



LAST DAY
of
EIGHTH
GRADE

STUDENT-ATHLETE PATHWAY TO A UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE

Your priorities in Grade 8 – u13/u14

Note: For students who have a desire to attend university in the future the 'Academic' stream/courses is a must.

- **October** – Applications to Regional Programs such as Arts, Sports and International Baccalaureate. Schools that offer these programs will host evening information sessions and have specific application deadlines. Please visit the individual school website for specific application requirements.
- **November** - Elementary students will have an opportunity to visit their home secondary school. You may decide that you are interested in attending a secondary school that is different to your home school. There may be an opportunity to transfer to another secondary school if there is space in that school. Information about schools that are open to transfers is available in late November or early December.
- To be considered for a transfer, you must complete the Transfer Request form available through the office in your elementary school. Please note this is a separate process than applications to regional programs.
- **December/January** - A good time to begin exploring the course selection and begin to think about the optional courses available at your secondary school.
- **February** - Generally the deadline for Grade 9 Course Selection. Every grade 9 student gets to select two optional courses.
- Students to select to pursue either an 'Academic' or 'Applied streams. To attend university in the future the 'Academic' stream/courses need to be selected.

Applied	Academic
<p>Applied courses emphasize practical and hands-on learning, with abstract reasoning incorporated where appropriate. Applied courses in grades 9 and 10 prepare students for college preparation courses in grades 11 and 12. If the student plans to attend college in the future, entering the applied stream is recommended.</p>	<p>Academic courses emphasize theory and abstract reasoning, with practical learning incorporated where appropriate. Academic courses in grades 9 and 10 prepare students for university preparation courses in grades 11 and 12. If the student plans to attend university in the future, entering the academic stream is recommended.</p>

- **March/April** - You'll be asked to verify the courses you have selected. At this point, you will have an opportunity to make any necessary changes to your Grade 9 course selection.
- **May/June** - Enjoy your final days as an elementary student. Your secondary school may offer additional activities or events for you to become more familiar with your new school or you may wish to schedule another visit on your own.
- Now is the time to consider what community involvement opportunities may be available to you over the summer. Once you have completed grade 8, you may begin to accumulate your 40 hours of community involvement that is a secondary school graduation requirement.

What do you need to graduate from high school?

18 compulsory credits

Students must earn the following compulsory credits to obtain the Ontario Secondary School Diploma:

4	credits in English (1 credit per grade)*
3	credits in mathematics (1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
2	credits in science
1	credit in Canadian history
1	credit in Canadian geography
1	credit in the arts
1	credit in health and physical education
1	credit in French as a second language
0.5	credit in career studies
0.5	credit in civics

In addition, students must complete:

✓	12 optional credits†
✓	40 hours of community involvement activities
✓	the provincial literacy requirement

Plus one credit from each of the following groups:

1	Group 1:
	• English or French as a second language**
	• a Native language
	• a classical or international language
	• social sciences and the humanities
1	• Canadian and world studies
	• guidance and career education
	• cooperative education***
	Group 2:
1	• health and physical education
	• the arts
	• business studies
	• French as a second language**
1	• cooperative education***
	Group 3:
	• science (Grade 11 or 12)
	• technological education
1	• French as a second language**
	• computer studies
	• cooperative education***

* A maximum of 3 credits in English as a second language (ESL) or English literacy development (ELD) may be counted towards the 4 compulsory credits in English, but the fourth must be a credit earned for a Grade 12 compulsory English course.

** In groups 1, 2 and 3, a maximum of 2 credits in French as a second language can count as compulsory credits, one from group 1 and one from either group 2 or group 3.

*** A maximum of 2 credits in cooperative education can count as compulsory credits.

† The 12 optional credits may include up to 4 credits earned through approved dual credit courses.