



Date/School Year: 2024/2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

The St. Mary CSS's Canada and World Studies/Social Sciences Department (CWS/SS) is offering a **Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) in the Non-profit Sector**. The Non-Profit, Education & Childcare SHSM is a program initiated by the Ontario Ministry of Education and works in conjunction with the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. St. Mary's Non-profit SHSM started in September 2012 **and focuses on faith and leadership in helping to make a positive difference in both our school community and internationally**. This SHSM program is for students who want to make a difference.

Whether in the fields of art, culture, education, the environment, education, healthcare, social development, numerous career paths are available to students who share the same vision in being a difference maker in their community. Grade 10 students will be able to join the Non Profit SHSM team early in semester two during course selections. Students are encouraged to sign up early as space will be limited. The St. Mary Non-profit SHSM program takes place during grade 11 and grade 12.

Students who successfully complete the following requirements will receive a red seal of recognition on their high school diploma:

- Four Major CWS/SS credits (ex. Grade 11 Law, Geography, History, Religion...)
- Three other required credits in English, mathematics and a choice of business or science
- Two cooperative education credits tied to the sector
- Seven sector-recognized certifications and/or training courses/programs (ex. First Aid, CPR)
- Experiential learning to help students get work experience(s) outside the classroom
- Reach ahead experiences to help students with postsecondary plans
- Completion of the Ontario Skills Passport to help develop strong work habits and essential skills.

The Non-profit SHSM students have participated/attended in reach ahead activities with organizations like Development and Peace, L.I.N.K (Liberty in North Korea), The Rose of Durham, Scott Mission, the Canadian Jesuits International, the Ottawa Senators & Toronto FC. Non-profit SHSM students brought and sorted donations to the Canadian Food for Children warehouse in Mississauga and Christmas Outreach. A few years ago we opened one of the first High School food banks in Ontario called The St. Mary Mission. Our students also helped organize four successful St.MaryCSSTEDx youth conferences.

Students can opt out of the Non-profit SHSM program at any point without penalty if he/she feels that it does not enhance their educational destination pathway. If you would like more information, contact Mr. Stanesic (NPSHSM Lead) at St. Mary CSS (905-420-7166 x56031).

Sincerely,
John Stanesic,
Curriculum Chair of Canada & World Studies/Social Sciences
Lead Teacher for the Non-profit SHSM