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GRADE 9 COURSE CALENDAR SUPPLEMENT 2026-2027

This brochure contains information for grade 9 only. A course calendar outlining the grades 9 – 12 programs is available

Community Involvement Requirements and Procedures

Every student must complete 40 hours of community involvement. Students may start accumulating hours the summer after Grade 8.

Community Involvement - Steps to Take

1. Select volunteer activities. For direct assistance contact:

- Kitchener Volunteer Action Centre (519-742-8610)
- Website: <https://volunteerwr.ca/>

2. In consultation with parents, contact the person or organization where you plan to volunteer.

3. Track your hours on the [CHCI Activity Tracking Form](#).

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test – Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course

All students who entered grade 9 in the 2000 - 2001 school year or in subsequent years must successfully complete the Ministry literacy requirement in order to earn a Secondary School Diploma. This may be accomplished by either successfully passing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC). The standard method for assessing the literacy skills of students in Ontario for purposes of meeting the literacy requirement for graduation is the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. Normally, students will be administered the literacy test when they are in grade 10. The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course has been developed to provide students who have been unsuccessful on the test with intensive support in achieving the required reading and writing competencies, and with an alternative means of demonstrating their literacy skills.

Online Learning Graduation Requirement

Beginning with students who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-21 school year, all students must earn at least two online learning credits as part of the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), unless they have opted out or been exempted. Parents who wish to opt out or exempt their child from the online graduation requirement must complete the opt-out form available from their child's school board.

Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement

Starting in 2025, students must complete a new financial literacy graduation requirement as part of their Grade 10 math course to demonstrate practical skills and proficient application of knowledge in financial literacy skills. Students will be able to create and manage a household budget, save for a home or asset and protect themselves from financial fraud.

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

In order to earn an OSSD a student must:

- Earn 30 credits (17 compulsory and 13 optional)
- Complete two E-Learning courses
- Complete 40 hours of community involvement activities
- Successfully complete the provincial secondary school literacy requirement
- Successfully complete the provincial secondary school financial literacy requirement

REQUIRED CREDITS:

- 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade)
- 3 credits in Mathematics (one in Grd 11 /12)
- 2 credits in Science
- 1 credit in the Arts
- 1 credit in Canadian Geography (Grd 9)
- 1 credit in Canadian History (Grd 10)
- 1 credit in Technology Education (Grd 9 or 10)
- 1 credit in Health and Physical Education
- 0.5 credit in Career Studies
- 0.5 credits in Civics
- 1 credit in French as a second language
- 1 STEM related course group credit
- 13 Electives

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GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**Definition of a Credit**

A credit is recognition of the successful completion of a course for which a minimum of 110 hours is scheduled. A credit is granted to a student by the principal of a secondary school on behalf of the Minister of Education.

Course Coding System

The course code consists of a course title and a six-character code: The first five characters are designated by the Ministry of Education and Training. The sixth character is determined by the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Code Characters	Explanation	Example - ENL 1WI
1st, 2nd, and 3rd	Subject discipline of the course in letters	"ENL" English
4th	Grade level as a number "1" grade 9 "2" grade 10 "3" grade 11 "4" grade 12	"1" grade 9 or first year
5th	Type of course as a letter "D" Academic "O" Open "W" Destreamed	"W" Destreamed course
6th	Board designated character that indicates credit value or may be used to differentiate between courses with similar codes	"I" – Non IB Course "W" – IB Course

Students in grade nine will take a program of eight courses, five compulsory and three elective.

COMPULSORY COURSES (5)**Canadian and World Studies (Geography)**

CGC1WI De-streamed

English

ENL1WI De-streamed

ENL1WW De-streamed (IB Students)

French

FSF1DI Academic

FSF1DW Academic (IB Students)

Mathematics

MTH1WI De-streamed

Science

SNC1WI De-streamed

ELECTIVE COURSES (3)

ADA1OI - Dramatic Arts

AMI1OI - Instrumental Music

AMU1OI - Vocal/Guitar Music

ATC1OI - Dance

AVI1OI - Visual Arts

BEM1OI - Business

HIF1OI - Exploring Family Studies

ICD2OI - Digital Technology and Innovations (Grade 10)

PPL10X - Healthy Active Living Education (Females) *

PPL10Y - Healthy Active Living Education (Males) *

PPL1OI - Healthy Active Living Education (All Gender) *

TAS1OI - Technology and the Skilled Trades

TEJ1OI - Exploring Computer Technology

GLE1OI - Learning Strategies 1 (student must have IEP)

* Highly recommended

Important:

It is extremely important to select the correct type of course now because it is very difficult and, in most cases, impossible to change course types after the start of the school year.

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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CGC1WI

Geography of Canada, De-Streamed

This course builds on learning in Grades 7 and 8 in geography. Students will explore relationships within and between Canada's natural and human systems and how they interconnect with other parts of the world. Students will also examine environmental and economic issues, and their impact related to topics such as natural resources and industries, careers, land use and responsible development, and sustainability. In addition, students will understand the connections that diverse communities and individuals have with the physical environment and each other throughout Canada, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives. Students will apply geographic thinking, use the geographic inquiry process, and use geospatial technologies throughout their investigations

ENL1WI/ENL1WW

English, De-Streamed

This course emphasizes analytic reading, writing and communication, and thinking skills that students need for success in secondary school and their daily lives. Students will study and interpret texts from contemporary and historical periods, including short stories, poems, and short essays, and will investigate and create media works. An important focus will be the correct and effective use of spoken and written language. Students are required to use a writing portfolio

FSF1DI/FSF1DW

Core French, Academic

This course emphasizes the further development of oral communication, listening comprehension, reading and writing skills. Students will expand their ability to understand and speak French through short conversations and presentations. Students will write simple sentences and mini paragraphs and will read brief descriptions, letters, dialogues and short passages.

MTH1WI

Mathematics, De-Streamed

This course enables students to consolidate, and continue to develop, an understanding of mathematical concepts related to number sense and operations, algebra, measurement, geometry, data, probability, and financial literacy. Students will use mathematical processes, mathematical modelling, and coding to make sense of the mathematics they are learning and to apply their understanding to culturally responsive and relevant real-world situations. Students will continue to enhance their mathematical reasoning skills, including proportional reasoning, spatial reasoning, and algebraic reasoning, as they solve problems and communicate their thinking.

SNC1WI

Science, De-Streamed

This course enables students to develop their understanding of concepts related to biology, chemistry, physics, and earth and space science, and to relate science to technology, society, and the environment. Throughout the course, students will develop and refine their STEM skills as they use scientific research, scientific experimentation, and engineering design processes to investigate concepts and apply their knowledge in situations that are relevant to their lives and communities. Students will continue to develop transferable skills as they become scientifically literate global citizens.

ADA1OI

Dramatic Arts, Open

This course emphasizes the active exploration of dramatic forms and techniques, using material from a wide range of authors, genres, and cultures. Students will construct, discuss, perform and analyze drama, and then reflect on the experiences to develop an understanding of themselves, the art form, and the world around them.

ATC1OI

Dance, Open

This course gives students the opportunity to explore their technical and compositional skills by applying the elements of dance and the tools of composition in a variety of performance situations. Students will generate movement through structured and unstructured improvisation, demonstrate an understanding of safe practices with regard to themselves and others in the dance environment, and identify the function and significance of dance within the global community.

AMI1OI

Instrumental Music, Band, Open

This course emphasizes the performance of music at level that strikes a balance between challenge and skill and is aimed at developing technique, sensitivity and imagination. Students will participate in creative activities that teach them to listen with understanding. They will also learn correct musical terminology and its appropriate use. Students will perform as a class and in small groups and will be encouraged to participate in an extra-curricular ensemble.

AMU1OI

Vocal/Guitar Music, Open

This course is aimed at building a wide range of musical literacy through learning, or continuing to learn, both guitar and voice techniques. Students will use the creative process during independent and group performances, composition tasks, as well as a range of reflective and analytical activities. Students will develop an understanding of the conventions and elements of music and of safe practices related to music, and will develop a variety of skills transferable to other areas of their life.

AVI1OI

Visual Arts, Open

This course offers an overview of visual arts as a foundation for further study. Students will become familiar with the elements and principals of design and the expressive qualities of various materials through working with a range of materials, processes, techniques and styles. They will learn and use methods of analysis and criticism, and will study the characteristics of particular historical art periods and a selection of Canadian art and art of other cultures.

BEM1OI

Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset, Open

In this course, students will learn what makes an entrepreneur thrive and the skills required to succeed in today's business environment. Students will begin to develop their own entrepreneurial mindset, and learn why it's important to take initiative, adapt to change, find creative solutions, and understand the financial considerations of entrepreneurship. This hands-on course will use business software and applications to help students plan and develop their entrepreneurial ideas and learn how to present them to a target audience. Throughout the course, students will enhance their communications skills as well as develop and refine their project management skills, including goal setting, time management, and networking.



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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (CON'T)

PPL10X (Females) PPL10Y (Males) PPL10I (All Gender)

Healthy Active Living Education, Open

This course emphasizes students' daily participation in a variety of enjoyable physical activities that promote lifelong healthy active living. Activities include basketball, volleyball, soccer, football, fitness and weight training, swimming and interactive games. Students will learn movement techniques and principles, ways to improve personal fitness and physical competence, and safety/injury-prevention strategies. They will investigate issues related to healthy sexuality and the use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, and will participate in activities designed to develop goal-setting, communication, and social skills.

HIF10I

Exploring Family Studies, Open

Entering the world of grade nine may seem a little overwhelming at times. This course is designed to help students learn to cope with all the new issues that the high school experience encounters and develop life-long skills. Topics include food preparation, communication, relationship skills, money management, career planning, and time management. Students will acquire knowledge and skills that are needed to make the transition to adulthood. Teachers will instruct students in developing interpersonal, decision-making and practical skills related to daily life. Students will explore the functioning of families and the diversities found among families and within society.

GLE10I

Learning Strategies 1: Skills for Success in Secondary School, Open

This course focuses on learning strategies to help students become better, more independent learners. Students will learn how to develop and apply literacy and numeracy skills, personal management skills, and interpersonal and teamwork skills to improve their learning and achievement in school, the workplace, and the community. The course helps students build confidence and motivation to pursue opportunities for success in secondary school and beyond. This is a 1.0 credit course in grade 9 for students with an IEP.

TAS10I

Technology and the Skilled Trades, Open

This hands-on, challenging course gives students the opportunity to explore the engineering design process while developing a variety of technical skills. Students will design and build projects using tools, equipment, and technologies from multiple industries, applying concepts like precision measurement, fabrication, and safe work practices. The course also introduces career pathways in skilled trades and technology, helping students see how their skills can lead to exciting jobs. Past projects have included the Electric Race Car, Trebuchet and Air Motor.

TEJ10I

Exploring Computer Technology

In this course, you'll crack open real computers, take them apart, learn how every piece works, and put them back together like a tech pro. You'll build your coding skills with Python and even become a game creator using LUA to design your own characters and mechanics. On the design side, you'll create awesome buildings in SketchUp and use OnShape to model rocket ships and gadgets. Then comes the best part—you can 3D-print your creations and hold your designs in your hands!

Whether you're into computers, art, engineering, or video games, this class lets you build, design, experiment, and create seriously exciting stuff. Get ready to discover what you can do!

ICD20I

Digital Technology and Innovations in the Changing World, Open

This course helps students develop cutting-edge digital technology and computer programming skills that will support them in contributing to and leading the global economic, scientific and societal innovations of tomorrow. Students will learn and apply coding concepts and skills to build hands-on projects and investigate artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and other emerging digital technologies that connect to a wide range of fields and careers. Using critical thinking skills with a focus on digital citizenship, students will investigate the appropriate use and development of the digital technologies that they encounter every day, as well as the benefits and limitations of these technologies.

International Baccalaureate Studies

Application Phase (Dec 1, 2025 to Jan 9, 2026)

Students interested in the International Baccalaureate Studies Program must apply using the online Application Form by January 9, 2026.

Acceptances

The CHCI IB Admissions Committee will review each application and grant acceptance to those students who qualify in terms of academic record, learning skills and work habits. These students will be notified of their acceptance into the program by email on February 5, 2026. They will also receive instructions for completing their registration.

Confirmation (February 12, 2026)

Students must confirm their seat in the IB Programme by completing and submitting the Acceptance Form to CHCI and notifying their elementary home school by February 12, 2026.

Course Selection - IB Program

A. Compulsory Courses

- English ENL1WW
- French FSF1DW
- Geography CGC1WI
- Mathematics MTH1WI
- Science SNC1WI

B. Elective Courses

All IB students select 3 elective courses. To satisfy ministry diploma requirements, students must choose at least 2 courses from section A. Otherwise, the 3rd choice can be from section A or B.

Section A

ADA10I
AMI10I
AMU10I
ATC10I
AVI10I
BEM10I
PPL10X or PPL10Y or PPL10I
TAS10I
TEJ10I

Section B

ICD20I
HIF10I

