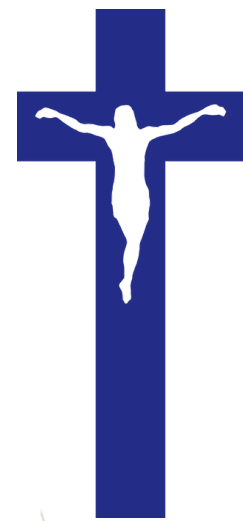


# PATHWAYS *to* SUCCESS



## Student Transition Guide

PLANNING FOR GRADE 9



Peterborough Victoria  
Northumberland and Clarington  
Catholic District School Board



being CREATIVE



being WELL



being COMMUNITY

# Welcome Message from the Director



## FOR STUDENTS

You have spent the last eight to ten years in elementary school, and it is now time to move to secondary. This is a very exciting time for you and as your Director of Education, I want to assure you that you will be well supported and cared for. Each Catholic secondary school has wonderful teachers and staff who will accompany you on your journey and ensure you reach your God-given potential. For example, Guidance staff will help you with course selections and Chaplaincy team leads will guide you in your faith and support you with any challenges you may be experiencing.

Reach out to a caring adult who will assist you at any time. We want you to become involved in your school community because we know that when you are engaged, you will be more successful in the areas of academics and well being. Each Catholic secondary school offers an extensive orientation program for Grade 8 students making the transition to Grade 9. There are also co-instructional activities such as clubs and teams that include athletics, social justice and many excursions.

We wish you all the best as you begin this exciting next chapter in your life!

God bless.

## FOR PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)

We want to thank you the parent(s)/guardian(s) for entrusting us with the responsibility of educating your child in one of our Catholic secondary schools. We take this responsibility seriously and we will do everything we can to ensure your child feels welcomed and cared for.

We encourage you to remain involved in your child's secondary school. There are opportunities for you to join the Catholic School Council, volunteer with fundraisers and attend information sessions. We have a shared responsibility to provide your child with a safe and inclusive learning environment and I assure you we will do our part in ensuring that your child graduates exemplifying the Ontario Catholic School Graduation Expectations.

We look forward to welcoming your child and will be proud to educate them for the next several years in the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington Catholic District School Board. We wish you and your child a successful transition as they begin their Catholic secondary school journey.

God bless.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen O'Sullivan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephen O'Sullivan  
Director of Education

Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington Catholic District School Board



The Lord gives each of us a vocation, a challenge to discover the talents and abilities we possess and to put them at the service of others.

POPE FRANCIS

# Table of Contents

Catholic Graduate Expectations	4
Faith in Action	5
Your Support System	6
Mental Health and Well-Being	7
Graduation Requirements	8
How Course Codes Work	10
How to Read Your Timetable	11
myBlueprint	12
Individual Pathways Plan (IPP)	13
Course Planner	14
Pathways and Course Types in Grades 9 and 10	15
Looking Ahead to Grades 11 and 12	16
Indigenous Education	17
French as an Additional Language	18
Programs for Multilingual Learners	18
Special Education with PVNCCDSB	19
SecondarySchool Terms and Definitions	20
Life in Secondary School	22
Our Secondary Schools	23

# Catholic Graduate Expectations

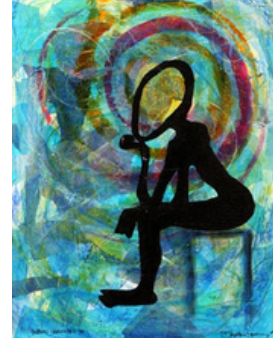
The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGEs) inform the teaching and learning in all PVNCCDSB classrooms and highlight the holistic nature of education at PVNCCDSB. These guides help you to focus on growing as a person and developing interpersonal skills while taking courses in particular content areas. The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations are designed to meet your educational needs and the development of the whole person, incorporating elements of faith across the curriculum. Graduates of PVNCCDSB schools are:



**Discerning believers** formed in the Catholic Faith community who celebrate the signs and sacred mystery of God's presence through work, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection and moral living.



**Effective communicators** who speak, write and listen honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel values.



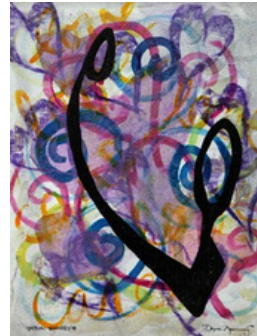
**Reflective, creative, and holistic thinkers** who solve problems and make responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good.



**Self-directed, responsible, lifelong learners** who develop and demonstrate their God-given potential.



**Collaborative contributors** who find meaning, dignity and vocation in work that respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.



**Caring family members** who attend to family, school, parish, and the wider community.



**Responsible citizens** who give witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life.

# Faith in Action

Catholic education is part of the mission of the Church - to continue the teaching, healing, and guiding work of Jesus. The partnership between Home-School-Parish creates a dynamic community where young Catholics learn about our rich heritage, religious culture, tradition, ministry, teachings, and faith. In the ministry of Catholic education, we are committed to embracing the virtues and practices that allow us to grow in relationships with God and others. Opportunities abound inside and outside the classroom for you to put faith into action and reflect on Catholic Social Teachings:

- **Human Dignity** – Chaplaincy team leaders work alongside staff at each secondary school to support the intrinsic dignity and faith life of students through masses, prayer services, retreats, social justice activities, etc.
- **Community and the Common Good** – food drives, spirit days and events, fundraising for Terry Fox, etc.
- **Peace** – anti-bullying initiatives, Christian Meditation, fundraising for international peace efforts, etc.
- **Dignity of Work** – raking leaves, shoveling snow, volunteering at a soup kitchen, etc.



Image credit: Pearson Canada

Growing in Faith Growing in Christ Program

- **Care for People who are Poor and Vulnerable** – Poverty awareness initiatives, social advocacy groups, the Development and Peace schools program, etc.
- **Participation in Society** – retreat teams, liturgical support, social justice teams, etc.
- **Stewardship of Creation** – Eco-clubs, waste audits, school ground greening opportunities, etc.
- **Rights and Responsibilities** – Truth and Reconciliation events, student government, etc.
- **Solidarity** – affinity groups and multicultural clubs, cultural experience trips, connecting with representatives from the global south, etc.

# Your Support System

Entering secondary school is an important milestone in your life. You will be in a new environment, but you are not on your own. There are many people who make up the team to help you along the journey.

**Link Crew** - Each of our secondary schools has a Link Crew comprised of student leaders and teachers. Link Crew leaders are Grade 11 and 12 students who act as positive role models, motivators, and student mentors helping guide grade 9 students to discover what it takes to be successful during your transition to secondary school. The Link Crew will be the first students and teachers you will meet on orientation day and are available if you have questions and need to talk to someone. Link Crew schools report having greater school connection, increased extracurricular participation, fewer discipline issues, and improved academic performance.



**Guidance Teachers** Educators in the Guidance department are available to assist you with planning your educational pathway, career plans and course selections. They are also available to help you with personal concerns and guide you to other professionals as needed.

**Student Success Teachers** You will likely have already met these teachers when they visited your elementary school. They are available to help you with your transition to secondary school. They monitor your progress and organize support when needed.

**Chaplaincy Team Leader** Chaplaincy Team Leaders offer you spiritual support and pastoral care. They facilitate personal and communal growth in body, mind and spirit in the context of our Christian faith and support the faith journey of students, families and the community. These school leaders provide opportunities to share in liturgical celebrations, retreats, community service, social action, parish engagement, support groups and spiritual conversations.

**Special Education Resource Teachers (SERT)** SERTs support classroom teachers in the monitoring and implementation of your Individual Education Plan (IEP). They work with you, your parent(s) / guardian(s), and your teachers to ensure that your specific learning needs are met.

**School Administrators** Principals and vice principals are responsible for ensuring safe and secure schools. They are available to assist you and your parent(s) / guardian(s).

# Mental Health and Well-Being

Graduating from Grade 8 and coming to secondary school is a big change. You are probably feeling a lot of different emotions and we want you to know that this is totally normal. Usually after a week or two, our students are pretty settled and comfortable in their new routine.

Your mental health and well-being is very important to us at PVNCCDSB. We encourage our students to take care of yourselves by engaging in healthy activities that make you feel good. Make connections inside and outside of school, join activities that interest you, have fun, get enough sleep, eat as well as you can. There are lots of things you can do to promote your personal wellness, and we encourage you to make yours a priority.

Sometimes things get tough, and you might start to feel like you're struggling. If you ever feel that way while you are a student in our secondary school, you can let your Guidance Teacher, someone in the office, a trusted teacher or any other staff member know and they will help connect you with someone who can help.

We have lots of different people in our schools who have special training to work with young people on matters related to mental health and well-being:

- **Social Workers** - There is one assigned to each secondary school. They can meet with students to help with whatever is going on and they can also connect students to other supports, if needed.
- **Mental Health and Addiction Nurses** - Our social workers can tag in one of these special nurses to help students who would benefit from a more medical focus.
- **Community Mental Health Workers** - We have partnership agreements with local youth mental health organizations who can come in to help when needed.



Sometimes our students need help that goes beyond what we can offer in our schools. When this happens, our social workers can help you connect with community agencies that can help. You can also check out our Being Well Portal at [beingwell.pvnccdsb.on.ca](http://beingwell.pvnccdsb.on.ca).

Our Being Well Portal allows you to search for local community organizations that are able to help with any number of different challenges. There are also special links identified by role (e.g. Students) where you can find resources, information and links to documents that we have put there in case you need them! This portal is updated regularly so the content changes from time to time. Check back as often as you like or need.

PVNCCDSB is committed to promoting the mental health and well-being of all members of our school community. You are not alone. Your school has people here every day who want, and know how, to help.

# Graduation Requirements

## Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

To graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), you must successfully complete the following 30 credits:

CREDITS	SUBJECT
4	Religion
4	English (1 credit per grade)
3	Mathematics (Grade 9, Grade 10, and 1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
2	Science
1	Technological Education Credit (Grade 9 or 10)
1	French
1	Canadian History (Grade 10)
1	Canadian Geography (Grade 9)
1	The Arts
1	Physical & Health Education
0.5	Civics
0.5	Career Studies
	You must also earn <b>one</b> credit from the following STEM-related course group
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Business Studies</li><li>• Computer Studies</li><li>• Cooperative Education</li><li>• Mathematics (in addition to the 3 compulsory credits above)</li><li>• Science (in addition to the 2 compulsory credits above)</li><li>• Technological Education (in addition to the 1 compulsory credit above)</li></ul>
	In addition to the compulsory credits, you must complete the following:
13	Elective credits, e.g. Travel and Tourism, French, Physical Education, Arts credits, etc. and the provincial literacy requirement through the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) or the Literacy Course (OSSLC) and the financial literacy graduation requirement as part of the Grade 10 math course. and 40 hours of Community Involvement and you must earn 2 online learning credits



In Ontario, all high school students must complete two eLearning courses to graduate. This requirement, outlined on the ministry's website, (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/online-learning-secondary-students>), aims to equip students with essential digital literacy skills and provide them with greater flexibility and choice in their learning pathways.



## Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC)

The Ontario Secondary School Certificate will be granted upon request to students who leave school before earning the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). The OSSC requires the completion of 14 credits.

CREDITS	SUBJECT
2	English
1	Mathematics
1	Science
1	Canadian Geography or Canadian History
1	Arts, Computer Studies or Technological Education
1	Physical & Health Education
7	Elective credits including 1 required Religion credit per year and other courses such as Business, Food and Nutrition, Technology, additional Arts credits, etc.

### Certificate of Accomplishment

Students who are leaving secondary school upon reaching the age of eighteen without having met the requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma or the Ontario Secondary School Certificate may be granted a Certificate of Accomplishment.

The Certificate of Accomplishment may be a useful means of recognizing achievement for students who plan to take certain kinds of further training or who plan to find employment directly after leaving school.



# How Course Codes Work

The **first three** characters identify the **course** with the **first** letter indicating the **curriculum**

- A = Arts
- B = Business
- C = Canadian and World Studies
- E = English
- F = French
- G = Guidance and Career Education
- H = Humanities and Social Sciences
- L = International Languages
- M = Mathematics
- P = Physical Education
- S = Sciences
- T = Technology

The **fourth** character identifies the **grade**

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

The **fifth** character identifies the course **type**

- C = College
- D = Academic
- E = Workplace
- L = Locally Developed
- M = College/University
- O = Open
- P = Applied
- U = University
- W = Destreamed Grade 9







The **sixth** character, when it is a capital letter, is used by schools to distinguish **course characteristics**, e.g. **F** for French Immersion (if the sixth character is a small letter, it refers to the course section you are in - see [How to Read a Timetable](#))

# How to Read Your Timetable

<p>At secondary school, the school year is divided into two semesters</p>	<p>You will take 4 courses per semester for a total of 8 courses per year</p>	<p>Each secondary school has its own specific class times and may have four or five periods, one lunch period or two</p>	<p>There are a few minutes of travel time between classes - the specific amount of travel time will vary across schools</p>
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PERIOD	SEMESTER 1 SEPTEMBER - JANUARY	SEMESTER 2 FEBRUARY - JUNE
Period 1 8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	HRE10a Religion Religion Teacher Room #	FSF1Dc French French Teacher Room #
Period 2 9:50 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.	CGC1Wb Geography Geography Teacher Room #	ENL1Wf English English Teacher Room #
Lunch 11:05 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.		
Period 3 11:50 a.m. - 1:05 p.m.	MTH1Wd Math MathTeacher Room #	AMU10a Music Music Teacher Room #
Period 4 1:10 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.	PL10c Physical Education Physical Education Teacher Gym	SNC1We Science Science Teacher Room #

 Course Code  
 Subject  
 Teacher  
 Room



## When do I get my timetable?

You can access your classes through the **Edsembli** student portal, which will be activated in late August. Instructions on student and parent portal activation will be sent out in August.

## How do I find my classes?

Secondary schools hold an orientation day run by the Link Crew in late August. This day will allow you to become more familiar with your new school.

# myBlueprint

In elementary school, you would have created a myBlueprint account. This account is available to you from Grades 7 - 12 to help you explore career opportunities, plan for secondary school courses, and record Individual Pathways Plans. MyBlueprint is a web-based tool designed to help you explore and reflect on your courses and pathway through secondary school. You will continue to use myBlueprint throughout secondary school to help you plan and prepare for your initial post-secondary destination.

By logging into myBlueprint, you can access assessment tools, occupation profiles, and post-secondary education information. You can view a course planner tool that allows you to select secondary school courses, track graduation requirements, and plan for your future.

Login to myBlueprint by going to  
[myBlueprint.ca/pvnccdsb](https://myBlueprint.ca/pvnccdsb)

The image displays two screenshots of the myBlueprint web application. The left screenshot shows the login page with a 'Welcome Back' message, a 'School Account Log In' button, a 'QR Code Login' button, and a login form with fields for 'Username/Email' and 'Password', along with a 'Log In' button and a 'Forgot Password?' link. The right screenshot shows the dashboard for a user in Grade 9. It features a dark blue sidebar with navigation options: Home, Who Am I, High School, Continuing Education, Post-Secondary, Work, Money, Guides, and Favourites. The main content area is titled 'High School' and includes a 'Plan' tab and a 'Courses' tab. Below this is a 'High School' section with a table of courses for Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. The table has columns for 'Grade 9 Current Year', 'Grade 10 Next Year', 'Grade 11 Plan Ahead', and 'Grade 12 Plan Ahead'. The 'Grade 10' column is highlighted in blue. The table lists various subjects like English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, Arts, French, Health and Physical Ed., and Religion, with radio buttons next to each subject in each grade column. To the right of the table is a 'Graduation Indicator' section showing '0/30 REQUIRED CREDITS' and a progress bar. Below this are three boxes for 'Planned', 'Earned', and 'Total' credits, all showing '0'. A 'View Progress' button is located below these boxes. At the bottom right, there is a 'Pathway Eligibility' section with a lock icon and the text 'Add more course(s) to unlock Post-Secondary Eligibility'.



# Individual Pathways Plan (IPP)

There are many decisions you will make throughout your secondary school career to support the career path that is right for you. The Individual Pathways Program is a four-step inquiry process that encourages you to explore who you are, take advantage of opportunities that present themselves, and be able to set and plan goals for your future. In elementary school, you would have created an Individual Pathways Plan and started reflecting on the following four questions:



You will continue to reflect and reassess your pathway throughout secondary school so that you establish a clear plan for your initial post-secondary destination, be it apprenticeship training, college, university, community living, or the workplace. There will be school staff to help you along the way as you regularly revisit the four questions to provide guidance in course selection and strategies for success and career planning. Staff are here to help you gain greater knowledge of yourself and your opportunities so you can successfully shape your future.

# Course Planner

Now that you know your graduation requirements and have considered your Individual Pathways Plan, you can use the chart below to plan out your specific courses.

GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
Religious Education	Religious Education	Religious Education	Religious Education
English	English	English	English
Math	Math	Math	1 course from STEM related course group (Grade 11 or 12)
Science	Science	1 course from STEM related course group (Grade 11 or 12)	5 or 6 electives*
Canadian Geography	Canadian History	4 or 5 electives*	
French	Civics & Career Studies		
Technological Education (Grade 9 or 10 year)	Technological Education (Grade 9 or 10 year)		
1 or 2 electives*	1 or 2 electives*		

\*examples of electives include the Arts (Drama, Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Media Arts, Visual Art), Business, Food and Nutrition, Hairstyling, Physical Education, Technology (such as Communication, Construction, Transportation), etc.

# Pathways and Course Types in Grades 9 and 10

After Grade 9, you may choose from a wider variety of course types. Speak to your Guidance Teacher if you have any questions as these teachers are an excellent source of information on pathway choices.

## Open/Destreamed Courses

- focus on developing skills for further study in the subject area
- broaden students' knowledge and skills in subjects that reflect their interests
- prepare students for further study in the subject area rather than a specific post-secondary destination

## Locally Developed Courses

- focus on enhancing essential skills in a particular subject area
- reinforce the elementary school curriculum expectations to provide the skills necessary for further study in secondary school
- prepare students for apprenticeship and the workplace

## Academic Courses

- develop students' knowledge and skills through the study of theory and abstract problems while incorporating practical applications as appropriate
- focus on the essential concepts of a subject and explore related concepts as well
- prepare students for university, college, apprenticeship, and the workplace

## Applied Courses

- focus on the essential concepts of a subject
- develop knowledge and skills through practical applications and concrete examples
- allow opportunities to experience hands-on applications of concepts and theories
- prepare students for college, apprenticeship, and the workplace

## K-Courses

- non-credit courses which focus on alternative curriculum and individualized expectations



### **In Grade 10, do all of my courses have to be in the same pathway?**

No. Choose the types of courses that best suit your interests and future plans. You can choose a variety of course types

### **Can I change pathways?**

Yes. As long as you have the prerequisite for the course you want to take, you can change pathways. Talk to a Guidance Teacher for help in planning your schedule.

### **What if I have questions about changing courses?**

For questions related to your courses or your timetable, make an appointment with your Guidance Teacher who will help you adjust your timetable so each semester is balanced.

# Looking Ahead to Grades 11 and 12

## **Cooperative Education (Coop)**

In Grades 11 and 12, you can choose between co-op during the day, co-op after school, and co-op during the summer. This flexibility allows you to gain real-world experience in an opportunity that best suits your interests and academic priorities.



## **Dual Credit Courses**

In a dual credit course, you will earn a college credit at the same time as your secondary school credit. For example, in construction class you might do a plumbing or an electrical course, in hairstyling you might do a manicure course, or in cooking class you might do a global cuisine course. There are many more options including photography, welding, marketing, ecosystem skills, Indigenous studies, technical math and more.



## **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)**

The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) allows students to explore and work in apprenticeship occupations starting in Grade 11 or Grade 12 through the Cooperative Education program. You have an opportunity to become registered apprentices and work toward becoming certified journeypersons in a skilled trade while completing your secondary school diploma. The Focused Apprenticeship Skills Training (FAST) is an accelerated stream within OYAP ("OYAP-FAST") that will allow students in Grades 11 and 12 to participate in more apprenticeship learning through additional co-operative education credits while completing their OSSD. For more information about our OYAP program please see our [OYAP](#) page.



## **Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM)**

SHSM programs allow you to stay focused on a special interest as you work toward graduating from secondary school. Possible areas of specialty offered at your secondary school are Agriculture, Arts and Culture, Aviation and Aerospace, Construction, Environment, Health and Wellness, Hospitality and Tourism, Information and Communication Technology, Justice, Manufacturing, Transportation, Sports Excellence and Athletic Leadership. In an SHSM program, you will choose courses that match your interest, meet people from industry, achieve certifications that will help you build an amazing portfolio and do a co-op placement to help you gain authentic experience. When you complete all of the SHSM requirements, you will earn a SHSM seal on your diploma, recognized by industry and post-secondary schools.



To learn which SHSM programs are offered at your secondary school and to view videos of student SHSM stories, visit our [SHSM](#) page.



We invite parents/guardians of students, and students over the age of 18, with any degree of Indigenous ancestry to self-identify. It is a way for parents/guardians and students 18 years or older to inform the Board that a student is of First Nation, Métis or Inuit ancestry. For more information see [Voluntary Self- Identification – brochure](#). A Google form is also available for submission [here](#). First Nation, Métis and Inuit students will have access to programs, leadership opportunities and post-secondary pathways, bursaries and scholarships.



Self-identification helps to support student achievement, well-being and the development and provision of support programs and services (such as student success and advocacy).

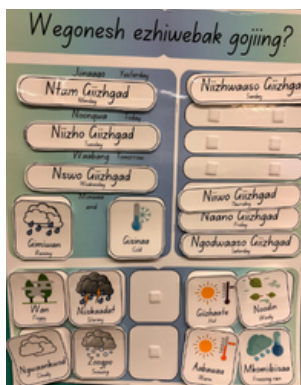


### Indigenous Spaces

[PVNCCDSB](#) supports Indigenous Student and Ally spaces. Currently, there are three secondary schools with dedicated spaces: Holy Cross Secondary, St. Peter Secondary and St. Mary Secondary. These spaces support Indigenous student community and provide safe space and opportunities for cultural programming and support.

### Indigenous Education

You have opportunities across all grades to build your knowledge and appreciation of First Nations, Métis and Inuit histories, cultures, perspectives and contributions. In Grade 11, you will earn your English credit by taking a course titled Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Metis and Inuit Voices. For information on the curriculum and other course possibilities, please visit [A Parent’s Guide to First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Studies Grade 9 - 12](#).



### Anishinaabemowin Language Program

Anishinaabemowin language classes are offered in two secondary schools, St. Peter Secondary and Holy Cross Secondary. These classes provide an opportunity for Indigenous and non Indigenous students to earn a secondary language credit in Anishinaabemowin while also exploring cultural traditions rooted in the language

[Indigenous Education within PVNCCDSB](#) is supported through the Indigenous Education Team.

# French as an Additional Language

At our secondary schools in PVNCCDSB, you will continue to develop your skills in French. All of our French courses focus on helping you to become a confident communicator through authentic tasks. You will also learn about important cultural elements as a part of all French courses. If you have completed French Immersion through to Grade 8, you are able to continue in the French Immersion program in secondary school. If you successfully complete 10 courses (4 language courses and 6 additional credits) in the French Immersion Program, you will receive a French Immersion certificate when you graduate.



If you complete four French language courses in Core French or French Immersion, you can choose to challenge the “Diplôme d’études en langue française” (DELF) exam after completing or while enrolled in a Grade 12 French Language class, to demonstrate your French-language skills. The DELF is an official diploma awarded by France’s Ministry of Education which offers an international recognition of your French proficiency, acknowledged in 173 countries. Your DELF certification is valid for life.



Contact the Modern Languages Department

at your school regarding eligibility for DELF. For more information on the DELF exam, please visit the website, <https://destinationdelf.ca/>.

## Programs for Multilingual Learners

Multilingual learners are supported in PVNCCDSB schools in a variety of ways. As a multilingual learner, you will have the opportunity to develop your skills in English while learning the curriculum.

We offer English as a Second Language (ESL) and English Literacy Development (ELD) courses at your secondary schools when there is a need. We also offer individualized support to Multilingual Learners and their teachers. Teachers work together to ensure that you are able to learn to the best of your abilities and develop your skills in using and understanding the English Language. If you are still developing your English skills, you may complete some ESL or ELD course credits before completing ENG credits. Up to three ESL or ELD credits may replace English courses and count towards your graduation requirements. You will need one Grade 12 English credit in order to graduate with your OSSD. To learn more about the ESL and ELD courses and pathways, visit

<https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/curriculum/sec-esl-eld>.

# Special Education with PVNCCDSB

In a commitment to Being Creative, Being Well and Being Community, PVNCCDSB strives to ensure equitable and inclusive learning environments that identify and remove barriers to student achievement, participation, and well-being. We are committed to classrooms with a Universal Design for Learning that ensure all learners can access and participate in meaningful and challenging learning opportunities.



## What are IPRCs and Individual Education Plans (IEP)?

The Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) can be made up of the school principal, school staff, a parent/guardian, a family representative (to speak on behalf of you and/or your family) and an interpreter if one is required. The IPRC comes together to decide if there is a special education exceptionality, identify the areas of the exceptionality, and decide on appropriate placement. An IPRC must be done at least once every school year. When a special education exceptionality is identified, an IEP will be developed for you. You might have already gone through the IPRC process in elementary school and already have an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

An IEP indicates specific learning expectations and outlines the accommodations, program modifications and / or alternative programs as well as specific instructional (e.g. specific teaching strategies), environmental (e.g. preferential seating) and assessment strategies (e.g. assistive technology). The IEP is an evolving document that is adjusted with ongoing assessment and evaluation.

Your IEP will include:

- specific educational expectations;
- an outline of the special education program and services that you will receive;
- a statement about the methods by which your progress will be reviewed; and
- for students 14 years and older (except those identified as exceptional solely on the basis of giftedness), a plan for transition to post-secondary school activities, such as work, further education, and community living.

As you move into secondary school, you will continue to be involved in decisions about your own learning. It is important that you continue to develop an understanding of yourself as a learner and develop effective ways to communicate your strengths and needs to your teachers. These self-advocacy skills are critical to practice and develop in secondary school.

If you have questions about your IEP, you can speak with your classroom teacher and/or the Special Education teacher at your school.

Your parent or guardian might also be interested in the Special Education Guide for Parents and Guardians that further explains the IPRC process: <https://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/SES-A-Guide-for-Parents-and-Guardians-2022.pdf>

# Secondary School Terms and Definitions

## Community Involvement Hours

You must complete 40 hours of volunteer work outside of school as a [graduation requirement](#) for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). You can begin working toward these hours in the summer going into your Grade 9 year. You can find further information on the PVNCCDSB [website](#).

## Credit

A credit value of 1.0 is granted upon successfully completing a full-semester course. You need 14 credits to graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC) and 30 credits to graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

## Compulsory Course

A course that you must take to fulfill your [graduation requirements](#).

## Course Code

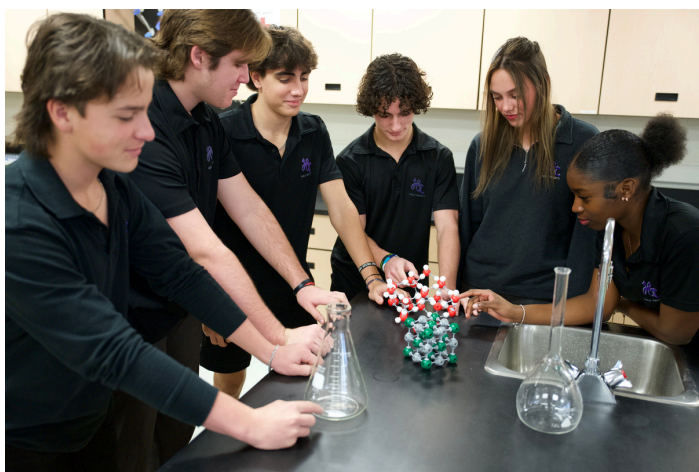
This 5 or 6-character code describes the subject, grade and pathway of a high school course. See [How Course Codes Work](#) for more information.

## Deep Inquiry Learning

Deep Inquiry Learning projects usually take the form of solving a community problem, seeking answers to student-posed questions, and/or taking actions to support existing charitable organizations. Students who have had rich Deep Inquiry Learning experiences improve their foundational academic skills in the process and are better prepared to thrive in dynamic post-secondary endeavours.

## Elective Courses

Electives are courses you choose that are of specific interest to you and which count toward your graduation requirements.



## **EQAO Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics**

The Assessment of Mathematics is written in Grade 9. Depending on when you have Math, it is written in either January or June.

## **EQAO Literacy Test (OSSLT)**

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is written in Grade 10. Successful completion of the OSSLT is a requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

## **Exams**

Some courses have an exam at or near the end of the semester. An exam is designed to assess your knowledge and understanding of the work from the duration of your course.

## **Co-Instructional Activities**

These are activities that you can participate in outside of your regular classes. In secondary school, there is a wide variety of extracurricular activities you may be interested in including special interest groups, music, sports, drama and student government. Speak to your Link leader, teachers and pay attention to school announcements for more information.

## **Pathways**

There are several pathways through secondary school: Apprenticeship, College, Community, University and Work. You can choose courses from a variety of pathways based on your own interests and your post-secondary plans.

## **Prerequisite Course**

Prerequisite refers to a specific course that you must complete successfully before taking a further course in the next grade.

## **Semester**

The school year is divided into two halves called semesters. Semester 1 runs from September to January and Semester 2 runs from February to June. You will take four courses in each semester.

## **Timetable**

A timetable outlines the course, time, room number, lunch period, teacher and semester in which you will take all of your courses.

# Life in Secondary School

## Will I be wearing a uniform?

Yes. PVNCCDSB secondary school students wear uniforms that can be purchased through [McCarthy's](#). Each school has its own specific uniform and uniform colours. You will also have a uniform for your Physical Education class.

## Will I have a locker?

The school will assign a lock and a locker to you to use for the year. Tip: Keep your valuables at home and do not share your locker combination with others.

## What supplies do I need for school?

You should have one binder per class along with lined paper as well as pens and pencils. Math classes require a scientific calculator and graph paper. If a course requires a textbook, it is provided and must be returned at the end of the semester.

## How much homework can I expect?

Homework will vary from class to class, but you should count on doing at least one hour of homework each day.



# Our Secondary Schools



## HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

1355 Lansdowne Street West  
Peterborough, ON  
K9J 7M3  
Phone: (705) 748-6664  
Fax: (705) 742-1498

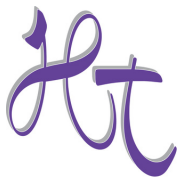
<https://www.hccss.ca>



## ST. PETER CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

730 Medical Drive  
Peterborough, ON  
K9J 8M4  
Phone: (705) 745-1358  
Fax: (705) 745-5025

<https://www.spcss.ca>



## HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

2260 Courtice Road  
Courtice, ON  
L1E 2M8  
Phone: (905) 404-9349  
Fax: (905) 404-9372

<https://www.htcss.ca>



## ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

300 Scugog Street  
Bowmanville, ON  
L1C 6Y8  
Phone: (905) 623-3990  
Fax: (905) 623-9991

<https://www.sscss.ca>



## ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

260 Angeline Street South  
Lindsay, ON  
K9V 0J8  
Phone: (705) 878-4117  
Fax: (705) 878-4059

<https://www.stacss.ca>



## ST. MARY CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

1050 Birchwood Trail  
Cobourg, ON  
K9A 5S9  
Phone: (905) 372-4339  
Fax: (905) 373-4529

<http://www.smcss.ca>



## Vision

Creating a culture of faith, hope and love to ensure equity and well-being.

## Mission

To accompany our students as we strive for excellence in Catholic Education. We educate students in faith-filled, loving, safe, inclusive schools to develop the God-given abilities of each person.

PETERBOROUGH VICTORIA NORTHUMBERLAND AND  
CLARINGTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
1355 Lansdowne Street West  
Peterborough, Ontario K9J 7M3

Phone: (705) 748-4861

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1-800-461-8009

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[www.pvnccdsb.on.ca](http://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca)

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