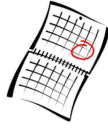


Westdale Guidance Newsletter

April 24, 2026



Key Dates



April 27—11:00 am	Deadline to register for summer co-op in myBlueprint
April 28—9:20 am	Assembly for students who selected co-op at Westdale in 2026-2027
April 30	Career Conversations Day
May 1	Full Disclosure Date—last day for Grade 11/12 course drops Deadline for students to accept offers at Ontario Colleges
May 6	Post –Secondary Planning Information Session with Grade 11s in Period 4 and Westdale Families at 6:30 pm

Greetings from Westdale Guidance! As this is a busy time of year, we are issuing this newsletter to keep students and families up to date about important events and upcoming timelines.

1) **Accepting Post-Secondary Offers in Ontario**

This is a reminder that students who have received an offer from an **Ontario College** have until **May 1** to accept their offer. For students planning to attend **university**, offers will continue to be issued until May 28. **Students must respond to university offers of admission by June 1.**

2) **Midterm Report Cards and Midterm Mark Transmission to OUAC and Ontario Colleges**

Midterm report cards were communicated with students and families via School Messenger on April 24. The HWDSB communicated midterm marks to OUAC and Ontario Colleges on the afternoon of Thursday, April 23. Students who have applied to university and college should check their profiles on OUAC and OCAS to ensure their mark summary is accurate.

3) **Full Disclosure—May 1**

May 1 is the last day for a students in a Grade 11 or Grade 12 course to withdraw from the course without a final mark being reported on the student's transcript. Students needing to withdraw from a course should see their Guidance counsellor as soon as possible.

4) **Westdale Co-op Assembly**

We have over 150 course requests for co-op next year at Westdale. It is wonderful to see so many students pursue this valuable experiential learning opportunity in secondary school. There will be an assembly for all students who have selected co-op at Westdale during the 2026-27 school year on Tuesday, April 28 at 9:20 am. All students who registered for co-op should attend the assembly. Topics covered at the assembly include:

- Explanation of co-op and its benefits
- Different types of co-op and relationship between co-op and other programs (ie. SHSM, OYAP)
- Next steps for students and opportunities to connect face-to-face with co-op teachers

5) Grade 9 and Grade 10 Career Conversations—Thursday, April 30

Grade 9 and Grade 10 students have access to Career Coaching opportunities where they will gather some understanding of the labour market, and skills and pathways towards careers and further education. The HWDSB has partnered with the Industry Education Council of Hamilton to provide students with access to people in different careers where students will learn the skills and experiences the professionals acquired on their way to their current job. **This year's Career Conversation event at Westdale will be taking place on Thursday, April 30.** This event was well-received by Grade 10 students at Westdale last year and we look forward to having Grade 9 and 10 students participating this year. Students are welcome to connect with their Guidance counsellor after the event if they would like to pursue more information about a chosen pathway or if the event has prompted some changes in course selection for next year.

6) Post-Secondary Planning with Kyle Cleveland—Wednesday, May 6

Grade 11 Student—Period 4

Westdale Families 6:30 pm (Westdale Auditorium)

Kyle is an advisor from the postsecondary sector, having worked at a college and university. His goal is to help students and families plan for the transition from high school, focusing on adding some transparency to the admissions process and funding models. With significant changes coming to OSAP and the constant pressure of high grades, this is an opportunity to ask the big questions and ensure students are positioned to get into their program of choice!

We will cover

- how to research programs and more importantly how to find students from the program to speak to
- navigating the application web portals
- understanding admission conditions and application timelines
- free money (scholarships and bursaries), let's use someone else's money to pay for school!
- how to create a linkedin profile, allowing you to reach out to actual students at the schools and programs of your choice
- the importance of volunteerism and extracurriculars now, throughout the high school journey, summer and first semester of grade 12. This is how you can get FREE money to cover school
- learn about the many scholarship deadlines DUE BEFORE applying(!!!) or receiving acceptances and the importance of reference letters
- make sure you understand admission requirements and the importance of making sure your grade 12 timetables have been selected to match
- supplemental application documents - what are they? Learn about how you can prepare for them over the summer!
- for ALL College bound students, there is an EARLY OFFER process for non-competitive programs

We are very excited to have a guest speaker from the post-secondary sector who can share his expertise with Westdale students and families. Kyle will be speaking with Grade 11 students during the afternoon of May 6. This presentation will be very helpful for families of Grade 10 and Grade 11 students as students start preparing their exit from secondary school.

If you have questions that you would like Kyle to address in his presentation, please email Mr. Meyer at Westdale Guidance (dmeyer@hwdsb.on.ca).