Welcome to GECDSB SHSM

- Trent Durocher, OYAP/SHSM Support
- Justin St. Pierre, SHSM Board Lead
- Mike Castellano, Superintendent

January 27, 2026

GECDSB Job Skills Programs

- Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)
- Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)
- Co-Operative Education (COOP)

OYAP
ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM
PUBLICBOARD.CA/OYAP

GREATER ESSEX COUNTY District School Board
SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR
SHSM
PUBLICBOARD.CA/SHSM

LEARNING TO WORK, WORKING TO LEARN
COOPERATIVE EDUCATION
GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

What is SHSM?



- SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR
- Program for Grade 11 and 12 students looking to focus on a specific industry or sector
  - Created BY INDUSTRY
  - Students earn industry certifications
  - NO COST TO STUDENTS!
  - Funded OUTSIDE of GECDSB Board Funds

Our SHSM Students in Action







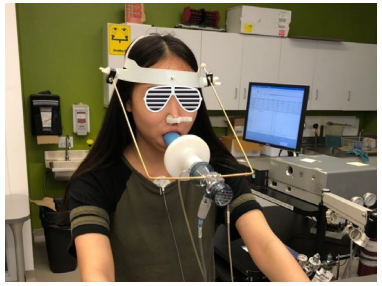
















SHSM Sectors within GECDSB

- Arts & Culture
- Aviation & Aerospace
- Business
- Construction
- Environment
- Health & Wellness
- Hospitality & Tourism
- ICT
- Justice, Community
- Manufacturing
- Non-Profit
- Transportation

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

SHSM

Ontario.ca/SHSM

List of Programs by School

- See Handout for Full List:

GECDSB SHSM Programs by School for 2026-27

(Updated January 2026)

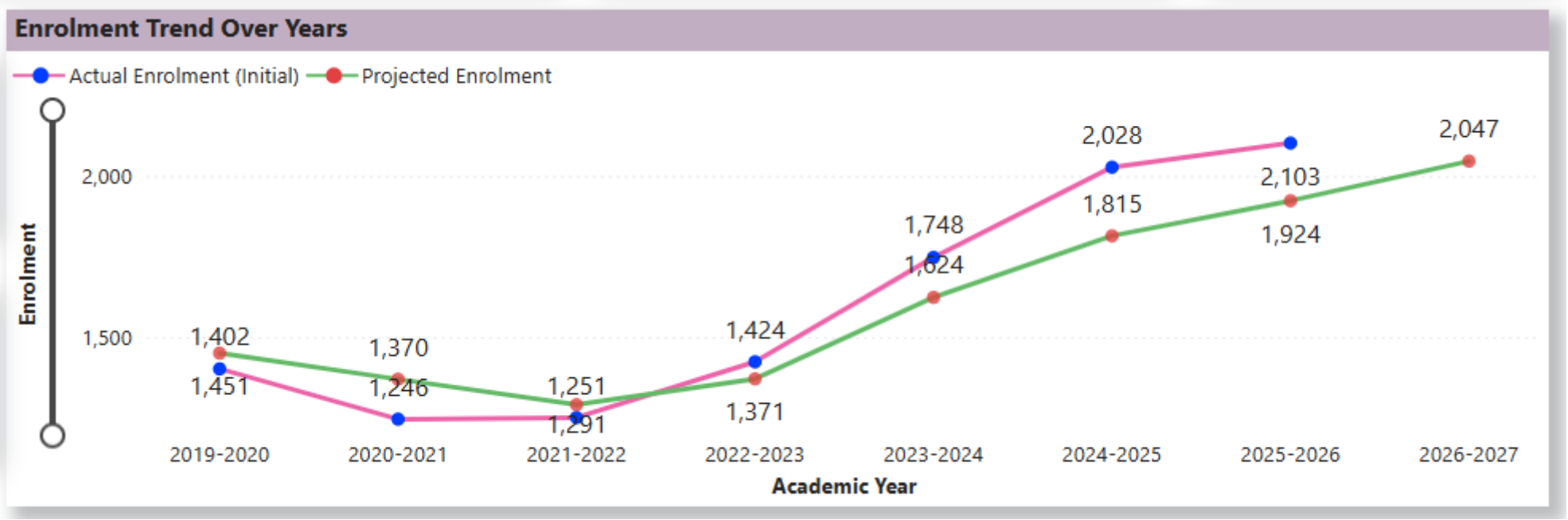
School	Sector	Teacher Lead(s)
Belle River DHS	Arts & Culture	Ms. Tamara Cirino
	Business	Ms. Heather St. Pierre
	Construction	Mr. Steve Jurkovic, Ms. Martina Quaggiotto
	Environment	Mr. Andrew Pula, Ms. Christina Zgomba
	Health & Wellness	Ms. Kristy Kassian
	Manufacturing	Mr. Lee Awad
	Transportation	Mr. Brian Wood
Erie Migration DS	Arts & Culture	Ms. Amanda Fabischek, Ms. Megan Simon
	Business	Mr. Martin Morphet
	Construction	Mr. Marshall Heaton, Ms. Courtney Hilton
	Environment	Mr. Greg Driedger
	Health & Wellness	Ms. Sue Nurse
	Information & Communications Tech	Mr. Steven Boere
	Manufacturing (*new 2025-26)	Mr. Jake Lokun
	Transportation	Mr. Rob Oriet
Essex DHS	Arts & Culture	Ms. Andrea Nikita
	Business	Mr. Jonathan Forbes
	Construction	Mr. Chris Kingsbury, Mr. Nikolakakos
	Health & Wellness	Ms. Staci Wilson, Mr. Andy Hahn
	Non-Profit, Education, and Childcare	Ms. Deb McAiney, Ms. Ange Lindsay
	Transportation	Mr. James Klingbile
Hon WC Kennedy	Arts & Culture	Ms. Megan Gignac, Ms. Jordan Francis
	Business (*new 2025-26)	Mr. Matt Gervais, Mr. Tyler Byrne
	Environment	Ms. Carly Laforest, Ms. Rachel Durfy
	Information & Communications Tech (*new 2026-27 pending ministry approval)	Mr. Claude Saizonou
	Health & Wellness	Ms. Sue Verbeem, Mr. Pat Osborne
	Non-Profit, Education, and Childcare	Ms. Eva Remetic, Ms. Shannon Poole
Leamington DSS	Arts & Culture	Mr. Andrew Shaw, Ms. Andrea Kubis
	Business	Mr. George Egglezos
	Construction	Mr. Michael Ouellette, Mr. Bill Fenton
	Environment	Mr. Tim Blanchard, Ms. Gia Brennan
	Health & Wellness	Mr. Tony Nurse
	Hospitality & Tourism	Mr. Joseph Youssef, Mr. David Prantera
	Information & Communications Tech	Mr. George Vlaicu
	Transportation	Mr. Mark Dewhurst
North Star High School	Arts & Culture	Ms. Samantha Thomas
	Business	Mr. Dan Campana
	Environment	Mr. Jason McLean
	Health & Wellness	Ms. Lisa Voakes, Ms. Mikki Balestrini
	Hospitality & Tourism (Cosmetology)	Ms. Courtney Bastien
	Hospitality & Tourism (Kitchen)	Ms. Alexandra Campbell
	Information & Communications Tech	Ms. Allison Campbell
	Justice, Emergency Services	Mr. Michael Balogh
	Manufacturing	Mr. Glen Holden
	Transportation	Mr. Dale Anderson

GECDSB SHSM Programs by School for 2026-27

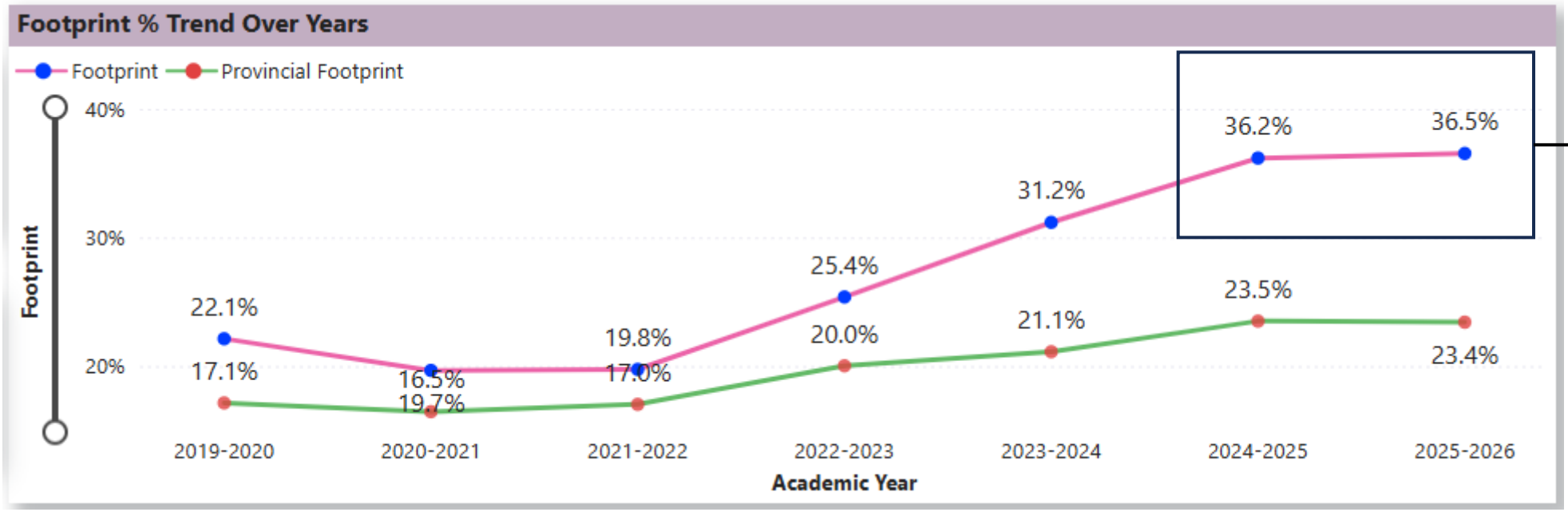
School	Sector	Teacher Lead(s)
Riverside SS	Arts & Culture	Ms. Andrea DiPonti, Mr. Jonathan Leopold
	Business	Ms. Catherine Oake
	Construction	Mr. Barry Kelly, Mr. Ben Pelger
	Environment	Ms. Amy Root, Mr. John Sarros
	Health & Wellness	Ms. Christine J Johnston
	Manufacturing	Mr. Shayne Byrne
	Non-Profit, Education, and Childcare	Ms. Sonia De Andrade-Scofield
	Transportation	Mr. Timothy Klingbile
Sandwich SS	Aviation & Aerospace	Mr. Rob Jasey
	Business	Mr. Rob Jasey
	Construction	Mr. Mitchell Taveirne
	Health & Wellness	Mr. David Penner
	Manufacturing	Mr. Oliver Swainson
	Non-Profit, Education, and Childcare (Focus on FSL) (*new 2026-27 pending ministry approval)	Ms. Staci Jobin
Tecumseh Vista Academy	Arts & Culture	Ms. Lynne Comartin
	Business	Mr. Andre Quaglia
	Health & Wellness	Ms. Nicole Wiens, Mr. Matthew Balmer
	Non-Profit, Education, and Childcare (Focus on FSL)	Ms. Anessa Cain
Vincent Massey SS	Business	Mr. Ross Ferrara
	Health & Wellness	Mr. Scott Westbury, Dr. Jeffrey Charron
	Information and Communication Technology	Mr. Jonathan Ward, Mr. Brad Awad
	Non-Profit, Education, and Childcare	Ms. Victoria Bastien
W. F. Herman	Construction	Mr. Phil Desnoyers
	Health & Wellness (Cosmetology)	Ms. Sarah Helm
	Health & Wellness	Mr. Eric Muscedere, Mr. Eric Timm
	Hospitality & Tourism	Ms. Katherine Gillis
	Manufacturing	Mr. Mathew Duby
Walkerville CI	Arts & Culture	Ms. A. Sands, Ms. D. Piazza, Mr. J. Benforte
	Environment	Mr. R. Ferguson, Mr. J. Pfaff, Ms. L. Rivait
	Health & Wellness	Ms. Stephanie Martini, Mr. Matthew Dennis
	Non-Profit, Education, and Childcare	Ms. Anna LaPorte, Ms. Taylor Gorick
Westview FA	Construction	Mr. J. Taveirne, Mr. J. Bondy, Mr. B Rudak
	Health & Wellness	Ms. Dana Pizzo
	Hospitality & Tourism (Kitchen)	Ms. Mona Elkadri, Ms. Brenda Parsons
	Hospitality & Tourism (Cosmetology)	Ms. Jeanette Dufour-Amaral
	Transportation	Mr. Femi Peters
Windsor PASS	Business	Mr. Shawn Dunn
	Construction	Mr. C. Gosselin (UBC), Mr. B. Rudak (IBEW)
	Hospitality & Tourism	Ms. Adelina DeBlasis, Ms. Amanda Durocher

We have over 100 CHAMPION TEACHER who VOLUNTEER to run these programs at the school level, without their support and dedication our programs would not be as successful!

SHSM Visual Trend – Student Enrollment

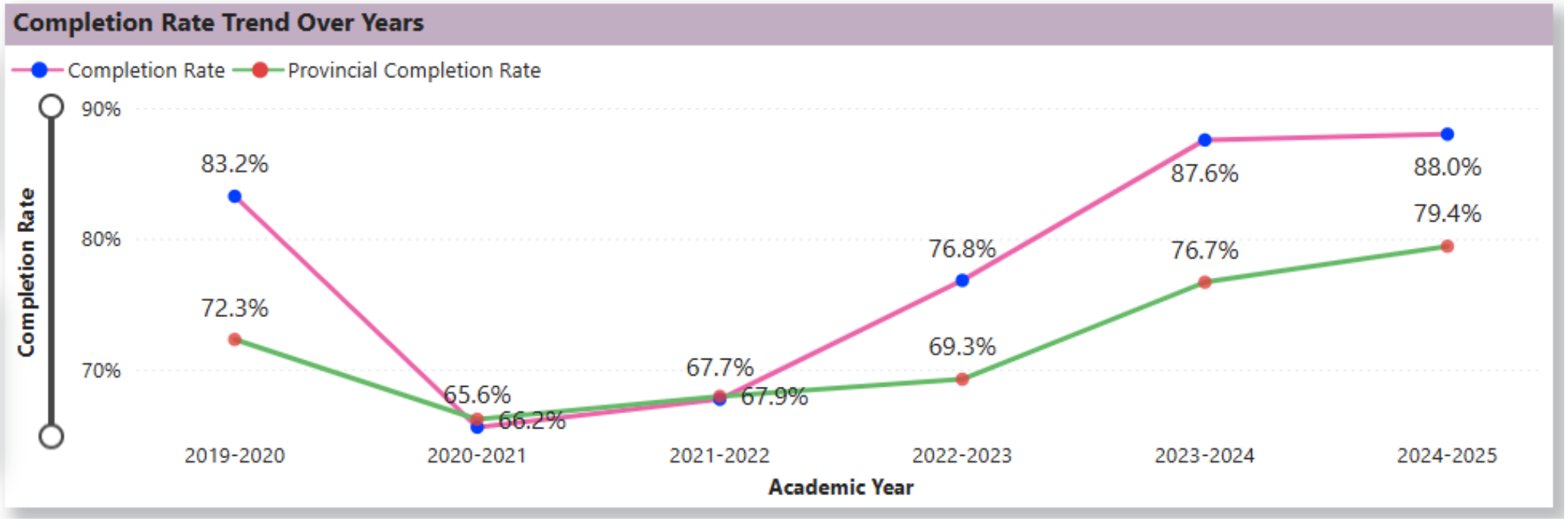


SHSM Visual Trend – SHSM Footprint



*Since 2024 over 1 in 3 GECDSB Students participate in SHSM in Grade 11 and 12

SHSM Visual Trend – Completion/SHSM Grad Rate



Overview of SHSM Requirements

4 Major Courses
*in grade 11 and 12, part of their NORMAL schedule

First Aid and CPR Certification

*all sectors

COOP Courses
(minimum of 2 credits)
*Experiential Learning

Sector Certifications:

- Examples: WHMIS, Forklift, Customer Service, GPS Training, etc.

*These depend on sector

SPE (ICE, Math, or Coding)

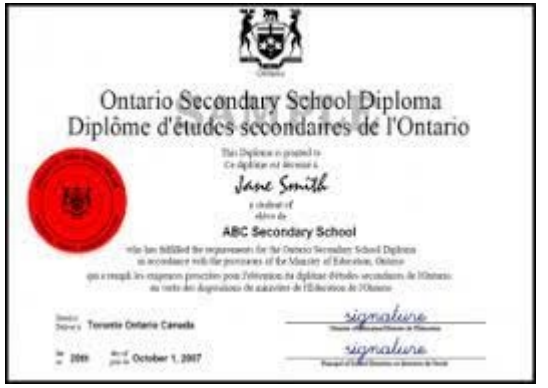
Reach Ahead and Career Exploration

Why SHSM for Students?

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

Ontario.ca/SHSM

- Industry related training
  - First Aid and CPR, WHMIS, etc.
- Red Seal on Diploma
- Scholarships and bursaries
- Experiential Learning
- OYAP Leads to Career in the Trades



BUILD YOUR RESUME WITH GECDSB SHSM!

PUBLICBOARD.CA/SHSM

123 Fake Street Windsor, ON N9V 2H7 519-123-4567

Katherine Oakley

EDUCATION

Herman Secondary School — Windsor ON
2020 to present — OSSD in progress

- Honor Roll
- **Specialist High Skills Major - Construction at Enhanced Construction Program**

EXPERIENCE

Sterling Ridge (COOP Placement) — **Windsor ON**
2023 - Present — **Interior System Mechanic**

- **Responsible for unloading site material.**
- **Installed and helped install track ceiling on various construction sites.**
- **Install drywall panels.**

R.C. White (COOP Placement) — **Windsor ON**
2022 — **Interior Systems Mechanic**

- **Installed drop ceiling on new construction.**
- **Installed fiber board walls.**
- **Erect wall façade using steel stud.**

Kane Family — Windsor
2021 — Baby Sitting

- Prepared meals for younger children
- Supervised children when they got off the school bus.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

First Aid and CPR	**2022**	**Second Chance CPR**
Working at Heights	**2022**	**Workers Health and Safety Centre**
Mobile Elevated Work Platform	**2022**	**Workers Health and Safety Centre**
Forklift Operator	**2022**	**UBC 494**
Confined Space	**2022**	**Workers Health and Safety Centre**
Skid Steer Operator	**2022**	**UBC 494**
Hoisting and Rigging	**2022**	**UBC 494**
Chainsaw Awareness	**2022**	**UBC 494**
Baby Sitting Course	2018	Red Cross

NOTE: All experiences **in RED** were done through the **GECDSB SHSM Program**

Local Scholarships for SHSM Grads

- St. Clair College $1000
  - Minimum 75% average

- University of Windsor $1000
  - Minimum 75% average

- Other Scholarships in Ontario for SHSM
  - http://tiny.cc/SHSMscholarships

CO-Operative Education



- All SHSM and OYAP students MUST complete a **minimum of 2 COOP credits.**
- Many Skilled Trades Employers are looking for FULL DAY COOP students (4 credit COOP)
- OYAP-FAST and new OSSD Rules allow for up to 10 COOP Credits

Advantages of COOP

- Prepares you for your future
- Let’s you test drive your sector
- May lead to paid employment (High School COOP is UNPAID)
- Some of our COOP students get PAID (Precision Metal Cutting Enhanced OYAP)
- Can land you an apprenticeship
- Some college/university programs require COOP, so it helps you prepare for the workplace

Student Voice:

These are current Grade 12s who are in our SHSM and COOP Programs







Why SHSM for schools?

- Field Trips for Experiential Learning (covered with SHSM funds)
- Professional Development Funds (must be approved by Director)
- Ability to purchase capital equipment/tools for classrooms to enhance student engagement/learning
- Ability to purchase promotional materials (clothing, swag, etc.)

Summary of 2025-26 Central SHSMEvents

- October 28-30 – Conference at Point Pelee (Environment) – 2 nights ***overnight camping in oTENTiks***
- October 29 – WIFF (Non-Profit and Arts & Culture)
- November 4-5 – Conference at Point Pelee (Arts & Culture) ***overnight camping in oTENTiks***
- November 13 – London LevelUp and Tour (ICT)
- November 19 – Nutrition Programs SPE (Hospitality & Tourism) ***within school hours***
- November 20 – Heritage Village/Museum SPE (Transportation) ***within school hours***
- December 2, 3, and 4 – Math SPE at Local 494 (Construction) ***within school hours***
- December 11 – Math SPE at Cavalier (Manufacturing) ***within school hours***
- January 7 – SHSM/OYAP/COOP Promotion Event Windsor Express (ALL) – **TARGETING GRADE 10s again**
- February 19 – UWindsor Odette Day (Business) ***within school hours***
- March 4 – Windsor Express Conference (Business and Health & Wellness) ***goes until 10pm-ish***
- April 8-9 – Conference at Point Pelee (TBD – Possible Awards Canada AJ) ***overnight camping in oTENTiks***
- April 15-16 – Conference at Point Pelee (Hospitality and Tourism) ***overnight camping in oTENTiks***
- April 22-23 – Conference at Point Pelee (Herman – All Sectors) ***overnight camping in oTENTiks***
- April 28-30 – Conference at Point Pelee (Non-Profit, Education, and Childcare) – 2 nights ***overnight camping in oTENTiks***

OYAP and GECDSB Enhanced OYAP

- Many of our SHSM students also participate in OYAP
- **An OYAP student is any COOP student in a placement that is an apprentice-able trade (Participant)**
- **If a grade 11 or 12 student has an employer sponsor, they can sign an RTA (Registered Training Agreement) and begin counting their hours towards apprenticeship in a specific trade**

OYAP
ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

PUBLICBOARD.CA/OYAP

- Enhanced OYAP is a pre-structured grade 11 and 12 schedule that maximizes the students ability to prepare for a future in the skilled trades
- Sample Enhanced OYAP Schedule for Grade 11 and 12:

Period	Semester 1	Semester 2
1	Tech Course	COOP
2	Tech Course	COOP
3	Math	COOP
4	English	COOP

Semester 1 and 2 might be swapped depending on program and grade

https://youtu.be/YC03wUHTH2I

Enhanced OYAP Programs in GECDSB

- Cooking
  - Available at Community Kitchen (centralized), Leamington DSS, Westview FA, and North Star HS
- Precision Metal Cutting
  - Available at Belle River DHS, Herman SS and North Star DS, and Sandwich SS
- Automotive Service
  - Riverside SS, Erie Migration DS, and North Star DS
- Hairstying
  - Herman SS and North Star DS
- Construction
  - Enhanced Construction Programs (ECP Carpentry – UBC Local 494 and ECP Electrical – IBEW Local 773)

GECDSB OYAP

PROMO VIDEO

ECP CARPENTRY

ECP ELECTRICAL

Grade 7 Outreach

- Bus all GECDSB Grade 7s to Innovation Space at TVA Elementary (flexible on space)
  1) Students arrive and make button nametag
  2) Students do measurement and sheet metal bending activity
  3) Student Rotation #1 (Electrical or Transportation)
  4) Student Rotation #2 (Plumbing or Hairstyling/Aesthetics
  5) Lunch (provided) and OYAP/SHSM Presentation
  6) Students do a culinary activity (Twinkie Plating Challenge)
  7) Students return by bus to school

Team effort for delivery – **no dedicated staff**

Tech TC, Guidance TC, SHSM TC, OYAP TC, SHSM SAT, Computers/Tech TC, EL Coordinator



Any questions?



Thank you!

- Email me at justin.stpierre@publicboard.ca if you have any questions!

