



# International Student 18 & Over Program

## Thomas Merton Catholic Secondary School

### Course Descriptions 2018-2019

#### English as a Second Language (ESL)

##### ESL Level 1 – 5 Open ESL AO, BO, CO, DO, EO

The transition to mainstream English courses is influenced by a number of variables, particularly the individual student's future educational goals, age, and the level of achievement he or she has attained in ESL or ELD courses. As a result, Thomas Merton CSS provides ESL credit courses on an "as needed" basis, depending on a student's current literacy development.

#### PLAR English

The PLAR (Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition) English class provides a review of skills that are necessary to be successful going forward into a Senior Level English Credit Course. Emphasis will be placed on the skills of Oral Communication, Reading and Literature Studies, and Writing, which are strands in the Ontario Curriculum for Grade 9 and Grade 10 English.

*Another option to the PLAR English is:*

#### Literacy Skills: Reading and Writing

##### Grade 10 - Open ELS20

This course is designed to help students strengthen essential reading and writing skills, providing them with the extra literacy support they need in order to graduate. Students will read informational, graphic, and literary texts, with a focus on locating information, identifying main ideas and supporting details, building vocabulary, and consolidating skills in the application of key comprehension strategies. The course will also help students develop core learning strategies.

**Prerequisite:** Grade 9 Academic *or* Applied English, or a Grade 9 English LDCC (Locally Developed Compulsory Credit) course

#### English for Academic Purposes

This course is intended for students who wish to refine their ability to communicate effectively in English for the purposes of entering and thriving in a post-secondary environment. Students will improve their writing skills by completing short compositions and/or summaries in class and at home, their vocabulary skills by reading articles, short stories or poems and keeping a personal journal in which they will write several times a week, their listening skills by viewing videos and listening to radio broadcasts, and finally, their oral skills by doing oral presentations and participating in theme-related discussions in groups.

## English as a Foreign Language Course (TOEFL/IELTS)

TOEFL/IELTS (Test of English as a Foreign Language/International English Language Testing System) is a course that successfully prepares International Students for university and college admissions testing in Canada, and beyond. This course is taught by highly knowledgeable and certified TOEFL/IELTS teachers in a small group setting. Teachers provide students with specific test taking skills and strategies, and simulate actual test taking conditions in the classroom. Teachers will discuss, practice, and analyze each section of the tests to best prepare our students for their future assessments.

## English Grade 11 & 12 Credit Courses

The compulsory courses emphasize strong core competencies in oral communication, reading and literature studies, writing, and media studies. As part of their program in Grades 11 and 12, students must take one compulsory course in English in each grade. Students may choose their compulsory courses from three types of courses in Grades 11 and 12: university preparation, college preparation, and workplace preparation.

Students choose between course types on the basis of their interests, achievement, and postsecondary goals. The course types offered in Grades 11 and 12 are defined as follows:

**University Preparation Courses** are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to meet the entrance requirements for university programs.

**College Preparation Courses** are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to meet the requirements for entrance to most college programs or for admission to specific apprenticeship or other training programs.

**Workplace Preparation Courses** are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to meet the expectations of employers, if they plan to enter the workplace directly after graduation, or the requirements for admission to many apprenticeship or other training programs.

## Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OLC40)

### Grade 12

This course is designed to help students acquire and demonstrate the cross-curricular literacy skills that are evaluated by the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). Students who complete the course successfully will meet the provincial literacy requirement for graduation. Students will read a variety of informational, narrative, and graphic texts and will produce a variety of forms of writing, including summaries, information paragraphs, opinion pieces, and news reports. Students will also maintain and manage a portfolio containing a record of their reading experiences and samples of their writing.

**Eligibility requirement:** Students who have been eligible to write the OSSLT at least twice and who have been unsuccessful at least once are eligible to take the course. (Students who have already met the literacy requirement for graduation may be eligible to take the course under special circumstances, at the discretion of the principal.)

## Presentation and Speaking Skills

### Open EPS30

This course emphasizes the knowledge and skills required to plan and make effective presentations and to speak effectively in both formal and informal contexts, using such forms as reports, speeches, debates, panel discussions, storytelling, recitations, interviews, and multimedia presentations. Students will research and analyse the content and characteristics of convincing speeches and the techniques of effective speakers; design and rehearse presentations for a variety of purposes and audiences; select and use visual and technological aids to enhance their message; and assess the effectiveness of their own and others' presentations.

**Prerequisite:** Grade 10 Academic or Applied English

## Information and Communication Technology: The Digital Environment (BTA30)

### Grade 11, Open

This course prepares students for the digital environment. Using a hands-on approach, students will further develop information and communication technology skills through the use of common business software applications. The concept and operation of e-business will be explored, and students will design and create an e-business website. The skills developed in this course will prepare students for success in the workplace and/or postsecondary studies.

**Prerequisite:** None