



TLSS
2021-2022

Grade 8 Student & Parent Newsletter

Welcome to Twin Lakes Secondary School!

Congratulations on taking the next big step in your education and starting high school! It's normal to feel a little bit nervous about change, but we are confident that our strong academic programming, our diverse extra-curricular activities and our amazing students and staff will have you feeling at home here at Twin Lakes in no time.

Please read through this newsletter carefully to make yourself familiar with how the high school program works and how best to create a plan to help you meet all of your goals for high school.

QUICK FACT!

You can graduate from high school in four years with your *Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)*!

The Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

Students must earn a total of 30 credits to obtain a high school diploma. By finishing 8 credits each year, students can graduate with their OSSD in 4 years.

Here are the other details of what you need to complete for your diploma:

CREDITS

18 compulsory and 12 elective credits

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

40 hours of community involvement (starting July 2021)

LITERACY REQUIREMENT

Grade 10 Literacy Test or Grade 12 Literacy Course



The Credit System

HIGH SCHOOL IS BASED ON A CREDIT SYSTEM.

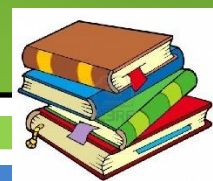
- STUDENTS EARN ONE CREDIT FOR EACH COURSE THEY TAKE AND PASS WITH A MARK OF 50% OR HIGHER.
- STUDENTS ARE PROMOTED BY INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT TO THE NEXT GRADE.



SEMESTERS

At TLSS we divide our year up into two semesters.

- Semester 1: September – January
- Semester 2: February – June
- Students take four classes in semester 1 and four other classes in semester 2
- Every student has his or her own timetable



Types of Courses

Open	Locally Developed	Applied	Academic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course expectations are appropriate for students in all levels • Usually elective classes (e.g. Art, Physical Education, Family Studies, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis is on skills • Smaller class size • More individualized support from the teacher • Pathway leads directly to workplace opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis balanced between skills and theory • Class sizes are bigger than Locally Developed but smaller than Academic • Increased expectation for independent work • Pathway leads directly to college or workplace opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on problem solving and complex thinking • Class sizes are the biggest • Greatest expectation for independent work • Pathway leads directly to university, college or workplace opportunities



P A T H W A Y S				
GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12	OPTIONS AFTER GRADUATION
Academic	*Academic	University	University	**University College Apprenticeship Workplace
Applied	Applied	College	College	***College Apprenticeship Workplace
Locally Developed	Locally Developed	Workplace	Workplace	Apprenticeship (with restrictions) Workplace

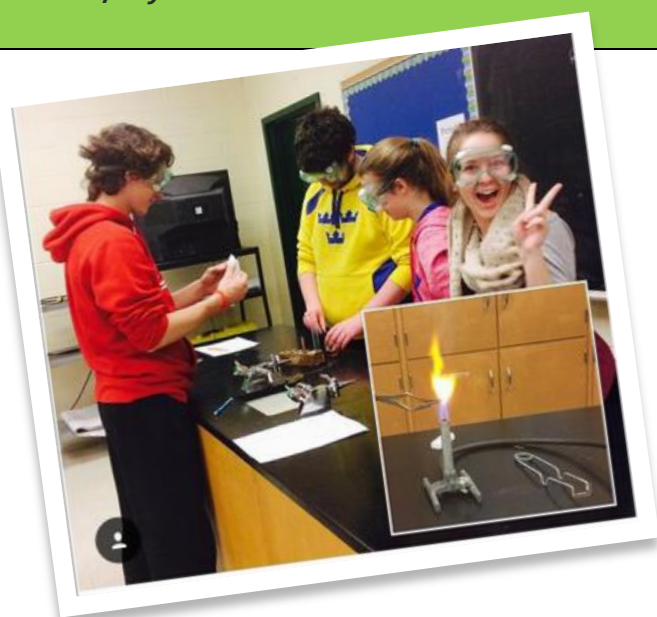
*Students may move from Applied to Academic from grade 9 to 10 in all subjects.
 **Academic/University level English is required for admission to all university programs directly out of high school.
 *** Applied/College level English is the minimum requirement for admission to college programs directly out of high school.

How do I choose the right level?

Consider all of the following:

- Your grade 8 teacher recommendation
- Your current success in the subject
- Your post-secondary goals and future plans
- Your interests
- Your learning styles – do you prefer hands on learning or independent problem solving?
- Your homework completion
- Your ability to work independently

** Remember you can take a mixture of levels in your courses, or you can take them all at the same level.*



education • adventure • community

PEAC: Partners in Education, Adventure & Community

The PEAC program is a grade 9/10 venture unique to Twin Lakes! Throughout this two year program, students will experience in-class components and out-of-class adventures. Students will be timetabled together for one course per semester to integrate the experiential opportunities with enhanced classroom learning.

If you are interested in applying for PEAC, you will need to submit a digital application through a Google classroom. Email Mr. Lowery at clowery@scdsb.on.ca from your SCDSB email account indicating your intent to apply for the program. You will then receive a Google Classroom code and instructions on how to submit the various parts of your application. All components of PEAC applications are due Wednesday, March 24 at 3:00 pm.

FRENCH IMMERSION (FI)

French Immersion is offered to students who have completed an elementary school FI program. Students take ten FI courses over their four years in high school and receive a Certificate of Bilingual Studies in French Immersion upon graduation.

Special Education Programs and Information

- Students on an IEP or identified as exceptional by IPRC should receive recommendations and course selection assistance from the grade 8 and/or Special Education teachers. TLSS Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) will also be involved in this process. Parents should connect with their grade 8 SERT with questions regarding the TLSS transition process.
- Resources available to meet the needs of exceptional students in all SCDSB schools include: Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs), Guidance services, Special Education resource rooms (called "The Hub" at TLSS), and in-school Strengths and Needs Committee (SNC) discussions.
- Gifted Congregated Cluster Program (GCCP): students from any elementary school can enroll in this program if they have an IPRC'd gifted identification. Students will be clustered together as best as is possible for academic and out-of-classroom enrichment opportunities in various compulsory subjects.

WHAT COURSES DO I TAKE IN GRADE 9?

All students must take the following 6 compulsory courses:

English	Academic, Applied or Locally Developed
Mathematics	Information forthcoming from the Ministry of Education
Science	Academic, Applied or Locally Developed
Geography	Academic, Applied or French Immersion
French	Academic, Applied, Open or French Immersion
*Physical Education	Open (Male or Female) *Strongly recommended but not required in grade 9. PPL1OU required for French Immersion
Integrated Arts	French Immersion students only

All students will also take two of the following elective courses. (French Immersion students have one elective.) We strongly recommend you make one of your choices an Arts subject (Drama, Music, or Visual Art) to fulfill the requirement of having one Arts credit for the OSSD. All elective courses are offered at the Open level.

Arts Electives

- Drama
- Music
- Visual Arts

Other Electives

- Business: Information Technology in Business
- Native Language: Ojibwe
- Social Science: Exploring Family Studies
- Technology: Exploring Technologies



STAY TUNED!

In June you'll find out more about school activities, sports, clubs, school supplies, bus schedules, fees and our August LINK CREW Orientation Day!

Please contact the TLSS Guidance Office at (705)325-1318 if you have any other questions!