

# 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 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 carefully read through this newsletter to learn how the high school program works and to determine how to best create a plan to meet all your goals for high school – and beyond!



## THE ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA (OSSD)

To earn a high school diploma (OSSD), students must complete:

- **30 CREDITS** (successfully passed courses)  
19 compulsory / 11 elective credits (for 2024 grade 9s)
- **40 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE**
- **LITERACY REQUIREMENT**  
Successful completion of the Grade 10 Literacy Test (OSSLT) or the Literacy Course (OLC)
- **ONLINE LEARNING REQUIREMENT**  
Completion of two online learning credits (opt out option available)



## 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 one and four different classes in semester two
- Every student has his or her own unique timetable

## 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.

## What courses do I take in grade 9?

All students must take the following **COMPULSORY** courses:

<b>English</b>	<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>Science</b>
<b>Geography</b>	<b>French</b>	

**Integrated Arts** (French Immersion only)  
**Physical Education** (Required for French Immersion)

All students will also take three of the following **ELECTIVE** courses. (French Immersion students have one elective.)

<b>Drama</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Visual Arts</b>	<b>Native Language: Ojibwe</b>
<b>Spanish</b>	<b>Social Science: Exploring Family Studies</b>

**Technology: Technology and the Skilled Trades**

**Business: Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset**

**Physical Education (Female/Male/Gender Inclusive)**

Students are also reminded that they must complete the following to graduate:

- ONE Technology credit (in grade 9 or 10)
- ONE Arts credit (Drama/Music/Visual Arts which can be taken in any year)
- ONE Physical Education credit (can be taken in any year)



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. Please email Mr. Lowery at [clowery@scdsb.on.ca](mailto: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 **Friday March 22 at 3:00 pm.**

## 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.

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