

HOME OF THE WILDCATS



**WEST ELGIN
SECONDARY
SCHOOL**

**COURSE CALENDAR
2025-2026**

WELCOME TO WEST ELGIN SECONDARY SCHOOL!

“From a tiny spark may burst a mighty flame”

- Dante

West Elgin is a small, but mighty school! We offer a wide range of academic courses and extra-curricular programs that cover a breadth of interests and pathways to post-secondary programs in university and college, apprenticeships, and the workplace. At WESS, all students deserve to experience an educational atmosphere where their individual needs, aptitudes, abilities, rights, and desires are recognized and respected.

There are many benefits to attending a smaller high school. These include:



Having a strong sense of pride for the school amongst the students, staff and community.



Greater opportunities to participate on school teams.



Greater opportunities to develop leadership skills both in and out of the classroom.

We also have many academic programs that provide authentic and valuable learning experiences to prepare our students for success after high school. These include **3 Specialist High Skills Major programs (Agriculture, Environmental Studies, and Information and Communications Technology)**, and Cooperative Education. The hallways of the school are enhanced by many beautiful paintings and murals designed by the students in our Visual Arts program. We also provide our incoming grade 9 students with a strong transitions program including Into the Wild, a two-day retreat with senior leaders to foster positive connections with students and the school. The school has also benefitted from millions of dollars worth of renovations, including a new woodshop, culinary kitchen, library along with upgraded HVAC, lighting and student lockers.



ACADEMIC PLANNING: STEPS TO SUCCESS


A successful high school experience depends on setting and accomplishing short-term and long-term goals. Students should work with their parents, guidance counsellor, and teachers to carefully plan out not only course selections for the next year but for their remaining years at WESS as well. Students are encouraged to follow these suggestions in creating their academic plan:

STEP #1

Discover 

Log onto myBlueprint using your TVDSB “School Account Log In” and password


STEP #2

Complete the  **Who Am I** surveys to help identify your learning style, interests, knowledge, etc...

STEP #3

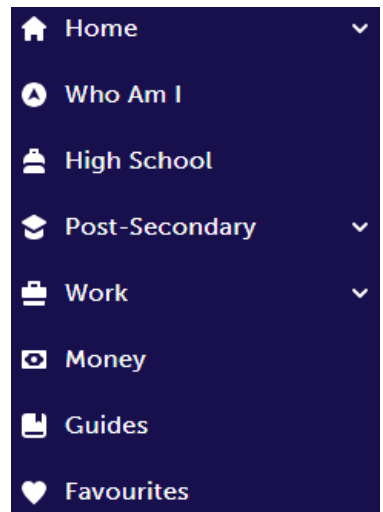
Explore careers, post-secondary programs and course pre-requisites.

STEP #4

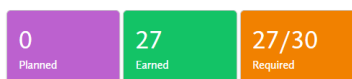
Use the  **High School** planner to explore the courses offered at WESS.

STEP #5

Create your own personalized high school plan! Follow your progress using the “Graduation Indicator” tab



Graduation Progress



ACADEMIC PLANNING: USING THIS BOOK

This course calendar can also be a helpful tool for planning your high school career. Read through the glossy pages at the front and back of the book. These pages outline the programs offered by the Thames Valley District School Board, and help you interpret course codes and Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) requirements.

The **COURSE PLANNING** table on Page 5 can be used to plan and organize your high school course selections. Use this table to develop a multi-year plan that will keep as many options open to you as possible. It is advised that you input all of this information into a myBlueprint plan as myBlueprint will monitor prerequisites, cross-reference admission requirements, and keep track of graduation requirements.

The **COURSE OFFERING SUMMARY** table on Page 6-7 includes all of the courses offered at West Elgin Secondary School. Please note that some courses are offered in alternating years. In these situations it is important that students plan ahead. A Gr.12 elective may need to be completed during a student's Gr. 11 year.

Specific requirements for **SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJORS** are outlined on page 9-11. Read through these requirements to see if these courses appeal to you. More information about SHSM is also available on the inside cover of this book.

Important Planning tips



Look at your grades! Consider your past academic performance and current grades when setting goals and selecting courses.



Choose courses that will challenge **YOU** and strengthen **YOUR** skills. Don't base your course selections on what your friends are taking!



Be sure that you meet any required pre-requisites for each course you select. myBlueprint will inform you if you do not have the required prerequisite.

Choose courses carefully! The school timetable is developed based on the selections made by students. Once the timetable is set, course changes can be extremely difficult.

COURSE PLANNING: Plan and organize your high school course selections.

YEAR 1 – Gr. 9 Gr. 9 Orientation – INTO THE WILD! Get involved! – join a team or club	YEAR 2 – Gr. 10 How many Community Service hours do I have left to complete?	YEAR 3 – Gr. 11 High Skills Major? (see pages 8-10) Work Internship? (see page 11)	YEAR 4 – Gr. 12 CO-OP? (see page 7)	YEAR 5 CO-OP? (see page 7)
<input type="checkbox"/> ENG 1D1 <input type="checkbox"/> ENG 1L1	<input type="checkbox"/> ENG 2D1 <input type="checkbox"/> ENG 2P1 <input type="checkbox"/> ENG 2L1	<input type="checkbox"/> NBE 3E1 <input type="checkbox"/> NBE 3C1 <input type="checkbox"/> NBE 3U1	<input type="checkbox"/> ENG 4U1 <input type="checkbox"/> ENG 4C1 <input type="checkbox"/> ENG 4E1	
<input type="checkbox"/> MAT 1W1 <input type="checkbox"/> MAT 1L1	<input type="checkbox"/> MPM 2D1 <input type="checkbox"/> MFM 2P1 <input type="checkbox"/> MAT 2L1	<input type="checkbox"/> MCR 3U1 <input type="checkbox"/> MCF 3M1 <input type="checkbox"/> MBF 3C1 <input type="checkbox"/> MEL 3E1	1.	
<input type="checkbox"/> SNC 1W1 <input type="checkbox"/> SNC1L1	<input type="checkbox"/> SNC 2D1 <input type="checkbox"/> SNC 2P1 <input type="checkbox"/> SNC 2L1	1.	2.	
<input type="checkbox"/> FSF 1D1 <input type="checkbox"/> FSF 1O1	<input type="checkbox"/> GLC 2O5 (0.5) <input type="checkbox"/> CHV 2O5 (0.5)	2.	3.	
<input type="checkbox"/> CGC 1D1 <input type="checkbox"/> CGC 1P1	<input type="checkbox"/> CHC 2D1 <input type="checkbox"/> CHC 2P1	3.	4.	
<input type="checkbox"/> PPL 1OF <input type="checkbox"/> PPL 1OM	1. Technology? Must be completed by end of Gr. 10.	4.	5.	
<input type="checkbox"/> ADA 1O1 <input type="checkbox"/> AMI 1O1 <input type="checkbox"/> AVI 1O1	2.	5.	6.Optional	
1. Technology? Must be completed by end of Gr. 10.	3.	6.	7.Optional	
7 Compulsory + 1 Elective or Group Credit	5 Compulsory + 3 Elective and/or Group Credits	2 Compulsory + 6 Elective and/or Group Credits	1 Compulsory + 5 Elective and/or Group Credits	

Graduation Requirements:

<input type="checkbox"/> 15 Compulsory Credits	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Technology Credit	<input type="checkbox"/> Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test	<input type="checkbox"/> 40 Hours of Community Involvement
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Compulsory Group Credits.	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Elective Credits	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Literacy Test	

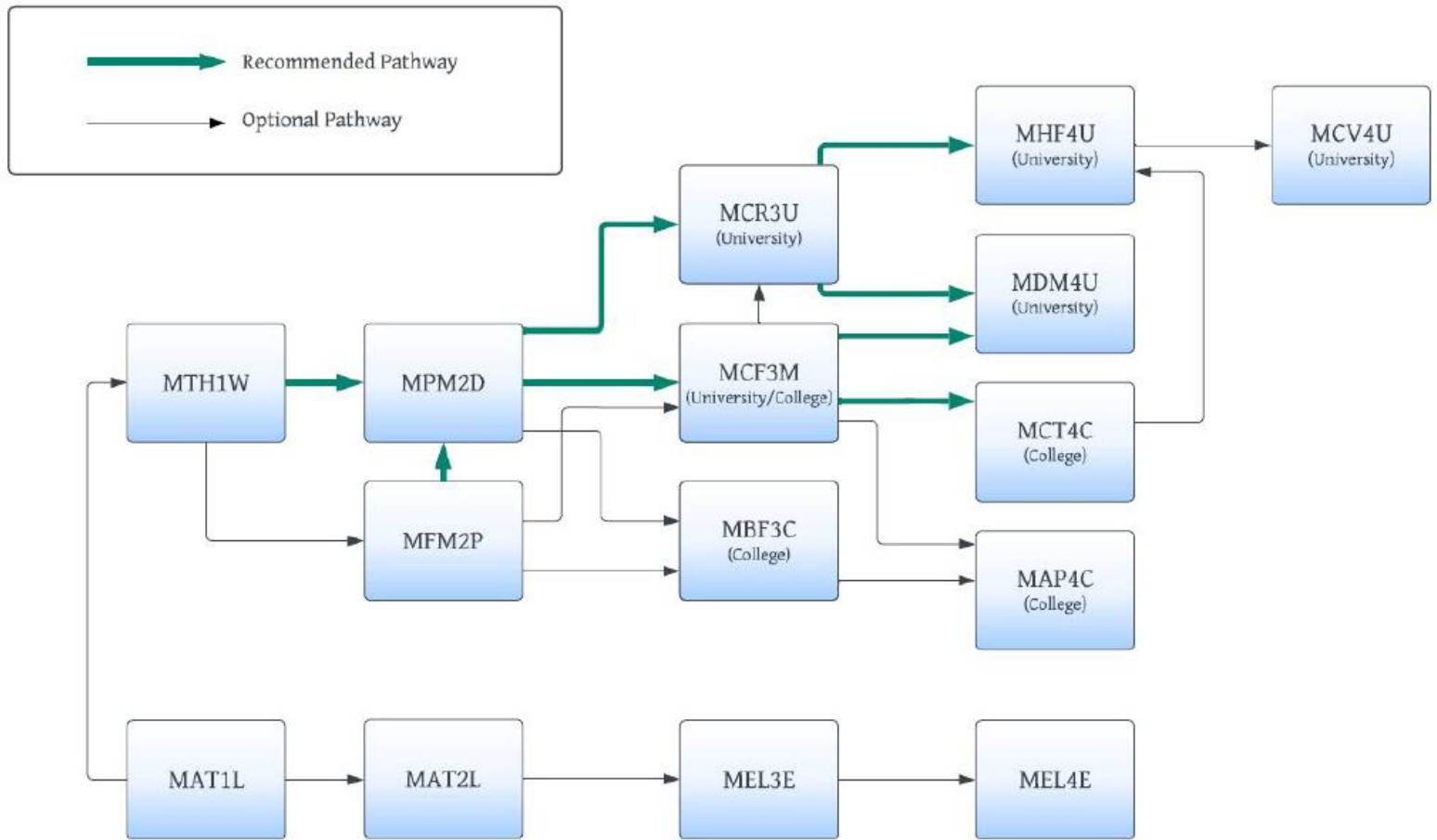
Course Offerings – 2025-2026 School Year

Department	Credit Notes	Subject	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
ENGLISH	A minimum of 4 compulsory credits required. A 5th credit can be used as a Group 1	Compulsory English	ENL1W1 ENG1L1	ENG2D1 ENG2P1 ENG2L1	ENG3U1 ENG3C1 ENG3E1	ENG4U1 ENG4C1 ENG4E1 OLC4O1
		Optional English				EWC4U1
MATHEMATICS	A minimum of 3 credits, 1 must be Gr. 11.	Mathematics	MTH1W1 MAT1L1	MPM2D1 MFM2P1	MCR3U1 MCF3M1 MBF3C1 MEL3E1	MCV4U1 MHF4U1 MDM4U1 MCT4C1 MEL 4E1
SCIENCE	A minimum of 2 credits. An additional senior credit can be used as a Group 3.	Science	SNC1W1 SNC1L1 (25/26)	SNC2D1 SNC2P1 SNC2L1 (26/27)		
		Biology			SBI3U1 SBI3C1 (25/26)	SBI4U1
		Chemistry			SCH3U1	SCH4U1 SCH4C1 (26/27)
		Physics			SPH3U1	SPH4U1 SPH4C1 (25/26)
THE ARTS	A minimum of 1 credit is required. A 2 nd credit can be used as a Group 2	Drama	ADA1O1 (26/27)	ADA2O1 (25/26)	ADA3M1	ADA4M1
		Music	AMI1O1	AMI2O1 AMG2O1	AMI3M1	AMI4M1
		Visual Arts	AVI1O1 (25/26)	AVI2O1 (26/27)	AVI3M1 AVI3O1	AVI4M1
BUSINESS STUDIES	1 credit can be used as a Group 2	Business		BBI2O1	BAF3M1 BDP3O1 (25/26) BMI3C1 (26/27)	BAT4M1
CANADIAN AND WORLD STUDIES	A minimum of 1 credit in Canadian Geography and 1 credit in Canadian History and .5 credit in Civics An additional credit can be used as a Group 1	Civics		CHV2O5		
		Geography	CGC1D1		CGF3M1 (26/27) CGG3O1 (25/26)	CGR4M1 (25/26)
		History		CHC2D1 CHC2P1 CHC2L1 (24/25)	CHA3U1 (26/27) CHW3M1 (25/26)	CHY4U1 (25/26) CHM4E1 (25/26)
		Law				CLN4U1 (26/27)

COMPUTER STUDIES	A credit can be used as a Group 3.	Computer Programming		ICD201	ICS3C1 ICS3U1	ICS4U1
CO-OP	Credits can be used as a Group 1, 2 or 3.	Cooperative Education			DCO 301	
FRENCH	A minimum of 1 credit is required. Additional credits may be used as a Group 1, 2 or 3.	French	FSF1D1 FSF 141	FSF2D1	FSF3U1	FSF4U1
GUIDANCE AND CAREER EDUCATION	A minimum of a ½ credit (GLC 205). An additional credit can be used as a Group 1	Guidance	GLE101	GLC205		
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION	A minimum of 1 credit. A 2 nd credit can be used as a Group 2.	Physical Education	PPL10F PPL10M PAF101	PPL20F PPL20M	PPL301 PAF301 PAL301 (26/27)	PAF401 PLF4M1 PPL401 PSK4U1 (25/26)
SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES	A credit can be used as a Group 1.	Foods and Nutrition		HFN201		
		Social Science			HSP3U1 HSP3C1	
TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION	A credit can be used as a Group 3. Incoming Gr. 9's need a minimum of 1 Gr. 9 or 10 Technology credits	Exploring Technologies	TAS101			
		Communication			TGJ3M1	TGJ4M1
		Construction		TCJ201	TCJ3C1	TCJ4C1
		Horticulture		THJ201	THJ3E1	THJ4E1
		Manufacturing		TMJ201	TMJ3C1	TMJ4C1
		Tech Design			TDJ3M1	TDJ4M1
		Transportation		TTJ201	TTJ3C1	TTJ4C1
		Welding			TMJ3E1	TMJ4E1

SECONDARY MATHEMATICS

Choosing an appropriate math pathway can be difficult. The arrows in the schematic below show the progress and level changes that a student can make while studying secondary mathematics.



It is prudent to see which Math prerequisites exist for various College and University programs before changing levels in Mathematics.

TIMETABLE CHANGES

Courses can be added or dropped during the first 2-weeks of each semester. Course changes after the 2-week ADD/DROP period are at the discretion of Guidance and Administration and most often lead to the loss of a credit. Any course changes, *at any time*, require the signature or a parent or guardian.

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR (SHSM)



AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL & INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

WESS offers 3 Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs. SHSMs provide students with sector-recognized learning and skills. The SHSM is designed to strengthen student engagement and success in secondary school. Students will earn an OSSD with a SHSM red seal in Agriculture, Environmental or Information and Communications Technology if they complete the 5 required components:

The 5 SHSM Program Common Requirements

Each Specialist High Skills Major consists of five required components:

1. Bundle of Gr. 11 & 12 Courses
2. Certifications & Training
3. Reach Ahead Experiences & Opportunities
4. Cooperative Education & Experiential Learning
5. Sector Specific Partnered Experiences in Math, Coding, or ICE (Innovation, Creativity & Entrepreneurship)

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- an increase in student engagement
- building on strengths and interests
- safe, co-operative educational placements
- meet and work with agricultural, environmental and ICT partners
- helping students plan for the future & make a successful post-secondary transition
- make informed career decisions

DETAILED REQUIREMENTS OF THE SHSM

- 8-10 required credits as identified by the Ministry of Education
- “Major” credits in the SHSM sector area which provide sector specific knowledge, technical skills, and training
- Earn recognized safety awareness and sector-specific certifications
- Job shadowing, work experience, and co-operative education - a minimum of 2 credits linked to the SHSM
- Reach-ahead experiences (experiences at farm shows, colleges, and in other settings)

SHSM AGRICULTURE – COURSE OPTIONS

- ✓ Choose 1 class from each of the following 3 disciplines

English		Math		Science/Business	
ENG 3E	OLC 4O	MEL 3E	MEL 4E	SBI 3C	SBI 4U
ENG 3C	ENG 4C	MBF 3C	MAP 4C	SBI 3U	SCH 4U
ENG 3U	ENG 4U	MCF 3M	MCT 4C	SCH 3U	SCH 4C
NBE 3E		MCR 3U	MDM 4U	SPH 3U	SPH 4C
NBE 3C			MFH 4U	BAF 3M	SPH 4U
NBE 3U			MCV 4U	BMI 3C	BAT 4M
				BDP 3O	

- ✓ Choose 4 additional courses from the following

Grade 11		Grade 12	
SBI 3C	TCJ 3C	SBI 4U	TCJ 4C
SBI 3U	TDJ 3M	SCH 4C	TDJ 4M
SCH 3U	THJ 3E	SCH 4U	THJ 4E
SPH 3U	TMJ 3C	SPH 4C	TMJ 4C
BMI 3C	TMJ 3E	SPH 4U	TMJ 4E
BAF 3M	TTJ 3C	BAT 4M	TTJ 4C
		CGR 4M	

- ✓ Choose 2 Co-operative education credits in a related field of study

- ✓ Complete 3 Compulsory Certifications (WHMIS, CPR & FIRST AID)

+ 3 of the following Elective Certifications:

animal first aid	basic electrical safety	chainsaw safety	compass/map/GPS
ladder safety training	large animal handling	leadership skills	livestock medicine
livestock production	lockout/tagging	nutrient management	portfolio development
customer service	infection control	fall protection	grain grading
principles of drainage	project management	safe lifting	vehicle lift safety
fundamentals of the combine – level 1	hazardous atmospheres and confined spaces	soil classification and testing	small engine maintenance
hydraulics - basic	equipment operation safety	Innovation, Creativity & Entrepreneurship (ICE)	introduction to pest management
seed saving	Working at Heights	herbicide and pesticide	approaches to healing
sector-specific sustainability practices	theory of combine settings and adjustments – level 2	weed and pest identification and management	advanced training in a technique
health and safety - basic	sector-specific vehicle operation and safety	transgenic plant identification	Sustainable resource management planning
land and forest survey skills	advanced training in a technology	anti-oppression and allyship training	fire safety and fire extinguisher use

SHSM ENVIRONMENTAL – COURSE OPTIONS

- ✓ Choose 2 English classes and 1 Math class.



English		Math	
ENG 3E	OLC 4O	MEL 3E	MEL 4E
ENG 3C	ENG 4C	MBF 3C	MAP 4C
ENG 3U	ENG 4U	MCF 3M	MCT 4C
NBE 3E		MCR 3U	MDM 4U
NBE 3C			MFH 4U
NBE 3U			MCV 4U

✓ **Choose 4 additional courses from the following**

Grade 11		Grade 12	
BAF 3M	SPH 3U	BAT 4M	SCH 4C
CGG 3O	TCJ 3C	CGR 4M	SPH 4C
CHW 3M	TDJ 3M	CLN 4U	SPH 4U
PAF 3O	TGJ 3M	IDC 4U	TCJ 4C
PPL 3O	THJ 3E	PPL 4O	TDJ 4M
PAL 3O	TMJ 3C	PLF 4M	TGJ 4M
SBI 3C	TMJ 3E	PAF 4O	THJ 4E
SBI 3U	TTJ 3C	PSK 4U	TMJ 4E
SCH 3U		SBI 4U	TTJ 4C
		SCH 4U	

✓ **Choose 2 Co-operative education credits in a related field of study**

✓ **Complete 4 Compulsory Certifications** (WHMIS, CPR, FIRST AID & GPS)

+ 3 of the following Elective Certifications:

advanced training in a technique	animal and plant management	Below Zero	chainsaw safety
seed saving	fire safety and fire extinguisher use	geographic information system (GIS)	habitat restoration
Hike Ontario	infection control	bear safety	ladder safety training
leadership skills	Leave No Trace	radio operator	Project Wild
paddling techniques	search and rescue	portfolio development	project management
Ontario Hunter Education	Life-saving (Bronze Cross or higher)	Pleasure Craft Operator	sector-specific vehicle operation and safety
wilderness first aid	wilderness survival	Working at Heights	approaches to healing
fall protection	species identification	tourism basic	watershed management
advanced training in a technology	anti-oppression and allyship training	introduction to stream assessment protocol	land and forest survey skills
sector specific regulations	Water/ice safety	soil classification and testing	Sustainable resource management planning

SHSM INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY – COURSE OPTIONS

✓ **Choose 1 class from each of the following 3 disciplines**

English		Math		Science/Business/ART	
ENG 3E	OLC 4O	MEL 3E	MEL 4E	SBI 3C	SBI 4U
ENG 3C	ENG 4C	MBF 3C	MAP 4C	SBI 3U	SCH 4U
ENG 3U	ENG 4U	MCF 3M	MCT 4C	SCH 3U	SCH 4C
NBE 3E		MCR 3U	MDM 4U	SPH 3U	SPH 4C
NBE 3C			MFH 4U	BAF 3M	SPH 4U
NBE 3U			MCV 4U	BMI 3C	BAT 4M
				BDP 3O	ADA 4M
				ADA 3M	AVI 4M
				AVI 3M	AMI 4M
				AMI 3M	CLN 4U
				AVI 3O	

✓ **Choose 4 additional courses from the following**

Grade 11		Grade 12	
ISC 3C	TCJ 3C	ICS 4U	TCJ 4C
ISC 3U	TDJ 3M	SPH 4C	TDJ 4M
SPH 3U	TMJ 3C	SPH 4U	TMJ 4C
	TMJ 3E		TMJ 4E
	TGJ 3M		TGJ 4M
			IDC 4U

✓ **Choose 2 Co-operative education credits in a related field of study**

✓ **Complete 3 Compulsory Certifications (WHMIS, CPR & FIRST AID)**

+ 3 of the following Elective Certifications:

CISCO networking	basic electrical safety	counterfeit detection	electronics - basic
customer service	ergonomics	fall protection	first aid/CPR/AED awareness
interfacing equipment	lighting and sound equipment maintenance	health and safety - basic	network cabling
recording equipment	infection control	technical support	computer hardware
ladder safety training	elevated work platforms	leadership skills	fall protection
intellectual property	lockout/tagging	Internet security	portfolio development
network configuration	project management	sector-specific software 1	sector-specific software 2
specialized skills training program/competition	Working at Heights	advanced training in a technique	advanced training in a technology

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

Co-operative or experiential learning is a unique educational opportunity to promote skill

development, allow for career exploration, and develop self-awareness by integrating classroom learning with planned and supervised practical experiences in a business, industry, government, or organizational setting.

HOW IT WORKS

Students choosing any of the Co-op programs spend half days for the full semester (15-18 weeks) at a community work site. Students will meet regularly throughout the semester to reflect on their learning and participate in integration activities and assignments. Upon successful completion of the program, students are awarded TWO CREDITS toward their OSSD. Single credit options and full-day credit options are also available.

WHO CAN APPLY

Students applying for Co-op should be 16 years of age and entering their fourth year of high school (some third-year students are admitted depending on availability).

Co-op programs are available in all disciplines and at any level. All career paths are an option in the cooperative education program, but Co-op credits are not considered in the calculation of a university admission average.

HOW TO APPLY

- a) Complete and submit a Co-op Program Application Form during course selection.
- b) Register for CO-OP on myBlueprint by selecting **DCO 30**.
- c) Complete a scheduled interview. Each student will be notified of their application status once interviews are complete.

WHY TAKE CO-OP

- * to “try out” a career and gain practical on-the-job experience
- * to develop good work habits and increase your self-confidence
- * to gain “experience” in specific job skills preparing you for entry into the marketplace
- * to test the skills and knowledge learned in school by applying them in the marketplace
- * to start and be registered in an apprenticeship program

STUDENT SERVICES & PROGRAMS

GUIDANCE

Students should consult a counselor regarding course selection, career research, post-secondary information, individual counseling for personal concerns, academic concerns, graduation requirements and eligibility, employment readiness, and referral to out-of-school assistance. Parents are invited to contact guidance for assistance in academic counseling, psychological testing, family counseling and other social services. Our work is to help students.

SOCIAL WORKER / ATTENDANCE COUNSELLOR

A Social Worker is on staff 2 days a week to offer ongoing social-emotional support for students. Referrals to the Social Worker are completed by student services staff and administration. Students wishing to speak with the social worker should come to Guidance to make an appointment.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

The public health nurse is here at the school 1 day a week to help students with health-related concerns and inquiries. Students wishing to speak with the social worker should come to Guidance to make an appointment or text them at the number provided.

FOOD SERVICES / BREAKFAST CLUB

The cafeteria at West Elgin Secondary School is operated by Chartwells. Student services also run a daily breakfast club, in which nutritious food is provided in the cafeteria for ALL students.

LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS

WESS Library Learning Commons has a number of different resources to offer students. We have a large collection of reference, non-fiction, and fiction books. Our young adult fiction collection is expanding every year with popular and award-winning novels. We have desktop computers, Chromebooks, and SOLE Stations for students to use for research, assignments and collaboration. We have a large wall as a green screen to create videos. Our large comfy chairs provide a good place to curl up and read. The library provides a place to do homework, study, research for projects, read a good book, or surf the internet.