



# DSBN Academy



## What to **EXPECT**

Our Grade 9  
Program



PREPARING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL AT  
**DSBN ACADEMY**

# Revisiting Our History

**Our school** was founded in 2010 by the DSBN Trustees and designed by a group of educators committed to providing a comprehensive academic program for first generation students across Niagara. DSBN recognized that it is our responsibility as educators to prepare students for the world beyond high school in an economic climate that demands post-secondary training and education. This grade 6 to 12 program is designed to prepare and successfully transition students to post-secondary school, with a focus on students who will be the first in their families to graduate from college or university. Students are accepted to DSBN Academy because they identify the desire and potential to reach this goal through our program.

## Mission

Our mission is to provide an environment of high expectations where first generation students are encouraged, supported and empowered to distinguish themselves academically and be competitively eligible for admission to a college or university. This mission has guided our secondary team in developing a strong foundation and program for our grade 9 to 12 students.

## Our Vision

Our vision is "Achievement through Opportunity". Programming decisions, instructional practice, extra-curricular experiences, post-secondary connections, and resources are focused on creating opportunities for our secondary students. Our vision is for our students to be continually encouraged and empowered to develop a greater sense of confidence through self-sufficiency and pride in their academic accomplishments.

## Our Values

Our values continue to be: Commitment, Optimism, Respect and Excellence. All DSBN Academy teachers are committed to a process of teaching and learning in an environment that embraces and instills our set of C.O.R.E. Values.

**"Preparing your child for college or university is our mission."**

*Ms. L. Nazar, DSBN Academy Secondary Principal  
Ms. B. Lane, DSBN Academy Secondary Vice-Principal*

## OUR POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL CULTURE

Our post-secondary school culture is rooted in the belief that every DSBN Academy student will graduate from College or University. This belief is shared by our students, teachers, families and community partners. Our secondary program is designed to support this culture as we continue to prepare our students to be successful post-secondary students.

## OUR ADVISORY PROGRAM

Our Advisory Program continues to be a key strategy in supporting students as they transition through Grades 6 to 12. This Advisory Program becomes increasingly important as students transition to secondary school and begin planning for their post-secondary destinations. Advisory teachers will continue to monitor and support students' academic progress; to sustain positive relationships with students; and to advise them based on their holistic needs. DSBN Academy remains the only public-funded school in Niagara that provides this additional support for all students.

## OUR EXTENDED SCHOOL DAY

Our extended school day offers opportunities for enrichment and academic support. During this time, students develop self-confidence, social skills and leadership so that they may become stronger applicants for college or university. The extension of the school day also provides opportunities for students to use their time constructively during a period of the day when students are most likely to engage in risk behaviours. Beginning in grade 9, students select their program based on their interests. We are very proud of the extensive list of activities and clubs provided by our teachers and community partners.

## OUR UNIFORM

Secondary students will continue to wear a uniform which helps create a positive atmosphere for learning and to foster a sense of team and community. The uniform options are different between elementary and secondary students to allow teenagers to distinguish themselves as the mature. Beginning in grade 9, students will have the following options to purchase from the uniform supplier only: navy bottoms (pants, shorts, skirt), navy/white polo shirts, cardigans, grey zippered fleece, and crew neck sweater.

## PEACE OF MIND

At the secondary level, transportation to and from DSBN Academy will continue to provide 'peace of mind' for many reasons. Students will be able to consistently participate in extra-curricular activities; and with this extended school day, your teen will be using this time constructively. If you move, your teen will still be able to attend DSBN Academy and continue their pursuit towards a post-secondary education. They will continue to have the support of their closest peers, teachers, advisors, and administration. The transition from grade to grade is unmatched.

## PARENT ENGAGEMENT

We will continue to create opportunities for our families to engage with our school community. Our parents and guardians can expect frequent and ongoing communication about student progress as well as support with making post-secondary decisions. Understanding the application process, timelines, and financial decisions is a team effort which we take seriously.

# Graduation Requirements

## Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

The OSSD is the diploma that you will work towards achieving in high school. Every high school student must successfully complete the following requirements in order to earn an OSSD.

18 Compulsory Credits	Credits
English	4
Math	3
Science	2
French as a Second Language	1
Canadian Geography	1
Canadian History	1
The Arts	1
Health and Physical Education	1
Civics	.5
Careers	.5

### PLUS one credit from each of the following groups:

- Group 1:** additional credit in English, or French as a second language, or a Native language, or a classical or an international language, or social sciences and the humanities, or Canadian and world studies, or guidance and career education, or cooperative education.
- Group 2:** additional credit in health and physical education, or the arts, or business studies, or French as a second language, or cooperative education.
- Group 3:** additional credit in Science (Grade 11 or 12), or technological education, or French as a second language, or computer studies, or cooperative education.

### 12 Elective Credits

Students are required to successfully complete an additional 12 credits that match their interests, or develop their skills.

### In addition, students must complete:

- 40 Hours Community Service (completed over 4 years)
- The provincial literacy requirement
- E-learning requirement

## Did you know?

You can begin accumulating community involvement hours in the summer after grade 8. Go to [www.dsbni.org/guidance](http://www.dsbni.org/guidance) and click on community involvement.



**EXPLORE.  
DISCOVER.  
CREATE.**



**INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**  
SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

**SHSM**  
Specialist High Skills Major  
District School Board of Niagara



# Our Grade 9 Program

**Opportunity to earn** 8 of the 18 compulsory credits

- ▶ Exposure to Music, Visual Arts and Drama
- ▶ Exposure to Communications Technology, Technological Design and Computer Engineering

English (ENG1D)

Math (MPM1D)

Science (SNC1D)

Canadian Geography (CGC1D)

French (FSF1D)

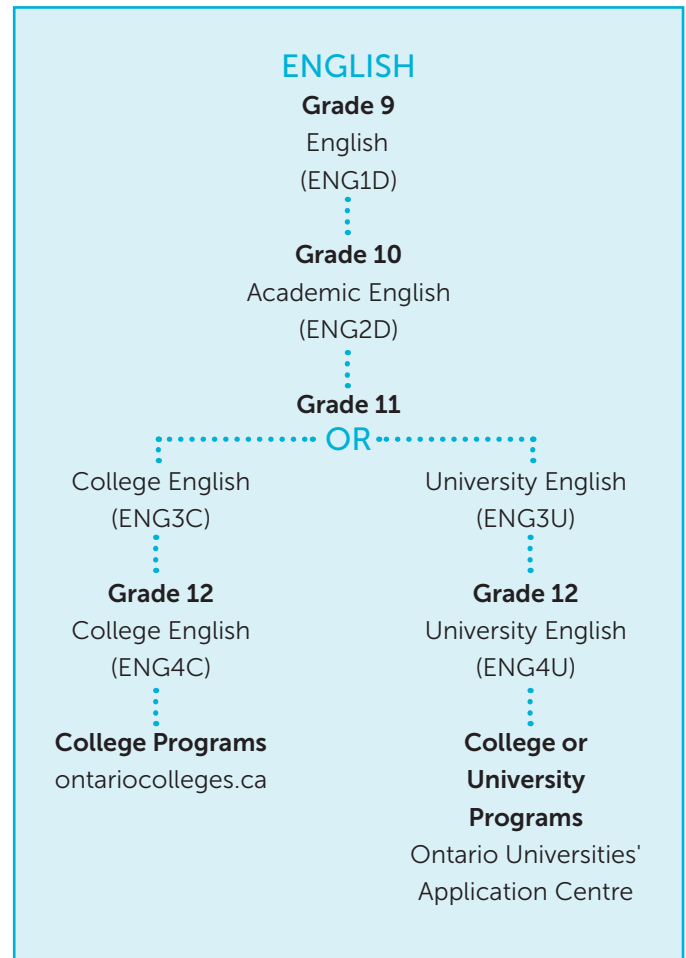
Health & Physical Education (PPL1O)

Integrated Arts (ALC1O)

Integrated Technology (TTI1O)

## Single Track Program

Only academic level courses are offered in grade 10, which ensures that students will continue to have the option to select the college or university pathway until their third year of high school. Beginning in grade 11, students can select the college or university pathway. For students who identify the college pathway sooner, the single track program will provide a strong foundation for greater success in senior courses. English is shown as an example in the chart on the right.



## Schedules

### Semestered

Each school year is divided into 2 semesters. First semester is from September to January, and the second semester is from February to June. Students will take 4 courses each semester. An example is shown on the right.

	Semester One	Semester Two
Period 1	Math	English
Period 2	Integrated Technology	Physical Education
LUNCH		
Period 3	Geography	Science
Period 4	French	Integrated Arts

### Daily Schedule

Our schedule is very unique. The variety and flow of each day provides multiple opportunities for development and support. In the sample chart below, you will see that students have a period called MSIP (Multi-Subject Instructional Period) two times per week. During MSIP, students have the opportunity to complete homework, collaborate with other students, and receive additional help from teachers.

#### SAMPLE SECONDARY SCHEDULE AT DSBN ACADEMY

Monday 8:30 am - 3:35 pm	Tuesday 8:30 am - 3:35 pm	Wednesday 8:30 am - 3:35 pm	Thursday 8:30 am - 3:35 pm	Friday 8:30 am - 2:05 pm
Announcements	Announcements	Announcements	Announcements	Announcements
Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
No Advisory	No Advisory	Advisory	No Advisory	No Advisory
Technology	Technology	Technology	Technology	Technology
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography
French	French	French	French	French
Encore (2:35 - 3:35 pm)	Encore (2:35 - 3:35 pm)	Encore (2:35 - 3:35 pm)	Encore (2:35 - 3:35 pm)	Early Release (2:05 pm)

# Responsibility

This poster is to help our students practice and develop time-management skills.  
Please post this in your home as a reminder of this important goal.

## STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE RESPONSIBILITY WHEN THEY:

- complete and submit class work, homework, and assignments according to agreed upon timelines.
- use class time, MSIP, and homework club so that they can meet deadlines.
- talk to their teacher ahead of time when they are struggling with completing a major assignment/ presentation.
- request an extension (due to extenuating circumstances) at least 2 days prior to deadline.
- are prepared to submit presentation materials and complete the presentation the next day following an unexpected absence.
- are prepared to write a test the next day following an unexpected absence.
- understand that mark deductions will be applied when assignments are submitted late.
- understand that teachers need to return assignments to other students and will provide a FINAL call for outstanding assignments, after which a mark of 'zero' will be assigned.

## DUE DATES & FINAL DEADLINES

Teachers will:

- assign a due date that is reasonable and based on professional judgement.
- communicate deadline and process for submission (i.e. drop box, time).
- communicate FINAL deadline prior to receiving a mark of 'zero'.

## MISSING A PRESENTATION OR TEST

Teachers will:

- expect students to communicate ahead of time if they are going to be absent during a scheduled presentation or test.
- expect students to complete presentation/ test on the day following an approved absence.
- determine if an alternative test or presentation is needed upon the student's return.

## MARK DEDUCTIONS & ZEROS

Teachers will:

- apply mark deductions after the due date.
  - » Grade 9 & 10 (5% per day - max 15%)
  - » Grade 11 & 12 (5% per day - max 25%)
- conference with students regarding a missing major assignment.
- assign a mark of 'zero' after the FINAL deadline has passed.
- consider extenuating circumstances on an individual basis.

## EXTENSIONS FOR MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

Teachers will:

- communicate process for requesting an extension.
- consider an extension if student follows process outlined by teacher.
- grant an extension when there are extenuating circumstances.



DSBN  
Academy





# INTRODUCING *DSBN ACADEMY'S* **ENCORE PLUS**



**ENCORE PLUS** is a new approach to support students with planning their extra-curricular choices that will enhance their applications for jobs, specific bursaries and/or scholarships. This strategy also allows for a gradual release of supervision for senior students who demonstrate **RESPONSIBILITY**.

## The new **ENCORE PLUS** Point System

Clubs and Activities are assigned a point value:

# 1

Social clubs & activities that provide a supervised outlet, but may not develop a specific skill. (e.g., board games, open fitness, homework)

# 2

Commitment to a project or group for one Encore block that provides opportunity to develop/practice a skill. (e.g., ball hockey, dance, yoga, pick-up basketball)

# 3

Involvement requires commitment to a project/group beyond Encore and/or one block and may include representation of our school. (e.g., competitive sports, yearbook, band)



## How does the **ENCORE PLUS** point system work?

### GRADE 9 & 10

- ✓ Encore selections must equal a minimum of **5 points** each week
- ✓ 4 Encore clubs/activities required

### GRADE 11 & 12

- ✓ Encore selections must equal a minimum of **4 points** each week
- ✓ 4 Encore clubs/activities required
- ✓ Students may request a non-point day (NP) which means a reduction of Encore clubs/activities to 3 days a week.

## Benefits of **ENCORE PLUS**

1

Enhances resume through opportunities to earn new skills, contribute to the school community and take on leadership roles

2

Students receive additional support with learning when needed

3

Assists with tracking extra-curricular activities during high school

4

Provides opportunities for special recognition for students who maximize their participation

## What is a non-point (NP) day?



On a non-point (NP) day, 'lunch privileges' apply. Attendance is not taken, and students are welcomed to remain in the building and gather in designated spaces as determined by the Principal/Vice Principal.

### What is the non-point day criteria?

#### Grade 11 Criteria for 'non-point' day:

- ✓ 40 points or more earned in grades 9 & 10
- ✓ Encore program equals **4 points** or more each week without a NP day
- ✓ Signed permission form indicating parent consent

\* Grade 11 students will be assigned to 4 Encore/activities during Block One. Students will be eligible for a 'non-point' day beginning Block Two if they have earned a minimum of 5 points and with parent consent.

#### Grade 12 Criteria for 'non-point' day:

- ✓ Encore program equals **4 points** or more each week

\* Grade 12 students will need a signed parent permission form for a 'non-point' (NP) day.

**NOTE:** Administration reserves the right to revoke permission and assign a student to a supervised location when required.

## Awarding & Tracking Your ENCORE

At the end of each block, each Encore Leader will award points based on participation which may not include all of the points.

---

For example, if a student has not been consistent with participation / attendance with a club / activity that has been assigned 3 points, they may only be awarded 1 or 2 points



## ENCORE PLUS + POINTS

Students may be awarded additional points for achievements such as a tournament win, student of the month, school ambassador, SHSM medal.

## ENCORE PLUS Honour Roll

Students will receive special recognition for earning a minimum of **32 points** each year.  
GO ARGOS!

The Graduation Awards Committee will refer to Encore PLUS when making decisions about school-based awards, bursaries, and scholarships.

## Changes to ENCORE PLUS Selections

Every effort will be made to accommodate your top 3 choices each day. It is important that students make a commitment to a club/activity and to try new things. Thus, students will be required to attend their Encore for two weeks. At the end of the first two weeks, students may complete a form in consultation with their Advisor. Requests will be considered by the Encore Coordinator on a case by case basis.

## Senior Students who have Part-Time Jobs and need to leave school before ENCORE PLUS

Senior students can reduce to two Encore clubs/activities with parent permission or Age of Majority when it is work-related AND with acknowledgement that Encore participation may impact eligibility for both school-based awards and other potential scholarships. In these cases, it is understood that the student is leaving school property and will not require NSTS bus transportation.

## ENCORE PLUS Attendance & Expectations

As in the past, attendance will be taken each day by the Encore Leader. Encore expectations are as follows:

### ✓ **Be Punctual**

(Ready to participate at 2:35 p.m.)

### ✓ **Be Prepared**

(Bring all necessary supplies and clothes)

### ✓ **Be Respectful**

(Make sure that you respect all Volunteers)

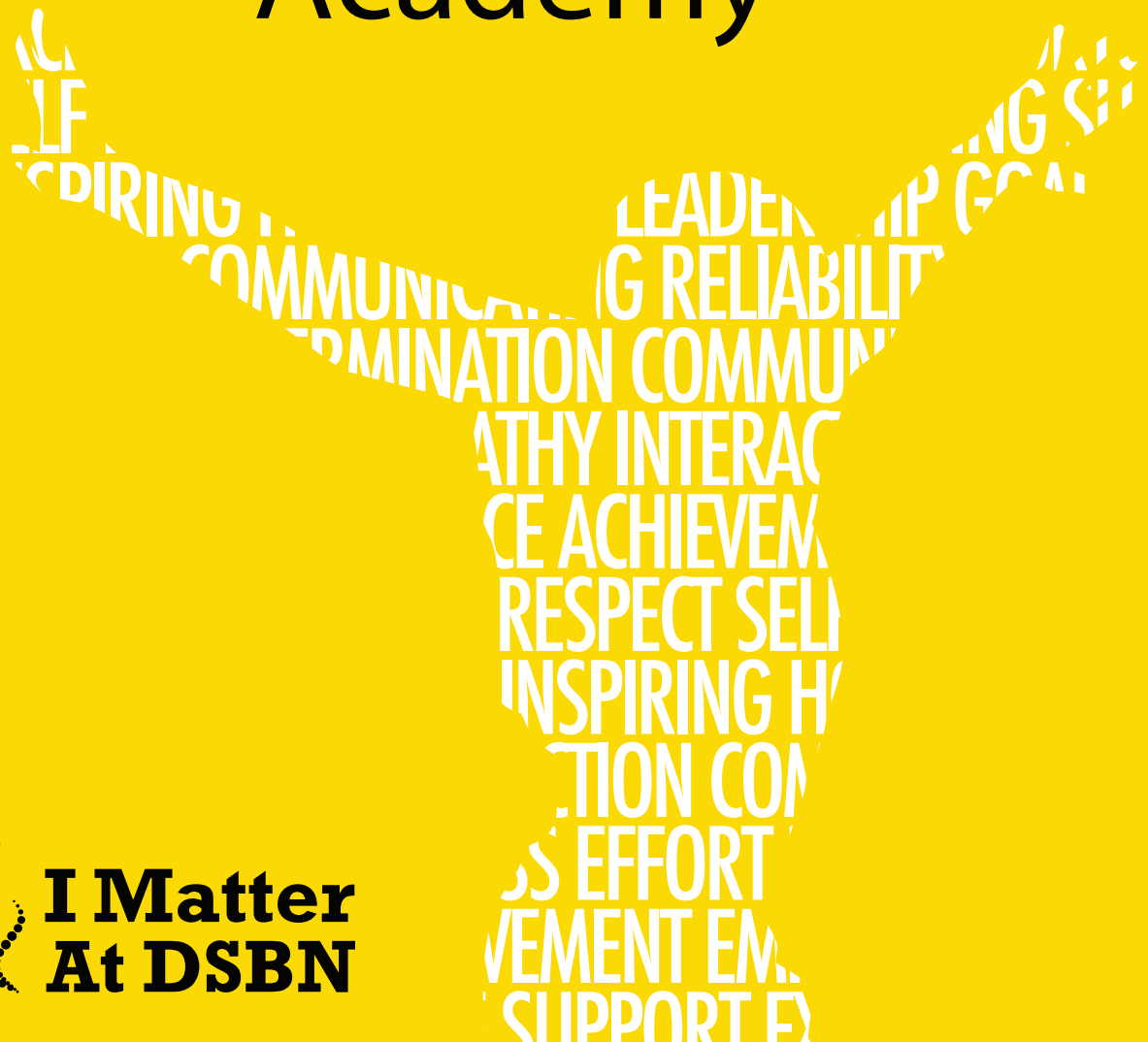
### ✓ **Be Dedicated**

(Embrace each opportunity)





# DSBN Academy



**I Matter  
At DSBN**