

WATERLOO-OXFORD DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL



Grade 9 Course Calendar 2026-2027

<https://wod.wrdsb.ca/>

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ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

Students entering Grade 9 will be eligible to receive the OSSD upon the successful completion of **30 credits** including **17 compulsory credits**, **13 elective credits** and **4 additional requirements**.

17 COMPULSORY CREDITS

- 4 English (one per grade)
- 3 Mathematics (one in grade 9 and 10 and at least one in Grade 11 or 12)
- 2 Science
- 1 French as a second language
- 1 Canadian Geography
- 1 Canadian History
- 1 Arts
- 1 Health and Physical Education
- 1 Technological Education (grade 9 or 10)
- 1 STEM related course group (Business Studies, Computer Studies, Cooperative Education, Mathematics*, Science*, Technological Education*) *In addition to compulsory credit(s) required
- .5 Civics
- .5 Career Studies

13 ELECTIVE CREDITS

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- 40 hours of community involvement activities
- Successful completion of either the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) **or** the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OLC40)
- At least two online learning credits must be earned as part of the requirements for an OSSD (new for students entering grade 9 in 2020-2021 or later). Parents who wish to opt out or exempt their child from the online graduation requirement must complete the opt-out form available prior to graduation).
- Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement taken during Grade 10 Mathematics Course based on cumulative Financial Literacy learning from Grade 1–9 (70% or higher)

Grade 9 Course Descriptions

COMPULSORY COURSES

There are five compulsory courses in grade 9: English, French, geography, mathematics and science. We offer destreamed courses and locally developed/essential courses in grade 9.

Students will choose one course in each of the compulsory subjects listed below:

Subject	Destreamed/Academic	Locally Developed/Essential
English	ENL1WI	ENG1LB
Geography	CGC1WI	CGC1WB
French	FSF1DI	-
Math	MTH1WI	MAT1LB
Science	SNC1WI	SNC1LB

ENL1WI ENGLISH | Destreamed

This course enables students to continue to develop and consolidate the foundational knowledge and skills that they need for reading, writing, and oral and visual communication. Throughout the course, students will continue to enhance their media literacy and critical literacy skills, and to develop and apply transferable skills, including digital literacy. Students will also make connections to their lived experiences and to society and increase their understanding of the importance of language and literacy across the curriculum.

ENG1LB ENGLISH | Locally Developed, Essential

This course is intended to prepare students for reading and writing success in their daily lives, in the workplace, and in other Grade 9 and 10 courses. The course focuses on improving students' reading comprehension and the basic expression of their thoughts in writing. The course is skills-based with a focus on grammar and literacy strategies, writing, fiction and non-fiction reading, in-class discussions, and media. Course content parallels work that is done in other Grade 9 English courses as well as preparing students for writing the OSSLT. Upon successfully completing this course, students may progress to ENG2LB or ENL1WI.

CGC1WI ISSUES IN CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY | Destreamed

This course builds on learning in Grades 7 and 8 in geography. Students will explore relationships within and between Canada's natural and human systems and how they interconnect with other parts of the world. Students will also examine environmental and economic issues, and their impact related to topics such as natural resources and industries, careers, land use and responsible development, and sustainability. In addition, students will understand the connections that diverse communities and individuals have with the physical environment and each other throughout Canada, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives. Students will apply geographic thinking, use the geographic inquiry process, and use geospatial technologies throughout their investigations.

CGC1WB ISSUES IN CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY | Locally Developed, Essential

This course focuses on geographic issues that affect Canadians in practical everyday matters. Students will make personal connections to local and global issues by examining current events. Topics to investigate include: spatial geography, how earth's physical processes affect people, managing natural resources, population challenges in Canada and around the world, as well as sustainable development and infrastructure. Geographic thinking and inquiry skills will be fostered to allow students to seek out and explore topics of personal interest.

COMPULSORY COURSES

FSF1DI CORE FRENCH | Single Stream

This academic course is a continuation of the elementary French program and will begin with a comprehensive review of prior French knowledge. Everyone should take this course unless you have had great difficulty in French in the past, as it will cover the same grammar as the applied grade 9 course. This course will explore French culture through a variety of topics including French Speaking countries and regions (including Quebec and Francophone regions of Canada!), food, music, film and other popular culture.

MTH1WI MATHEMATICS | Destreamed

This course enables students to consolidate, and continue to develop, an understanding of mathematical concepts related to number sense and operations, algebra, measurement, geometry, data, probability, and financial literacy. Students will use mathematical processes, mathematical modelling, and coding to make sense of the mathematics they are learning and to apply their understanding to culturally responsive and relevant real-world situations. Students will continue to enhance their mathematical reasoning skills, including proportional reasoning, spatial reasoning, and algebraic reasoning, as they solve problems and communicate their thinking.

MAT1LB MATHEMATICS | Locally Developed, Essential

This course emphasizes further development of mathematical knowledge and skills to prepare students for success in their everyday lives, in the workplace, in the Grade 10 essential course, and in the Mathematics Grade 11 and Grade 12 Workplace Preparation courses. The course is organized by three strands related to money sense, measurement, and proportional reasoning. In all strands, the focus is on developing and consolidating key foundational mathematical concepts and skills by solving authentic, everyday problems. Students have opportunities to further develop their mathematical literacy and problem-solving skills and to continue developing their skills in reading, writing, and oral language through relevant and practical math activities.

SNC1WI SCIENCE | Destreamed

This course enables students to develop their understanding of concepts related to biology, chemistry, physics, and earth and space science, and to relate science to technology, society, and the environment. Throughout the course, students will develop and refine their STEM skills as they use scientific research, scientific experimentation, and engineering design processes to investigate concepts and apply their knowledge in situations that are relevant to their lives and communities. Students will continue to develop transferable skills as they become scientifically literate global citizens.

Prerequisite: NONE

SNC1LB SCIENCE | Locally Developed, Essential

Reinforcing and strengthening science-related knowledge and skills. Students explore a range of topics including chemical properties, life sustaining processes and electrical circuits.



ELECTIVE COURSES

In addition to taking five compulsory courses, grade 9 students will **select three elective courses**. W-O offers a wide variety of courses for students to choose from. The following chart provides a list of elective courses available to grade 9 students at W-O. Course descriptions are provided below the chart.

Subject	Course Code (Open)
Dramatic Arts	ADA1OI
Music - Instrumental	AMI1OI (with experience)
Music - Instrumental	AMI1OX (beginners)
Music – Vocal	AMV1OI
Visual Arts	AVI1OI
Business - Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset	BEM1OI
Food & Nutrition	HFN1OI
Healthy Active Living	PPL1OI (all genders)
Healthy Active Living	PPL1OX (female)
Healthy Active Living	PPL1OY (male)
Technology & the Skilled Trades: Introduction to Technology	TAS1OI
Introduction to Computers & Media	TEJ1OI
Exploring Manufacturing & Design Technology	TMJ1OI

ADA1OI DRAMATIC ARTS | Open

This course emphasizes the active exploration of dramatic forms and techniques, using material from a wide range of authors, genres and cultures. Students will construct, discuss, perform, and analyze drama and then reflect on the experiences to develop an understanding of themselves, the art form, and the world around them.

AMI1OI MUSIC INSTRUMENTAL | Open - with experience

This course develops performance skills for woodwind, brass or percussion players. It assumes that the student has played a concert band instrument **for at least one full year**, either privately or in elementary school. Students will play as a class, in small groups and occasionally as soloists. The course teaches students how to read and write musical notation, how to listen to and analyze music, and how to put music into a context.

AMI1OX MUSIC INSTRUMENTAL | Open - beginners

This course teaches beginning performance skills for students that would like to play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. **No previous musical experience is required.** Students will select an instrument, learn to play as a class, in small groups and occasionally as soloists. The course teaches students how to read and write musical notation, how to listen to and analyze music, and how to put music into a context.

AMV1OI MUSIC VOCAL | Open

This course provides instruction and performance opportunities **for beginning and experienced vocalists** alike. Students will be encouraged to find their voice as they experience a variety of styles and techniques. Vocal coaching will be provided at the class, ensemble and solo level. The course teaches students how to read and write musical notation, how to listen to and analyze music, and how to put music into a context.

AVI10I VISUAL ARTS | Open

If you want to have an opportunity to express yourself creatively through various techniques and materials, such as acrylic paint, graphite, pastel, pencil crayon, pen & ink and clay-- this is the course for you! Together, we will learn how to use the elements and principles of design to improve our artwork. Major assignments include: a clay sculpture, a portrait drawing & painting, a landscape painting, collage and a pencil crayon drawing. We will improve our art vocabulary and learn to critique artwork. We will learn about various artists and movements along the way in this hands-on, studio-focused course. This course is a great foundation to senior level art courses.

BEM10I BUSINESS - BUILDING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET | Open

In this course, students will learn what makes an entrepreneur thrive and the skills required to succeed in today's business environment. Students will begin to develop their own entrepreneurial mindset, and learn why it's important to take initiative, adapt to change, find creative solutions, and understand the financial considerations of entrepreneurship. This hands-on course will use business software and applications to help students plan and develop their entrepreneurial ideas and learn how to present them to a target audience. Throughout the course, students will enhance their communications skills as well as develop and refine their project management skills, including goal setting, time management, and networking.

HFN10I FOOD AND NUTRITION | Open

This course introduces students to various agriculture and food preparation practices. Students will participate in a number of hands-on projects that may include plant or animal propagation; production, maintenance, harvesting and preparation activities. Students will also explore the environmental impact of a variety of food choices at the local and global levels in relation to sustainability, new agricultural trends, and research in the food industry. The course provides students with opportunities to develop food production and preparation skills, as well as introduces them to research and design methods in the areas of agriculture and nutrition.

PPL10I HEALTHY ACTIVE LIVING | Open - All Genders

This course is for students of all genders. This course focuses on less competitive recreation and leisure concepts with an emphasis on leadership, cooperative games, and healthy active living.

PPL10X HEALTHY ACTIVE LIVING | Open - Female

This course emphasizes regular participation in a variety of enjoyable physical activities that promote lifelong healthy active living. Students will learn movement skills and principles, ways to improve personal fitness and physical competence, and safety and injury prevention. They will investigate issues related to healthy sexuality and the use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and will participate in activities designed to develop physical, communication, and social skills.

PPL10Y HEALTHY ACTIVE LIVING | Open- Male

This course emphasizes regular participation in a variety of enjoyable physical activities that promote lifelong healthy active living. Students will learn movement skills and principles, ways to improve personal fitness and physical competence, and safety and injury prevention. They will investigate issues related to healthy sexuality and the use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and will participate in activities designed to develop physical, communication, and social skills.

TAS10I TECHNOLOGY & THE SKILLED TRADES: INTRODUCTION TO TECHNOLOGY | Open

This hands-on course enables students to further explore the engineering design process and develop other technological knowledge and skills introduced in earlier grades. Students will design and safely create prototypes, products, and/or services, working with tools and technologies from various industries. As students develop their projects to address real-life problems, they will apply technological concepts such as precision measurement, as well as health and safety standards. Students will begin to explore job skills programs and education and training pathways, including skilled trades, that can lead to a variety of careers.

TEJ10I INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS & MEDIA FOUNDATION | Open

This hands-on course blends creativity with circuitry, giving you a taste of both Computer Engineering and Communications Technology. One half of the course focuses on tech skills like building circuits, soldering, and programming Arduinos. The other half explores media design—creating stickers, using Photoshop, making animations, recording audio, and trying out photography. Each week, students choose their own project, picking from tech and media challenges that match your interests. If you like building, designing, experimenting, or creating, this course is your chance to explore both sides of tech and discover what you love most!

TMJ10I EXPLORING MANUFACTURING & DESIGN TECHNOLOGY | Open

This hands-on course lets students build on their foundational tech skills while exploring two exciting areas: Manufacturing and Technological Design. In Manufacturing, students tackle projects using technical drawing, materials, machining, and welding. In Technological Design, they create products inspired by Engineering and Architecture, using industry-standard software, tools, and equipment. Along the way, students develop awareness of environmental and societal impacts and explore pathways to further education and careers in technology.

