Grade 9 Program

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School



CDSB

Achieving Believing Belonging

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

PRINCIPAL	MRS. MORO
VICE-PRINCIPAL	MS. CARROLL
VICE-PRINCIPAL	MR. DUFFY
VICE-PRINCIPAL (IB)	MS. GIARDINA
CHAPLAINCY LEADER	MR. MAMARADLO

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

Student Speakers

- Audrey Cockburn (Grade 11)
- Jack Doyle (Grade 9)

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

STUDENT SERVICES

▪ **Mr. McConville**	**Student Services Dept. Head**
▪ **Mrs. Webber**	**Guidance Counsellor**
▪ **Mrs. Ferguson**	**Guidance Counsellor**
▪ **Mrs. Styka**	**Grade 10-12 IB Guidance Counsellor**
▪ **Mr. McHenry**	**Student Success Teacher**

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

Ontario Secondary School Diploma

30 credits (graduating class of June 2031)

- **17** compulsory credits
- **13** elective credits
- (**4** Religion courses compulsory, 1 in each year)
- 2 Mandatory e-learning credits
- 40 hrs. Community Involvement Activities
- The Provincial Literacy Requirement
- Financial Literacy Requirement

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

2-Mandatory E-Learning Credits

- **2-Elearning Credits are required to graduate (unless student opts out)**
- Families that wish to opt-out can opt-out by indicating this in myBlueprint when selecting courses in grade 11.
- A student's graduation status **will not** be affected if they opt-out of the eLearning requirement.
- The opt-out form need only be submitted once. Students may also choose to opt-in at a later date.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

Community Involvement

Minimum 40 hours beginning summer before Grade 9

- Encourages civic responsibility, Catholic values, and importance of volunteering
- Supports career explorations
- Students may begin community hours starting July 1st, 2027,
- Ministry and Board Guidelines governing placements

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

Compulsory credits

You need the following 17 compulsory credits to get your OSSD:

- 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade)
- 3 credits in mathematics (Grade 9, Grade 10 and 1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
- 2 credits in science
- 1 credit in technological education (Grade 9 or Grade 10)
- 1 credit in Canadian history (Grade 10)
- 1 credit in Canadian geography (Grade 9)
- 1 credit in the arts
- 1 credit in health and physical education
- 1 credit in French as a second language
- 0.5 credit in career studies
- 0.5 credit in civics and citizenship
- 1 credit from the STEM-related course group

Financial Literacy Requirement

- Students will complete this requirement as part of their compulsory Grade 10 Career Studies course.
- The requirement assesses core financial literacy concepts from the Grades 1 to 9 curriculum and supports the Grade 10 Career Studies course.
- To meet the requirement, students: have up to **2 attempts** during the course and must earn at **least 70%** on the modules

CDSB

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

STEM-related course group

- Of the 17 compulsory credits, you must complete **1** from the following group:
  - business studies
  - computer studies
  - cooperative education
  - mathematics (in addition to the 3 compulsory credits currently required)
  - science (in addition to the 2 compulsory credits currently required)
  - technological education (in addition to the 1 compulsory credit required)

Optional credits

- You must earn 13 optional credits by successfully completing courses from your school's program and course calendar.
- Optional credits may include up to 4 credits earned through approved dual credit Programs.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

OSSD Literacy Test Requirement

MUST meet Literacy Test requirement to graduate (recorded on OST-transcript)

- Students take the Literacy Test in Grade 10
- Students will receive test support as they prepare to write the Literacy test
- If student is unable to meet standards on first attempt:

✓Help is available through the after-school Literacy program to prepare them for retaking the test in Grade 11

✓If you were unsuccessful, you can take and pass the OLC4O1 course in Grade 12

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

Our School Year

Semester School with 8 courses over two semesters

- 4 courses from September to January
- 4 courses from February to June

Four courses daily (75 minutes each)
Period1, Period 2, Period 3, Period 4 and period 5

50-minute Lunch Period 3 or 4

6 Compulsories

	De-streamed	Locally Developed
English	ENL1W1	ENG1L1
Math	MTH1W1	MAT1L1
Science	SNC1W1	SNC1L1
Geography	CGC1W1	
French	FSF1D1	
Religion	HRE1O1	

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

Extended French Certificate

- Earned by completing 7 specific French Courses
  - 4 Extended French Courses
    - FEF1DF
    - FEF2DF
    - FEF3UF
    - FEF4UF
  - CGC1DF Grade 9 Geography taught in French
  - CHC2DF Grade 10 History taught in French
  - HRT3MF Grade 11 World Religions taught in French

Grade 9 Electives (Select Two)

AMU1O1	Music
ADA101	Dramatic Arts
AVI1O1	Visual Arts
NAC 101	Expressions of First Nations, Metis and Inuit Cultures
BEM1O1	Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset
GLS1O1	Learning Strategies
PPL1OF	Female Gym
PPL1OM	Male Gym
PAL1O3	Soccer
TFJ1O1	Food and Nutrition
TGJ101	Digital Making and Expression
TXJ101	Cosmetology
GLE101	Learning Strategies Course

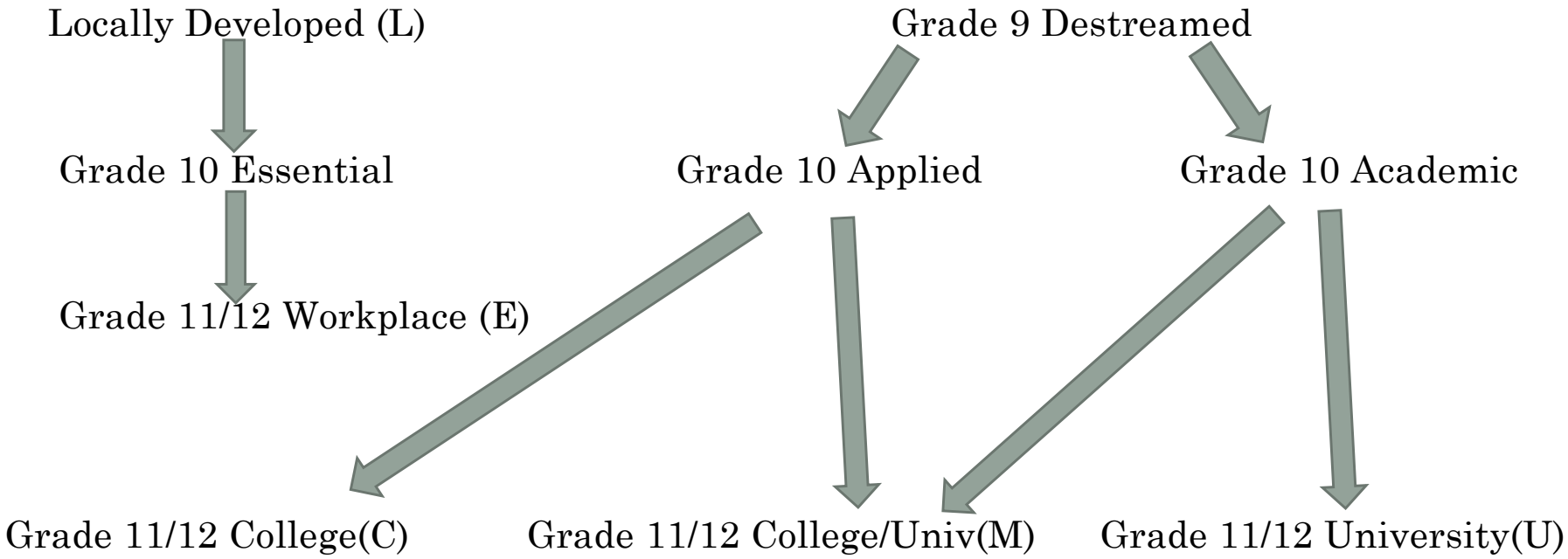
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

Destreamed, Essential or Open?

- **Destreamed (D or W)**
- Gr 9 Destreamed courses equip all students with the knowledge, skills and work ethic to be successful in academic or applied courses in grade 10. i.e., SNC1W1 or FSF1D1
- **Locally Developed (L)**
- Developed by HCDSB to meet educational requirements not met by provincial curriculum documents (Grade 9 and 10, Math, Science, English) ["L" Indicates Locally Developed] i.e., SNC1L1
- **Open (O)**
- These courses have one set of learning expectations. Students in all levels are able to take these courses i.e., HRE101, BTT101 ["O" Indicates Open]

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

Grade 11 and 12 Course Types
Post-Secondary Destinations



St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

Student Success

Supports the individual needs of the students as they move from elementary to secondary school.
Monitoring/support by a caring adult and the school Student Success Team.

Helps student who are;

- performing at level 1 or below, attendance concerns, other?!
- being supported/monitored with no IEP
- Math Help and L2L Tutoring to support student learning

Consider GLS1O1 Learning Strategies

- Benefit from taking course
- To support other courses

School Based Supports

- Subject specific after school help
- Peer Tutoring
- Student Services
- Special Education
- Resource room lunch time support
- Student Success Team
- Student Resource Team
- Social Worker
- Child Youth Counsellor
- School Chaplain
- Mentorship program



CDSB

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

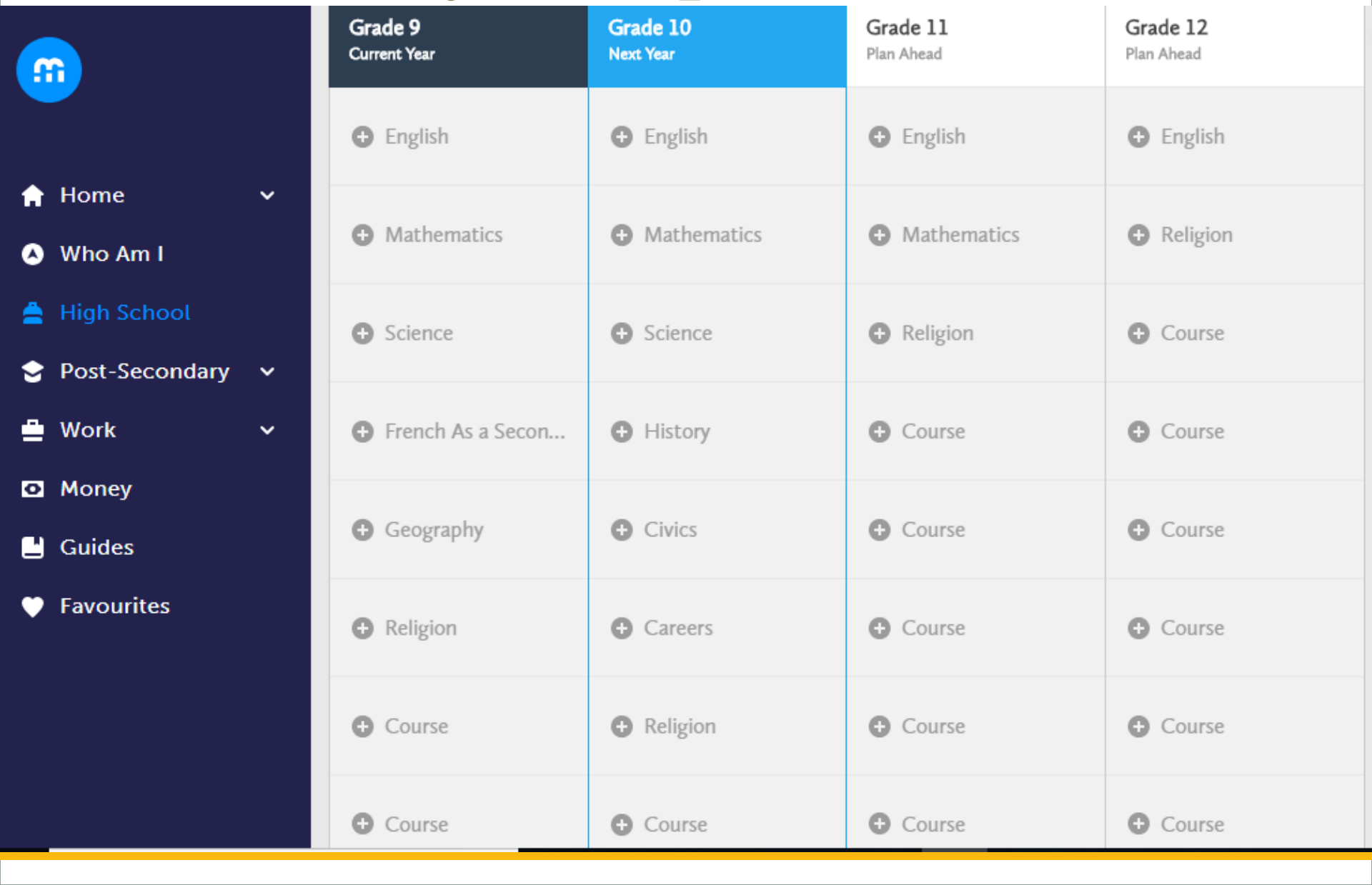
Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

- Health Care and Wellness
- ICT (Information Communication Technology)
- Sports
- Construction and Carpentry

The SHSM program offers students the opportunity to explore careers in a specific area of study in order to acquire the skills and expertise that will assist them in their individual pathway.

- Bundled Senior Credits
- Sector-recognized certificates
- Experiential learning (co-op education)

My blueprint



St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School
Grade 9 Course Selection Guide for 2027-2028

124 Dorval Dr. Oakville, ON L6K 2W1

Elementary School _____

Student's Last Name _____ **Student's First Nan** _____ **birth (YY/MM/DD)**

Mc Conville, Anthony (McConvilleA@staff.hcdsb.org)

Please complete this section guide by circling the course choice. Return with $65 activity (this fee is an annual voluntary fee that is used to offset costs for school initiatives, materials, and activities that enhance the school experience for our students. In accordance with policy II-47, it is our Board's commitment that every student should have equal opportunity to benefit from the school environment, regardless of financial hardships or barriers. Families who are unable to pay school fees are encouraged to contact the school Principal). Changes to elective courses can be made up to June. Please be advised that some course offerings many be cancelled due to low student interest. Not all course selections are guaranteed.

PART A: Students must **check/highlight (1)** course from each of the following course groupings. Exceptions to this will require Special Education Identification – Please see Part C below.

Grade 9 Compulsory courses – Please circle SIX (6) desired courses. One course per subject area.

RELIGION	HRE1O	☐		
ENGLISH	ENL1W	☐	ENG 1L	☐
MATH	MTH1W	☐	MAT 1L	☐
SCIENCE	SNC1W	☐	SNC 1L	☐
GEOGRAPHY	CGC1W	☐		
FRENCH	FSF1D	☐		

For Extended French Students ONLY: You must select the following to be enrolled in the Extended French program instead of CGC1W and FSF1D.

PART B: All Students must **check/highlight two (2)** courses from the following elective areas. Exceptions to this will require Special Education Identification – Please see Part C below.

HEALTH & PHYS. ED.

PPL1OF (*Female*) ☐
PPL1OM (*Male*) ☐
PPL1O3 (Soccer) ☐

ARTS

AMU1O *(Music)* ☐
ADA1O (*Dramatic Arts*) ☐
NAC1O (*Expressions of First nations, Metis and Inuit Cultures* ☐
AVI1O (Visual Art) ☐

BUSINESS

BEM1O *(Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset)* ☐

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY

TXJ1O *(Cosmetology)* ☐

GUIDANCE

GLS1O *(Learning Strategies)* ☐

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

OPTION SHEET PACKAGES

Family Of Schools Students

- All course selection for grade 8 students will be completed using myBlueprint. Once your child submits courses, they will enter a parent/guardian email address. Parents/guardians will either approve or disapprove these selections

From Other Boards

- Parents/Guardians looking to register their child are asked to register on our Aquinas website https://secondary.hcdsb.org/sta/students/new-student-registration/ . Once you register online you will be contacted by our student services dept to complete the rest of the registration

Family of Schools

1. Complete course selection using myBlueprint.

2. $65 Activity Fee. Payment completed online https://hcdsb.schoolcashonline.com/

*Activity Fees are a donation used to enhance a student's school life experience through materials and activities such as athletics, yearbook, agendas, guest speakers etc.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary Schoc

Grade 9 Registration Package

Students From Outside HCDSB

1. If your child is new to our school board, please register at https://secondary.hcdsb.org/sta/students/new-student-registration/

2. After you have registered with our school board, please upload all required documents. Some of the required documents will include:

- Proof of In boundary Address (i.e., Utility Bill)
- Proof of Immigration status for the student (i.e., Canadian Birth Certificate, Permanent resident card

3. Mrs. Hayward will then contact you to complete the registration and provide an option sheet

Please Note: The online registration link will open early November

CDSB

Achieving Believing Belonging

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

Applying to IB at STA?

- You must still fill out a regular option sheet
- IB applications will be available on the STA website on Monday, November 24th 2026, and they are due by Friday,December 18th 2026.
- Acceptances will be sent out in the new year, and you will be asked to fill out a *new* option sheet then

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

Important Deadlines

- Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026 (For Family of School Students)
- Deadline to submit courses using myBlueprint
- Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026 * (For students from other boards)
- *Please note: Families are still able to register after the above dates. However, to ensure students receive the electives they request it is suggested that families follow the suggested deadlines.

Dates to Remember

▪ Wed. Dec 2nd	myBlueprint deadline (HCDSB)
▪ Wed. Dec. 2nd	Registration package due to STA for non-HCDSB students
▪ February 2027 (Tentative Date)	Verification/Amendment forms to students at Associate Schools or mailed for non-HCDSB students
▪ June 2027 (Tentative Date)	Final course selection finalized
▪ End of August	Grade 9 student timetables ready

Schedule of Evening

1) Grade 9 Pre-IB Program will be presented in the gym by Ms. Giardina from 7:15-7:45

2) Mentor Led tours will continue

3) For Special Education services, our **Special Education Resource Teachers** will be available in **Room 213** for students interested in taking the **GLE course**. Our **Life Skills teachers** will be located in **Room 108**. For any specific inquiries or questions regarding **Special Education services** or the **IEP process**, please visit **Ms. Mulligan** in **Room 107**.