Staying Connected at WNSS

School Council: October 14th, 2026



Student Council Update

Welcome Patrick

- September & October Events



Principal Update

School Focus: Building a Sense of Belonging

Student population: 1702

Co-creating school Community:

- Classroom Agreements
- Getting to Know our Learners
- Meet the Teacher – build relationships early in the semeter
- School Events: Grade 9 Welcome Events & Camp Wolfpack (SR mentorship opportunities)



Principal Update

OSSLT: Fall OSSLT Dates:

- Nov 4-18
- Literacy Contacts: Mr. B. Daniels. Mrs. L. Smithson, Ms. Urovitz, & classroom teacher

Grade 9 Math EQAO

- Occurs in the semester of your math class
- For semester 1 math students: **EQAO Snapshot – November 24 & 25**
- Why? We use the snapshot data to guide our instruction and provided intentional support
- Contacts: Mrs. Taylor, Ms. Corbett, classroom teacher



Principal Update

New Grade 10 Financial Literacy Requirement:

- Starting 2026-27, students who began Grade 9 in 2025-26 school year or later, must meet a financial literacy graduation requirement to earn OSSD.
- Students complete this requirement in Grade 10 Career Studies Course
- Consists of learning modules and test questions developed by TVO
- **Students have 2 attempts**
- **Must earn at least 70% on the modules**
- **5%** of student's final grade
- Will be done in class with teacher guidance (tentatively Dec 8 & 9)



Principal Update

Upcoming Dates:

- Oct 15 - Progress Reports to go home
- Oct 26 - PD Day & Election Day
- Nov 6-10 - Grade 10 Civics Exams
- Nov 10- Term 1 Ends
- Nov 17- Mid-term Reports Issued



Stay Connected...

Stay up to date by visiting WNSS website:

https://westniagara.dsbn.org/







Attendance, Participation, Final Examinations:

Building Alignment and Consistency Across Secondary Schools

Changes to Secondary Courses

- In June 2026, the Ontario Ministry of Education released an update to the Growing Success document that guides student assessment and evaluation. These updates are in place for the 2026-27 school year, and include:
  - the inclusion of Attendance and Participation in student marks in every secondary school course
  - making a written exam mandatory in many secondary school courses

Mark breakdowns have changed for all classes.

Grade	Classroom Work	Final Evaluation	Attendance & Participation
Grades 9-10	65%	20%	15%
Grades 11-12	65%	25%	10%

ONLY absences that are **UNEXCUSED**

- detract from a student's mark

Attendance & Participation

Attendance and Participation are marked separately and equally weighted

	Grades	Attendance	Participation	Total
	9 and 10	7.5%	7.5%	15%
	11 and 12	5%	5%	10%

Students Participate in Different Ways

Teachers will use their professional judgement when recognizing different ways students participate and engage with learning

Written Exams

- -many courses now have a mandatory final written examination that counts for all, or part, of the final evaluation
- -some classes still have a culminating activity that counts for all, or part, of the final evaluation
- -the type of final evaluation(s), and how much it is worth, is communicated to students and families at the beginning of the semester on a course outline given out by the teachers
- -in grade 9 math, the EQAO assessment, that is given at the end of the semester they are taking math, counts as the final exam (20% of their final grade)

Updates from Guidance:

- Course Changes for Semester 1 are now complete, students can still change classes for Semester 2
- Students are encouraged to create an Hour Republic account to log hours
- Grade 12s should complete the Mandatory Graduate Form
- Encourage students to check their DSBN emails

Helpful Links

Guidance Section on School Website

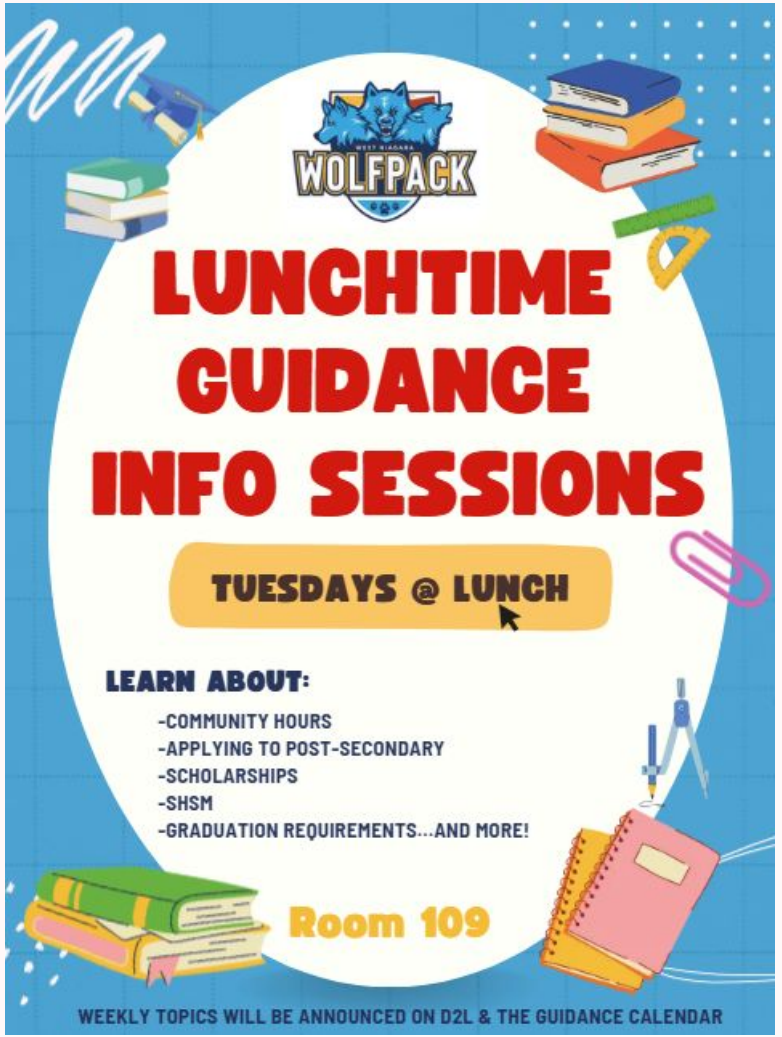
Guidance Newsletter- Semester 1

Guidance Calendar

CLICK HERE

OCTOBER 2026				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	
			1 Military Co-op presentation in Guidance	
5 University of Guelph visit @ lunch	6 Guidance Info Session @ lunch (University Applications)	7	8 Queen's University visit @ lunch	9 Redeemer University visit @ lunch
12 **THANKSGIVING** ***NO SCHOOL***	13 Guidance Info Session @ lunch (College Applications)	14	15 Niagara College visit @ lunch Progress Reports sent home	16 Ontario Tech University visit @ lunch
19	20 Guidance Info Session @ lunch (SHSM)	21	22 University of Ottawa visit @ lunch	23
26 **PD DAY** **NO SCHOOL**	27 Carleton University visit @ lunch Guidance Info Session @ lunch (Scholarships)	28 Brock University visit @ lunch	29	30 University of Windsor visit @ lunch

NEW- Guidance Info Sessions



Grade D2L Shells



West Niagara Secondary School-Grade 12 Only

Ends June 26, 2026 at 12:00 AM



West Niagara Secondary School-Grade 11 Only

Ends June 26, 2026 at 12:00 AM



West Niagara Secondary School-Grade 10 Only

Ends June 26, 2026 at 12:00 AM



West Niagara Secondary School-Grade 9 Only

Ends June 26, 2026 at 12:00 AM

*Available to WNSS students ONLY

Specialist High Skills Major

What is a SHSM?

SHSM stands for Specialist High Skills Major which is an Ontario Ministry of Education sponsored program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector.

What does a SHSM do?

A SHSM enables students to gain sector-specific skills and knowledge in the context of engaging, career-related learning environments and helps them focus on graduation and on pursuing their postsecondary goals.

Sign-Up: In the guidance office (room 109) by October 23rd!

More Information: https://westniagara.dsbn.org/guidance/shsm

Available SHSMs...

Agriculture: Ms. Desmond

Arts & Culture: Ms. Henderson

Construction: Mr. West

Food Processing: Ms. Primeau

Health & Wellness: Ms. Sueter

Horticulture & Landscaping: Ms. Desmond

Hospitality & Tourism: Mr. Marchese

Information/ Communication Technology: Ms. Thwaites

Manufacturing: Mr. Klaric

Education Non-Profit: Mr. Aloian & Mr. Volcansek

Sports: Mr. Chiarello & Hannah Wall

Helpful WNSS Links for Caregivers

School Website

- School Cash Online
- Aspen Family Portal
- Daily Announcements
- Staff Contacts

West Niagara Secondary School

Follow Up Notes:

WestNiagara
Secondary School

- School Council Chair: Sharon Daciuk
  - WNSSchoolCouncilChair@dsbn.org
- Meeting Slides are updated after each meeting on the school website
- Meeting days will rotate through the week to provide opportunities for caregivers to attend
- NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 10th, 6-7 pm Learning Commons our theme is Caring Adults we welcome members of the In School Team.

Thank you