

GRADE 9 GUIDE

2026-2027



Lakehead Public Schools

Welcome

Bienvenue

Büüdigen

Congratulations on approaching the conclusion of your elementary educational career! Your next academic experience – secondary school – may be one of the most rewarding and exciting events of your youth. What awaits you in secondary school at Lakehead Public Schools is a scholastic adventure that reflects your interests, strengths, and abilities. Together with your parents/guardians, Lakehead Public Schools will guide you toward the appropriate pathway to help you achieve the academic excellence you desire.

At a Lakehead Public Schools secondary school, you will be provided with the tools to succeed in all areas of the high school experience: education, leadership, competitive sports, and extra-curricular opportunities. Our three secondary schools also offer all students outstanding prospects and connections to promising careers through many specialized programs including French Immersion, Specialist High Skills Major Program, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, Special Education, the International Baccalaureate Programme, Alternative Programs, and more.

I encourage you to immerse yourself in the high school experience. Being involved in clubs, committees, and team activities helps to strengthen social skills and can lead to meaningful and lasting friendships. Volunteering outside the school may also contribute to enriching opportunities and valuable experiences.

I thank you for choosing to continue your educational pathway with Lakehead Public Schools. Your principal or guidance counsellor would be pleased to answer any questions you or your parents/guardians may have about how to best support your success and well-being at school. Lakehead Public Schools is committed to creating inclusive learning environments that are respectful and safe. I welcome you to secondary school and wish you success in this next phase of your academic career.

- Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education



You belong here

A horizontal rainbow-colored line with a slight curve, positioned below the text "You belong here".



Our Mission

We are committed to the success of every student.

Our Vision

We provide equitable and inclusive educational environments where everyone belongs and succeeds.

Our Values

Belonging
Empathy
Integrity
Respect

Your future starts here!

Welcome to High School!

Get ready for an exciting new chapter filled with opportunities to learn, grow, and discover what you love.

You will meet teachers and staff who are here to support you every step of the way. High school is your chance to try new things, make choices that shape your future, and explore careers that interest you.

This guide will help you understand courses, timetables, and tips for success. It is also a great resource for your parents/guardians because they are an important part of your journey too.

At Lakehead Public Schools, we are committed to helping you succeed in learning and in life. Your future starts now. Make it amazing!

The transition to Grade 9 comes with many changes and questions. Check out school websites or call with questions, and remember, you belong here.

Families are encouraged to reach out and learn more about the programs and opportunities available.



Hammarskjold High School

80 South Clarkson Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario
(807) 767-1631
hammarskjold.lakeheadschoools.ca



Superior CVI

333 North High Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario
(807) 768-7284
superior.lakeheadschoools.ca

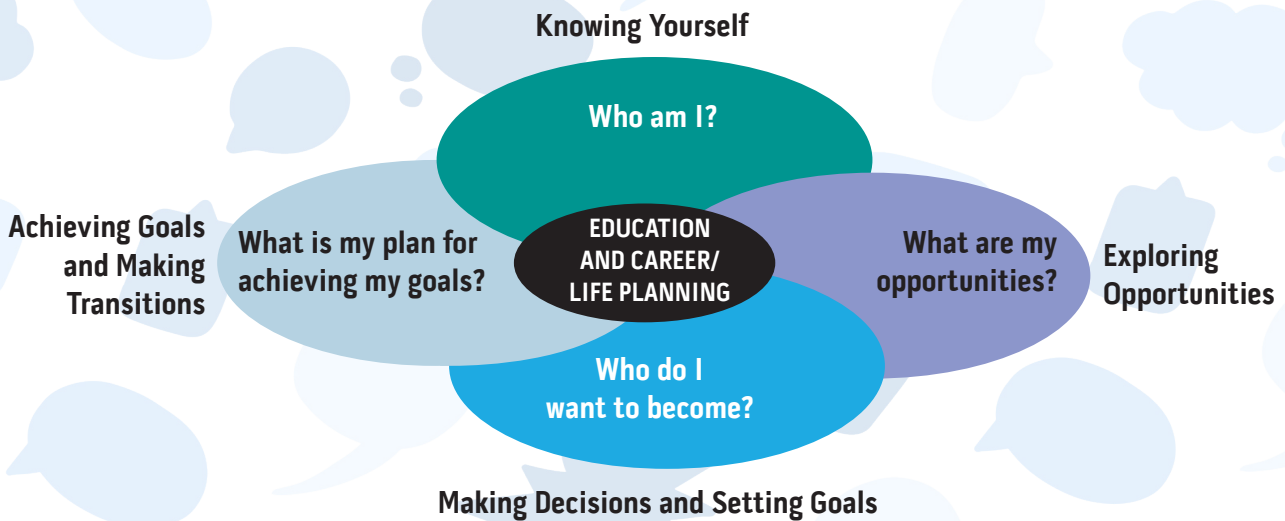


Westgate CVI

707 South James Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario
(807) 577-4251
westgate.lakeheadschoools.ca

CREATING PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Creating Pathways to Success puts students at the centre of their own learning, viewing them as the architects of their own lives. Students are encouraged to discover who they are, explore opportunities, pursue their passions, and design personal pathways to success.



The education and career/life planning program policy for Ontario schools is based on three core beliefs, namely, that:

1. All students can be successful.
2. Success comes in many forms.
3. There are many pathways to success.

We are here to support you!

Your high school has a team of caring adults who work together to support you. If you're unsure who to ask, start with any adult in the school. They will connect you with the right person. Guidance counsellors, student success teachers, Indigenous graduation coaches, and special education resource teachers are all here to help you chart your pathway to success.



INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS PLAN

As part of Ontario's career planning framework, students develop an Individual Pathways Plan (IPP). This plan grows and changes as students move through school. In elementary school, students build on their earlier learning and explore pathways in more depth. In Grades 9-12, they refine and complete their IPP, making informed decisions about post-secondary education, training, or employment.

Our students work on their IPP in a program called Xello, which helps students of all backgrounds, abilities, and goals to plan for their future. Parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss these plans with the student in their household. If you have any questions about Xello, feel free to ask the school.

Students and parents/guardians can access Xello by logging in at lhbe.elearningontario.ca/d2l/login and clicking on Xello in the dashboard.

The Grade 9 and 10 examples pictured below are just a sample of the many activities and options students will explore as part of their Individual Pathways Plan (IPP).

xello



Grade 9 Lessons

- Exploring career factors
- Getting job experience
- Personality styles
- Study skills and habits

Interactive Planning Tools

Using Xello, students can turn their favourite jobs and classes into a plan. It's like creating a road map for their future. This helps them see the steps they need to take to reach their goals. This includes what courses they will need in high school and where they might go after high school.



Grade 10 Lessons

- Careers and lifestyle costs
- Program pathways
- Work values
- Workplace skills

Lessons

Xello has lessons that teach students important skills for school and work. These lessons change based on what the student does in Xello. There are helpful tips to build skills like talking to others, solving problems, and working in a team. These lessons are about building the skills that students will need in high school and in the work place.

SUPPORTING THE GRADE 9 COURSE SELECTION

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- Grade 9 course selection, for the 2026-2027 school year, is beginning.

WHAT FAMILIES NEED TO DO:

- Families should review course options, especially electives, and familiarize themselves with programs and school information.
- A Grade 9 Verification Form with important and confidential student details will be sent home in February.

IMPORTANT DETAILS:

- Every Grade 8 student has a “zoned” high school based on their Family of Schools.
- If your child will not attend their zoned high school, let the teacher know and request the correct high school form, so courses can be selected for the correct school.
- See the transportation information below to review school zones.

KEY DATES:

- **February 18, 2026**
 - » Families sign and return the form to the elementary school.
 - » Signing confirms the information is correct and courses have been chosen.
- **February 23 – March 4, 2026**
 - » Students will enter their course selections into Xello with help from their Grade 8 teacher.



Transportation

Transportation is provided only to your zoned high school and for specialized programs such as IB and French Immersion. Students wishing to attend an out-of-zone high school will need to find their own transportation.

Use the QR code to check eligibility.





What do I need to graduate?

Here is everything that's required to graduate with your Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

17 COMPULSORY CREDITS

4 credits	in English (1 per grade)
3 credits	in Math (at least one credit in Grade 11 or 12)
2 credits	in Science
1 credit	in the Arts
1 credit	in Technological Education (Grade 9 or Grade 10)
1 credit	in Canadian Geography (Grade 9)
1 credit	in French as a Second Language or FNMI Language (Ojibwe)
1 credit	in Health & Physical Education
1 credit	in Canadian History (Grade 10)
0.5 credit	in Career Studies (Grade 10)
0.5 credit	in Civics (Grade 10)
1 credit	from the <u>STEM-related course group</u>

1 STEM-RELATED COURSE GROUP

Of the 17 compulsory credits, you must complete 1 from the following groups:

- Business studies
- Computer studies
- Cooperative education
- Mathematics (in addition to the 3 compulsory credits currently required)
- Science (in addition to the 2 compulsory credits currently required)
- Technological education (in addition to the 1 compulsory credit required)

13 ELECTIVE CREDITS

These 13 credits are selected from the school course calendar.

2 E-LEARNING CREDITS

From the 30 credits required to graduate, two credits must be online learning (eLearning) credits. However, exemption from the eLearning requirement can be requested.

Parents may contact the school for the LPS eLearning Student Opt-Out Form.

1 LITERACY REQUIREMENT

Successful completion of the Ontario Secondary Schools Literacy Test (OSSLT) or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC)

1 FINANCIAL LITERACY REQUIREMENT

Starting in September 2026, students must earn a new financial literacy graduation requirement. This will be completed as part of the compulsory Grade 10 mathematics course.

40 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HOURS

- Completed over your years in high school.
- Talk to a guidance counsellor for volunteer ideas.
- You can start earning your hours after graduating from Grade 8. This includes the summer before you start classes in Grade 9.



Learn more

What courses do I pick in Grade 9?

GRADE 9 COURSES

In Grade 9, students take eight courses. Five (5) are compulsory, and three (3) are electives that students choose based on their interests.

Compulsory Courses (5):

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography
- French OR Ojibwe

Elective Courses (Choose 3):

Options include:

- Business Studies
- Health and Physical Education
- Technological Education
- The Arts (Visual Art, Drama, Dance, or Music)

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Every student needs to earn one Technological Education credit in either Grade 9 or Grade 10.

If you're in French Immersion or the IB program, you must take Health and Physical Education in Grade 9 to meet program requirements.

COURSE SELECTION TIPS

- When you choose courses, you will actually pick nine options. This gives flexibility in case there are scheduling conflicts.
- In Grade 10, you will have access to more courses and pathways. Grade 9 is great time to start thinking about your future goals, and start picking electives that might interest you.

Questions you may have...

What happens if I am struggling in a course?

- Talk to your classroom teacher.
- Access tutoring supports that are available through Student Success.
- Take advantage of multiple catch up opportunities.
- Speak with your guidance counsellor.

How do I earn a credit?

To earn a credit, you need a final grade of 50% or more in a course.

When can I start to earn my 40 hours of Community Service?

You can start to earn your community service hours after graduating from Grade 8. Community service hours must not be scheduled during class time.

How do I choose my courses?

There are many points to consider when choosing courses for your high school program. Because you are unique, it is important to consider the following:

- Your interests, your likes, and your dislikes
- Your learning preferences
- Your strengths and weaknesses
- Your background and experiences
- Your pathway options

Students who select courses consistent with their interests, strengths, and learning style have a better chance to achieve success in high school.

Where can I go if I have questions about course selection?

Your classroom teacher can help you with choosing courses. You can also call a Lakehead secondary school directly for information. Guidance counsellors are available to answer questions and provide direction. Students and parents/guardians can attend evening information sessions at Lakehead secondary schools. You can talk to parents/guardians of other Lakehead Public School students, as they can be helpful in providing advice in your planning.



TYPES OF COURSES IN GRADE 9 & 10

Types of Courses in Grade 9 & 10

Most Grade 9 courses are now de-streamed, meaning all students learn together and have equal opportunities to explore subjects and interests. Some programs, such as Special Needs, Pre-Workplace Program (PWP), or Locally Developed Courses, are not de-streamed. These courses are usually recommended by the school team in consultation with families. For courses with different options, choose the type that best fits your child's strengths and future goals. Contact the school if you have questions.

Course Types

W Destreamed Courses

- Designed for all students, emphasizing essential concepts, real-life applications, and diverse learning experiences.
- Prepares students for all post-secondary pathways: apprenticeship, college, university, or workplace.

O Open Courses

- Same expectations for all students, offering general education or skill enrichment.
- Can fulfill compulsory or elective credit requirements.
- Suitable for students pursuing any pathway, depending on the course.

D Academic Courses

- Focus on theoretical and conceptual learning to prepare for further study in a subject.
- Suitable for students pursuing university, college or apprenticeship pathways.

P Applied Courses

- Emphasize essential concepts with practical, hands-on learning.
- Designed for students needing flexibility and additional support.
- Suitable for students pursuing college, apprenticeship, or workplace pathways.

L Locally Developed Compulsory Courses

- Focus on essential skills for students needing alternative pathways to meet credit requirements.
- Students generally will take these courses based on discussions between school and parents/guardians.
- To meet requirements for most post-secondary programs, additional courses in different pathways may be chosen later to meet post-secondary requirements.
- Prepares students for the world of work.

A Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP)

- Available at select schools for motivated students aiming for Advanced Placement (AP) in senior grades.
- Covers the Ontario Curriculum with enriched content and skill development, in a faster paced environment.
- Suitable for students aiming to enter post-secondary education with advanced critical thinking and academic skills. Please see page 15 for more information on these courses.

B International Baccalaureate Preparatory courses

- Prepares students for the IB Diploma Programme (Grades 11-12).
- Offers enriched, faster-paced learning for high-achieving students.
- Suitable for students pursuing university pathways with a global focus.
- Offered only at Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute. See page 14 for more information on these courses.

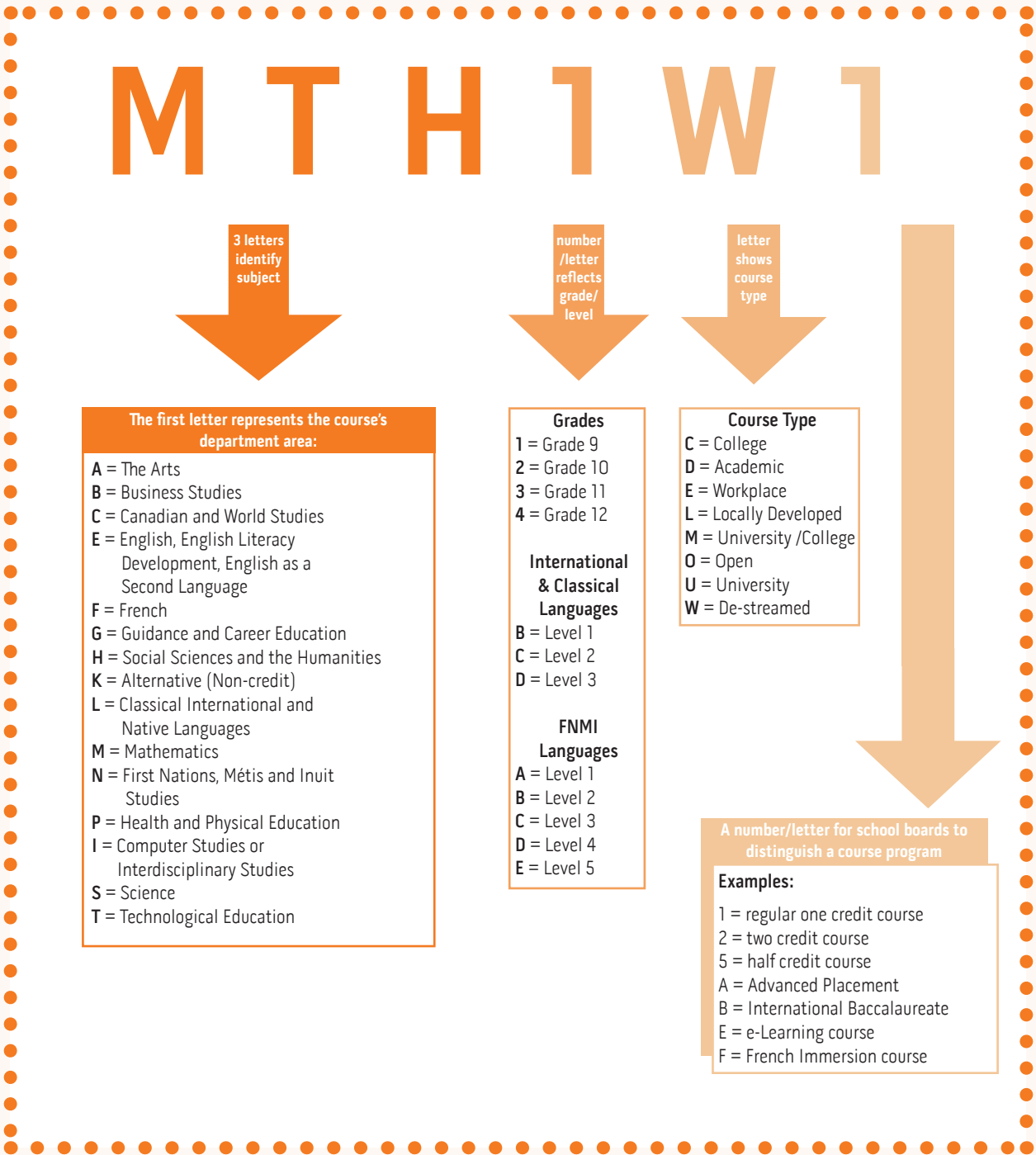
K K - Alternative – Non-Credit Courses, Grades 9-12

- Designed for students with developmental or specialized needs.
- Focus on skill-building not covered by credit courses, such as life skills, social skills, or vocational preparation.

UNDERSTANDING A COURSE CODE

Courses use a six-character course code for identification.

The first five 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. A code can be broken down as follows:



TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES



One-To-One Devices



In Grade 9, students receive board-issued laptops and are responsible for bringing them to school charged and ready for use. Educators integrate technology into lessons to support learning in a global classroom, emphasizing responsible and ethical use to develop good digital citizens.

While personal devices can be used for academic purposes, laptops (either board-issued or personal) are recommended for accessing online resources, which work best on a computer.

All high schools have Wi-Fi, and students agree to the network and Internet use terms and conditions.

Office 365

Lakehead Public Schools is pleased to offer your family access to a free Office365 account and five (5) free Microsoft Office Suites with Minecraft available for your personal laptops, desktops, tablets (including iPads) and smartphones!

To access Microsoft Office, scan the QR Code.



Mathify HOMEWORK HELP

Mathify is a website that offers free math help to students in grades 4 to 12.

Tutors are available Monday to Friday 9:00am to 9:00pm (EST) and Saturday to Sunday 3:00pm to 9:00pm (EST)

Students can access Mathify for free by logging in at www.tvomathify.com



Edsby

Edsby is the main online learning management system for Lakehead Public Schools. Edsby helps connect students, parents/guardians, and teachers. **Students** can log in to Edsby to stay up to date on class work, grades, and learning resources. **Families** can connect to Edsby so that they can keep up to date on lessons, assessments, school clubs, extra-curricular activities, and school news.

Students should connect to Edsby using their school login to keep up with their classes. Here's how:

1. **Login:** <https://lakehead.edsby.com> and use your school login. You can also download the app and enter the code - lakehead.
2. **Username:** Use the first 8 characters of your first name, followed by the first 8 characters of your last name, and then add two numbers for the month of birth and two numbers for the day of birth(e.g., johndoe1225).
3. **Password:** Combine the first initials of your first and last name, add a dash, and include the last six numbers of your student ID (e.g., jd-123456).

Parents/guardians can also connect with Edsby to stay updated on their child's progress.

1. **Check your email:** Look for an "Invitation from Edsby to connect with your school" in your inbox or spam folder. This invitation will go out once the student in your household has started grade 9. **Contact the school if you do not receive this e-mail within the first two weeks of September.**
2. **Set up your account:** Confirm student information, set a password, and log in at <https://lakehead.edsby.com> using your email as the username.
3. **Forgot your password?** Click "forgot password" on the main page to reset it.

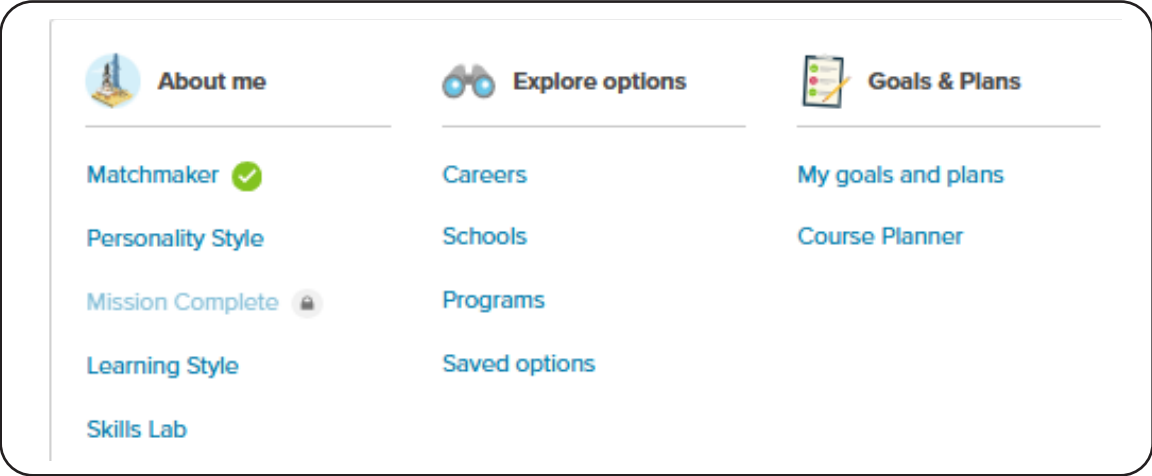


Students and parents/guardians can login to Xello by going to:
lhbe.elearningontario.ca/d2l/login

The username and password to login will be the same as the login students use to access any school computer. Once logged in, click on the Xello icon to access the student dashboard.

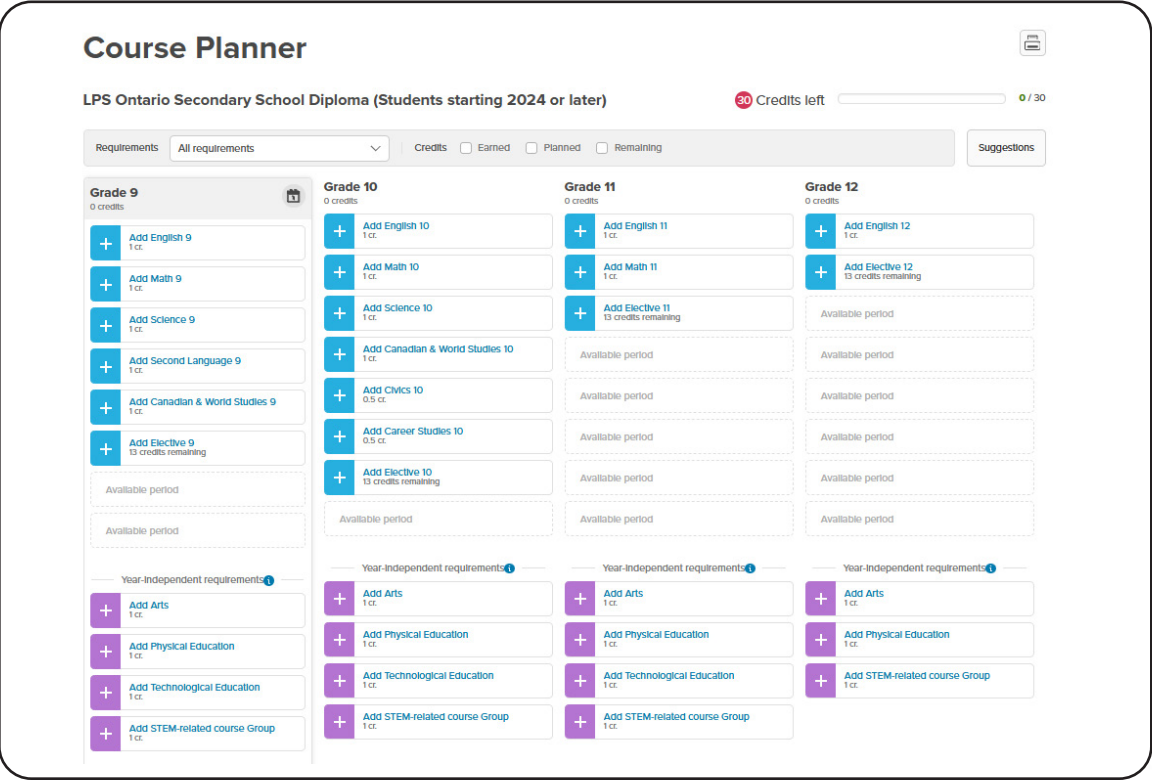


Use your classroom website login to enter the program. Your Student Dashboard will look like this:



To choose your courses for next year, click on “Course Planner” under “Goals & Plans”. After conversations with your parents/guardians and your teacher, you will choose your compulsory courses and the electives you are interested in taking.

STUDENT COURSE PLANNER



FRENCH IMMERSION

Hammaraskjold High School



Le français est la clé...
Penser, comprendre, apprendre
Since 1977

Hammaraskjold High School offers a French Immersion Diploma for students who started French Immersion in elementary school and wish to continue their studies in high school. To earn the diploma, students must complete 10 credits taught in French, which include 4 French Immersion language credits and 6 additional courses delivered in French.

Required courses in French:

- Geography of Canada (Grade 9)
- Healthy Active Living Education (Grade 9)
- Civics (Grade 10)
- Career Studies (Grade 10)
- Canadian History since WWI (Grade 10)

Other French Options:

- Food and Nutrition
- Cooperative Education
- Food and Culture
- Healthy Active Living Education
- Intro to Anthropology, Sociology, and Psychology

In French Immersion, students improve their speaking and writing skills, explore francophone culture, and prepare for college, university, or careers where French is the working language.

By the end of the program, students will be ready to participate in conversations, take post-secondary courses in French, and work in bilingual environments. In Grade 12, students can also complete the DELF (Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française) exam, an internationally recognized certificate that proves their ability to read, write, speak, and understand French. This certification can support admission to French programs at colleges and universities and strengthen career opportunities in bilingual roles.

SCAN HERE



French Immersion French (FIF) needs to be taken throughout ALL grades

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME

Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute

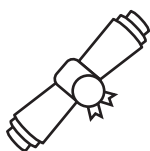
The IB Programme is a globally recognized symbol of academic excellence offered in over 145 countries.

At Superior CVI, it includes:



Grade 9 & 10

IB Preparatory courses to build strong skills and prepare for advanced study



Grade 11 & 12

The IB Diploma Programme, an enriched and accelerated curriculum that goes beyond the Ontario Curriculum

IB Students Are:

- Curious and enthusiastic about learning
- Organized and able to manage a demanding workload
- Interested in academic challenges beyond the Ontario curriculum
- Active in school and community life
- Ready to think critically and engage with big ideas



SCAN HERE



The IB Diploma meets the highest standards required by universities worldwide and is governed by the International Baccalaureate Head Office in Geneva, Switzerland. Completing the diploma gives students an advantage for university admission because the advanced curriculum includes significant first-year university content.

The IB Programme is open to all students in Thunder Bay, regardless of elementary school, and attracts learners from outside the city, province, and even the country.



Contact:

Mrs. Karen Watt
IB Coordinator
(807) 625-4001

Advanced Placement (AP) Program

Westgate CVI and Hammarskjold HS

The AP Program is a globally recognized academic opportunity that allows students to take high school courses at a university level. At Lakehead Public Schools, AP combines the Ontario curriculum with enriched content to prepare students for AP exams, which can earn university credits and provide an advantage for post-secondary studies.

Students typically begin with Pre-AP courses in Grades 9 and 10, which follow the Ontario curriculum but include additional challenges to build strong skills in chosen subject areas.

In Grades 11 and 12, students can take AP courses in subjects such as Biology, Calculus, and English Literature and Language. AP exams are written in May and scored internationally, giving students the chance to demonstrate advanced achievement. At many Ontario universities, a high score on the AP exam can count toward a university credit.

AP Students Are:

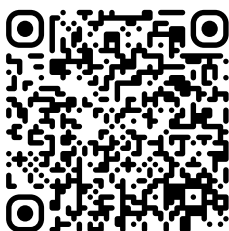
- Motivated and eager to learn
- Organized and able to manage a demanding workload
- Interested in academic challenges
- Strong in reading, writing, and critical thinking
- Ready for enriched learning and university-level preparation

AP Students Gain:

- Development of advanced academic and problem-solving skills
- Preparation for the challenging nature of post-secondary education
- Opportunity to earn university credit (with successful AP exam results)



SCAN HERE



Grade 9 Pre-Advanced Placement courses are offered at select schools, based on availability.

Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute

- Grade 9 English
- Grade 9 Math
- Grade 9 Science



Hammarskjold High School

- Grade 9 Math





SPECIALIZED
PROGRAMS

EDGE Hockey Academy

Westgate CVI and Hammarskjold HS

Elevate Your Game. Elevate Your Education.

Offered at Hammarskjold and Westgate, EDGE is a high-performance hockey and education program for motivated student-athletes in Grades 9 & 10.

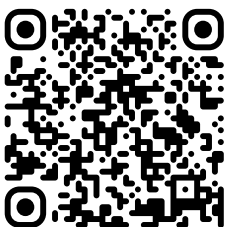
Who Should Apply:

- Students who love hockey and want to improve skills and hockey IQ.
- Students who are committed to training and personal growth.
- Students who enjoy learning in a team-based environment.

What You Get:

- On-Ice Training: 3 sessions/week focused on skating, puck skills, shooting, and game sense.
- Off-Ice Development: Strength, conditioning, agility, video analysis, and nutrition.
- Earn Credits: 2 Physical Education credits within your regular timetable.

SCAN HERE



Transportation

Transportation is provided between the school and the arena. Families must transport students to the rink on ice days and pick up equipment at the end of the day.

Kendomang Zhadogenamonon (KZ) Lodge

ALL Lakehead Public High Schools

KZ Lodge is an alternative Grade 9 program for students who self-identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit (FNMI). Offered in partnership with the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, the program blends:

- Ontario curriculum courses
- Land-based learning and life skills
- Indigenous ways of knowing and being

Students benefit from a smaller class size, caring educators, and strong community connections.

While the program focuses on Grade 9, support continues throughout high school.

Interested families can speak with their child's elementary school or contact the secondary school directly.



Students who thrive in KZ Lodge often:

- Enjoy learning through Indigenous perspectives and practices
- Appreciate outdoor and land-based experiences year-round
- Feel comfortable in a small, supportive learning community
- Value hands-on, experiential learning opportunities
- Are interested in building strong connections with peers and community



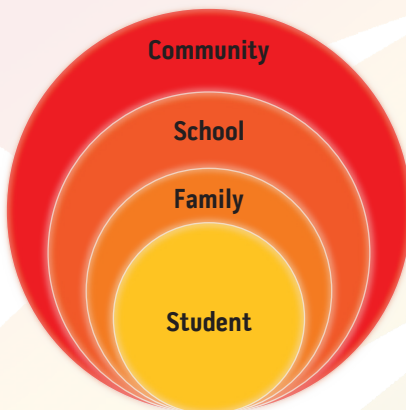
FOUR DIRECTIONS

The Four Directions First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Graduation Coach model is an approach that provides holistic supports to Indigenous students and their families. All Lakehead Public Schools high schools have Graduation Coaches.

How a Four Directions Graduation Coach Helps You:

- **Build Connections:** They get to know you, your family, your teachers and your community.
- **Help Navigate Situations:** They help you with questions, challenges, or situations where extra guidance is needed.
- **Support Your Future Goals:** They support goals and help you plan for high school and beyond graduation.
- **Find the Right Support:** They help you access tutoring, community programs, course planning and mentorship opportunities.
- **Stay Connected to the Community:** They help you build strong connections with people and supports in your community.

Circle of Caring Adults



North

Hammar skjold High School

80 Clarkson Street, South

(807) 767-1631

Superior CVI

333 High Street, North

(807) 768-7284

South

Westgate CVI

707 James Street, South

(807) 577-4251

"As a Grad Coach, my students know that I care about each and every one of them and will do everything in my power to keep them engaged and foster their success."

Rachelle Pelletier, Graduation Coach



Lakehead Public Schools has lots of clubs, teams, and activities for students. Whatever you're into, our school staff works hard to make sure there's something for everyone. At Lakehead Public Schools, we want every student to feel at home—because, like our motto says, 'You Belong Here.'



SPORTS

Student sports run year-round, allowing students to play on a team and compete against other Thunder Bay high schools. Some sports require tryouts, while others are open to everyone.

Fall	Winter	Spring
Girls' Basketball	Boys' Basketball	Badminton
Cross-Country Running	Cheerleading	Cycling
Football	Curling	Soccer
Golf	Girls' Hockey	Tennis
Boys Volleyball	Nordic Skiing	Track & Field
Disc Golf	Girls' Volleyball	
	Wrestling	



CLUBS

Clubs allow students to explore interests, develop skills, build a sense of community, and experience personal growth, contributing to a well-rounded and enjoyable educational experience. All secondary schools have a variety of clubs and groups. Some club examples include:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gender & Sexuality Alliance (GSA)Outdoors clubChess clubAnime club | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Wrench clubTravel clubIndigenous Leadership ClubStudent Activities Council |
|---|---|



ACTIVITIES

Many activities take place throughout the school year, with a significant portion driven by the interests of the students.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Grade 9 DayPow WowsIntramural sportsBand | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Semi-formalMovie nightsSpirit days/weeksPep rallies |
|---|--|



SPACES

Every school strives to create environments where students experience a sense of belonging, whether it's during a club gathering, a designated workspace, or a spot for relaxation and rejuvenation.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Wellness RoomCafeteria/Cafetorium | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Four Directions/Learning LodgeFitness Room |
|--|---|