## Ajax High School Grade 8 Information Night

www.ddsb.ca/school/ajaxhs
@AjaxHigh_School y

(bDDSB
Ignite Learning
The Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We acknowledge that the Durham Region forms a part of the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, the Mississauga Peoples and the treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we teach, learn and live.

# Indigeneous Inherent Rights 

The Durham District School Board recognizes Indigenous rights are distinct. In the exercise of those rights, Indigenous staff and students shall not be subjected to actions with the aim or effect of depriving these distinct rights.

# Human Rights and Equity Statement 

## The Durham District School Board is

 committed to learning environments that are safe, welcoming, respectful, equitable, accessible, inclusive and free from discrimination while placing Human Rights and Equity at the center.
## AGENDA


$>$ Role of the Guidance Department
>Ajax HS at a Glance
$>$ Ontario Secondary School Diploma Requirements;

- Compulsory Credits, Literacy Test, Community Hours
>DDSB; "Choosing My Success"
$>$ Grade 9 Pathway and Beyond
Course Selection Process and Individual Pathways Plan
$>$ Keys to Success
$>$ Department Presentations



## THE ROLE OF THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT AT AJAX HIGH SCHOOL

$>$ Transition from grade 8 to grade 9
>Course selection information and assistance
>Short-term counselling and referrals
>Post-secondary research and applications
>Career Planning
> Timetabling and alternative education

Guidance
Department
>Student records and awards
>Commencement

## Ajax HS at a Glance

Two semesters (September and February)

Four 75-minute periods per day

Summative days


Bell Times


| Period 1 | $9: 30 \mathrm{am}-10: 45 \mathrm{am}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Period 2 | 10:50am -12:05pm |
| LUNCH TIME: 12:05pm - 12:55pm |  |
| Period 3 | 12:55pm - 2:10pm |
| Period 4 | $2: 15 \mathrm{pm}-3: 30 \mathrm{pm}$ |


| TRANSIT | NING TO AJAX HIGH SCHOOL |
| :---: | :---: |
| DATE | ACTIVITY |
| November 2023 | "Meet \& Greet" with elementary schools |
| Dec. 2023 - Jan. 2024 | Grade 8 Tours and Course Selection Presentations |
| February 8 ${ }^{\text {th }}, 2024$ | Grade 8 Information Night |
| Feb. $13^{\text {th }}-$ Feb. $26{ }^{\text {th }}, 2024$ | Course selection opens/closes |
| Spring 2024 | Various Ajax HS events |
| September 2024 | Grade 9 Orientation day |
| September/October 2024 | Individual meetings with guidance department "3 week watch" |

## ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS (OSSD)

+ 19 Compulsory Credits - New Tech credit
+ 11 Optional/Elective Credits Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)
+ Community Service Hours (40)
- Earn 2 Online Learning Credits (*opt-out option available)


## $=$ OSSD

## OSSD - COMPULSORY CREDITS

4 Credits
3 Credits
2 Credits
1 Credit
1 Credit
1 Credit
1 Credit
1 Credit 1 Credit 1 Credit

English (1 credit per grade)
Mathematics (at least one credit in grade 11 or 12)
Science
French as a Second Language
Geography
History
Arts
Physical and Health Education Civics and Career Education Technological Education **NEW**

Plus the following 3 Additional Courses...


## OSSD - COMPULSORY CREDITS

1 additional credit selected from...
English, or French as a second language*, or Native Language, or Spanish, or Social Sciences and Humanities, or Canadian and World Studies, or Guidance and Career Education, or Cooperative education*
1 additional credit selected from...
Health \& Physical Education, or The Arts (visual art, drama, music), or Business, or French as a second language*, or Co-operative education**
1 additional credit selected from...
Science (Grade 11 or 12), or Technological Education, or Computer Studies, or French as a second language*, or Co-operative education**

* a maximum of 2 French credits can count towards these additional credits (one from group 1 and one from either group 2 or 3)
** a maximum of 2 Co-op credits can count towards these credits.


## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HOURS

ALL Ontario students must complete a minimum of 40 HOURS unpaid community involvement activities before graduating from high school.
**Students may begin to complete these hours during the summer prior to grade 9.**

This is a requirement in ADDITION to the 30 credits needed to graduate.


## ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

Students are required to successfully complete the Provincial Secondary School Literacy Test in order to obtain their OSSD.

This test measures basic levels of literacy and is based on the literacy expectations to the end of Grade 9.

Students must successfully complete their Grade 9 English credit prior to taking the test.

## EARN 2 ONLINE LEARNING CREDITS

Introduced in 2020-21 school year and this is a new graduation requirement.

You must earn 2 online eLearning credits while in high school (e.g.: asynchronous elearning in summer school, or a grade 11 or 12 eLearning course).

If you do NOT want to enroll in the 2 eLearning
 course requirements, you can OPT OUT (form must be completed) and still graduate.

## CHOOSING my Slletred

## CORE STUDENT SUCCESS BELIEFS All students can be successful Success comes in many forms There are many paths to success

## Dossi comminmem CHOOSING my

- Ensuring all Grade 8 students transitioning to Grade 9 will make thoughtful, evidence-informed course selection choices reflective of their commitment to their own potential and success in high school and beyond.
- Ensuring all Grade 8 students have the opportunity to learn about their strengths and interests while investigating various viable pathways options for their initial post-secondary destination such as: Apprenticeship, College, Community Living, University, and the World of Work.


# Inclusive CRADE 9 courseselection 

"Ending early streaming in secondary school means that Grade 9 students will continue to learn together in the same class. This will keep options open for all students to pursue postsecondary education and training in any pathway they choose, including skilled trades."
(Ontario Ministry of Education, 2021)


# CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE COURSE PATHWAY FOR SUCCESS - WHAT DOES THAT LIKE AT AJAX HIGH SCHOOL? 

> Grade 9 Math, Science, Geography, and English will be taught at the de-streamed pathway for the 2024-2025 school year.
>AHS also offers Math, Science, and English at the Inclusive Locally Developed pathway


# INCLUSIVE GRADE 9 LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSE OPTIONS 

## - MAT1L • ENG1L • SNC1L

Knowing that not every student will be ready for all of the Grade 9 courses right away, we have locally developed curriculum to support students and prepare them to meet the expectations of the Grade 9 courses and support their credit accumulation.

# CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE COURSE PATHWAY FOR SUCCESS - WHAT DOES THAT LIKE AT AJAX HIGH SCHOOL? 

>Core French will be taught at the Inclusive Academic and Open pathways for the 2024-2025.
>French Immersion stream classes (French, Geography, Science) will be taught at the De-streamed and Inclusive Academic pathway for the 2024-2025 school year.


## FSF10

## INCLUSIVE GRADE 9 OPEN CORE FRENCH COURSE

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Selection of this French course should be done in } \\
& \text { consultation with your Elementary Principal, Grade } 8 \\
& \text { teacher, Special Education Resource Teacher, ESL } \\
& \text { Teacher, and your parent(s)/guardian(s). As part of the } \\
& \text { pathway, if students wish to continue in French after } \\
& \text { being successful in this course, we would recommend } \\
& \text { them to take FSF1D then FSF2D. }
\end{aligned}
$$

# CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE COURSE PATHWAY FOR SUCCESS - WHAT DOES THAT LIKE AT AJAX HIGH SCHOOL? 

Common observations from AHS Inclusive Academic / Destreamed experience:
> Teachers' mindsets have changed regarding differentiated learning.
> Teachers' move to differentiated instruction has improved the classroom culture.
»Students have been "rising to the occasion".
-Students have been moving towards a higher level of internal accountability.

## Decoding a Course Code

Courses use a 6-character course code for Identification.
. The first 5 characters of the course code are set out by the Ministry of Education. - The sixth character is used by school boards to identify a specific characteristic of the course. For example, French Immersion is identified in the DDSB with an " F

## CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE COURSE PATHWAY FOR SUCCESS




## Additional Resources



# CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE COURSE PATHWAY FOR SUCCESS...BEYOND GRADE 9 

## Academic (D)

>Focus on essential concepts, plus additional related concepts.
>Emphasis on theoretical, abstract applications with some practical application.
>Academic courses allow students to pursue post-secondary at UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, APPRENTICESHIP, WORLD OF WORK.
>Depending on the University program, other academic courses may be required (such as science and mathematics).
>Refer to Course Planning tool, marks, EQAO results.

>Consult teachers, caregivers, ISS, administration, or guidance.

# CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE COURSE PATHWAY FOR SUCCESS...BEYOND GRADE 9 

Applied (P)
>Focus on essential concepts.
>Emphasis on practical, concrete applications, with some theoretical application.
>Applied courses allow students to pursue post-secondary at COLLEGE, APPRENTICESHIP, WORLD OF WORK.
>Refer to Course Planning tool, marks, EQAO results.

>Consult teachers, caregivers, ISS, administration, or guidance.

# CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE COURSE PATHWAY FOR SUCCESS...BEYOND GRADE 9 

Locally Developed (L)
>Intended for students who require support and flexibility to meet credit requirements.
>Reinforce elementary curriculum while providing the skills necessary for further study in at the secondary level.
>Students are traditionally identified and reviewed into these courses.
**The Locally Developed pathway is offered in both grades 9 and 10**


## CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE COURSE PATHWAY FOR SUCCESS...BEYOND GRADE 9

## Open (0)

>One set of expectations that is appropriate for all students.
>Designed to broaden students' knowledge and skills in subjects that reflect their interests.
> Not designed for, nor are they a requirement for meeting postsecondary destination pre-requisites.


# CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE COURSE PATHWAY FOR SUCCESS...BEYOND GRADE 9 

All subjects DO NOT have to be taken at the same pathway
It IS possible for a student to change course pathways during their high school career.
**Each subject area has its own requirements for changing pathways (ie. Summer school, repeat cor**se at same/lower grade/different type)**

College to University Articulation/Bridge programs are available at most College institutions.

## CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE COURSE PATHWAY FOR SUCCESS

## Does your child have an Individual Education Plan (IEP)?

You and your child will meet with the Ajax H.S. Inclusive Student Services and elementary SERT and/or teacher during the annual IPRC review.
>Reviews occur in February-April 2024.
$>$ A review of your child's course selections will occur during this time in case adjustments need to be made.


## GRADE 9 COURSE SELECTION AND INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS PLAN

## Students are to complete the following tasks as part of their Individual Pathways Plan:

>Learning Styles Survey - Do you remember what you read? Are you good at remembering names? Everyone has different styles of learning they like best. What are yours?
$>$ Personality Survey - You are a unique individual; but we all have personality traits that are similar to others. Understand your personality to find opportunities that fit your type well.
>Interests Survey - What captures your interest? When you're doing the stuff you enjoy and are interested in, you'll be happier and more successful in life.
> Knowledge Survey - What subjects do you love? We all have at least one class that we look forward to. Whatever subject it is, if you like it, you can probably find a career in it.
$>$ Motivations Survey - Do you want to make a lasting impact? Is independence important to you? When you know what drives you, you can look for opportunities that fulfill your career objectives.
*This plan is to be reviewed annually*

## GRADE 9 COURSE SELECTION AND INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS PLAN



## GRADE 9 COURSE SELECTION AND INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS PLAN

Grade 9 students in French Immersion:
$>$ English
>Mathematics
>Science (SNC1WF)
>Geography (CGC1WF)
>French (FIF1DF)
(-) French as a Second Lan.

# CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE COURSE PATHWAY FOR SUCCESS FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM 

Students must take 10 courses taught in the French language:

Grade 9:
FIF1DF - French Language
SNC1WF - Science
CGC1DF - Geography
Grade 10:
FIF2DF - French Language
CHC2DF - History
SNC2DF - Science
GLC/CHV2OF - Careers/Civics

Grade 11:
FIF3UF - French Language
Plus one of the following: SBI3UF - Biology HFC3MF - Food and Culture GLC208 - Peer Helping DCO309 - Cooperative Education

Grade 12:
FIF4UF - French Language

## GRADE 9 COURSE SELECTION AND INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS PLAN ELECTIVE COURSES

ADA101 - Drama
AMG101 - Guitar
AMI101 - Instrumental Music
AVI101 - Visual Arts
BEM101 - Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset
HIF1O1 - Exploring Families Studies
PPL101 - Healthy Active Living Education (Inclusive of All Student Identities)

PPL1O3 - Healthy Active Living Education (for Identifying Males)
PPL1O4 - Healthy Active Living Education (for Identifying Females)
TAS101 - Technology and the Skilled Trades (for all students)
TAS10J - Women in the Skilled Trades
(Technology and the Skilled Trades)
TGJ1O1 - Communications Technology

## GRADE 9 COURSE SELECTION AND INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS PLAN ELECTIVE COURSES

Ajax HS recommends that in order to complete the compulsory credits, students should choose at least 1 course from each of following subjects during either their Grade 9 OR Grade 10 year:
Health and Physical Education

- PPL101, PPL1O3, PPL1O4, PAF203, PAF204, PPL203, PPL2O4, PAD2O1

Arts

- AVI101, ADA101, AMI101, AMG101, AVI201, ADA201, AMI201, AMG2O1 Technological Studies
- TAS101, TAS1OJ, TGJ101, TCJ201, TDJ201, TEJ201, TGJ201, THJ201, TMJ201, TTJ201


## GRADE 9 COURSE SELECTION AND INDIVIDUAL

## PATHWAYS PLAN

Students are asked to submit two aternate elective courses:
>AHS will attempt to have all grade 9 students placed in their top three elective courses.
>There are instances when students may need to be placed into their alternate choice (please choose your alternate carefully!!).
**Please review all alert notices (blue or red dots) on the selected course(s) as there may be important information to review.**


Grade 8 students now have the option to complete a full "NEW COURSE" in summer school prior to grade 9 (compulsory courses only).

Instructions for choosing a summer school course are located in the course selection documents (grade 8 google classroom)

Please choose another course to replace the summer school course.


This program is open to all students entering grade 9 in the Fall 2024 and provides student with a brief introduction to the grade 9 English and Mathematics curriculum, as well as study skills, time management, and steps to success.

Allows students to become familiar with their new school and prepares them for the transition from elementary to secondary school.

Can be helpful for students who are experiencing some anxiety related to the upcoming transition.

## GRADE 9 COURSE SELECTION AND INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS PLAN

## Course Selections will open in myBlueprint on: February $13^{\text {th }}, 2024$ @ 10:00am

Course Selections and the Individual Pathways Plan must be submitted electronically by:
February $26^{\text {th }}, 2024$ @ 4:00 pm

KEYS TO SUCCESS IN GRADE 9... AND THROUGHOUT HIGH SCHOOL
>Attend all classes
$>B e$ an active participant in class.
>Seek out extra help and clarification if needed.
>Complete and submit ALL homework and assignments...on time $>$ Find a method of organization and time management that works for you.
. >Get Involved!


## GET INVOLVED! PAST CLUBS AT AJAX HS

| - | Basketball - Junior Girls (Fall) | Hockey - Junior Boys (Winter) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 3 | Basketball - Senior Girls (Fall) | Hockey - Senior Boys (Winter) |
| * | Cross Country (Fall) | Ski Club (Winter) |
|  | Field Hockey - Girls (Fall) | Squash Club (Winter) |
|  | Golf - Boys (Fall) | Swimming (Winter) |
|  | Golf - Girls (Fall) | Volleyball - Junior Girls (Winter) |
|  | Rugby - Boys 7's (Fall) | Volleyball - Senior Girls (Winter) |
| PAST EAMS AT | Rugby - Girls 7's (Fall) | Badminton - (Spring) |
| $\triangle \triangle Y$ | Soccer - Junior Boys (Fall) | Baseball - Boys (Spring) |
| $011$ | Soccer - Senior Boys (Fall) | Golf Matchplay - Boys (Spring) |
| $10$ | Volleyball - Junior Boys (Fall) | Golf Matchplay - Girls (Spring) |
| N | Volleyball - Senior Boys (Fall) | Rugby - Girls 15's (Spring) |
|  | Basketball - Junior Boys (Winter) | Soccer - Junior Girls (Spring) |
|  | Basketball - Senior Boys (Winter) | Soccer - Senior Girls (Spring) |
|  | Curling - Girls (Winter) | Track \& Field (Spring) |
|  | Curling - Boys (Winter) | Ultimate Frisbee (Spring) |

## CONTACT INFORMATION




Time to explore some of the subject departments at Ajax HS $\rightarrow$ 7:20pm to 9:00pm.

Opportunity to complete up to 7 rotations to visit various classrooms and learn about the grade 9 courses offered, as well as speak to grade 9 teachers / department heads.

Maps available by the door and student volunteers are positioned around the building.

10 minutes in each presentation, and then an announcement will be made to move to a new department ( 5 minute travel time).



PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS THE MAP FOR THE DEPARTMENT VISITS

