

Information Guide for completing the Grade 8 Course Selection Package

We are very excited that you have chosen **St. Kateri Tekakwitha** for the next step in your educational journey!

Course Selection & paid Activity Fee are both due by Monday December 18th.

Steps for completing grade 9 course selection by our Family of Schools for the 2024-2025 school year (Our Lady of Fatima, Guardian Angels, St. Clare of Assisi, Our Lady of Victory, St. Scholastica only, and St. Benedict (French Immersion):

1. **My Blueprint:** Students in our **Family of Schools** will enter their course selection into **My Blueprint**. Parents are asked to review the course selection before the student presses submit. Once submitted, students cannot make changes on **My Blueprint**. If students are having issues, they should speak with their grade 8 teacher or the available elementary school itinerant. Students will need a parent/guardian's email to send an approval email.

Most common issues students have with **My Blueprint** are students have not entered the correct user email and password, they didn't use their OEN to set up their account or are not a student in the St. Kateri boundary. Students also need to check which high school is listed. If the submit button is not highlighted, they will not be able to enter their course selection. This could mean they are not connected to St. Kateri's system, or it is not open for course selection. **My Blueprint** will not be open until **November 20th** and will close on **December 18th**. Students can check which high school they are connected to by checking their account settings.

Extra support for HCDSB students: Each elementary school has an itinerant to support students with My Blueprint and course selection. Kristina Gilchrist (for Our Lady of Victory only) gilchristk@hcdsb.org ; Karen Coughlan (for Our Lady of Fatima, St. Clare of Assisi and Guardian Angels only) Coughlank@hcdsb.org ; Erin Thomas (for St. Scholastica and St. Benedict only).

2. Once course selection is submitted, a \$65 activity fee needs to be paid by School Cash On-line. Please record the reference number you receive after payment for future reference. To pay by School Cash On-line please visit the St. Kateri website at <https://secondary.hcdsb.org/stkateri> . Please make sure it is for the 2024-2025 school year. The activity fee covers various items, events, and a students' yearbook. If you have issues using Cash On-line or are unable to pay, please contact our financial secretary Mrs. Taylor at taylorl@hcdsb.org or (289)878-2038 at extension 502.
3. The completed **My Blueprint** submission of courses and the paid activity fee is due December 18th.

Steps for completing grade 9 course selection for students OUTSIDE of the HCDSB:

1. Please complete the on-line Registration form on our school board website www.hcdsb.org. **New registrations for the 2024-2025 school year is not open until Nov. 30th.** Please make sure you are completing the correct school year.

2. Once your online registration is complete and approved. Mrs. Howitt, the guidance secretary will send you a Course Selection Guide in order to select the courses for next year. Her email is howitts@hcdsb.org

2. Once a Course Selection Guide is emailed to you, a \$65 activity fee needs to be paid by School Cash On-line. Please record the reference number you receive after payment for future reference. To pay by School Cash On-line please visit the St. Kateri website at <https://secondary.hcdsb.org/stkateri> . The activity fee covers various items, events, and a

students' yearbook. If you have issues using Cash On-line or are unable to pay, please contact our financial secretary Mrs. Taylor at taylorl@hcdsb.org or (289)878-2038 at extension 201. Please make sure it is paid for 2024-2025 school year.

Helpful Tips & Information to help complete the Course Selection for grade 9:

1. The Ministry of Education has changed the grade 9 program. All compulsory courses will be destreamed. There will be no longer an academic or applied pathway for students to choose in grade 9. Students will select academic and applied pathways moving forward in grade 10.
2. Teacher recommendations are very important. Teachers can help students choose an appropriate level to **start with**. Teachers may recommend either the new destreamed courses or the locally developed courses. Students **should not be taking** the locally developed courses (Eng1L, MAT1L or Snc1L) unless recommended by the teacher/SERT/school team. Discuss with the grade 8 teachers your child's strengths and abilities to help you make a decision that is right for your child. A guidance counsellor can help change levels and pathways when you come to St. Kateri next year.
3. **My Blueprint** instructions can be found on St. Kateri's website <https://secondary.hcdsb.org/stkateri>. Please review the courses chosen carefully. Once you press "Submit", you will **not** be able to make changes on **My Blueprint**. You will need to email the guidance counsellor, Mrs. Carambia at carambiaa@hcdsb.org to make a change. Changes to courses *maybe* accommodated up until May 1st (based on availability). **My Blueprint submissions will be open until Dec. 18th**. After this date students *will not be able* to submit their courses through My Blueprint. Contact Student Services at St. Kateri for direction.
4. Students can make changes to elective courses up until May 1st. Elective course changes will **not** be accommodated once the new school year begins in September. Please select courses carefully!
5. For **Locally Developed** courses select courses with "L" i.e., MAT1L ("L" courses are taken by recommendation of the teacher).
6. All grade 9 students need to **select 8 courses**. There are **6 compulsory courses** students must take:
 - ENL1W1 (destreamed) or ENG1L (by recommendation of the teacher only)
 - Mth1W1 (destreamed or MAT1L (by recommendation of the teacher only)
 - SNC1W1 (destreamed or SNC1L (by recommendation of the teacher only)
 - CGC1D1 or for French Immersion students will take CGC1DM
 - FSF1D1 or for French Immersion students will take FIF1D1 (ESL students please speak to your ESL monitor)
 - HRE1O1 or for French Immersion students will take HRE1OM

There are **2 elective courses** students must select. Select 2 from the list below:

- TDJ1O1 (tech design)
- AMU1O1 (music, no music background is required)
- PPL1OF (female physical education) – must take if in the IB program in grade 9
- PPL1OM (male physical education) – must take if in the IB program in grade 9
- GLS1O1 (General Learning Skills)
- BTT1O1 (Communication technology-business focus)
- NAC1O1 (visual arts) – must be taken if in pre-IB
- *NAC1OM – French Immersion students only (optional), must take if in pre-IB & French Immersion

7. The **GLE101** course is **ONLY** for students who have an IEP. **It is strongly recommended for IEP students to take GLE.** All other students can take **GLS1O1** instead. Please discuss with the grade 8 teacher or SERT for direction. Visit our website for course descriptions.
8. **English as a Second Language:** Please see your teacher for recommendations on ESL course levels and French Instruction
9. **Potential IB and AP candidates:** You must complete St. Kateri's Course Selection and pay the activity fee to St. Kateri first by December 18th. Once the student has been accepted into the IB or AP programs, the student's information will be transferred over to the new school/program. Further instructions will follow from those schools later regarding course selections.
10. Students interested in applying for the **pre-IB program** must complete the application package **by Dec. 8th**. Students must select as their 2 electives an art course (AMU1O1, NAC1O1 or NAC1OM) and a phys. Ed course (either PPL1OF or PPL1OM). Possible candidates will be contacted by email mid-January. If you have any questions regarding the pre-IB program, contact the VP & IB Coordinator, Mrs. Munro at munrom@hcdsb.org
11. French Immersion candidates must take **10 courses** in French from grade 9 to grade 12. At St. Kateri, students can earn up to 12 credits in French! The more courses offered in French will help strengthen student's French abilities. Students must take the following courses:
 - **Grade 9:** CGC1DM (geography), HRE10M (religion) and FIF1D1 (French). Students have the option to take NAC1OM (visual arts, however if also enrolled in pre-IB this must be taken)
 - **Grade 10:** CHC2DM (history), HRE2OM (religion), FIF2D1 (French). Students have the option to take GLC2O/CHV2O (careers/civics in French in SUMMER SCHOOL, if in the pre-IB program this must be taken)
 - **Grade 11:** HRT3M (religion) and FIF3D1 (French)
 - **Grade 12:** HRE4M (religion) and FIF4D1

We look forward to working with our future St. Kateri grade 9 students!