

Handsworth Secondary

Course Programming 2026/2027

Students entering Grade 12

The Handsworth community develops empowered,
innovative, and compassionate learners who serve and
lead with curiosity and integrity.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank the Coast Salish people, specifically the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, on whose unceded traditional territory the North Vancouver School District resides. I value the opportunity to learn, share, and grow on this traditional territory.

OVERVIEW

- Introductions
- Overview of grade 12
- Review of graduation program
- Courses and programs offered
- Post-secondary planning - brief

CONTACTS

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Principal

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THE WORLD OF THE GRADE 12 STUDENT

- ▶ Final year of the graduation program
- ▶ Growing independence and self-advocacy
- ▶ Juggling responsibilities
- ▶ Increased academic and social expectations
- ▶ Future considerations
- ▶ Grad year at a glance
 - ▶ Council
 - ▶ Sanctioned vs. unsanctioned events
 - ▶ Ceremony and banquet
 - ▶ Parent committee
 - ▶ Scholarship process



BC GRADUATION PROGRAM



- ↳ Dogwood Diploma
- ↳ Begins with grade 10 courses
- ↳ Minimum of **80 credits** in grades 10, 11, and 12
 - ↳ **52 credits** (13 courses) are required courses
 - ↳ **28 credits** (7 courses) are elective courses
 - ↳ Minimum **16 credits** (4 courses) must be at the Grade 12 level

BC GRADUATION PROGRAM



Required Courses

Language Arts 10, 11, and 12	12 credits
Social Studies 10	4 credits
A Social Studies 11 or 12	4 credits
Science 10	4 credits
A Science 11 or 12	4 credits
A Math 10	4 credits
A Math 11 or 12	4 credits
PHE 10	4 credits
Art Ed. or ADST 10, 11, or 12	4 credits
Career Life Education 10	4 credits
Career Life Connections 12	4 credits
Course with Indigenous content	No credits associated



Elective Credits



52 credits

28 credits
80 credits minimum

BC GRADUATION PROGRAM CONT'D



◀ Provincial Graduation Assessments

- Literacy 10
- Numeracy 10
- Literacy 12
- (French Literacy 12 – for French immersion students only)

◀ Capstone Project

- Completed through CLC
- Presentations in Spring 2027

◀ 30 Hours Work/Volunteer Experience

- Due **March 1, 2027**
- Paid or volunteer experience over grades 10-12
- See Files tab in CLC Team or Handsworth website for document ("Community Connections")
- Submit paperwork and proof to the black box in the main counselling area
- **To be completed outside of Handsworth**

PROVINCIAL GRADUATION ASSESSMENTS

- ▶ Marked on a 4-point proficiency scale
 - Emerging (1) / Developing (2) / Proficient (3) / Extending (4)
- ▶ Reported separately on transcript – not blended with any course
- ▶ Universities are not interested in the Numeracy assessment at this time
- ▶ Only UBC has made a statement about using the Literacy 12 assessment*
- ▶ Assessment information



***UBC requires “Proficient” (3) on the Grade 12 Literacy Assessment to maintain your offer of admission. BC high school applicants who do not meet this level of proficiency will have their admission offers reviewed on a case-by-case basis. So far, they are the only institution to have any requirements surrounding these.**

INDIGENOUS-FOCUSED GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

- Minimum one four-credit course with an Indigenous focus
- Embedded within current 80-credit graduation requirements
- How to fulfil this requirement at Handsworth:
 - **English First Peoples 11: Literary Studies & Writing 11** (+ English 11 credit)
 - **English First Peoples 12** (+ English 12 credit)
 - **BC First Peoples 12** (+ Social Studies 11 or 12 credit)

3-YEAR OVERVIEW ENGLISH PROGRAM

GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
English 10 (Lit Studies + Composition or Creative Writing)	English 11	English 12
Social Studies 10	Socials 11 or 12	Career Life Connections 12
Science 10	Science 11 or 12	Elective
Math 10 (Workplace or Foundations & Pre-Calculus)	Math 11 or 12	Elective
Physical & Health Education 10	Elective	Elective
Career Life Education 10	Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective	Elective

3-YEAR OVERVIEW FRENCH IMMERSION

GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
English 10 (Lit Studies + Composition or Creative Writing)	English 11	English 12
Sciences Humaines 10	Histoire 12	Career Life Connections 12
Science Naturelles 10	Science 11 or 12	Français Langue 12
Math 10 (Workplace or Foundations & Pre-Calculus)	Math 11 or 12	Elective
Physical & Health Education 10	Français Langue 11 option	Elective
Career Life Education 10 or Carrières 10	Elective or Français Langue 11* option	Elective
Français Langue 10	Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective	Elective

FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM PLANNING TOOL

Students must complete a minimum of 13 courses in French.



Blocks	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
1	English 8	English 9	English 10	English 11	English 12
2	Français langue 8	Français langue 9	Français langue 10	Français langue 11 option*	Français langue 12
3	Sciences humaines 8	Sciences humaines 9	Sciences humaines 10	Histoire 12	CLC 12
4	Math 8	Math 9	Math 10	Math 11	Elective
5	Sciences naturelles 8	Sciences naturelles 9	Sciences naturelles 10	Science 11 or 12	Elective
6	Éducation physique et santé en plein air 8	PE 9	PE 10	Elective	Elective
7	Elective	Elective	Education au choix de carrière et de vie 10	Elective	Elective
8	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective

WHAT COURSES SHOULD I REQUEST?

CONSIDER:

- ↳ What post-secondary programs interest me and what are the entrance requirements?
- ↳ Prestige vs. Realistic Goals
- ↳ What electives do I enjoy?
- ↳ What career directions interest me?
- ↳ Do I want to take any District Programs?
- ↳ Where do my strengths lie?
- ↳ How do I balance my aspirations with what I can realistically take on right now?



COURSE OPTIONS



COURSE OPTIONS – LANGUAGE ARTS

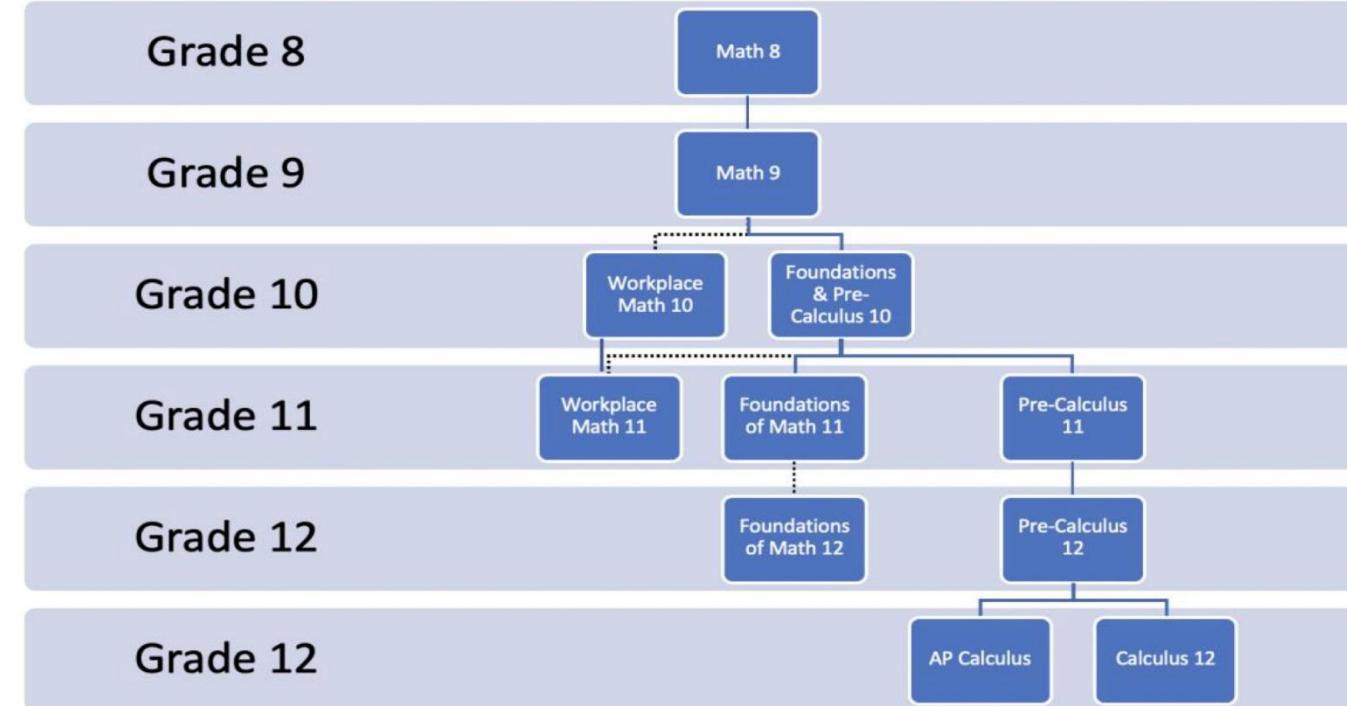
Grade 12

- ↳ English Studies 12 or English First Peoples 12 (**required**)
- ↳ Literary Studies 12 (**elective**)
- ↳ Creative Writing 12 (**elective**)



COURSE OPTIONS – MATH PATHWAYS

Math Courses Flow Chart



Note:

- Solid lines represent the most common pathways
- Dashed lines represent common variations to these pathways
- See the grade counselor to discuss any alternate pathways

COURSE OPTIONS – SOCIAL STUDIES

Students must take a minimum of one Social Studies 11 or 12 level to meet the graduation requirement

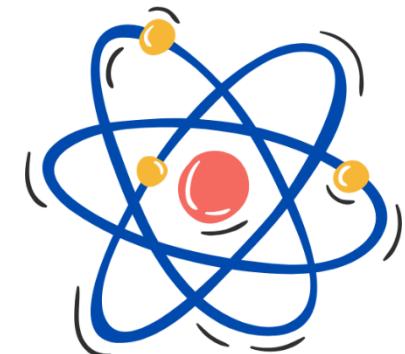
- ▶ Explorations in Social Studies 11
- ▶ 20th Century World History 12
- ▶ Physical Geography 12
- ▶ BC First Peoples 12 (also satisfies Indigenous-focused graduation requirement)
- ▶ Social Justice 12
- ▶ Comparative Cultures 12
- ▶ Genocide Studies 12
- ▶ Law Studies 12***Staff Change**
- ▶ Psychology 12*

*** Please note: Psychology 12 does not meet the Social Studies graduation requirement**

COURSE OPTIONS – SCIENCE

Students must take a minimum of one Science 11 or 12 level to meet the graduation requirement

- Chemistry 11, 12
- Physics 11, 12
- Environmental Science 12
- AP Chemistry 12
- AP Physics 12
- Life Science 11
- Anatomy and Physiology 12*



**Mature keen students with good study habits have done well in A&P 12, without taking Life Science 11. Though If a student isn't strong in science and skips LS 11 to go straight to A&P 12, it can be a rough learning curve for them while they adjust the pace of the course and material.*

COURSE OPTIONS – MODERN LANGUAGES

- ▶ French 11, 12
- ▶ Intro Spanish 11
- ▶ Spanish 11, 12



LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT– EXIT VS. ENTRANCE

EXIT – High School Graduation

- ➡ A language other than English is **not** required for graduation

ENTRANCE – Post-Secondary

- ➡ Sept 2026 admission: Canadian universities no longer have a second language entrance requirement for undergraduate programs

COURSE OPTIONS – ELECTIVES

- **Applied Skills, Design, & Tech** (Textiles, Foods, Drafting, Woodwork, Engineering)
- **Business Education** (Marketing and E-Commerce, Accounting, Economics), AP Microeconomics
- **Young Entrepreneurship and Leadership Launch Pad (YELL)** – learn keys to success in business; earn credits, off timetable, Grades 11-12
 - *Information night Feb. 9th, 6:30-7:30, Sutherland Secondary
 - *Separate Registration required. Applications due early March.
 - Visit [link](#) or contact Ms. Johnson (Sjohnson@sd44.ca) for further information.
- **Computer Science** (Comp. Info Systems, Comp. Science, Media Design, Digital Media Development (Yearbook)
- **Music** (Band, Strings, Choir)
- **Performing Arts** Directing & Script, Dance, Theatre Tech, Improv, Musical Theatre)
- **Physical & Health Education** (Active Living, Athletic Leadership, Fitness & Conditioning)
 - *Outdoor Education-new course!
- **Visual and Media Arts** (2-D, 3-D, Art Studio, Photo, Graphic Arts/Design, Film Production)



Work Experience and Trades

Work Experience 12A and 12B (4 credits)

- ❑ unpaid internship, real-world work experience, earn credits, Grades 11-12

Youth Train in Trades (16 credits)

- ❑ Students receive trades training while in high school
- ❑ The two programs that work with the linear system at Handsworth: Carpentry (West Van Secondary) and Chef training (Carson)
- ❑ Many other trade opportunities available if student are willing to attend Sutherland, Mountainside, or North Van Online School.
- ❑ Requires separate registration process
- ❑ visit [link](#) for further details

Youth Work in Trades (16 credits)

- ❑ Students must find a paid job alternate days between working and school
 - *Students are responsible for finding their own employment
- ❑ Students accumulate work hours towards apprenticeship
- ❑ Requires separate registration process
- ❑ visit [link](#) for further details

If you are interested in Youth Work or Train in Trades, please contact your counsellor through TEAMS before spring break.

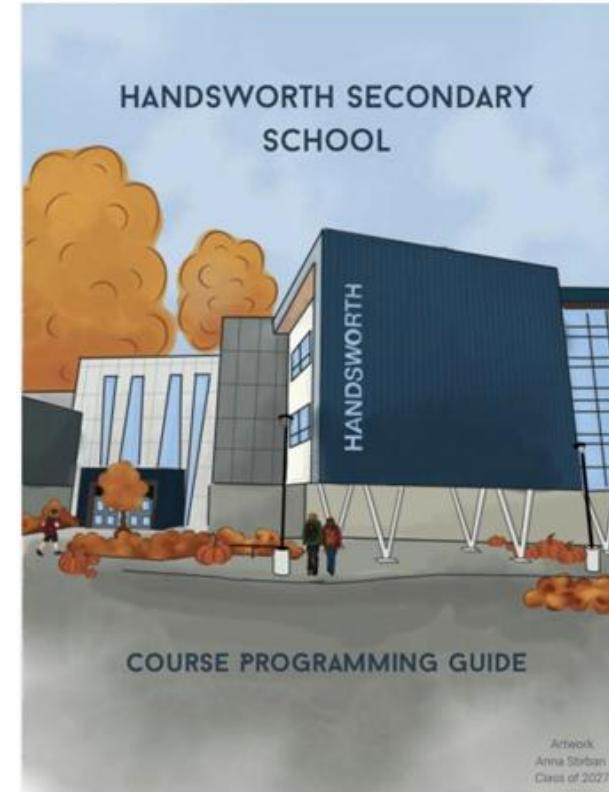
COURSE OPTIONS – ADVANCED PLACEMENT

- ▶ Offered in some subject areas – see [Handsworth Course Guide](#)
- ▶ Successful completion of an AP course earns credit toward graduation
- ▶ Successful completion of an AP course may earn university credit
 - Check with university directly
- ▶ Course results appear on student transcripts; AP exam results do not
- ▶ Exam schedules are set by the AP college board – typically May
- ▶ [College Board](#) has more information
- ▶ AP Courses may not be a prioritized admission requirement for Canadian post- secondary programs.



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

- For detailed course descriptions, please refer to the [**Handsworth Course Request Guide**](#), available on the Handsworth website



STUDY BLOCK

- ➡ First study block from CLC-Gr.12s get one automatically (though don't have to)
- ➡ Second study block requires an application – see grade counsellor for form and to submit
- ➡ Criteria
 - Challenging course load and/or significant extra-curricular commitments
 - Strong record of good attendance and engagement
 - Strong record of school and/or community citizenship
- Responsibilities
 - Actively working during the study block in the library, breakout spaces, grand commons, or in a classroom with a teacher's permission or are off campus under a parent's supervision
 - **Maintain a minimum number of courses (6 courses + CLC)**
 - Understand how reduced numbers of courses may affect post-secondary applications
- Placement of study blocks in the schedule done at random

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- ↳ We build the timetable based on the courses you request
- ↳ Take time to carefully consider your options
- ↳ Request courses based on your interests, your capacity, and your future
- ↳ Course changes must be requested before mid-September deadline
- ↳ Course withdrawals will affect scholarship/award, references, and athletics opportunities



FLEXIBLE OPTIONS FOR CREDITS

- ↳ **External Credits**

- ↳ **Delta Language Challenge Exam**

- Farsi, French, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin (simplified & traditional),
Punjabi, Spanish

- ↳ **North Vancouver Online Learning** (NVOL)

- ↳ Many post-secondary schools require online courses to be completed
by end of January

- ↳ **North Vancouver Summer Learning** (Summer School)

NVSD ACADEMIES

- ↳ Basketball
- ↳ Digital Media Academy (Light)
- ↳ Volleyball
- ↳ Field Hockey
- ↳ Hockey Skills
- ↳ Soccer

- Rowing
- Robotics, Mechanics, & Digital Fabrication
- Dance
- AFK Studio Art

Applications open Jan. 16

More information available on the [Academies website](#).

NORTH VANCOUVER SUMMER LEARNING

Who is it for?

- Students enhancing their skills
- Students wanting to earn credit towards graduation
- Final year of eligibility, unless a graduation requirement

Registration & Info

- Opens May 1
- Closes June 22
- Register through school Cash Online
- [Summer Learning](#)

Good to Know:

- July at Argyle Secondary
- 8:30 am-12:30 pm
- Summer Learning courses are intensive: 80 hours+ in 4 weeks @ Argyle
- Daily attendance is mandatory
- Academic integrity expectations are high
- Courses fill up quickly; register early to avoid disappointment



NORTH VANCOUVER ONLINE LEARNING

What is NVOL?

- ▶ Online courses with instruction & resources delivered online by a NVSD teacher
- ▶ Self-paced
- ▶ Continuous registration throughout school year
- ▶ Engage with teachers virtually
- ▶ *We generally advise students do online learning through SD44

Course Offerings

- ▶ Grade 8-12 courses
- ▶ Academic and elective courses
- ▶ Full list available on the NVOL website



More information available on the [NVOL website](#).

PROGRAMMING TIMELINE

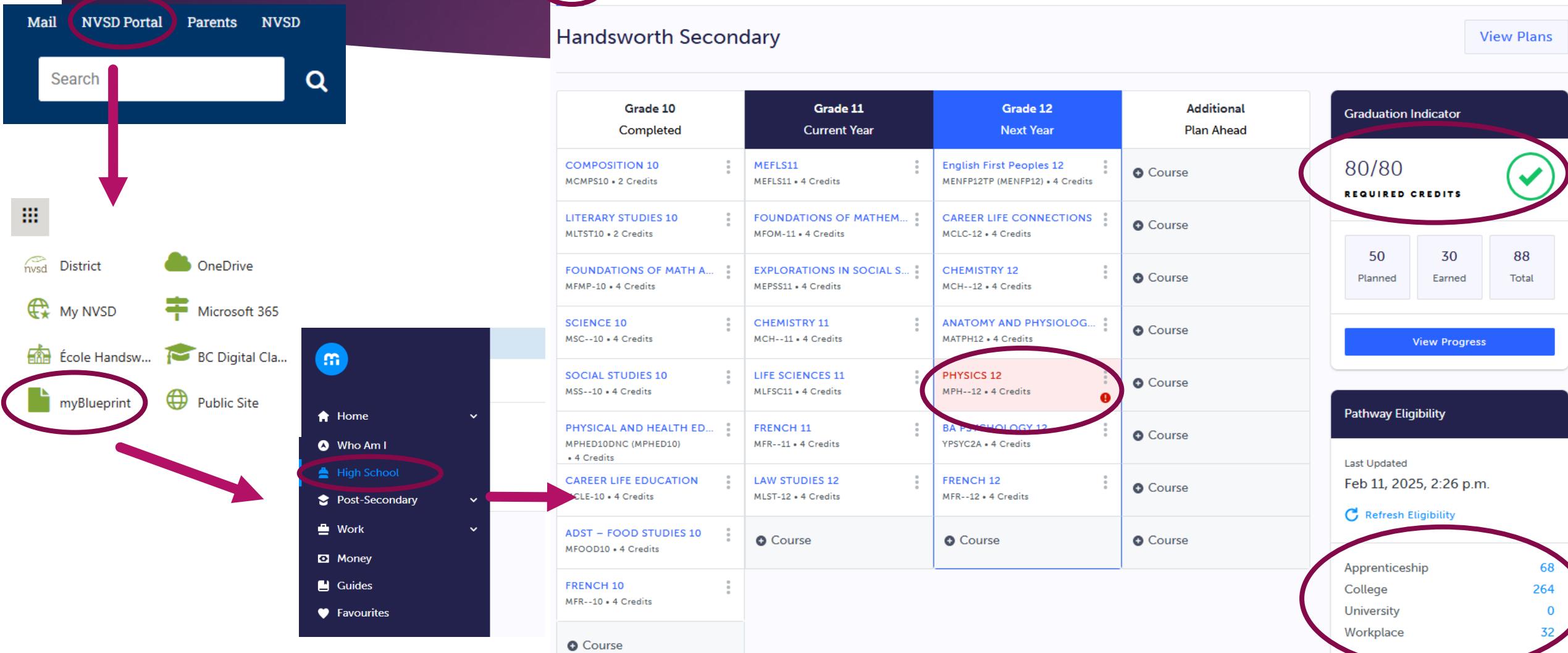
- Parent info night – **Feb 4**
- Grade assembly – **February 5 @ 8:30am** in the Theatre
- Counsellor class visits – **February 9-13**
- Course request entry for students at home – **Feb 6-20**
 - Information and instructions will be sent to families
 - Support will be available
- Forms Due to Main Office – **March 6**

POST-SECONDARY – ADMISSION

- Entrance requirements change over the years
- Imperative for students and families to check (and recheck!) specific post-secondary institution admission requirements
- **Education Planner** –resource for BC post-secondary institutions
- Applications – what you think you need vs what you actually need
- Grade 12 support night early Fall 2026 – Date TBD
- In the fall, there will be multiple information sessions held at the school and around the district at by post-secondary institutions. keep an eye out on the **Grad 2027 & Grade 12 page** of the Handsworth website.



WHERE AM I ON MY GRAD PATH?



COMMUNICATION

HANDSWORTH WEBSITE

- ▶ Course programming guide
- ▶ Staff contact information
- ▶ School activities
- ▶ Newsletter
- ▶ Important information from the PAC

THANK YOU

Questions?

