



Welcome to High School

2025-2026



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg People. The Algonquin peoples have lived on this land since time immemorial.

We are grateful to have the opportunity to learn, work and live on this land.



Welcome to West!!



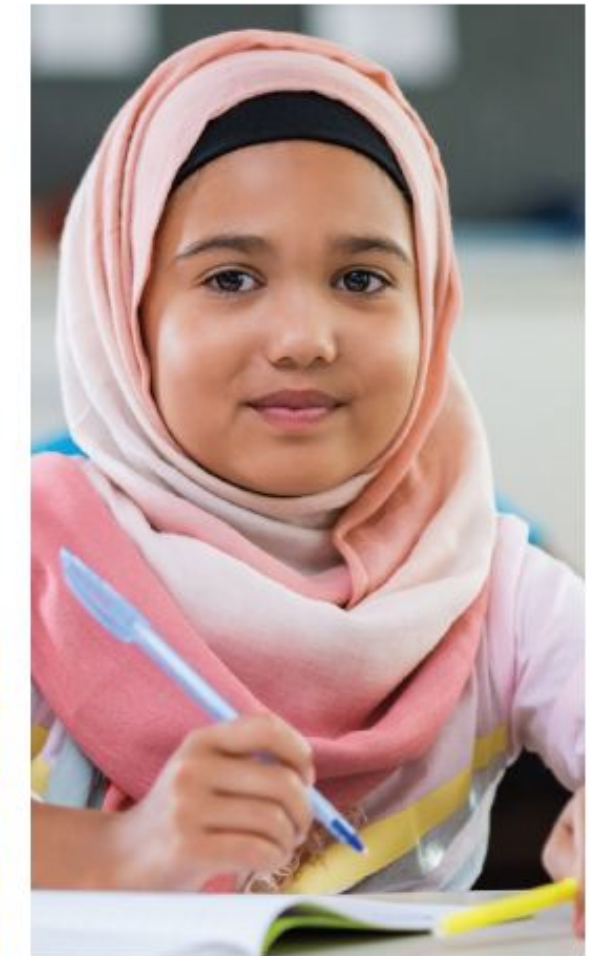
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A Place for Every Student

Students Are Why We Are Here

- We see you, we hear you and **student voices matter**
- Actions to create inclusive schools:
 - OCDSB Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Roadmap
 - Anti-hate Toolkit
 - Identity-based support staff
- We continue to work together to dismantle barriers to learning and help all students achieve success.



OCDSB's Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Roadmap



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Commitment to Equity

Indigenous Education

- Celebrate **Indigenous brilliance** by understanding historical and contemporary realities
- Ensuring Indigenous students have support, opportunities and resources to achieve academic success and personal well-being.



For more information, please contact **Chantel Verner** - System Principal of Indigenous Education (chantel.verner@ocdsb.ca)



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Commitment to Equity

Supporting Black, minoritized, and 2SLGBTQ+ Students

- Building staff awareness and capacity
- Providing student opportunities
- Programming and supports for students
- Increasing engagement and connectedness



*For more information, please contact **Jacqueline Lawrence** - Diversity/Equity Coordinator (jacqueline.lawrence@ocdsb), or **Juliet Robinson** - System Principal of Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Oppression (juliet.robinson@ocdsb.ca)*



Commitment to Equity

Students with Special Education Needs

- Ensuring high learning expectations for all students in all programs while prioritizing the dignity and well-being of students in inclusive classrooms.
- Consider each student's learning strengths, areas of need, work habits, learning skills, and readiness to learn in specific subject areas.



The West Carleton Secondary School Experience

The OCDSB and West Carleton have much to offer your student to discover their pathway and reach their full potential.



The goal tonight is to provide information so you and your student can make informed decisions about course selection for grade 9, but also to show you the many experiences available to them during their high school career. We aim to make the transition from grade 8 to 9 a smooth one.



Admin and Student Support Staff

Principal Mr. Adams

Vice-Principals Mr. Cappello (A - K)

Ms. Malboeuf (L - Z)

Administrative Staff

Ms. Dettmar (Head Office Administrator)

Ms. Partridge

Ms. Riley

Ms. Brown

Ms. Khan

Ms. Nolan

Guidance Staff

Mr. McDougall (A-F)

Ms. Levie (G-N)

Ms. Dickson Rothwell (M -Z) [Dept Head]

Learning Support Teachers

Mr. Toms(Gr 9/10 Students)

Ms. Greatrix (Gr 11/12 Students)

Student Success Teachers

Ms. Langford

Ms Murphy-Burke

Chief Custodian - Mr. Rock(Chief)

OCDSB Social Worker - Mr. Rea

OCDSB Psychologist - Dr. Pecarski

OCDSB Youth Worker - Mr. Dan White

Rideauwood Counsellor - Ms. Lindsay Thompson

Computer Tech - Mr. Jacques Poirier



Department Heads

DEPARTMENT	HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
Coop/Social Sciences/Canadian & World Studies	Ms. Stewart/Ms. Brule
English/Library	Ms. Pindar
Fine Arts/Technology Studies	Ms. Hauch
Languages/Business/Foods & Hospitality	Mr. Mountenay
Mathematics/Computer Science	Ms. Hare
Physical Education/Outdoor Ed/Athletics	Ms. Beaulne
Science	Ms. Lee
Student Service/Learning Support/Student Success/Careers	Ms. Dickson Rothwell



School Life - Academics

Student population of just under 1300 with a wide selection of courses and activities for students

- Prepare students for life beyond high school, whether that is the world of work, a trade, or post-secondary(College or University)
- In addition to the many traditional Academic courses, we also offer Music/Vocals/Band, Musical Theatre, Art, Dance, Drama, Yearbook class, Physical Education, Fitness, Outdoor Education, and Foods

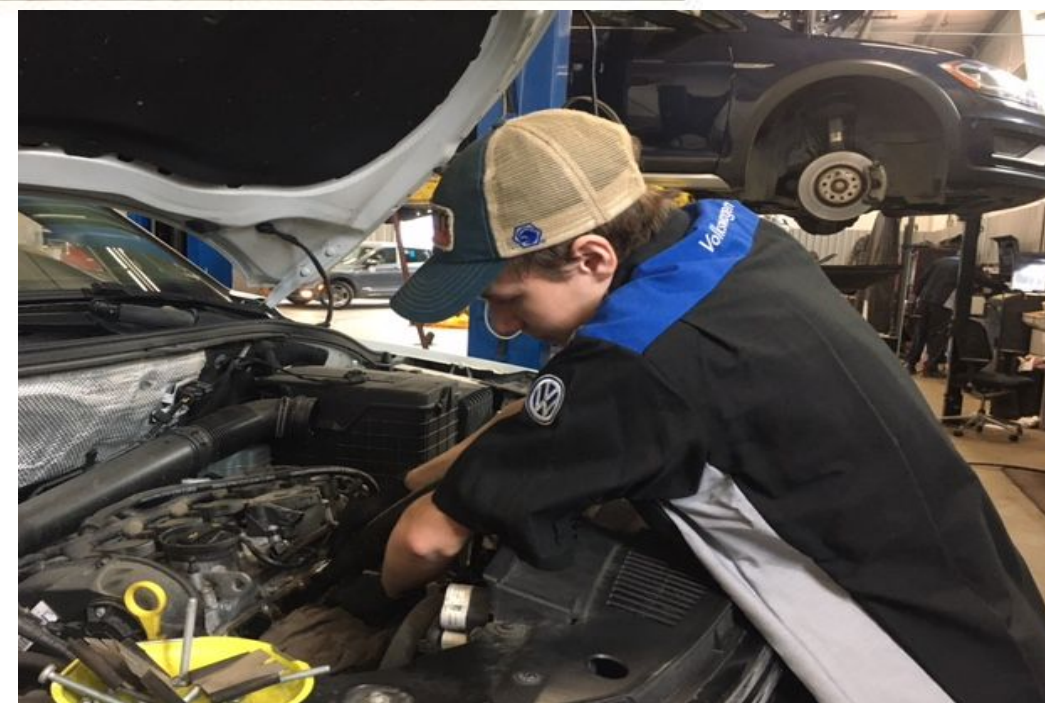
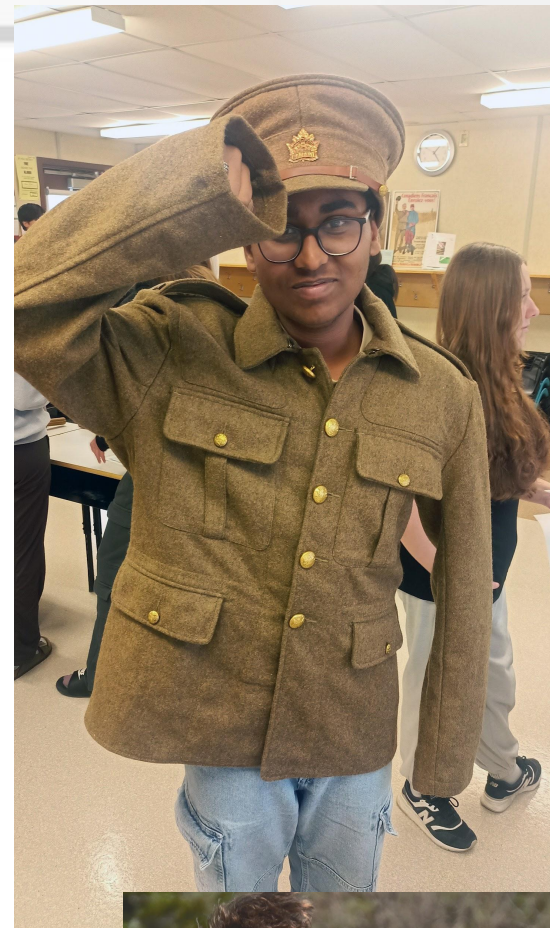


School Life - Academics

- Computer Engineering, Automotive Tech, Construction Tech, Communications Technology, Tech Design, Computer Science, Food and Nutrition, Co-op, SHSM's
- Plus a wide selection of required and elective courses in our other departments: Fine Arts, English, Math, Science, Canadian & World Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities, Languages, and Business



School Life - Academics



School Life - Extracurricular

West is a VERY busy place.... lots for students to get involved in activities beyond their classes!

- Approximately 30 Sports teams, Intramural sports
- Weight Room, Spin Room, Cross-fit Room, 2 Dance/Yoga studios, Music Room
- Band, Choir, Dance Shows, Art Shows, Coffee Houses, and many clubs



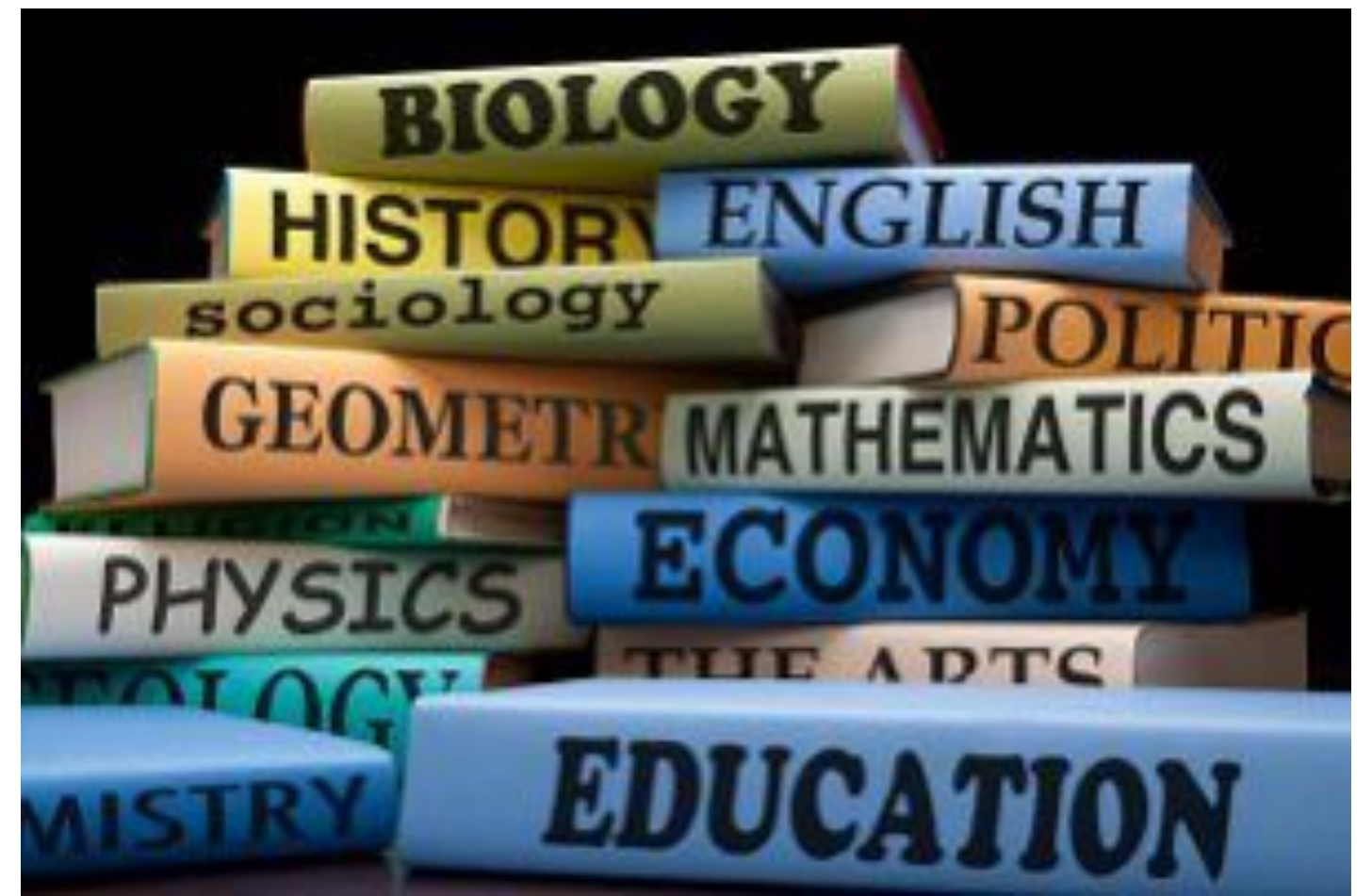
School Life - Extracurricular

- Many of our Student Council and Club activities center around giving to charities. Our last Relay For Life raised over \$100,000.
- Battle of the Grades
- Spirit Weeks



Preparing for Grade 9

Ms Dickson Rothwell Head of Student Services



Transition: Grade 8 to Grade 9

This transition is very important to us; we start the process almost a full year before students start their first day of grade 9:

- Grade 8 Orientation - November/December
- Welcome to High School Information Night - tonight!
- Feeder school visits/course selection - late January
- Transition meetings/IPRCs for students with special learning needs - April/May



Transition: Grade 8 to Grade 9

- Welcome to the first day of grade 9 - Link Crew Activities
- Link Crew activities will continue throughout first semester
- grade 9s will meet their guidance counselor in the first semester and if they have an IEP, their learning support teacher as well



What to Expect in GRADE 9

- Link Crew Activities: Grade 9 Dance, Club Fair, Mental Health Fair etc
- Extra-curricular activities: sports teams, clubs, intramurals etc
- Meeting new people
- More responsibility
- Developing learning skills:
Time management, organization
- Starting to focus on your future pathway



What to Expect in GRADE 9

- 8 classes per year
- 4 classes each semester
- 45 minutes for lunch

1 class = 1 credit

- 75 minute periods, fast pace - ATTENDANCE is very important to ensure academic success, completing homework also key to success
- We are an early start school!



WCSS Daily Schedule

Daily Schedule		DAY 1 (Odd Calendar Days)	DAY 2 (Even Calendar Days)
Period 1	8:00 to 9:15	Period 1	Period 2
Travel Time (15 min)		Period 2	Period 1
Period 2	9:30 to 10:45	LUNCH	LUNCH
LUNCH (50 min)		Period 3	Period 4
Period 3	11:35 to 12:50	Period 4	Period 3
Travel Time (10 min)			
Period 4	1:00 to 2:15		



High School Graduation Requirements

For students who started Grade 9 on or after fall 2024

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

Earned with the successful completion of:

- 30 high school credits (17 Compulsory + 13 Optional)
- 2 of the above credits earned through online learning courses (opt out available)
- 40 hours of Community Involvement Activities
- Provincial Literacy Requirement (OSSLT or OSSLC)
- Provincial Financial Literacy Requirement (part of the Grade 10 Mathematics course)

This Diploma keeps all doors open

Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC)

- Granted on request to students aged 18+ who leave school before fulfilling the requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma
- Requires a minimum of 14 credits.
- This Certificate may be a useful means of recognizing achievement for students who may plan to take additional training, or who plan to find employment after leaving school.
- This Certificate does not lead to college or university.

Certificate of Accomplishment (COA)

- Students who leave school before fulfilling the requirements for the OSSD or the OSSC may be granted a Certificate of Accomplishment.
- There is no credit requirement.
- This Certificate may be a useful means of recognizing achievement for students who plan to take certain adaptive programs, or other kinds of additional training, or who plan to find employment after leaving school.
- This Certificate does not lead to college or university.



OSSD Graduation Requirements

30 Credits - 17 compulsory and 13 elective credits (2 “mandatory” elearning credits)

40 Hours of Community Service

Grade 10 Literacy Test and Financial Literacy Requirement



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Community Service Hours

- Your child can start earning hours as soon as they have completed Grade 8
- Our website has many ideas for hours
- Community service hours must:
 - Be with a **not-for-profit organization** or a **charitable event**
 - benefit the whole community
 - not replace/displace a paid worker
 - Be outside of school time
 - https://www.ocdsb.ca/secondary/the_classroom/community_involvement_hours



Literacy Test/OSSLT

- It's written in your student's Grade 10 year in the semester they have English
- The date cannot be deferred. If your child misses it, they must wait until the next session to write it.



Financial Literacy Requirement

- Will be a part of the grade 10 math curriculum - more details to come
- Financial literacy learning will include:
 - managing a household budget
 - saving for a home
 - learning to invest
 - protecting themselves from financial fraud



Elearning credits

Although it is “mandatory” for students to complete 2 elearning credits as part of their OSSD, you can opt-out if this is in the best interest of your student.

This is 2 of the 30 credits - not an additional 2 credits.

The form to opt-out can be found on the OCDSB website:

<https://forms.ocdsb.ca/Forms/OCDSB-992-Online-Learning-Graduation-Requirement-Opt-out>



Earning 30 credits: Course Planner

[course planner](#)

GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
English	English	English	English
Math	Math	Math	
Science	Science	One additional credit in STEM	
Geography	History		
French	Civic/Careers		
Phys Ed			
Art			
TECH credit in grade 9 or 10			



French Immersion

- 10 of the 30 credits must be in French; this includes the French Immersion course in all 4 grades: FIF1D, FIF2D, FIF3U, FIF4U
- Most of the French credits are available in Grades 9 and 10 so that by the end of Grade 10, immersion students will already have 8 of the 10 required French credits
- If the 6th digit of a course code is F, the language of instruction is French ie. CGC1WF



Types of Courses in Grade 9 and 10

“O” - Open Courses - all electives, ie. AMU10

“D” - Academic/Destreamed Course - ie. FSF1D or FIF1D

“W” - Destreamed Courses - ie. MTH1W, SNC1W, ENL1W, CGC1W

“L” for Locally Developed Courses - in math and English ie. MAT1L or ENG1L



Grade 9 Courses

7 or 8 Compulsory Credits:

English- ENL1W, ENG1L

Math - MTH1W, MAT1L

Science - SNC1W/F

Geography - CGC1W/F

French - FSF1D, FIF1D

Technology - TAS10, TGJ10 **OR Take a Tech course in grade 10**

Phys Ed - PPL1O, PPL1OQ, PPL1OP, PAF1O

Art - AVI1O/F, ATC1O, ADA1O, AMU1O, AMV1O

Business - BEM1O/F

Look up course codes:

[Secondary Course Guide](#)



Course Selection

Grade 8s will be choosing their courses through Course Planner in Xello. They will be working with their grade 8 teachers to complete this important task to be prepared for grade 9.

Course submission opens January 20 for grade 8s. We will choose a due date when we visit JDPS, Huntley and Stonecrest between Jan 27 - 29.

All the submissions need to be completed by Feb 28 when XELLO closes.



Pathway Connected Learning Experiences

Cooperative Education

Students who are at least 14 years old can earn credits while working in the community with community partners.

Dual Credit

Students in Grades 11 or 12 have an opportunity to attend college and explore career and post-secondary opportunities earning a college and a high school credit.

eLearning

Students have the opportunity to learn in an online asynchronous environment supporting the completing of their learning around their unique schedule.

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

Students who are at least 15 years old can earn co-op credits and gain apprenticeship training leading to a Certificate of Qualification with journeyperson in a skilled trade.

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

Students can earn a SHSM designation on their OSSD by exploring career paths through a bundle of specific courses, certifications and connections with industry partners.

Trades and Technology

Students can learn through hands-on, experiential projects and explore interests in different areas of technology.



Continuing Education Programs

- **Elementary Summer School:** Literacy and Numeracy support for students finishing grades 6-8 and preparation for grade 9.
- **Summer School Credit:** A variety of grade 9 to 12 credit courses offered with some credit options for students finishing grade 8. Some COOP credit opportunities for Grade 11-12 students.
- **International and Indigenous Language Credit Programs (Secondary):** Language credit courses are available for Grade 9-12 students running from September to June. *A variety of languages are available.*
- **Specialised Programs:** For specific student groups during the school year and summer such as credit programs for Black Youth, 2SLGBTQ+ Youth, and English Language Learners.
- **Night School Credit:** Two sessions during the school year (Fall/Winter) offering a range of grade 11 and 12 courses.
- **Literacy and Numeracy (non credit):** Our Literacy and Numeracy Programs provide students in Grades 7 - 12 with a supervised opportunity to complete, review, practice and organize their work in order to help them achieve greater success at school.

For more information please visit our website: [OCDSB Continuing Education](#)



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Xello: The Course Selection Tool

Quick Introduction to Xello



Xello is an online tool that students can use to explore career options, build skills, and reflect on how learning connects with career and learning goals. It is also the tool used for course selection.

With Xello your child will:

- **Build Self-knowledge:** Define their interests, skills, preferences, and aspirations so they can explore the opportunities right for them.
- **Explore Options:** Learn about career possibilities and educational pathways by exploring rich, engaging content and lessons.
- **Create a Plan:** Students can create dynamic actionable plans that outline the steps needed to achieve school, career, and life goals.
- **Learn & Reassess:** Interactive lessons help your child develop age appropriate skills and knowledge for success in school and beyond.

Xello: From a student's perspective

- 1 Dashboard
- 2 Lessons
- 3 About Me
- 4 Explore Options
- 5 Goals and Plans



Next Steps

The deadline to complete course selection through Xello/Course Planner will be determined by your grade 8 teacher(s).

We will be posting a copy of this presentation to our website. A link to the secondary course guide can also be found on our website.

If you have questions about course selection, pathways, or graduation requirements, please contact your child's Guidance Counselor:



Guidance Counsellors

Student last names:

A - F - John.McDougall@ocdsb.ca

G - M - Heather.Levie@ocdsb.ca

N - Z - Carmel.Dickson-Rothwell@ocdsb.ca



If your child has an IEP:

Mr Toms and Ms Greatrix, our learning support teachers will be in the Resource Room, 121, for the remainder of the Open House if you have further questions.

Dylan.Toms@ocdsb.ca

Kristin.Greatrix@ocdsb.ca



Registration

If your child is NOT at one of our feeder schools, you will need to register at West for the 2025-2026 school year.

Please fill out the online registration package:

https://ocdsb.ca/new_to_ocdsb/registration

Please note: new registrations do not choose their courses through Xello but will do so during their registration appointment.



Please check our **website** for important information, now, and throughout high school.

<https://westcarletonss.ocdsb.ca/>

- Announcements; information about community service hours, extra-curriculars, post-secondary, scholarships, athletics, etc; link to the Secondary Course Guide; busing/OSTA; school cash online; school council; school calendar

Follow us on Twitter [@WestCarletonSS](https://twitter.com/WestCarletonSS)



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As you tour the school:

- talk to teachers and students about courses available to you in grade 9 and throughout high school.
- Learn about our ICT Specialist High Skills Major
- International Certificate Program - ICP
- Co-operative Education - Co-op teachers and 2 co-op students
- OYAP/Apprenticeships, Dual Credits
- French Immersion/Core French, DELF
- Bouldering in the small gym, volleyball here in the big gym, cross-fit workout in the Fit Studio
- Check out the grade 9 math workbook, science equipment



Thank you. Have a wonderful evening!



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