# Pathways
MAKING CHOICES FOR YOUR FUTURE

# Information & Communication Technology
## SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

## Potential Careers

- ✓ **Computer Network Technician**
- ✓ **Cybersecurity Analyst**
- ✓ **Computer Systems Administrator**
- ✓ **Graphic Designer**
- ✓ **Audio Engineer**

- ✓ **Lighting and Sound Designer/ Technician**
- ✓ **Information Systems Analyst**
- ✓ **Software or Computer Engineer**
- ✓ **Software Designer**
- ✓ **Videographer/ Photographer**

## A "Head-Start " – Program Overview

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program in Information and Communication Technology gives students an opportunity to specialize, gain qualifications, and plan a career pathway in various areas of the ICT sector while still in high school. The SHSM Program has a number of required components, designed to give students a "head start" to pursue post-secondary opportunities in each of the identified sectors, valuing apprenticeship, college, university and direct entry into the world of work.

The Information and Communication Technology sector offers students opportunities to get inspired and use their unique skills and abilities in careers in media arts, digital photography and film production, computer science, programming, engineering and many other creative areas.

## The SHSM Experience

- Learn a variety of digital media techniques
- Participate in workshops with industry professionals
- Develop ICT skills in a variety of media
- Incorporate digital technologies into the creative process
- Learn a variety of computer science and engineering applications
- Develop transferrable skills compatible with multiple pathways to all post-secondary destinations

# What is my Plan for Achieving My Goals?

Each SHSM program offers students a bundle of 8 - 10 credits. These courses are regular Ontario secondary school courses that allow students to work towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma, but have been bundled as the most relevant courses to prepare students for a future in the ICT sector.

The bundle includes:

- 4 "major" credits in ICT at the Senior level (Grades 11 and 12). Courses are dependent on the focus of each respective program – contact Lead Teachers or Guidance contacts for information about specific course offerings / requirements.
- Supporting credits, which include Contextualized Learning Activities - opportunities for students to learn the subject in the context of the ICT sector i.e. Students complete a business project that is sector-specific
  - » 1 Grade 12 English
  - » 1 Grade 11 or 12 Art, Business Studies or Science credit
  - » 2 cooperative education credits that relate directly to the ICT sector

# What are My Opportunities?

- **Resume-building and Awareness Training:** Students complete sector-recognized certifications related to the major and selected from a list, including Standard First Aid, CPR Training, WHMIS and three electives specific to the sector including, but not exclusively, Customer Service, intellectual property, computer hardware, internet security, technical support and ergonomics
- **Experiential Learning Opportunities:**
  - » Have the opportunity to job-shadow industry professionals
  - » Complete 2 Cooperative Education credits and get work experience in the sector
  - » See guest speakers, go on field trips and other workplace experiences to explore potential careers in ICT
- **Reach Ahead Experiences:** Visit College and University campuses to explore potential post-secondary pathway opportunities
- Completing the SHSM program prepares students for their pathway to apprenticeship, college, university or work

**School: St. Francis Xavier CSS, Milton**

**SHSM Program: INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**

**Focus: Computer Engineering & Science, & Media**

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For more information on the Specialist High Skills Major program:
- contact the program teacher
- contact your school guidance counsellor
- log into myblueprint.ca/hcdsb
- visit https://haltonpathways.ca and https://studentsuccess.hcdsb.org