



West Niagara

Secondary School

13 October 2023

Wolfpack and Families

I have a few updates and information items for you.

1) **Director's Artisan Card Contest**

- a) Please see attached poster for details

2) **Specialist High Skills Major Programs (SHSM)**

- a) WNSS offers ten Specialist High Skills Major programs in the following areas:

- i) Health and Wellness
- ii) Sport
- iii) Manufacturing
- iv) Construction
- v) Information and Communications Technology
- vi) Hospitality and Tourism
- vii) Food Processing
- viii) The Arts
- ix) Horticulture and Landscaping
- x) Agriculture

- b) A SHSM program is aimed at grade 11 and 12 students and consists of some targeted courses to the area, a coop work experience, and some specialized training sessions offered to students at no cost (e.g. First Aid/CPR, safe food handling for Hospitality and Food Processing etc.)

- c) Students who meet program requirements earn a red seal on their Secondary School Diploma, which can lead to program, employment, and scholarship opportunities at post secondary institutions

- d) These are excellent programs and opportunities for students in grades 11 and 12 - if your child is interested in one or more of these programs, please respond to this email with your child's name and which program they are interested in - our staff will follow up with the student

- e) More information on SHSM programs can be found here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/specialist-high-skills-major>

3) **Graduation - Save the Date**

- a) This year's Graduation Ceremony will be on Thursday, June 13th, 2024 at the Meridian Centre in St. Catharines
- b) Further details will be sent out closer to the date

4) **Parent Teacher Interviews**

- a) Just a reminder that the link to schedule interviews for October 17th is available on the school website
- b) In person interviews only are booked this way
- c) If you can't make it that night, please feel free to reach out to teachers through their email address (also found on the school website) and schedule a phone call, or Teams meeting if you wish
- d) The interview scheduler closes at 7am on Tuesday, October 17th

5) **Parent Involvement Committee Conference**

- a) All parents are welcome to attend the PIC Conference - details and registration can be found at dsbn.org/pic



6) **Math Help**

Free math learning support is available to secondary school students. In addition to the classroom teacher in-school, students can access the following support both in and out of school:

a) **TVO Mathify- Free**

1:1 Math Tutoring with Ontario Certified Teachers
Grades 4-12

Tutors are available online Monday to Friday from 9 am to 9 pm ET, and Saturdays and Sundays from 3 pm to 9 pm ET.

To Learn more: <https://mathify.tvolearn.com/parents/>

Knowledgehook-Free

- b) Knowledgehook is an online platform that makes learning fun via challenges linked to the Grade 9 math curriculum. Teachers can use Knowledgehook to enhance the learning of students both in the classroom and at home by offering tailored 'challenges' via the platform based on each student's individual strengths and needs. In addition, students can use Knowledgehook for self-directed learning to expand their understanding and scope of mathematical concepts.
- c) All students enrolled in Grade 9 MTH 1W mathematics have access to Knowledgehook via their D2L accounts. Students will receive on-boarding to the platform this month through their mathematics teacher.
- d) We encourage you to explore both of these platforms with your student at home. To build self-efficacy and transferable skills, a strategy would be to remind and direct your students to these platforms.

Have a great weekend.

Mat Miller
Principal, WNSS