



BLUEWATER

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Vision

Preparing Our Students Today for the World of Tomorrow

Mission

We are a learning organization committed to providing quality education for every student in a safe and caring environment.

Strategic Priorities

1. Ensure the well-being of students and staff in a safe supportive environment for teaching, learning and working
2. Provide quality instruction and learning experiences in an equitable and inclusive environment
3. Encourage parent engagement
4. Be accountable for the responsible stewardship of resources



Coverage Area

8,673 square kilometres within Bruce and Grey Counties



Schools

39 elementary
9 secondary



Staff

3,000 permanent and casual (approximate)



Students

16,500 (approximate full-time equivalent)



Graduation Rate

Bluewater's five-year graduation rate of 81.7% closely aligns with the provincial rate. Our rate has seen a general upward trend since the early 2000s.



English Language Learners

731 students whose first language is a language other than English



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



From public speaking, the environment and athletics to the arts, science and the skilled trades, Bluewater students and staff continue to achieve excellence and recognition at the regional, provincial and national levels. Here are just a few highlights from the 2017-18 school year:

Skills Canada National Competition: 1 Bronze

Skills Ontario Competition: 1 Gold, 2, Silver, 1 Bronze

Canada Wide Science Fair: 1 Junior Silver, 1 Intermediate Silver, 1 Senior Bronze

Government of Canada History Award: High School category recipient

National MusicFest Canada: 1 Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze, and 3 Honour Awards

Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day Video Competition (Grade 9-12): 1st Place

Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA):

- Boys Curling: 1 Bronze
- Track and Field: 1 Gold, 1 Silver

Gore Schoolboy Provincial Curling: Champions

National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Provincial Championship:

- 1st Place, High School Girls
- 1st Place, High School Teams

Special Olympics Ontario School Championships: 2 Gold

Staff Recognition:

- Canadian Geographic Magazine Geography Teacher of the Month, June 2018
- Royal Canadian Geographical Society Innovation in Geography Teaching Award
- Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario Dorothy Walter Award for Leadership

Ontario EcoSchools: 1 Platinum, 1 Gold

Ontario Physical and Health Education Association (OPHEA) Healthy Schools Certification: 1 Gold, 1 Silver

Premier's Award for Accepting Schools: Osprey Central School

The hard work, perseverance, passion and talent demonstrated by our students along with the support and leadership of dedicated Bluewater staff, coaches and mentors set an example of excellence that we can all be proud of!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Programs

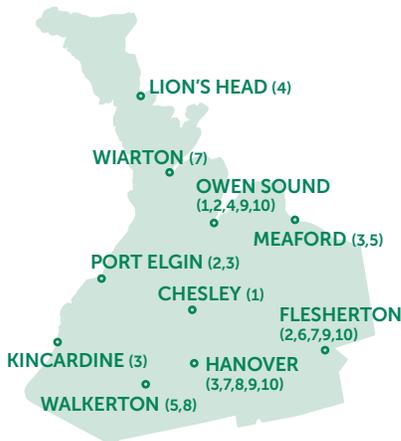
Specialist High Skills Major programs allow students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. These programs prepare students for the transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university or the workplace.

SHSM programs continue to grow in Bluewater! This year, we have added 10 new programs, bringing the total to 24. Bluewater also offers a regional Agriculture SHSM for any students interested in the theoretical and practical sides of farming.

Students can register for an SHSM by contacting their school's guidance teacher.

www.bwdsb.on.ca/success/SS_SHSM

SHSM Programs in Bluewater



- 1 Agriculture
- 2 Arts and Culture
- 3 Construction
- 4 Environment
- 5 Health and Wellness
- 6 Horticulture and Landscaping
- 7 Hospitality and Tourism
- 8 Information and Communications Technology
- 9 Manufacturing
- 10 Transportation

French Immersion (FI)

Bluewater's dynamic French Immersion program remains a popular option for parents looking to provide their children with an opportunity to learn a second language. French Immersion is offered in nine elementary (two are French only) and six secondary schools.

Learning another language helps develop cognitive and language skills, while opening doors to future careers. At the secondary level, Bluewater students have achieved some amazing success in the Diplome d'Études en Langue Française (DELFL) exam. This internationally recognized qualification offered to students in Grade 12 assesses speaking, listening, reading, and writing in French. Last year, approximately 94 percent of Bluewater students were successful in the exam, which is an incredible achievement for all of our educators, students and their families!

Child Care

Bluewater has established partnerships with several local licensed child care operators, who provide a variety of options for families in many schools. These include Before and After School child care programs for those 12 years old and under, and full day child care centres. Learn more by visiting www.bwdsb.on.ca/parents/child_care.

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

This program is offered to students in secondary school co-op placements exploring the skilled trades. Through the Co-operative Education program and starting in Grade 11 or 12, OYAP opens the door for students to work in apprenticeship occupations. Students who determine that the skilled trades are their pathway may then have an opportunity to become registered apprentices and work towards becoming certified journeypersons, while still in secondary school. Some key annual OYAP initiatives include the Regional Technological Skills Challenge, the First Time Full Time (FTFT) Conference, the Skills Work!® For Women Career Exploration Event, the OYAP Dual Credit Level 1 Cook Apprenticeship Program, among others. To learn more about OYAP, visit oyap.ca!



Special Education

Bluewater is committed to an equitable education system that upholds and reflects the principles of an inclusive education. There are a myriad of supports in place for students with exceptionalities:

- A range of placement options, programming and technical supports for students with behavioural, communication, intellectual, physical and multiple exceptionalities;
- Special Education Learning Resource Teacher at each school;
- 'The Zone' demonstration classroom to facilitate training for educators on programs for students;
- Specialized equipment, instruction, and assessment demonstration classroom;
- After school autism program for parents and students;
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) comprised of individuals from local organizations and associations to advise the board on special education programs and services available to Bluewater students, and provide information and support to parents and schools. New members are welcome!

Learn more by visiting www.bwdsb.on.ca/stserv.

Safe and Accepting Schools

In diverse, equitable, safe and inclusive school communities, positive behaviours and role modeling are incorporated into daily teachings. Anti-bullying awareness days and activities are ongoing, while all secondary and most elementary schools have a Gay Straight Alliance club that supports a variety of LGBTQ initiatives.

Indigenous Education

In 2017–2018, 702 secondary students participated in 50 Indigenous Studies courses offered throughout Bluewater. Two schools (one elementary and one secondary) offer Ojibway as a second language. Bluewater schools continue to expand and engage in learning that is based on Indigenous themes, culture and history.



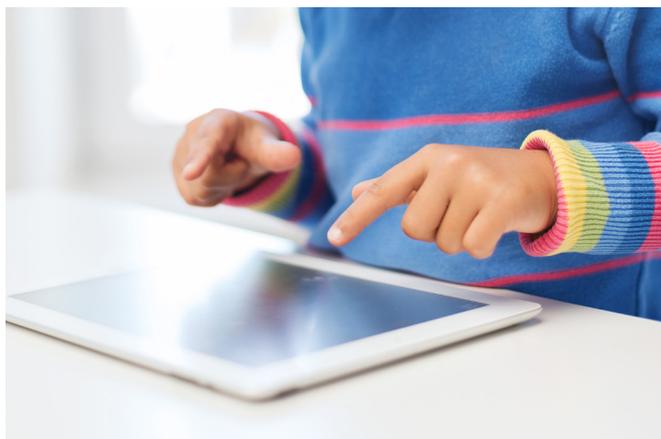


Outdoor Education

Each year, approximately 2,000 students experience the great outdoors at the 320-acre Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre (BOEC) near Warton and its surrounding UNESCO Biosphere Reserve! The BOEC offers a full roster of high quality, curriculum-driven, outdoor and environmental education experiences. Facilities include the Bruce Power Environmental Learning Classrooms, and the E.S. Fox Observatory, which has been designated a Dark Sky Preserve by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Bluewater students can study the stars with technology that few other Ontario students have access to!

Access to Technology

Bluewater students have access to a wide range of technology on a daily basis to enhance learning and ensure the development of essential skills required for their future success. To better prepare our students for the world of tomorrow, schools are proactively exploring emerging trends in technology-infused teaching practices. Students are encouraged to develop essential global competencies by engaging in real-world, authentic learning tasks.



Co-instructional Activities

Bluewater offers a wide variety of field trips to enhance learning opportunities for students. Recent excursions range from outdoor adventures within Ontario to international opportunities, such as Vimy Ridge. In addition, the many available extra-curricular activities in sports, music, and other areas have led to numerous regional and provincial awards while complementing the educational experiences of our students.



Nutrition Programs

Ontario Student Nutrition Program – Grey-Bruce provides funding for breakfast, lunch and snack programs in all Bluewater schools. Dedicated volunteers provide nutritious options for thousands of Bluewater students each day.



USEFUL LINKS

Bluewater District School Board: www.bwdsb.on.ca

Elementary schools: www.bwdsb.on.ca/schools/eleschools

Secondary schools: www.bwdsb.on.ca/schools/secschools

School attendance boundaries/transportation eligibility:
www.mybrucegreyschoolbus.ca

 Twitter: [@BluewaterDSB](https://twitter.com/BluewaterDSB) (#BWDSB), [@BWDSBDirector](https://twitter.com/BWDSBDirector)

 YouTube: [Bluewater DSB](https://www.youtube.com/BluewaterDSB)

 Facebook: www.facebook.com/BluewaterDSB



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