



# Granite Ridge Education Centre

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## Welcome to Grade 8 Night

February 26, 2026



Principal: Carrie Moore  
Vice Principal: Wojtek Czermak

# Student Support Team at GREC



Joanne Sortberg

Ms. Sortberg's role involves supporting students throughout high school, particularly with Academic and Career planning. Whether a student is going to work, college, apprenticeship, or university, Ms. Sortberg helps students with timetable choices that will guide each student. She is responsible for registering students for Expanded Opportunities such as Specialized High Skills Major, Dual Credits, eLearning, Cooperative Education, and OYAP. She ensures that students are meeting all the requirements for their diploma (OSSD) or certificate. This includes collecting the signed forms for the 40 hours of Community Involvement.



Emily Mallett

As the Adolescent Care/Student Support Worker, Emily supports students from Kindergarten to grade 12 with social, emotional and mental health concerns that may interfere with academic success. She acts as a student advocate and mentor. She also acts as a mediator for students who are experiencing difficulties with peers. She provides support through individual and group counselling programs. Emily is the liaison between the school and a number of outside agencies, including KFL&A Health Unit, the Sharbot Lake Family Health Team, Children's Aid Services, KAIROS, Maltby, Youth Diversion and Rural Frontenac Community Services. If Emily is not available, students can meet with another member of the Student Services Team.



# Student Support Team at GREC

Brooke  
Spencer  
&  
Whitney  
Holmes

In the role as Student Success Teacher, Ms. Spencer/Ms. Holmes assists students transitioning to high school. She also helps students who may require additional support in achieving their credits, reaching provincial standard and/or completing EQAO assessments. The SST also helps students who are working in the GLC. She helps students who may need assistance with learning skills, such as organization, responsibility and work habits. She organizes and coordinates our practice literacy tests and assignment park and produce.



Ethan Stott

Mr. Stott provides assistance to students who have been identified with a learning exceptionality through the Individual Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) process and non-identified students who also have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). He works with students, parents, and teachers to develop an IEP and helps students advocate for themselves, set appropriate learning goals, and meet their learning needs. He works closely with Educational Services and coordinates the testing of our students. Mr. Stott also works closely with students in the GLC room and preparing for EQAO assessments.



Jessica Peters

Ms. Peters is the first person students will meet in Student Services. She coordinates times and locations for outside agencies to meet with our students, as well as appointments for students to meet with members of the Student Services team. She monitors the Ontario Student Records and is responsible for registration and transfer of student files. She is also responsible for transportation forms, including bus notes. Ms. Peters is responsible for Ontario transcripts and printing of report cards both elementary and secondary. Ms. Peters plays a crucial role in planning and preparing for Academic Awards and Graduations.

# Granite Ridge Education Centre

Meet the team

Staff at GREC



# New to LDSB?

If you are already a student in Limestone, your elementary school will transfer you to GREC secondary.

If you are not a Limestone student- you need to register. Go online to <https://www.limestone.on.ca/registration> and fill in the electronic application!



**Limestone**  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



# Grade 8 to 9 Transition Process

1

**Registration:** Current Limestone students will receive a letter home outlining course selection process. (Students who are accepted to Choices at 9 programs will be notified)

I am a current  
Limestone Student

OR

Student Outside of  
Limestone

No Registration  
Form Required

Complete  
Registration Form



<https://www.limestone.on.ca/registration>

# Grade 8 to 9 Transition Process

2 **Course Selection:** Students will complete the course selection process using myBlueprint. Please return sign-off sheet to Grade 8 teacher.

3 **Transportation:** Students that require transportation must complete a Transportation Application Form.

**Check Transportation Eligibility <https://triboard.ca/eligibility/>**

- o **Walking Distance** - No transportation Application Required
- o **Eligible** Families complete the Online Application <https://triboard.ca/apply/>
- o If your address does not meet the Minimum Distance Requirements and is not within the school's attendance boundary, your address is not eligible for transportation. Tri-Board *may* accommodate an ineligible student temporarily if there is space on an existing route and families are willing to travel to the closest existing in-boundary bus stop. You will need to submit either the Elective Learning Program Transportation Application or the Special Circumstance Application to the school for approval.

# Transportation



Apply by

**August 5<sup>th</sup>**

to have busing ready for  
the first day of school

[triboard.ca](http://triboard.ca)

# Daily Schedule

8:20 - 9:35	Announcements and period 1
9:35 - 9:45	Break (10 minutes)
9:45 - 11:00	Period 2
11:00 - 12:00	Lunch (1 hour)
12:00 - 1:15	Period 3
1:15 - 1:25	Break (10 minutes)
1:25 - 2:40	Period 4
2:45	Bus departure

Granite Ridge Education Centre is a semestered school. In each semester, students take up to four credit courses from September to January and up to 4 credit courses from February to June. Each course is 110 hours in length. There are final summative evaluations and exams in January and June.

# Cellphone

A mobile device is any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or access the internet, such as a laptop, cellphone, tablet or smart watch.

Students Grade 7 and above may not use mobile devices during class time except in certain cases at the discretion of their teacher. This restriction applies to all mobile devices.

Students may keep their cellphone, tablet or smart watch with them, but they must ensure it is turned off – or set to silent mode and store it out of view.

If you need to contact your child during instructional time, please call the school.

# **Pathways and Graduation**

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# What do you need to Graduate?

✓	<b>17 Compulsory Credits</b>
	<b>4 English (1 credit per grade) *</b>
	<b>3 Mathematics (Grade 9, Grade 10, and 1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)</b>
	<b>2 Science</b>
	<b>1 Canadian History (Grade 10)</b>
	<b>1 Canadian Geography (Grade 9)</b>
	<b>1 Arts**</b>
	<b>1 Health &amp; Physical Education</b>
	<b>1 French as a Second Language</b>
	<b>1 Technological Education Credit (Grade 9 or 10)</b>
	<b>0.5 Career Studies</b>
	<b>0.5 Civics</b>
	<b>1 credit from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math-Related) Course Group:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Studies</li> <li>• Computer Studies</li> <li>• Cooperative Education</li> <li>• Mathematics (in addition to the 3 compulsory required)</li> <li>• Science (in addition to the 2 compulsory required)</li> <li>• Technological Education (in addition to the 1 compulsory credit required)</li> </ul>
	<b>13 Optional Credits</b>
	Optional Credits may include up to 4 credits earned through approved dual credit programs.

\*The Grade 11 English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices course may be used to meet the Grade 11 English compulsory credit requirement. English as a Second Language (ESL) and English Literacy Development (ELD) students who are English language learners may count up to three credits in ESL or ELD towards the four compulsory credits in English. The fourth credit must be a Grade 12 compulsory English course.

\*\* The Grade 9 Expressions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Cultures course may be used to meet the compulsory credit requirement in the Arts.

	<b>Online Learning Credits (2 of the 30 credits)</b>	<p>If you started Grade 9 in the 2020-2021 school year or later, you must earn at least 2 online learning credits to get your high school diploma.</p> <p>Adult learners: If you entered the secondary school system starting in the 2023–2024 school year or later, this requirement also applies to you.</p> <p>If you were in Grade 9 and learning remotely when all schools were closed (from April 2021 to June 2021), you can count 1 of the high school credits you earned towards the 2 online learning credits you need to graduate.</p> <p>Opting out: If you want to opt out of the online graduation requirement you must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 years of age or older</li> <li>• 16 or 17 years of age and have withdrawn from your parent or guardian's control</li> <li>• Otherwise, your parent or guardian needs to ask for this exemption by completing the form for you.</li> </ul> <p>If you meet this requirement, you can complete the exemption form available from your school board.</p>
	<b>40 hours of community involvement</b>	Students can start accumulating their community involvement hours in the summer before entering Grade 9.
	<b>Provincial Literacy Requirement - Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)</b>	<p>Students who do not successfully complete the OSSLT have other opportunities to meet the literacy graduation requirement. Students can contact their school to find out about these options.</p> <p>The test is grounded in the Ontario Curriculum expectations for all subjects that address reading and writing skills up to the end of Grade 9. Students can take the test starting in Grade 10.</p>
	<b>Financial Literacy Requirement</b>	Starting in September 2025, you must earn a new financial literacy graduation requirement as part of your compulsory Grade 10 mathematics course. You will need to achieve a mark of 70% or higher to pass this new requirement and earn your high school diploma.

# Pathway Planning

As soon as you start high school, we will start talking about your post-secondary pathway so that we can make sure you are on the right path to your chosen career. You have the opportunity to choose a variety of pathways and you should discuss all these options with your family, your teachers and your Guidance Counsellor. Your pathway is determined by your strengths, your interests, your learning style and your career goal, and, therefore, is an individualized decision that requires some research. Whether you are choosing an Apprenticeship, Career, College, Community or University, there are a lot of resources available to you, including Student Services, myBlueprint and various websites

## TYPES OF COURSES

The different types of courses (as indicated by the fifth digit in the course code) in the secondary school program are designed to provide all students with the essential knowledge and skills they will need in any area related to their particular postsecondary goals or pathways. The type of courses varies depending on the grade.

**Grade 9: Academic (D), Destreamed (W), Locally Developed (L) and Open (O)**

Grade 10: Academic (D), Applied (P), Locally Developed (L) and Open (O)

Grade 11 and 12: College (C), College/University (M), Open (O), University (U), and Workplace (E)

For specific and detailed information, please refer to the corresponding section for each grade.

# Example of a Grade 9 Schedule

S1						
Period (Day)	Course-Sec	Course Title	Teacher	School	Room	Term
1(1)	SNC1W0-01	Grade 9 Science	White	GRECS	304-Lab2	S1
2(1)	ENL1W0-01	English	Pratt	GRECS	311-Art	S1
3(1)	PPL1O0-01	Healthy Active Living Education	White	GRECS	214-Gym	S1
4(1)	TAS1O0-02	Technology and the Skilled Trades	Leonard	GRECS	108-Comp	S1

S2						
Period (Day)	Course-Sec	Course Title	Teacher	School	Room	Term
1(1)	FSF1D0-01	Grade 9 Core French	Stoodley	GRECS	110-Food	S2
2(1)	MTH1W0-02	Grade 9 Mathematics	Dejong	GRECS	306	S2
3(1)	CGC1W0-01	Exploring Canadian Geography	Leonard	GRECS	302-Lab1	S2
4(1)	ADA1O0-01	Drama	Flynn	GRECS	308	S2

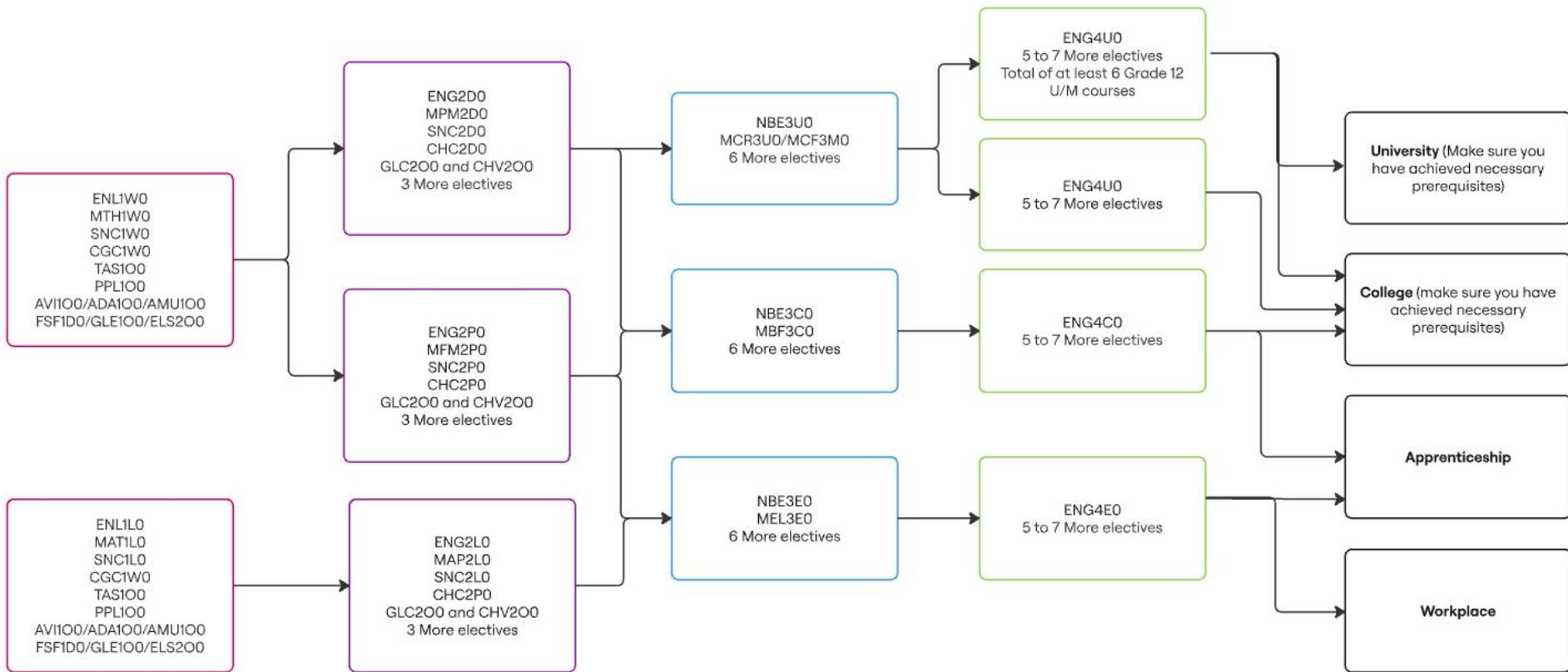
Grade 9

Grade 10

Grade 11

Grade 12

Post  
Secondary



# Classes at GREC

Knowing what career you want as a grade 12 Graduate is a big expectation - and while you might not know your career, at GREC we ask you to start planning your high school pathway and post secondary pathway in GRADE 10!

We have small numbers of classes that we can offer each year. As a result some of our classes only run every other year. Do you need to take Physics for your college program? You need to plan to take both the grade 11 and 12 class in your grade 11 year.

Ms. Sortberg will help you plan this out, but start looking at possible pathways starting in grade 10!

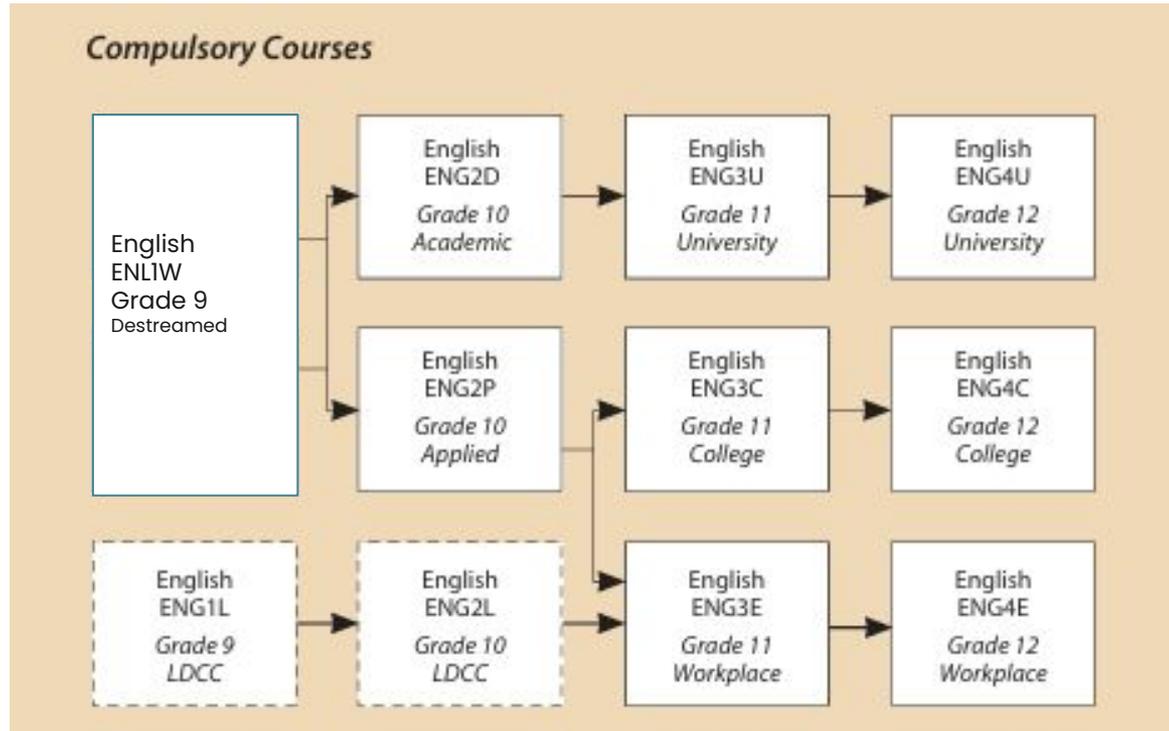


# English

Students need 4 English credits to graduate. All compulsory English courses run each year at GREC.

In Limestone we require students to take the NBE3U, NBE3C, NBE3E (English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices) as the grade 11 English requirement.

All University programs require ENG4U.

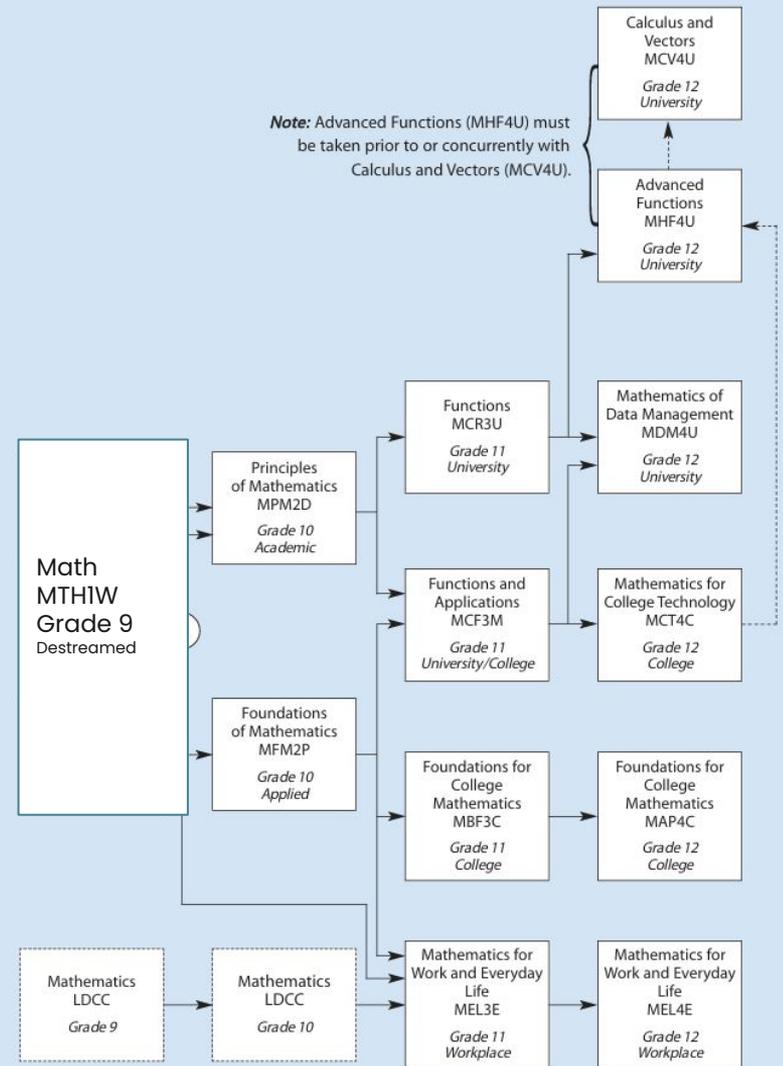


# Math

Students need 3 Math credits to graduate. All compulsory Math courses run each year at GREC.

MAP4C runs every year at GREC, however MHF4U is dependent on student enrollment. MCV4U and MDM4U alternate years.

While not required for graduation many University and College courses, and Apprenticeship and workplaces require a grade 12 math.



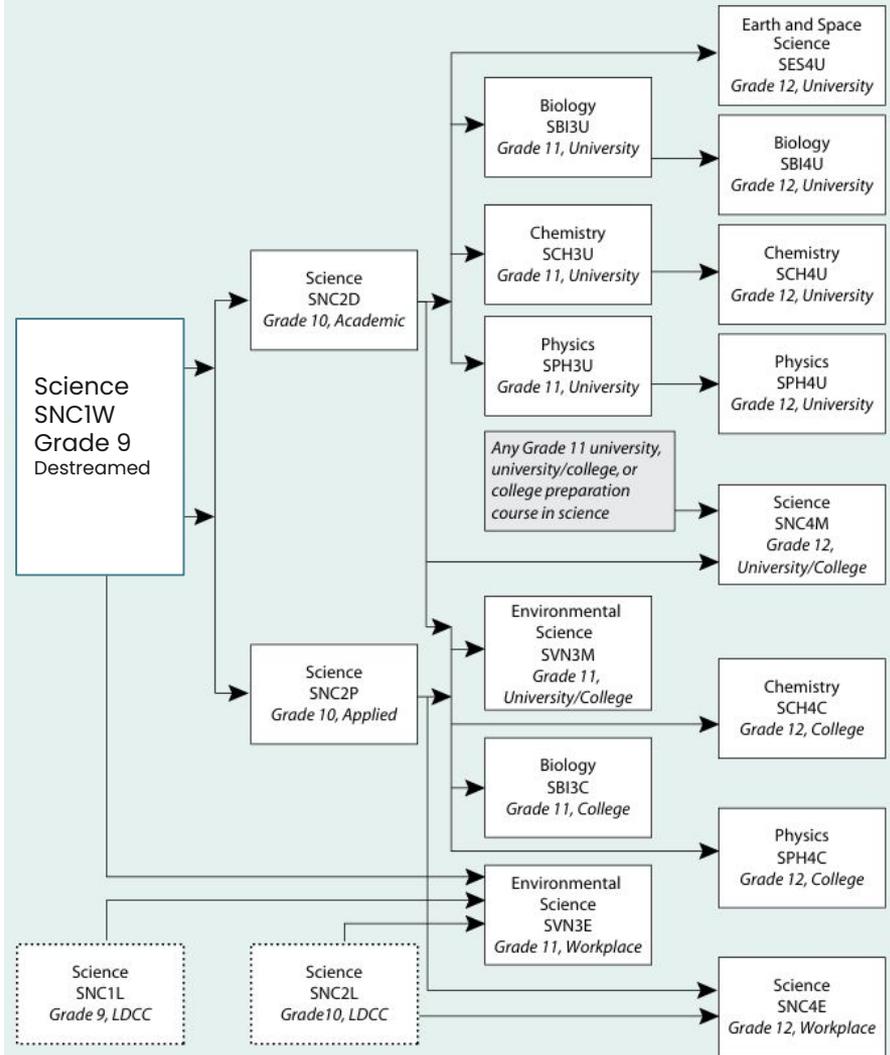
# Science

Students need 2 Science credits to graduate. All compulsory Science courses run each year at GREC.

In grade 11 science branches into three disciplines: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

Biology runs every year, depending on student enrollment. Chemistry and Physics alternates years. This means students often take Grade 11 Chemistry and Grade 12 Chemistry in one year and Grade 11 Physics and Grade 12 Physics in the next year.

Many University and College programs require senior science credits.



# School To Community

School to Community Services (SCS) is committed to the principle that all students can learn in a supportive environment within an inclusive school community. Students receiving SCS are a diverse group of learners with developmental disabilities who may require support in the areas of communication, socialization, daily living skills, motor skills, and behaviour. Students follow a course of study intended to prepare them for their post-secondary pursuits, which commonly include post-secondary education, apprenticeship programs, employment in the workplace, and independent community living.

Students participate in activities within the school and the community including Special Olympic events, running a morning coffee cart and learning culinary skills, using the greenhouse to grow a variety of plants, and much more.



# Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

## What is it?

Completion of a Specialist High Skills Major recognizes a student has achieved the necessary credits, skills, knowledge and sector certifications associated with a specific industry or lifelong passion. Arts & Culture, Construction, Energy, Forestry, Health & Wellness, Hospitality & Tourism and Manufacturing are currently offered in Limestone. The following components comprise all Specialist High Skills Majors: a bundle of 8-10 credits including 4 credits [two grade 11 credits and two grade 12 credits] in the subject major along with contextualized learning activities and a two credit co-op for experiential learning, 6-7 sector recognized certifications, completion of the Ontario Skills Passport and designated Reach-Ahead activities. For more information on SHSM, please see Student Services.

## What are the benefits?

Students have the opportunity to:

- Explore an interest or passion through focused SHSM courses
- Gain essential on the job skills through the cooperative education component
- Earn valuable industry certification, including First Aid and CPR
- Demonstrate commitment & proficiency in an industry sector
- Make more informed career decisions
- Provide exemplary evidence of achievement to post-secondary institutions and employers

# Forestry

As the only Forestry program in LDSB, we are unique by design but then when you add in the beautiful setting of our site, it solidifies our unique nature. Our Forestry program is not just about trees, it is about sustainability, green industries and technology. The program operates in second semester where our students register for four major credits. This allows us the opportunity to complete our certifications as a group in the first year and to work with our community partners on a weekly basis.

We work within our school and in our community to provide services and education, such as cutting, planting, mapping and identification. Our Forestry students have been instrumental in our community garden providing fresh produce for our food bank. Because of our reputation and quality experience, local businesses, organizations and residential members have contacted us to provide services thereby strengthening our community. We have a very high success rate and a number of our Forestry students have gained the skills required to obtain summer employment, acceptance in their desired post-secondary program and gained full-time employment. Our Forestry students literally and figuratively achieve great heights!



# Health and Wellness

Health and Wellness is an SHSM program where students can choose their focus by the type of major credits they select. Students selecting more science and physical education courses would focus on health care or fitness while students selecting more social science courses would focus more on family services and child care.

We are fortunate to have many community partners who provide opportunities for students to learn in various settings and practice the skills we have learned in class, and developed through the certifications such as leadership, communication and teamwork. Being a K-12 site also provides opportunities to practice skills in our own building. We have a very high success rate and a number of our graduates have earned recognition and experienced great success as they pursue their desired post-secondary program and employment.



**High School**

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**At GREC**

Students have more freedom and more responsibility in high school! Breaks and lunch are free to enjoy, however warning bells need to be listened for to get to class on time. Once the warning bell sounds students should head to class and get ready for the period.

Things to do at lunch: eat lunch, find an activity to join, go outside, get extra help, socialize with friends, read, and many more options!

### **Lockers**

Students will be assigned a locker and combination lock to store their belongings. Our lockers are on the third floor and are assigned to individual students. They are a great place to put their backpack, coat, and winter boots for the day. Keep them organized and clean and there will be space to store lots of stuff!

Practice the combination lock and memorize the combination. Do not give it to anybody to ensure your stuff stays safe when you leave it in your locker. Lockers are assigned each year, and will need to be cleaned out at the end of each semester.



## **GREC's Learning Commons (GLC)**

The GLC is located beside student services and is available for students throughout the day to receive individualized help on schoolwork, learning skills, resume building, etc.

Teachers can choose to send students to work on individual work, as well, students can advocate to work in the GLC to benefit from the smaller learning environment where they can ask more questions and focus on work completion.





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# Success at GREC

**Completing classwork and homework.** Classes are designed for student to learn, practise, and ask questions, but homework will be assigned in most classes at some point. It is important that all classwork and homework is attempted and students are seeking help if they don't understand!

**Planning time away from school.** Trips, hunting, and family events are important to us at GREC, but if a student will be away for 4 or more days they must fill in an extended absences form and will be responsible for completing missed expectations. Exams happen at the end of January and the end of June and CANNOT be missed except in extenuating circumstances.

**Attendance is critical.** Students need to be in class to learn and show their learning. If a student is away, it is their responsibility to get caught up by asking the teacher, asking a friend, or checking Minds Online if the teacher posts all the work there.

**Advocate!** Students need to talk to teachers about what they need to be successful. Ask for extra help, ask for additional time, etc. We want to help you do the best you can!



# Why pick GREC

**Small classes and teachers who know the students.** Most teachers in the school know your students by a first name basis even if they have never taught them. We are fiercely proud of the respect and kindness our students are known to show in public and we want to celebrate their individuality.

**Unique Opportunities.** We are one of only two schools in Ontario that offer Forestry and one of the few that offer a Drones program. We also have a specifically developed Sportology class for students interested in sports and the science of being an athlete.

**We know the North.** Many of our teachers are from rural communities around Sharbot Lake. We understand the beauties and the difficulties faced in communities like Sharbot Lake and we are committed to improvement.

# **We look forward to you joining GREC secondary!**

Questions?

[Sortbergj@limestone.on.ca](mailto:Sortbergj@limestone.on.ca)

343-283-0500

<https://grec.limestone.on.ca/>

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# THANKS!

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**CREDITS:** This presentation template was created by **Slidesgo**, and includes icons by **Flaticon**, and infographics & images by **Freepik**