St. Joseph High School

INFORMATION FOR GRADE 9
2026-2027

We are excited to welcome your child to Grade 9 at St. Joseph for the 2026–2027 school year. The transition to high school is an important milestone for students and families, bringing new routines, expectations, and opportunities for growth. We recognize that this change can feel both exciting and challenging, and we are committed to supporting students as they begin this next chapter of their learning journey.

Creating a strong bridge between elementary and high school requires a reflective and collaborative partnership among students, families, teachers, counsellors, and administrators. This resource is designed to provides families with clear information about academic pathways and supported programming, while also encouraging ongoing communication and shared understanding. We hope it opens the door to meaningful conversations that support student confidence, connection, and success in Grade 9.

Grade 9 Course Descriptions

For Grade 9 course descriptions, please visit our website www.gscs.ca/jos/registration-1 to view our Registration Handbook.

Course Selection & Supported Programming

Students who have accessed supported programming in elementary school and/or have been recommended for supported programming in high school are strongly encouraged to continue to access this programming at St. Joseph. This includes language supports (EAL - English as an Additional Language), Learning Assistance tutorials, co-taught ELA classes and supported math classes.

The following offers early information on these supported programs:

Learning Assistance Tutorial - The tutorial is a non-credit class designed to provide students with extra support in the areas of academics, organization, and classroom accommodations. Students will have the opportunity to access this assistance to earn credits and graduate from high school. It is also meant to support the transition from elementary school to high school. Please note that while Grade 9 is a credit free year it does build foundational skills that are essential for Grades 10 – 12, where credits are earned.

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Tutorial & Sheltered Courses - These classes are for students who require extra language, cultural and contextual support. The EAL non-credit tutorial provides learners with additional support in their academic courses. Sheltered courses in the EAL program at the grade 9 level follow the regular curriculum with special supports for EAL students.

Co-Taught ELA – These classes are designed to provide additional support for students who may have learning difficulties and/or a learning disability. There is a teacher and a Learning Assistance Teacher in the classroom. Co-taught classes are a part of the regular curriculum programming in high school. For example, students who register in co-taught classes are taught the same curriculum as students who are registered in the non-cotaught classes. Co-taught transition classes include English Language Arts A90 and English Language Arts B90.
Important note: This course requires a signed permission form.

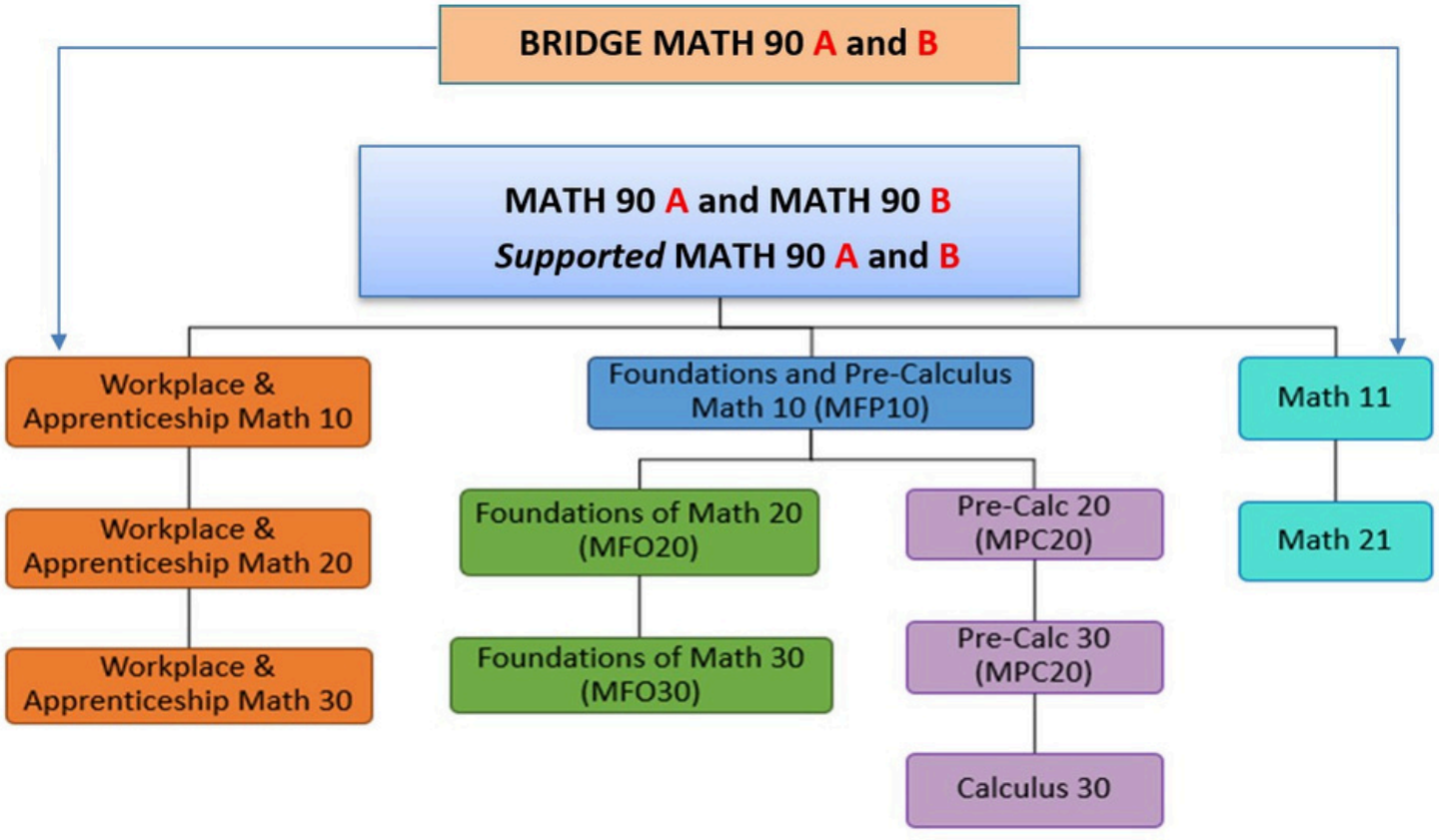
Course Selection & Supported Proramming

Supported Math Programs and High School Math Pathways

Bridge Mathematics 90 – The goal of Bridge Math is to provide students who struggle with mathematics the opportunity to learn outcomes from the previous grades and to work towards grade 9 outcomes. Typically, students enrolled in Bridge math are currently achieving math around the grade 3 and 5 level. Students enrolled in this year-long course will ideally work towards completing the foundational Math 90A and Math 90B outcomes.
Important note: This course requires a signed permission form.

Mathematics 90 Supported – This class is designed for students who are ready for Math 90 but would benefit from additional support in math. They may be two teachers in the classroom or a teacher and an EA. The class size will be smaller to allow for more support. Students enrolled in this year-long course will complete regular Math 90A and Math 90 B programming.
Important note: This course requires a signed permission form.

Note that the above supported math classes work to cover grade 9 math curricula. Student achievement in these supported grade 9 math classes should be considered carefully when choosing a math pathway in the grade 10 year. Families often find the following high school math pathway and descriptions useful:



Math Beyond Grade 9

Math 11 & 21 - Enrollment in Math 11 & Math 21 is reserved for students who have permission forms signed for modified programming. These students have been identified for this pathway through work with the Learning Assistance Department and in consultation with family. Post-secondary educational options for students completing this pathway will be limited and can be discussed with the St. Joseph's Student Services team.

Workplace & Apprenticeship Mathematics - This pathway is appropriate for students considering a technical school program, community college, or direct entry into the work force. This course is sufficient for the majority of trades, but some technical school programs will not accept Workplace Math for admission. Topics include algebra, geometry, measurement, number sense, statistics and probability.

Foundations of Mathematics - This pathway is appropriate for students considering a post-secondary program (university or some polytechnic programs) who are not focused on math or science programs or are unsure of their future program of study. For most university or polytechnic programs, Foundations of Math would be a sufficient pre-requisite. Topics include financial mathematics, geometry, measurement, number sense, logical reasoning, relations and functions, statistics and probability.

Pre-Calculus - This pathway is appropriate for students considering a math, computer science, science, or business program at a university or technical school. Most university admission requirements will use a 30-level math for admission averages. Some programs will specify Foundations of Math 30, Precalculus 30 or Calculus 30 as required or recommended courses. In particular, Calculus 30 may be required for some post-secondary programs. Topics include algebra and number sense, measurement, relations and functions, trigonometry and permutations, combinations and binomial theorem.