

The Grade 9 Destreamed Program

WHAT IS DESTREAMING?

Academic streaming is the process of “streaming” students into different course levels. In Ontario, these course levels are streamed according to the intended pathway at graduation – Apprenticeship, College, University, or the Workplace.

Effective September 2022, Grade 9 courses in BHNCDsb, and across Ontario, are destreamed. This means that students will no longer choose between the Academic and Applied level for their core courses (English, French, Geography, Mathematics, and Science). Instead, most students will enroll in the same course for these subjects. Mathematics, Science, English and Geography will be offered as destreamed courses (code 1W). French will be offered at the Academic level (code 1D) while a destreamed course is developed by the Ministry of Education.

WHAT ABOUT RELIGION AND ELECTIVE COURSES?

Grade 9 Religion, and all Grade 9 elective courses (such as Physical Education, Music, Drama, Visual Arts and Technology) have always been destreamed. These courses will continue to be offered at the open level (code O).

WHY IS THIS CHANGE BEING MADE?

Research shows that academic streaming has negative impacts for many students, especially students from marginalized communities or students with special education needs. Streaming requires students to choose their post-secondary pathway while they are still in Grade 8. A common, destreamed Grade 9 program will allow students to transition into high school and continue to mature and know themselves, before they choose the pathway that is best suited for their skills and interests.

MY CHILD HAS SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS. HOW WILL THIS IMPACT THEM?

As always, educators will work diligently to know their learners and ensure individual student needs are met. For students on an Individual Education Plan (IEP), appropriate IEP accommodations will be

developed in support of a student’s learning profile. Students currently working at a modified grade level in English, Mathematics and/or Science may be considered for registration in a Locally Developed course in that subject area(s). This decision will be made in consultation with families along with elementary and secondary school staff as part of the Grade 9 registration process. If you have any questions regarding your child’s Grade 9 programming and/or course selection, please do not hesitate to reach out to their current classroom teacher or Special Education Resource teacher at their home school.

MY CHILD IS AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER. HOW WILL THIS IMPACT THEM?

Our Secondary schools offer a variety of supports for newcomer and multilingual students who are developing their English language listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

An English as a Second Language (ESL) credit course can be substituted for a destreamed English credit course in grade 9. Our educators will help determine your child's proficiency in English language and literacy skills. We will recommend an English credit course (and other courses) that are right for them and helps meet their future goals. If you have any questions regarding your child's course selections, please do not hesitate to contact their Grade 8 classroom teacher at the current BHN elementary school that they attend.

If your child will be new to our Board starting in Grade 9, please contact the Secondary school that they plan to attend. Ask to speak to the English as a Second Language (ESL) System Teacher for your child's new school!

WILL GRADE 10 COURSES BE DESTREAMED AS WELL?

At this point, Grade 10 courses will be streamed into Academic and Applied levels. Students will work with their families, teachers, and guidance counsellors to choose the Grade 10 pathway that is best suited to their skills and interests.