

Course Selection



Transition to High School



Student Services

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Appointments made with Student
Services Secretary

- Career & Academic Counselling
- Confidential Personal Counselling
- Connections to School & Community

Important Dates



- **Jan. 31** – Astral Drive Jr. High
- **Jan. 30** – Graham Creighton Jr. High
- **Feb. 8** – Jr. High Parent presentation at 6:00pm
- **Feb. 14** - Astral Drive Jr. High at 8:30am; students input course selection (need PowerSchool username and password and course selection sheet)
- **Feb. 15** – Graham Creighton Jr. High at 9:00am; students input course selection (need PowerSchool username and password and course selection sheet)
- **Feb. 21** - PowerSchool course selection closes for Jr. Highs
- **Feb. 23** - Course verification sheets distributed.
- **Feb. 28** – Course verification sheets due to Jr. High School Counsellors

Why is Course Selection important?

- ✓ transition – Junior – Senior
- ✓ career/life planning
- ✓ post - secondary admissions to:
 - University
 - Community College
 - Private Colleges
 - Apprenticeship
 - Workforce



How High School Works

Semesters

1st semester: Sept. to Jan. – write exams

2nd semester: Feb. to June – write exams

Grade 10 8 courses (credits)

Grade 11 7 courses – one study period

Grade 12 6 courses – two study periods

Students may request to take 8 courses each year

A maximum of 21-24 courses (credits) in 3 years

Day by day - Classes

4 classes each day (75 min.)

- Each weekday students follow a specific schedule: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Fridays alternate through a Monday – Thursday schedule.
- Lunch occurs every day between 12:05pm-12:55pm.
- Classes begin at 9:25am and end at 3:35pm



Attendance

Attendance is the most important factor in determining student success!

Study/Homework Expectations

Grade 10 – 1.5 hours 4 nights/week

Grade 11 – 2 hours 4 nights/week

Grade 12 – 2 hours 4 nights/week

Attendance

- Attendance is taken every class.
- PowerSchool provides attendance information.
- Phone messenger sent every evening for missed classes.
- Notes or emails for attendance are given to main office on students return to school.

Programs

The following programs are offered at Auburn Drive High School:

English Program

French Immersion Program

Africentric Cohort

Options & Opportunities – O2

Advanced Placement - AP



French Immersion Program

Students must complete at least 9 French Immersion credits to receive a French Immersion certificate, with a minimum of two credits in each year of high school.

Students in the French Immersion program must complete the following courses:

Français 10 – Grade 10

Français 11 – Grade 11

Français 12 – Grade 12

Suggested French Immersion Credits for Grade 10 level Students

In addition to Français 10, 4 other French Immersion credits are available to students in their Grade 10 year. It is recommended that students take at least a total of 4 FI credits during their grade 10 year. Students will select from the following:

Sciences 10

Arts Dramatiques 10

Mode de Vie Actif 11

Histoire Canadienne 11



Options and Opportunities (O₂) at Auburn Drive



What is the O₂ program?

- The O₂ program is offered to 40 students per year through an application and interview process.
- The O₂ program is from grade 10-12 and focuses on:
 - Hands on learning
 - Career exploration
 - Work placements
 - Helping students transition to community college, university, or youth apprenticeship

Who is an O2 student?

O2 students are students who:

- Are interested in being part of a cohort for three years.
- Are interested in exploring careers.
- Are hard working.
- Have good attendance.
- Can benefit from hands on learning experiences.
- Are willing to try new skills and participate in field trips and training opportunities.
- Self advocate and are willing to catch-up on missed work.
- Are considering attending NSCC and/or related program offerings.

Trades 10 Courses

Skilled Trades 10 and Service Trades 10

Trades 10 Courses

Skilled Trades

- Limited to 16 students
- Focusses on hand tool use and measurement skills
- Units include carpentry, dry wall, plumbing and electrical

Service Trades 10

- Limited to 16 students
- Focusses on food preparation, food service and hosting
- Class will periodically offer a café which is open to students and staff

Advanced Placement (AP)

- Advanced Placement courses allow students to pursue university level courses while attending high school.
- The courses follow guidelines outlined by the College Board.
- Students should consider taking AP courses if they have a willingness to meet the challenges of a rigorous academic program.

Advanced Placement Courses

The following courses may be offered:

- Biology AP
- Calculus AP
- Chemistry AP
- English AP
- Statistics AP
- World History AP

Course/Credit Types

Courses are identified using the following:

Subject Name – English, Math, History, etc.

Grade Level – 10, 11, or 12

Credit Type

- **Advanced Placement:** The opportunity to complete university level courses.
- **Advanced:** Demonstrated exceptional achievement or academic ability
- **Academic:** Designed for students who expect to enter post secondary institutions.
- **Open:** Some institutions may accept these courses when considering admission
- **Graduation:** Designed for students who plan to obtain a NS High School diploma

Credit Value

- 1.0 – Full Credit

Graduation Requirements

18 credits are required to graduate from a Nova Scotia High School

- 13 are compulsory credits
- 5 are elective credits

Maximum 7 grade 10 credits

Minimum 5 grade 12 credits

13 Compulsory Credits



- 3 English
- 3 Math
- 2 Science
- 1 Other from Technology, Math or Science
- 1 Fine Arts
(Art, Drama, Music)
- 1 Physical Education
(Phys. Ed 10, Phys. Ed 11 Basketball, Physically Active Living 11, Mode de Vie Actif 11, or Yoga 11)
- 1 Canadian Social Studies Content
(Canadian History 11, Histoire Canadienne 11, African Canadian Studies 11 or Mi'kmaq Studies 11)
- 1 Global Studies Content
(AP World History 12, Global Geography 12, Global History 12, Geographie Planetaire 12 or Histoire Planetaire 12)

Compulsory Credits

English - 3 credits required, one from each grade level. All grade 10 students must take **English 10**. In grades 11 and 12 there are multiple levels of English courses available.

Science - 2 credits required: a “first science credit” plus any other science course. All grade 10 students will take **Science 10** - it is a “first science credit”.

Other - 1 credit required from either: **Technology**, **Science** (beyond the 2 required science credits), **Math** (beyond the 3 required math credits).

Compulsory Credits

Physical Education -1 credit required; grade 10 students must choose one of the following: **Phys. Ed. 10, Phys. Ed.11 Basketball, Physically Active Living 11, Mode de Vie 11 Actif or Yoga 11.**

Fine Arts - 1 credit required; grade 10 students must choose one of the following: **Visual Art 10, Music 10 (band), Drama 10 or Arts Dramatiques 10.**

Art

You don't have to know how to draw or sculpt in order to take Art 10 or be an expert to pass, but you must attend and try!



Drama

Just like Art, this is a place to learn, and you will have to take part. For some it is challenging at first, but then you get used to it, and this is a communications course.

Music

Courses in Instrumental Music (mornings), Vocal Music & Drumline are options as well.



Compulsory Credits

Canadian Social Studies Content - 1 credit required from the following: **Mi'kmaq Studies 11, Canadian History 11, Histoire Canadienne 11 or African Canadian Studies 11.**

Global Studies Content - 1 required credit from either: **AP World History 12, Global History 12, Histoire Planetaire 12 or Global Geography 12 or Geographie Planetaire 12.** The Global Studies credit is usually completed in the student's Grade 11 or 12 year.

Compulsory Credits

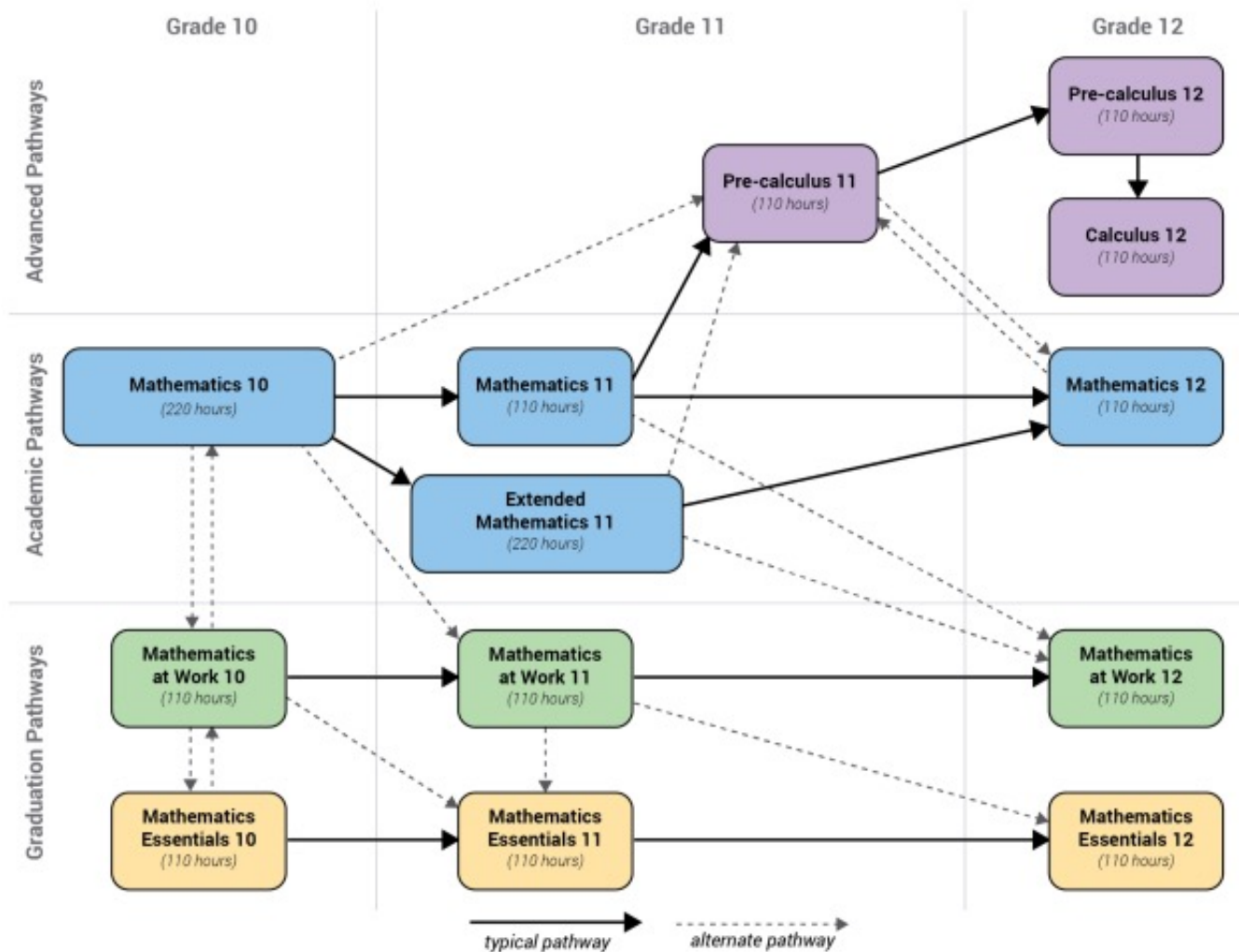
Mathematics - 3 credits required from different grade levels. All grade 10 students must take a grade 10 math course.

Mathematics 10 (Africentric Cohort) is an Africentric academic high school mathematics course designed for African Nova Scotian learners. Teachers use cultural characteristics, lived experiences, and perspectives of African Nova Scotia students as a means to teach and assess them equitably and with rigour.

Note: The Africentric Cohort takes Mathematics 10 (two-credit course) along with the African Canadian Studies 11 and English 10 courses.

The Nova Scotia mathematics curriculum provides students the knowledge, skills, and understandings for post-secondary programs or direct entry into the workforce. High school mathematics courses are organized into four pathways: Academic, Pre-calculus, Mathematics at Work and Mathematics Essentials with each pathway being organized to provide specific mathematical contexts, concepts and skills. When choosing a pathway, students should choose a pathway that best fits their interests and plans after high school. For students entering Grade 10, Mathematics 10 provides the most flexibility for future courses. This would be a good choice for students unsure of their post-secondary plans. Students, parents, and educators are encouraged to research the admission requirements for post-secondary programs of study as they vary by institution and by year.

Senior High Mathematics Course Pathways (Effective 2021)



Personal Development Credits

- Students who have successfully completed a course or program in one of three areas: Arts, Languages and Leadership that have been approved by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) will be eligible for a personal development credit. The credit will be entered on a student's transcript and may count toward one of the five elective credits required for graduation; it **does not** replace a compulsory credit.
- The EECD has developed a detailed set of criteria for approving external providers
- See <https://careerpathways.ednet.ns.ca/personal-development-credits> for more information.

See <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/pdc-approved-providers-courses-en.pdf> for an Approved Providers list.

Challenge for Credit

- Through prior involvement in activities outside of school, a student might have already met provincially established learning outcomes of some high school courses.
- The student will have to gather information and evidence that they have met a course's outcomes satisfactorily.
- The student will have to give this information to and engage in an interview with the school's Challenge for Credit committee.
- If you think this is right for you, you can start the Challenge for Credit process

Challenge for Credit Process

1. Complete the Intent to Challenge for Credit form and give it to the school counsellor no later than four weeks before the deadline.
2. Meet with the school's Challenge for Credit Committee (CCC) with the student's parent/guardian. The student will be provided the outcomes of the course they wish to challenge.
3. If the student decides they want to do this, the student must let the committee know within a week of the meeting.
4. The CCC will give the student an information package including portfolio requirements and a rubric for evaluation as well as an interview date.
5. The student portfolio must be handed in to the CCC at least one week prior to the interview date.
6. The student will complete an in-person evaluation (interview).
7. The CCC will review the interview and portfolio and decide if the student has met criteria to successfully challenge for the credit.

Choosing Courses

It is important that students pick the right courses for them. **Students cannot change courses** once they get their timetable in the fall.

We tell students to pick courses because:

- They are interested in the topic;
- They need the course to graduate;
- They need the course to complete the French Immersion certificate;
- They need the course for your post-secondary plans;
- They have the ability to be successful in the course.

All students will take the following courses:

English 10

Math 10 (at the appropriate level)

Science 10

Physical Education (10/11)

Fine Art 10

Canadian Social Studies (11)

French immersion students will take the
courses listed above + French Language
Arts 10



Students must pick 1 or 2 elective courses so that the total course load is 8 full credits, remembering that:

- **One of the 8 courses must be at the grade 11 level.**
- **If you are a French immersion student then Francais 10 is one of your electives.**

Students must pick 1 alternate course so that in the event of a scheduling conflict, the student has a back up plan.

Pick the alternate carefully – it may appear on the final schedule!



What Happens Next...

Parents/Guardians should review the course selection booklets with their children. It is important to make decisions that will allow your son/daughter to experience success.

Junior High School Counsellors will assist each student in completing their formal course selections. Course verification sheets will be sent home for parental approval and signature once the courses have been entered into PowerSchool.

