



St. Mary Catholic Secondary School

Welcome to Grade 9



Requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma

- **30 Credits** (18 compulsory and 12 elective courses)
- **Provincial Literacy Requirement** (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test – Spring of Grade 10)
- **40 hours of Community Service** (Starting as early as the summer after Grade 8)
- **2 Elearning Credits** (opt out option is available -see Guidance for details)

Course Types & Pathways

Grade 9 and 10

Academic (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students learn the essential concepts of a subject and explore related materials • Emphasis is on theory and abstract thinking as a basis for future learning • Students are creative and like to research and problem-solve • Students are independent learners with good to excellent learning skills • Students who do well in Grade 9 Academic have generally performed in the Level 3-4 range • most direct route toward studies at university
Destreamed (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available for Grade 9 Math (MTH1W1), Science (SNC1W1) and English (ENL1W1) • Supports students in having every opportunity to pursue the pathway of their choice
Applied (P) (as of Sept 2022, Grade 10 courses only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develops students' practical knowledge and skills • emphasizes concrete/hands on applications relates to familiar real-life situations • Students are more dependent learners, preferring discussions, teacher-directed or teacher-guided learning and real-life applications • Students who do well in Grade 9 Applied have generally performed in the Level 2-3 range • most direct route toward studies at college
Locally Developed (L)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intended for students who require extensive program support and who are planning to enter the workplace once they leave high school * The Program Support department will contact parents whose children have been recommended for these courses by their Elementary school.
Open (O)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open level courses are offered for students at all levels of academic abilities and learning needs and strengths • Expectations are designed to be appropriate for all students
Alternative (K)* (Non-Credit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative, non-credit courses focus on independent learning skills • Special Education classes designed specifically for Functional Life Skills students

Decoding the Course Code

e.g. SNC1W1 = Science, Grade 9 (Destreamed)			
First 3 characters identifies the subject e.g. SNC= Science	4th character identifies the grade e.g. 1 = Grade 9	5th character identifies the course level e.g. W = Destreamed	6th character identifies specialty course e.g. 1 = regular course F = French Immersion A = Pre-Advanced Placement

Course Options (Grade 9)

Compulsory (Choose One from each grouping)

Elective (Choose One from entire list below)

English	ENL1W1 (destreamed) ENG1L1 (locally developed) ESLAO1/ELDAO1*: English as a Second Language (open) Pre-Advanced Placement English begins in Grade 10	Arts <i>Students are encouraged to complete their one compulsory Arts credit in Grade 9 or Grade 10</i>	ADA101: Drama (open) AMI101: Instrumental Music – (open) AMV101: Vocal Music (open) ATC101: Dance (open) AVI101: Visual Arts (open)
French	FSF1D1 (academic) FSF1O1 (open – limited or no experience)		
Geography	CGC1D1 (academic)	Business	BTT101: Information and Communication Technology (open)
Math	MTH1W1 (destreamed) MAT1L1 (locally developed) Pre-Advanced Placement Math begins in Grade 10 GLS1OM*(Ultimate Potential Math – registration form required)	Program Support	GLE101/GLS101*: Learning Strategies (open) KALBNS*: Creative Arts for Enjoyment & Expression KGLBNS*: Personal Life Skills KGWBNS*: Exploring the World of Work
Science	SNC1W1 (destreamed) SNC1L1 (locally developed)	Technology	TIJ101: Exploring Technologies (open) TTJ101: Exploring Transportation Technologies (open)
Phys. Ed/ Health	PPL1O3 (open - female) PPL1O4 (open - male) PAF1O3 Yoga and Pilates (open - female)		
Religion	HRE1O1 (open)		

*Specialized courses that require consultation with Guidance Counsellor, Program Support Teacher, and/or ESL Teacher. **Subjects may vary each year**

French Immersion Program: Grade 9 students must take **FOUR** courses in French (French, Geography, Physical Education and Religion). Students with 3800 hours of French should choose French Immersion (FIF1DF).

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
French Immersion (FIF1DF)	French (FIF2DF)	French (FIF3UF)	French (FIF4UF)
Religion (HRE1OF)	Religion (HRE2OF)	Religion (HRT3MF)	*Religion (HRE4MF) may be taken in French, if desired and/or available
Geography (CGC1DF)	History (CHC2DF or CHC2PF)		
Phys. Ed (PPL1OF female or PPL1OG male)			

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Late January** – Guidance Counsellors visit Grade 8 classes to discuss Course Selection
- February** – Course Selection via myBlueprint & Activity Fees due
- Spring** – Transition meetings with Program Support for student with IEPs
- Late August** – DCDSB “High School Head Start” (3-day Introduction to Gr 9 program)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Please visit: stmary.dcdsb.ca > Guidance
 - **Transitioning to High School**
 - **Course Levels and Calendars**
 - **Pathway Programs** (information on Secondary School)
 - **Getting Ready for Post-Secondary** (information on Apprenticeship, Community Living, College, University and Workplace)
- **Call a St. Mary Guidance Counsellor:** 905-420-7166 x56020

