

(Gr. 11-12) Week 5: Sharing Skills

Continue your journey of learning over the summer.
You can choose to explore as many activities as you wish each week.

Special Skills in High School

The [Specialist High Skills Major](#) (SHSM) is a specialized program approved by the Ministry of Education that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

These programs enable students to gain sector-specific skills and knowledge in engaging, career-related learning environments, and prepare in a focused way for graduation and postsecondary education, training or employment.

[Click here to see which SHSM is offered at your High School.](#)

Reflection

In your journal, reflect on the following questions. You may need to do a little research to be able to do a full reflection.

1. Think of the learning skills section of the report card (responsibility, organization, independent work, collaboration, initiative, and self-regulation). Which do you think is your biggest strength? Why? Which needs the most work? Why? How can you work on it?
2. Pick a job or career you might be interested in. Do they list any of the 6 learning skills? What skills do they list as being important? Are those skills specific to the job (eg welding) or general (eg focused, hard-working, etc) How can you work on those skills?
3. What are some "industry specific" skills you can start to gain through volunteering, coop, OYAP or SHSM programs?

Question It!

The Government of Ontario put together this [Careers Quiz](#). Give it a try! What surprised you about the results?

The Government of Canada also put together some [Career and Personality Quizzes](#). Give a couple of these a try as well. What questions do you notice are common to both? Why do you think that is? How are your results similar? How are they different.

You can use your [myBlueprint](#) profile to reflect on these quiz results, and even try out a few quizzes on the profiles there too!

This information can give you some ideas of what you may want to pursue! There isn't necessarily just one right path for you- it is important to check out a few different options!

Mental Health and Well-being

Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of someone else. This was the theme of the Canadian Mental Health Association Mental Health Week this year.

[Click here to read more about it.](#)

Take a look through the [Tool Kit](#) they put together for social media promotion. How do you think these would impact students like yourself?

Why is empathy important? How can you work on your empathy?

Parents & Guardian Connections

This [TCDSB webpage](#) has lots of information about the SHSM programs available in the the TCDSB. Please note programs will vary by school.

Looking at SHSM programs that are organized by economic sector is a great opportunity to discuss and research job market trends with your child. The [Ontario government](#) posts updates on the labour market, including in demands careers by region. While it is important that students find something they are passionate about, it is also important planning to look at the in demand careers!

TCDSB Summer Playground: [Click to share your learning or use #tcdsbSLP](#)