

# Student Testimonials



*"Having a family atmosphere makes students less nervous, and encourages them to become more involved in the numerous extracurricular activities and service opportunities the school offers. The friends I've made here I know I can depend on for life. I would not trade my experience here for anything. Catholic schooling has changed me for the better."*

Arianna Nicola  
St. Anne Catholic High School



*"I love my Catholic school because it allows me to pursue my passions, and it set me on the right path for the future. My school provided me so many opportunities to grow as an individual, but I've also learned a lot about helping others."*

Carson Hamlin  
Holy Names Catholic High School

# Catholic Graduate Expectations

- A Discerning Believer Formed in the Catholic Faith Community who celebrates the signs and sacred mystery of God's presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection, and moral living.
- An Effective Communicator who speaks, writes, and listens honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel values.
- A Reflective and Creative Thinker who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for common good.
- A Self-Directed, Responsible, Life Long Learner who develops and demonstrates the God-given potential.
- A Collaborative Contributor who finds meaning, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.
- A Caring Family Member who attends to family, school, parish, and the wider community.
- A Responsible Citizen who gives witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and sacredness of human life.

# Next Steps

It's very important that students make decisions on their high school plan by consulting first with parents and educators such as their Grade 8 Teachers, Student Success Teachers, Guidance Counsellors and Principals.

These are the people who can direct students towards the pathways that work best for them, while helping them establish goals that are consistent with their individual aspirations.

**Call your local Catholic high school for more information!**

*Getting Ready for Grade 9...  
WE'RE WITH YOU ALL THE WAY!*



**COUGARS**  
Cardinal Carter  
Catholic Secondary School



**Holy Names**  
Catholic High School



**Wildcat**  
St. Thomas of Villanova  
Catholic High School



**F.J. Brennan**  
Catholic High School



**St. Joseph's**  
Catholic High School



**St. Anne's**  
Catholic High School



**Catholic Central**  
High School



**Assumption**  
Catholic High School

For more information about high school,  
visit our Getting Ready for Grade 9 Page at  
**wecdsb.on.ca**





# Dear Grade 8 Students and Families,



The transition from elementary school to secondary school is an exciting time in the life of a student. Please know as your educational journey takes you from Grade 8 to Grade 9, we are dedicated to making this transition as smooth as possible. This resource will provide you with key information to support this transition. We encourage you to work closely with your secondary school's guidance department and take part in the various information sessions and transition activities offered by your Catholic high school in order to learn more about the innovative programs and wide variety of pathways that are available for you. We wish you a successful and rewarding high school experience.

Sincerely,  
**Emelda Byrne**  
Director of Education

**De-streamed courses** make up the main pathway for the majority of Grade 9 students. By working collaboratively in an inclusive and engaging learning environment, students develop critical skills such as problem solving, communication, inquiry and technology skills. Students with a variety of abilities and interests can achieve success by working through a wide range of learning opportunities.

**Locally Developed courses** emphasize skill acquisition required for success in Grade 11 and 12 Workplace and Open courses and experiential learning.

## Students must earn the following compulsory credits to obtain the Ontario Secondary School Diploma

### 18 Compulsory Credits:

<b>4</b> credits in <b>English</b> (1 credit per grade)	<b>1</b> credit in the <b>Arts</b>
<b>3</b> credits in <b>Math</b> (at least 1 credit in Gr. 11 or 12)	<b>1</b> credit in <b>Health &amp; Physical Education</b>
<b>2</b> credits in <b>Science</b>	<b>1</b> credit in <b>French as a Second Language</b>
<b>1</b> credits in <b>Canadian History</b>	<b>0.5</b> credit in <b>Career Studies</b>
<b>1</b> credits in <b>Canadian Geography</b>	<b>0.5</b> credit in <b>Civics</b>

### Plus one credit from each of the following groups:

<b>1 Group 1:</b>	additional credit in English, or French as a Second Language, or a Native language, or a classical or international language, or social sciences and the humanities, or Canadian and world studies, or guidance and career education, or cooperative education.
<b>1 Group 2:</b>	additional credit in health and physical education, or the arts, or business studies, or French as a Second Language, or cooperative education.
<b>1 Group 3:</b>	additional credit in science (grade 11 or 12), or technological education, or French as a second language.

<b>In addition to the compulsory credits, students must complete:</b>	<b>12</b> optional credits
	▶ at least 2 online learning credits
	▶ the Provincial Literacy Requirement

## Special Education

The Special Education Philosophy of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board will be to provide meaningful, student-focused educational opportunities for all students. We will shape our direction using the guiding principles of our Catholic faith to create a sense of belonging and acceptance. Each student will be included in the typical classroom environment, supported by parents/guardians, peers, staff and other members of the school family. We believe that all students should be empowered to become independent, active members of their community, a place where every person contributes and benefits from living and learning together.

# SPECIALIZED OPPORTUNITIES



## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

This program is recognized as a hallmark of educational excellence by the finest universities worldwide. Graduates obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma and an International Baccalaureate Diploma.



## FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

French is the mother tongue of one-quarter of all Canadians and one of Canada's two official languages. Learning a second language is valuable for a number of reasons:

- Enhances critical and creative thinking abilities
- Strengthens first language skills
- Increases respect and understanding of other cultures
- Advantage to pursue a number of careers, both in Canada and internationally



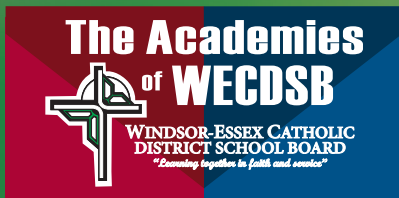
## REACH AHEAD PROGRAM

We have some great Reach Ahead opportunities for students who would like to get a head start on their high school diploma. After graduation from Grade 8, students can take four-week summer courses in such subjects as Exploring Technologies, Healthy Living, and Hospitality & Tourism.



## CONSTRUCTION ACADEMY

Learn from highly qualified teachers about masonry, carpentry, plumbing, electricity and other construction related trades. Get your diploma, on the job experience and earn while you learn by apprenticing with a local company through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.



## SPORTS ACADEMIES

Earn physical education credits while devoting your attention to your favourite sport or activity, including soccer, baseball, hockey, volleyball, dance and gymnastics.



## STEM ACADEMIES

It's no secret that many jobs of the future are going to require people who are well versed in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Our Academies offer students the opportunity to bundle courses together in to STEM-focused packages and provide them with the foundation they'll need to successfully continue on in related post-secondary disciplines, or exciting careers in STEM-related sectors. Students will receive a STEM certificate upon graduation.

For a complete list of specialized programs and locations where they are offered visit our website: [www.wecdsb.on.ca](http://www.wecdsb.on.ca)  
English as a Second Language programs are offered at Catholic Central High School. For more information, please call the school at 519-256-3171.