



COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION FOR 2023-24

presented by
LAURA SECORD SECONDARY SCHOOL
Guidance Department

A Message from Guidance

The courses you choose in high school help set the path for your future: college, university, apprenticeship, or the workforce.

Here are some tips to help you decide:

1. Balance your workload!
2. Challenge yourself!
3. Think about what you plan to do after high school!
4. Try a new subject!
5. Choose wisely!

Please make sure to discuss your options with your parent/guardian before submitting your course selections.

WHY ARE YOUR COURSE SELECTIONS SO IMPORTANT?

- ▶ You need to choose certain courses in order to graduate and to enable you to reach your chosen post-secondary destination.
- ▶ Your selections help determine what courses we will offer in the next school year.
- ▶ It is important that you make good choices now as it will be difficult to make changes later.

ONTARIO DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ At least 30 credits—a credit consists of 110 hours of course work (90 days @ 75 minutes/day)
- ▶ 18 credits are compulsory—courses from specific categories that must be taken
- ▶ The remaining 12 credits are elective—you can choose these courses depending upon your goals and interests
- ▶ A minimum of 40 hours of community involvement
- ▶ Successful completion of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test or Course
- ▶ Two (2) eLearning courses – you are able to opt out of this requirement by completing a form

Grade 9 to 10

- ▶ Your destination, interests, skills, and abilities will determine what courses you take and the level at which you will take them:
 - **Academic** courses in Grade 10 lead to **University or College/Apprenticeship/Workplace)** courses in Grades 11 & 12
 - **Applied** courses lead to **College/Apprenticeship/Workplace**
 - Speak to parents/guardians and your current teachers as to what level you should continue at for Grade 10.
 - In a course code, the **D** represents Academic, and the **P** represents Applied levels.

POINTS TO PONDER

- ▶ Keep in mind that many courses have pre-requisites—courses that must be taken in advance. Refer to “Course & Pre-requisite Chart” resource or the Student Course Guide
- ▶ You cannot earn an additional credit by selecting a course that you have already passed (except for Co-op).
- ▶ **ALL STUDENTS are to choose 8 courses and 2 alternate choices which will be used ONLY if you have a timetable conflict.**

34-CREDIT THRESHOLD FOR GRADS RETURNING NEXT YEAR

- ▶ Students who will graduate this year but are returning for another year of high school will be limited to earning a total of 34 secondary school credits at a regular high school (this includes any repeated courses to upgrade a passing mark.
- ▶ You can still take additional courses but it will likely need to be via another means (e.g., Night School, Summer School, Self-Study, eLearning, etc.)
- ▶ Graduates planning to return should choose courses now. You will meet with Administration later in Semester 2 to discuss your plans for the 2023-24 school year.

NEW IN 2023-24!

AMM30/3M1

Audio Production

Offered Every Other Year – Play Years

The Audio Production course will have you explore how audio is produced for recordings as well as Live sound.

You will get hands-on experience setting up and running the sound for next year's musical while also learning production and sound design techniques used in music studios, film studios and other media environments.

See Mr. Alexander for more information.

NEW IN 2023-24!

SVN3E/3M1

Environmental Science

- ▶ Field trips to industrial facilities, post-secondary institutions, and local industry partners
- ▶ Guest speakers
- ▶ Eco-Friendly activities
- ▶ Second Recycles!
- ▶ See Mr. Bell for more information.

NEW IN 2023-24!

TGJ3O/3M1

Communications Technology

- ▶ Graphic design
- ▶ Video animation
- ▶ Photography
- ▶ No pre-requisite
- ▶ See Mr. Lyle for more information.

OFFERED IN 2023-24!

Some courses are offered every other year. These courses will be available for next school year:

AWJ3M1 – Stage Design

CHY4C1 – World History Since the 15th Century

CHY4U1 – World History Since the 15th Century

MEL4E1 – Mathematics for Work and Everyday Life

Courses **NOT** being offered for next year but will be available in the 2024-25 school year are:

MEL3E1 – Mathematics for Work and Everyday Life

HSE4M1 – Equity and Social Justice

COURSE REMINDERS

- ▶ **Co-op Education (COOP8)**

- ▶ counts as two credits. Good attendance and work habits are important, and an application is required.

- ▶ **Ontario Literacy Course (OLC40)**

- ▶ please select this course if you have not yet met the literacy requirement and plan to graduate next year

COURSE REMINDERS

- ▶ **Leadership & Peer Support (GPP3O)**

- ▶ Expertise in a subject area and good attendance and work habits are important and an application is required.

GRADE 11 MATH GUIDELINES

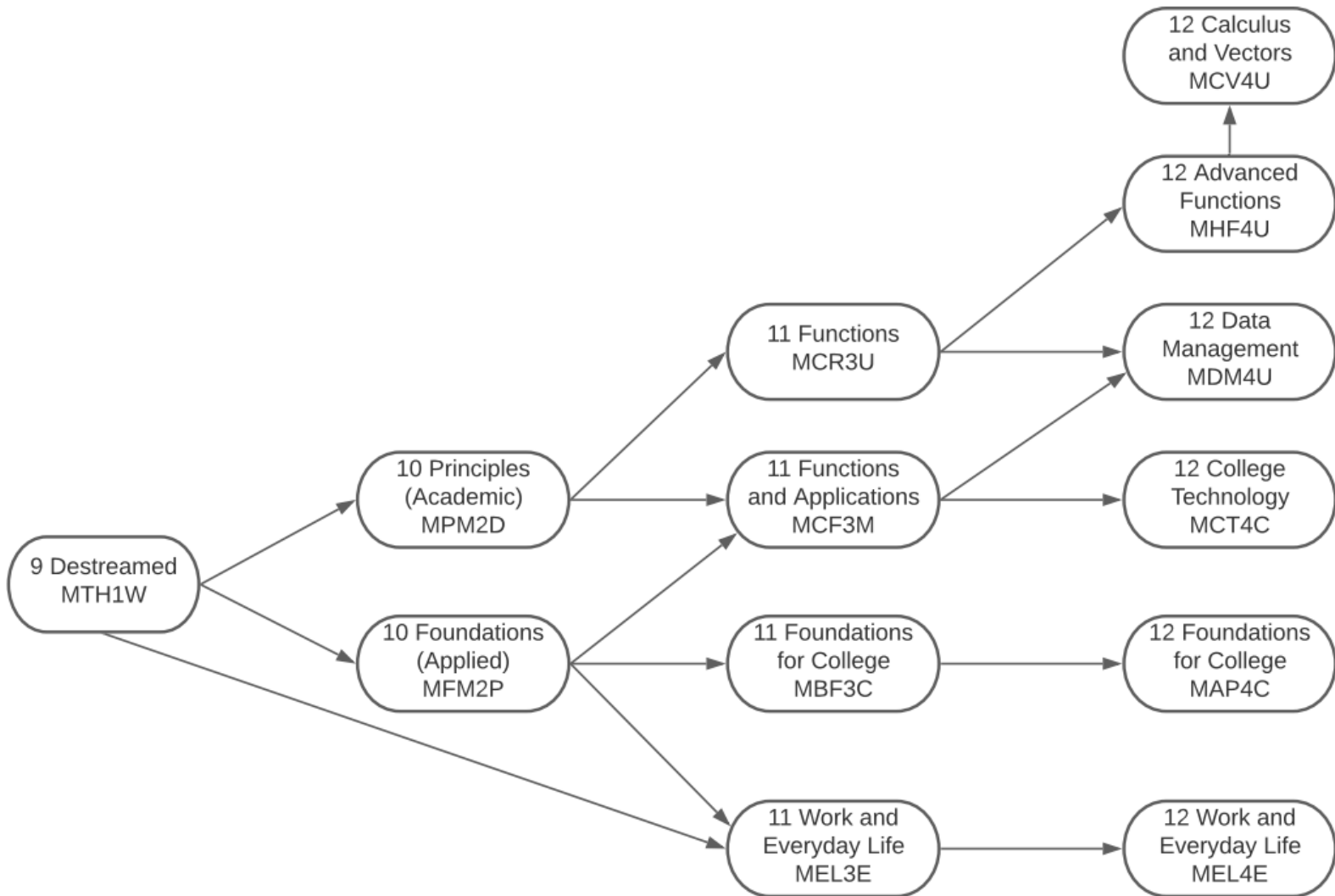
- ▶ **MCR3U1** is a course geared towards students who require Calculus & Functions in Grade 12 for post-secondary program requirements (e.g., engineering, health science, etc).
- ▶ **MCF3M1** is a course aimed at students who simply need a university-level math course in Grade 12 (Data Management) for their post-secondary program...
- ▶ **MBF3C1** is a course for students who require a college-level math course in Grade 12 for post-secondary requirements (e.g., apprenticeship program)
- ▶ **MEL3E1** is a course for students who really struggle in applied math and do not require Grade 12 math for any post-secondary program but need the 3rd compulsory math credit...the minimum pre-requisite is MTH1W1

THE GRADE 11 MATH DECISION

- ▶ Discuss your Math pathway with both your teacher and your parent/guardian.

Typical Mathematics Pathways

This chart illustrates typical Mathematics pathways from Grade 9 through 12.



IS COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IN YOUR FUTURE?

- ▶ Potential Ontario university applicants must have earned **at least six Grade 12 U/M credits** (including ENG4U)
- ▶ Check out specific admission requirements:
 - ▶ College?—visit www.ontariocolleges.ca
 - ▶ University?—visit www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca
- ▶ If you are currently in Grade 9 or 10, make sure the courses you are choosing this year lead to the courses you need to be taking in your final year of secondary school

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Special High Skills Major – Arts & Culture

Program Start – Grade 11

- ▶ Provides students with “bundled” credits, sector-recognized certifications and training courses, experiential learning activities, essential skills and work habits, and “reach ahead” experiences in a field of interest to them
- ▶ Many colleges and universities recognize this certification on applications and for bursaries/scholarships

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Special High Skills Major – Construction

Program Start – Grade 11

- ▶ Provides students with “bundled” credits, sector-recognized certifications and training courses, experiential learning activities, essential skills and work habits, and “reach ahead” experiences in a field of interest to them
- ▶ Many colleges and universities recognize this certification on applications and for bursaries/scholarships

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Waiting for Ministry Approval

Special High Skills Major – Health & Wellness

Program Start – Grade 11

- ▶ Provides students with “bundled” credits, sector-recognized certifications and training courses, experiential learning activities, essential skills and work habits, and “reach ahead” experiences in a field of interest to them
- ▶ Many colleges and universities recognize this certification on applications and for bursaries/scholarships

SPECIAL PROGRAMS



DNA Arts (District of Niagara Academy for the Arts)

- ▶ Allows talented and committed Arts students to concentrate their studies in the Arts while also completing their diploma requirements
- ▶ There are 5 streams: Dance, Drama, Music, Music Theatre, Visual Arts
- ▶ Students must take a minimum of two (2) Arts credits per year (refer to Pathways Chart) in addition to completing several non-academic requirements
- ▶ Upon completion and graduation, students will receive a DNA Arts Certificate
- ▶ You must complete an ONLINE APPLICATION FORM and successful completion of audition/orientation are required

SPECIAL PROGRAMS



Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

- ▶ Must be 16 years of age and have completed the compulsory and total credit requirements for Grade 10
- ▶ Must choose to take at least one 2-credit cooperative education course and have a placement in a trade

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Dual Credit Program – Program Start Grade 11

- ▶ Students who wish to enhance their education through a college experience – must be 16 years of age and have earned a minimum of 16 credits and **completed Grade 11 English successfully**
- ▶ Designed for students unsure of post-secondary plans
- ▶ Students earn 2 college elective credits that also count as 2 high school credits for graduation
- ▶ Attend Laura Secord classes in the morning and then go to college for the afternoon
- ▶ No cost to student and transportation is provided
- ▶ Various areas of study: Arts & Culture, Healthcare Focus, Technology, Well-Being Focus
- ▶ An application is required

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Regional Program - Home Build

(Program Start – Grade 11)

The DSBN Home Build provides students with the opportunity to spend a semester building a home from the ground up with the Regional Construction teacher and various contractors and trades people. Students are selected from schools across DSBN and become part of the Regional Construction SHSM. Students receive all their certifications and trainings while at the home build. Transportation may be provided.

Regional Program – DigIt

(Discovering Innovative Green Industry Techniques)

(Program Start – Grade 11)

The DigIt program provides students opportunities to explore aquaponics, aeroponics, vermiculture, locally grown farm to table practices, community gardening, and experimental greenhouse operations. Students learn within the Regional Horticulture SHSM and benefit from working with a variety of community partners such as the Niagara Parks Commission, Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, the Canadian Wildlife Federation and Ontario Power Generation. The program is located at Westlane SS. Transportation may be provided.

Applications are required for both programs.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS



To show your interest in learning more about any of these special programs, please **choose them in your Course Planner in Xello as EXTRA CREDIT courses.**

The choice will appear in your planner at the bottom and will have a zero-credit value.

Later in the semester, we will have meetings to share more information and the application process if required.

WHAT IF?

- ▶ I am not successful in a compulsory course this year?
 - ▶ Compulsory courses take priority over elective courses.
 - ▶ You may repeat it here at Secord. This might mean that you will have some subjects twice in a year. For example, Grade 10 English in first semester and Grade 11 English in second semester.
 - ▶ You may be able to repeat it at summer school.

CHECK OUT XELLO!

ACCESS XELLO FROM D2L



Xello

HOW TO GET HELP CHOOSING COURSES?

- ▶ Use the resources posted on the [Guidance](#) website, under the link – **Course Selection**:
 1. Xello Video Tutorial
 2. Courses & Pre-requisite Chart
 3. What do I need to graduate?
 4. DNA Arts Pathways Chart
 5. SHSM Pathway Chart – Arts & Culture
 6. SHSM Pathway Chart - Construction
 7. Math Pathways Chart
 8. Online Student Course Guide
 9. Understanding a Course Code
- ▶ Visit all the Department pages on Laura Secord's website to get more information about courses offered by each department at Secord.
- ▶ See a teacher in the building and ask your questions directly

IN FEBRUARY



In February, every student will meet with a Counsellor to discuss your choices and future pathways during your MSIP period.

We will be able to make changes to your course choices at that time.

A final copy of your course selections will be given to you to get signed by your parent/guardian and returned to the Guidance Office.

2023-24 COURSE SELECTION DEADLINE

All course selections must be
SUBMITTED by

Tuesday, January 31

using the online program
Xello

NEED MORE INFORMATION?



Check out the Guidance page on our school website

www.laurasecord.dsbn.org

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Please remember to choose wisely!

Ask questions!

Ask for assistance!

Deadline – January 31