

## COCO Smaller, Smarter, Stronger Po you know about our academics? You will also be interested to learn...

- GDHS has the highest credit attainment and five-year graduation rates within Thames Valley District School Board! And, despite being one of the smallest schools in the Board, we also have the highest number of students graduating from our Specialist High Skills Major Tech Programs (Construction and Transportation).
- For several years GDHS has had a 100% acceptance rate at Canadian Universities, and Canadian Colleges. We offer De-streamed Academic, Applied, and Locally Developed pathways.
- Last year, 95% of all courses taken at GDHS were passed, including 93% of all grade 9
- Grade 9 and Grade 10 compulsory courses at GDHS are the same as all other Ontario Secondary Schools.
- Our smaller class sizes means more one-on-one attention from your teacher and more collaboration between grades and department projects are possible.
- With donations from our community and local businesses, approximately \$40,000 in scholarships, awards, and bursaries are awarded every year to GDHS students at our Commencement Ceremony.
- We offer a wide variety of Physical Education credits which involve personal fitness, large group activities, how to lead a healthy lifestyle, human development and human movement.
- Popular at GDHS, is the Senior Personal Life Management course which prepares students for independent living. They will learn about personal, legal and financial responsibilities and how to manage their financial resources.
- Our Dual Credit Program is a collaborative program in conjunction with TVDSB, Lambton College and Fanshawe College. Students have the opportunity to earn two college and two equivalent high school credits.
- Several of our students have placed in the top 25% in North America for math awards.
- We make local connections for Co-operative Education and Apprenticeships.

- We have daily student-run video announcements that provide our students with real world experience.
- We have a thriving Breakfast Club program.
- In the past five years, students and staff have donated over 3500 toys to help the community at Christmas.
- Our extremely talented teaching faculty includes a World Class Cyclist, a 20+ year volunteer fire-fighter, a semi-pro hockey player, and teachers who have taught in England, Egypt, and Nigeria.
- We have all the advantages of smaller class sizes you will be noticed and very well supported.

## Do you know about our extra-curriculars?

- GAELS Get Involved! GDHS has many extra-curricular opportunities! Archery, Badminton, Band,
  Baseball, Basketball, Best Buddies, Breakfast Club, Cheerleading, Chess Club, Cross Country, Curling,
  Environmental Club, Fishing, FitClub, Forest of Reading, GAEL Force, Golf, GSA Club, Hockey,
  Homework Club, Mathletes, Photography/Yearbook Club, Robotics, Soccer, Students' Council, Student
  Athletic Association, Tennis, Track & Field, Ultimate Frisbee, Video Game Club. New and old
  clubs/teams will run based on student interest. Many GDHS athletes/teams have qualified, competed
  and been successful at WOSSAA and OFSSAA levels.
- Our smaller numbers mean you have more opportunity to make our sports teams and join more clubs.
- When you join a team or club you'll spend less time travelling to and from school for meetings, practices and games because you chose to attend your community school.
- Our band performs at several concerts throughout the year and teams up with West Elgin Secondary School to perform. We are always scouting for new talent! Join us and improve your performance opportunities!
- G.A.E.L. F.O.R.C.E. [Gaels Acquiring Excellent Leadership (through) Friendship, Opportunity, Responsibility, Communication and Experience] is developed and run entirely by senior GDHS students for grade 9 and 10 students every fall. The new look of GAEL Force will be announced at a later date.
- Our "High School Here I Come" program runs in August and will assist your son or daughter in his/her transition from elementary school to high school. Details will be released as they become available.