



ACCESSIBILITY:

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YEAR: 2025 – 2026

SECONDARY SCHOOL:

Name of Student (please print): _____ **Phone:** _____

Many Ministry initiatives allow us the opportunity to provide our students with learning opportunities outside the classroom. Signing this permission form indicates that you support and approve of classroom excursions to enhance and support curriculum expectations and specialized programs. These opportunities are also designed to assist the student in planning for post-secondary education and workplace opportunities.

Note:

- **For all students in: Grade 10, 11 and 12**
- Activities will occur between the dates of **Sept. 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026**. See reverse side for more details.
- To participate in these Experiential Learning Excursions, this form must be read and signed by the student and/or student's parent/guardian and submitted along with all School Start-up forms in September 2024.

ELEMENTS OF RISK

Educational activities such as those listed on page 2 involve certain elements of risk. Accidents may occur while participating in activities such as safety and equipment operation training, company and business tours, hands-on workshops, and tours of post-secondary destinations. These accidents may cause injury. A few examples of the type of accident (but not limited to) that could occur while participating in these activities are:

1. Sprains, cuts, scrapes, bruises
2. Bone fractures
3. Head injuries

These accidents result from the nature of the activity and can occur without any fault of the student, or the School Board or its employees or agents, or the facility where the activity is taking place. Carefully following all instructions while engaged in the activity can reduce these risks. By choosing to participate in these additional learning opportunities and activities offered by your school and/or school board, you are assuming the risk and bear responsibility from an accident occurring. The Waterloo Catholic District School Board does not provide accidental disability, dismemberment, dental, death, or medical expenses or insurance on behalf of the participating students.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board strongly advises that all students participate in the STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE PLAN offered by insuremykids which covers participants for all accidents, 24-hours per day, every day during the full policy term. (This is available at a very affordable cost.)

PURPOSE OF COLLECTING THIS INFORMATION

We are requesting the following information be used exclusively by teachers/supervisors in planning, supervising and for communicating Experiential Learning opportunities to the student/parents/guardian and for emergency purposes only. This information will not be shared with any third party.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & PERMISSION

We have read the above. We understand that in participating in these activities, we are assuming ALL risks associated with doing so. I give permission for my child to participate in the additional learning opportunities as explained. I understand that these experiences will take place at various locations and times during this school year and acknowledge risks associated with them. (See back of this sheet for additional Excursions/Program Descriptions.)

Signature of Student (if student age 18 and over) (handwritten or typed) _____
Date (yyyy-mm-dd)

Signature of Parent (if student under age 18) _____
Phone _____
Date (yyyy-mm-dd)
(handwritten or typed)



EXCURSION EXPECTATIONS

- The student will be provided with details of each excursion by the supervising teacher (date, time, location, transportation, etc.). The student is expected to share this information with their parent(s)/guardian.
- All excursions will be supervised by a classroom or supply teacher.
- Students should direct questions to the supervising teacher of the excursion or their guidance counsellor.
- If the parent/guardian wishes to withdraw the student from an activity, they must inform the supervising teacher in writing.

EXPLANATION OF EXCURSIONS

Experiential Learning or ‘Reach Ahead’ Activities:

All education excursions pertaining to the signing of this form are considered Experiential Learning activities which are intended for students in Grades 10, 11, and 12, and take place outside of the classroom. The student could be involved in a variety of **experiences** to enhance and support classroom **learning**. The overall expectation of these excursions is for the student to develop an understanding of the skills necessary for success in school, work and in life. Experiential Learning activities may also be referred to as ‘Reach Ahead’ activities. This means that opportunities are provided for the student to look beyond the classroom to see what career possibilities lay ahead. Sample activities include, but are not limited to, those described below:

1. CO-OP / OYAP / Skills Ontario & Apprenticeship / Skilled Trades Awareness Opportunities

Cooperative Education (Co-op) and the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) typically involve visits to worksites, union halls, Skills Competitions, Skills Ontario workshops & symposiums, and/or skilled trade events such as Construction Day, Jill of All Trades Day, etc. Many of these opportunities are in partnership with, but not limited to, Ontario Colleges, Regional Employers, BEP, Build a Dream, etc. These excursions would be **outside** the regular Co-op/OYAP work placement and would enhance the student’s awareness of career-related and apprenticeship opportunities to assist in career decision making.

2. ZOOM Career Days / Challenge Days / Pitch Day / Apps 4 Learning

Students can Zoom in on a career possibility by attending sector-specific ZOOM days which are open for students on any Pathway (Apprenticeship, College, Community, University or the Workplace). Interactive workshops are given by local industry representatives who have the most current information on employment opportunities, educational requirements, and other helpful career exploration tips. To further engage students in authentic learning experiences that focus on critical thinking, problem solving, creativity and collaboration, the WCDSB partners with the Business & Education Partnership of Waterloo to deliver Pitch Day/Challenge Day/ Apps 4 Learning, and other experiential learning events. www.bus-edpartnership.org

3. Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a Ministry-approved recognition students can earn during Grades 11 and 12. It is valuable because it shows that the student has focused their education toward a particular employment sector. There are five requirements to earn the SHSM designation on the diploma. Three of these requirements/activities, listed below, take place outside the school and require signed permission on this form.

- Earn industry-recognized certifications related to the employment sector.
- Take advantage of Reach Ahead opportunities.
- Participate in sector-related Experiential Learning activities.

To indicate your intent to be an SHSM student and to find out more, visit: www.HighSkills.ca

4. University and College Tours

Many students will independently explore different universities and colleges to assist in deciding on post-secondary destinations. In addition to this, the School College Work Initiative (SCWI) offers many opportunities to our students to expose them to the various courses and programs available at Conestoga College (Doon, Waterloo, Guelph, and Cambridge). We are fortunate to have many excellent post-secondary institutions in our community where local excursions may be arranged at St. Jerome’s University, University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier, and Conestoga College’s four campuses.

5. Business Visitation / Workplace Excursions

Teachers may organize visits to local businesses and industries. These visits may be for the purpose of exposing the student to various careers and may also be subject-specific to enhance curriculum expectations.

Find out More! <https://el.wcdsb.ca/all-experiential-learning-programs/> - This website has a thorough description of all Co-op and Experiential Learning programs and opportunities offered in the Waterloo Catholic District School Board.

Questions? Please see your Guidance Counsellor.

Notice of Collection

Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of sections 171(1) p.28 and 265(1)(d) of the Education Act in accordance with section 28(2) of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA). Information on this form will be used to administer educational excursions. Questions about the use of the form should be directed to the school principal. Questions about the collection, use, or disclosure of personal information on the form should be directed to the Privacy Officer at privacy@wcdsb.ca, or 519-580-3297, or 35 Weber St. W., Unit A, Kitchener, ON, N2H 3Z1.

Completed by: Parent/Guardian (OR Adult Student)

Distribution: Information entered into Aspen

Retention: Current School Year