school has a unique COURSE CODE. All courses have the first five characters as mandated by the Ministry of Education.



| % 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. |

Opportunities

Withdrawing from a course

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.

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.

DELf

The DELF (diplôme d'études en langue française, or French language studies diploma) is an internationally-recognized certification of proficiency in French for non-francophones. DELF exams take place in 175 countries worldwide. There are six separate diplomas possible, based on the six levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR): A1 and A2 (basic user), B1 and B2 (independent user), and C1 and C2 (proficient user). In Ontario, Grade 12 Core, Extended, and Immersion FSL (French as a Second Language) students have the opportunity to challenge one of the following three exams, under the guidance of their French teacher: A2, B1, or B2. French language skills are evaluated in the four areas of oral comprehension, oral expression, written comprehension, and written expression. Obtaining DELF certification not only opens doors to post-secondary and employment opportunities, it also serves as an official, internationally-recognized testament to a student's language learning journey and accomplishments. Grand Erie encourages its students in all FSL pathways to challenge the DELF in their Grade 12 year.

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, Fanshawe in Simcoe and Mohawk in Ohsweken. 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.

eLearning

eLearning courses use a virtual classroom and are accessed by an electronic device. The teacher may be from a school in Grand Erie District School Board, or from another school board in Ontario. In eLearning courses, students will not be face-to-face with their teachers. Students enrolled in eLearning courses are required to attend and engage in their eLearning courses regularly and consistently, as they do for their face-to-face classes.



Opportunities

eLearning

There is an Orientation Module available within Grand Erie eLearning courses, to support students' success in their online learning. Students will require access to a device to complete their learning. Grand Erie students have access to a device within their home school so that they can work on their course during the regular school day. Students may want to have access to a device and the internet outside of regular school hours. Please check the technical requirements for eLearning courses by selecting the link at the top of this page.

eLearning courses are typically taken by senior students to fulfil missing graduation requirements. This provides 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, eLearning is now commonly found at the post-secondary level (apprenticeships, college, or university), and is often used in workplace training.

All students must be registered in a school in their home board before accessing eLearning opportunities. For this reason, schools may receive registration requests from students who are currently considered as home-schooled students.

To register for an eLearning course, students should see their guidance counsellors. Principals, in collaboration with the student and parent(s) and a guidance counselor, consider the best interests of the student when making decisions around facilitating access to eLearning.

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.

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

NIGHT 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.

SUMMER SCHOOL

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.

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.



At Grand Erie, we have a vision that all students leaving our secondary schools have a clear postsecondary plan. We support students with the tools they require to become the architects of their future.

As part of our commitment to Career Education and supporting the ministry mandate for Creating Pathways to Success, we have moved forward with a board license of the myBlueprint Education Planner. Our license provides access to all students 7-12, their families, and all 7-12 staff in Grand Erie.

myBlueprint has been supporting Ontario school boards for 13+ years. The service supports teachers, empowers students, and engages parents with their child's education, career, and life planning. Accessible via the website on any browser, myBlueprint captures current progress in the classroom and offers a complete representation of a child's unique pathway.

myBlueprint's Education Planner is mobile-friendly, and ever-evolving to support the needs of Grand Erie students. The program allows students to view their graduation requirements and over 12,000 post-secondary programs across the country based on their Ontario specific courses.

Grand Erie and myBlueprint 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. Visit myblueprint.ca for more information.

Ontario Student Record (OSR)

The 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.

Opportunities

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

PLAR is the formal evaluation and credit-granting process whereby students may obtain credits for prior learning. Prior learning includes the knowledge and skills that students have acquired, in both formal and informal ways, outside secondary school. Students may have their knowledge and skills evaluated against the expectations outlined in provincial curriculum policy documents in order to earn credits toward the secondary school diploma. The PLAR process involves two components: "equivalency" and "challenge".

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.

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 SHSM 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 (OSSD).

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

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

Special Education

Grand Erie District School Board special education programs and services are delivered in safe and enabling environments in order to promote success for students with special education needs. An enabling environment is positive, inclusive and fosters student independence and well-being.

Each one of Grand Erie's Secondary schools has a Special Education department with Learning Resource teachers that can support the development and implementation of Individual Education Plans. Some of our schools have Self-Contained programs to support the learning needs of individual students for which the most enabling environment for them to meet their program goals is in a smaller class setting with higher staff to student ratio. In addition, system Student Support Services are available to support students and programming in the areas of Speech and Language Services, Psychological Services, Social Services and Behavioural Services.



Opportunities

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-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. 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 co-op credits through work or volunteer placements

TURNING POINT 11/12

Students earn credits in two ways
E-learning and Cooperative Education

E-LEARNING CREDITS WITH TEACHER SUPPORT

- Room 123 at Valley Heights
- Houghton portables

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION CREDITS

110 hours = 1 co-op credit

SUPPORT: EVENING HOMEWORK HELP AT HOUGHTON

Tuesday and Thursday from 6 - 9 p.m.

ENGLISH LITERACY DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

Building English reading and writing skills



Extracurricular Clubs and Sports

CLUBS

- Computer Club
- Enviro Club
- Music Council
- Purple and White for Norfolk Fair
- Students' Council
- Athletic Association
- Cooking and Baking Club
- Indigenous Council
- Art and Photography Club
- Chess Club
- Intramurals
- Fusion4Inclusion

SPORTS TEAMS

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

Departments



Library Learning Commons

The Library Learning Commons provides a safe, friendly environment, offering a balanced collection of print and digital resources to meet both curricular and personal interest needs. Through virtual and physical learning partnerships, we provide integrated learning opportunities, which are global, connected, social, cross curricular and interdisciplinary. In partnership with classroom teachers, the teacher-librarian teaches guided inquiry, whereby students learn to define problems, form questions, explore ideas, analyse, synthesize and evaluate information and communicate new understandings. We strive to challenge students to think critically about the information they find, to instill in them a passion for reading and learning, and to equip them with multiple literacy skills for success in life after secondary school.

The J.H. Atkins School Library Information Centre (SLIC) at VHSS is a hub of activity, learning and sharing. Our Library Technician and Teacher-Librarian have created an inviting atmosphere in which students can study, research, share and learn. As the SLIC team, our aim is to teach students the research skills they need to succeed in an information-rich future. We provide students with access to a wide range of print, non-print and electronic learning resources to support the curriculum. We encourage reading for pleasure, self-knowledge and ultimately a life-long



love of reading. Our overall goal is to foster learning and to improve student achievement. Students are encouraged to use the SLIC resources for both school and recreational purposes.

Department Information

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.

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.

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 gallery 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!

Departments

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

The Valley Heights Co-operative Education program allows students to gain first-hand work experience that complements their classroom courses. The time spent “test driving” a career, earns the student credits that count towards their secondary 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 secondary 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.

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.



Experiential learning is incorporated through 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.

Research has shown that reading for pleasure is key to academic success in all subjects. To ensure their success, we also encourage our students to read for pleasure outside of school.

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 opportunities. Students have attended the Think About Math! Workshop hosted by the University of Waterloo. This workshop, for secondary school girls, is designed to ignite enthusiasm for mathematics and

create links to exciting careers.

Supporting all students is a top priority at Valley Heights. A Student Success Teacher and a Special Education Resource Teacher are available throughout the day to provide one on one assistance to help students who require a little extra support.

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.

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.

Departments

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education Department offers the students the opportunity to develop lifelong physical skills, total fitness, and social interaction among their peer group. In addition, health concepts dealing with drugs, mental health, sexuality and personal growth are studied.

Our Grade 9 and 10 courses provide the foundation for more personal and independent sport and health development in Grade 11 and 12. Field studies are an important component of this course as well as CPR training. Successful completion of CPR will allow students to receive their wallet card as proof of their knowledge of the modalities of CPR.

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, you can 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 and can enter it in a competition at the University of Guelph.

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 to work with 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!

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 give you many options. Choose the courses that teach you about life and will help prepare

you for the next step in your journey.

TECHNOLOGIES

If technology is your interest, the technology courses offered at Valley Heights all involve an emphasis on hands-on learning. This means that most of the class time is spent working in the 'shops'. Transportation students work on cars and the manufacturing classes design and build small trailers and other useful projects. Our hospitality course caters many events both in and outside the school, and it is a tasty way to earn a credit! If woodworking 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!

Two things to highlight in VHSS Tech Dept are the Dual Credit and SHSM opportunities:

- Our manufacturing and construction courses are offered through night school at our campus. By completing this a student can earn a dual credit which is a secondary school credit and a college credit.
- Our Technology Department offers Transportation and Manufacturing Specialist High Skills Major Program options. With a SHSM in Transportation or Manufacturing and a Red Seal on your diploma, you have an edge in finding employment in these industries.





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.



A Grand Erie Program
granderie.ca
oyap.com

ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (OYAP)

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





349 Erie Avenue,
Brantford, Ont., N3T 5V3

Telephone: 519-756-6301 | **Toll Free:** 1-888-548-8878

Email: info@granderie.ca
granderie.ca



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