**** **St. Mary Catholic Secondary School**

**Welcome to Grade 9**

**Requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma**

* **30 Credits** (17 compulsory and 13 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 available)

**Compulsory Credits**

You need the following 17 compulsory credits to get your OSSD:

* 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade)
* 3 credits in mathematics (Grade 9, Grade 10 and 1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
* 2 credits in science
* [1 credit in technological education](https://www.ontario.ca/page/skilled-trades-ontario-schools#section-2) (Grade 9 or Grade 10)
* 1 credit in Canadian history (Grade 10)
* 1 credit in Canadian geography (Grade 9)
* 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 and citizenship
* 1 credit from the [STEM-related course group](https://www.ontario.ca/page/earning-your-high-school-diploma#stem-related-courses-group) (Business, Computer Studies, Coop, Math, Science, Tech)

**Electives**

13 Electives can be chosen from the school course calendar each year

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| 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 |

**Decoding the Course Code**

**Course Options (Grade 9)**

**Compulsory Elective**

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| **English** | **ENL1W1** (destreamed)  **ENG1L1** (locally developed)  **ESLAO1/ELDAO1**\*: English as a Second Language (open)  **Pre-Advanced Placement English begins in Grade 10** | **Arts**  *Students are encouraged to complete their one compulsory Arts credit in Grade 9 or Grade 10* | **ADA1O1**: Drama (open)  **AMI1O1**: Instrumental Music – Beginner (open)  **AMV1O1**: Vocal Music (open)  **ATC1O1**: Dance (open)  **AVI1O1**: Visual Arts (open) |
| **French** | **FSF1D1** (academic)  **FSF1O1** (open – no or limited experience) |
| **Phys. Ed/ Health** | **PPL1O3** (open - female)  **PPL1O4** (open - male)  **PAI1O3** Fitness & Pilates (open - coed) |
| **Geography** | **CGC1W1** (destreamed) |
| **Program Support** | **GLE1O1/GLS1O1\*:** Learning Strategies (open)  **KGWBNS**: Exploring the World of Work  **KHIBNS**: Culinary Skills  **KTTBNS**: Computer Skills  **KENBNS**: Language & Communication Development  KGWBNS |
| **Math** | **MTH1W1** (destreamed)  **MAT1L1** (locally developed)  **Pre-Advanced Placement Math begins in Grade 10** |
| **Science** | **SNC1W1** (destreamed)  **SNC1L1** (locally developed) | **Technology**  *Students must complete their tech credit in Gr 9 or 10* | **TAS1OC**: Tech Communications & Computers (open)  **TAS1OS**: Tech Shop |
| **Religion** | **HRE1O1** (open) |

**\****Specialized courses that require consultation with Guidance Counsellor, Program Support Teacher, and/or ESL Teacher.*

**French Immersion Program:** Grade 9 students must take minimum **THREE** courses in French (French, Geography, and Religion). **Students are strongly encouraged to complete Phys Ed in French in Grade 9.** Students with 3800 hours of French should choose French Immersion (FIF1DF).

“Typical” French Immersion selection:

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| 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 |
| **Geography (CGC1WF)** | **History (CHC2DF)** |  |  |
| **Phys. Ed (PPL1OF female or PPL1OG male)** |  |  |  |

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| **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 |