

Seek Challenge, Experience Success

# THOMAS HANEY



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*THSS - Independent Directed Studies - Draft*

## A Program Overview

The THSS - ISD program is a great opportunity to develop your passions and interests into a course of credits. It is a method of developing a focus of interest, and documenting that personal growth in a manner that supports academic growth.

If you are interested in a specific subject area, you might want to think about Independent Directed Studies. IDS allows you to shape and follow your own course or courses, with a teacher / IDS coordinators. You may choose to add a specialist from outside of the school community . IDS course credits count as electives toward graduation.

To qualify for IDS, you need the approval of the school principal to expand on one or more learning outcomes from any Ministry or Board / Authority Authorized course. Then you'll need to find a teacher to supervise your studies before you initiate your own course. You'll work independently and your teacher will support you and assess your performance.



## Ministry Policy details:

### *Overview policy statement:*

This policy enables students to initiate their own area of learning and to receive credit towards graduation. The policy also allows schools to recognize prior learning in a Ministry-developed or Board Authorized course that a student may not have completed. This policy is not a student entitlement but an enabling policy intended to encourage schools to allow students to pursue further studies of interest.

IDS credits may be awarded by boards to students who have successfully completed independent work based on a subset of learning outcomes of Grade 10, 11 or 12 Ministry developed courses or Board Authorized courses. A student may study one or more learning outcomes in depth, or study more broadly a wide variety of learning outcomes from a single course.

IDS credits may only be used to satisfy elective requirements.

Grade 12 IDS credits may count toward the minimum of 16 grade 12 credits required for graduation.

### ***Procedures for IDS:***

Awarding of credit through an IDS should be governed by the procedures of the board of education.

For reporting and transcript purposes, schools must assign a letter grade and percentage for all credits earned through IDS.

IDS courses can be for 1, 2, 3, or 4 credits. If students complete a portion of the outcomes for a course, schools may report their achievement to the Ministry using IDS credits.

# F.A.Q. Frequently Asked Questions about IDS:

**How does the IDS Framework connect to other courses ?**

An IDS course is an extension of one or more learning outcomes in an existing Grade 10, 11 or 12 course (available for either Ministry Authorized or Board Authorized courses).

**Is IDS easy credit ?** The course must be rigorous, well thought-out and developed

through a consultative process involving the student and the teacher.

**How is the course evaluated ?** The standards for IDS courses are designed to maintain a high level of quality in the work undertaken.

**How are the credits allocated ?** You can earn 1 to

4 credits for an IDS (4 credits = 1 full course). Approximate commitments are 60hrs for a 2-credit IDS and 100-120hrs for a 4-credit IDS

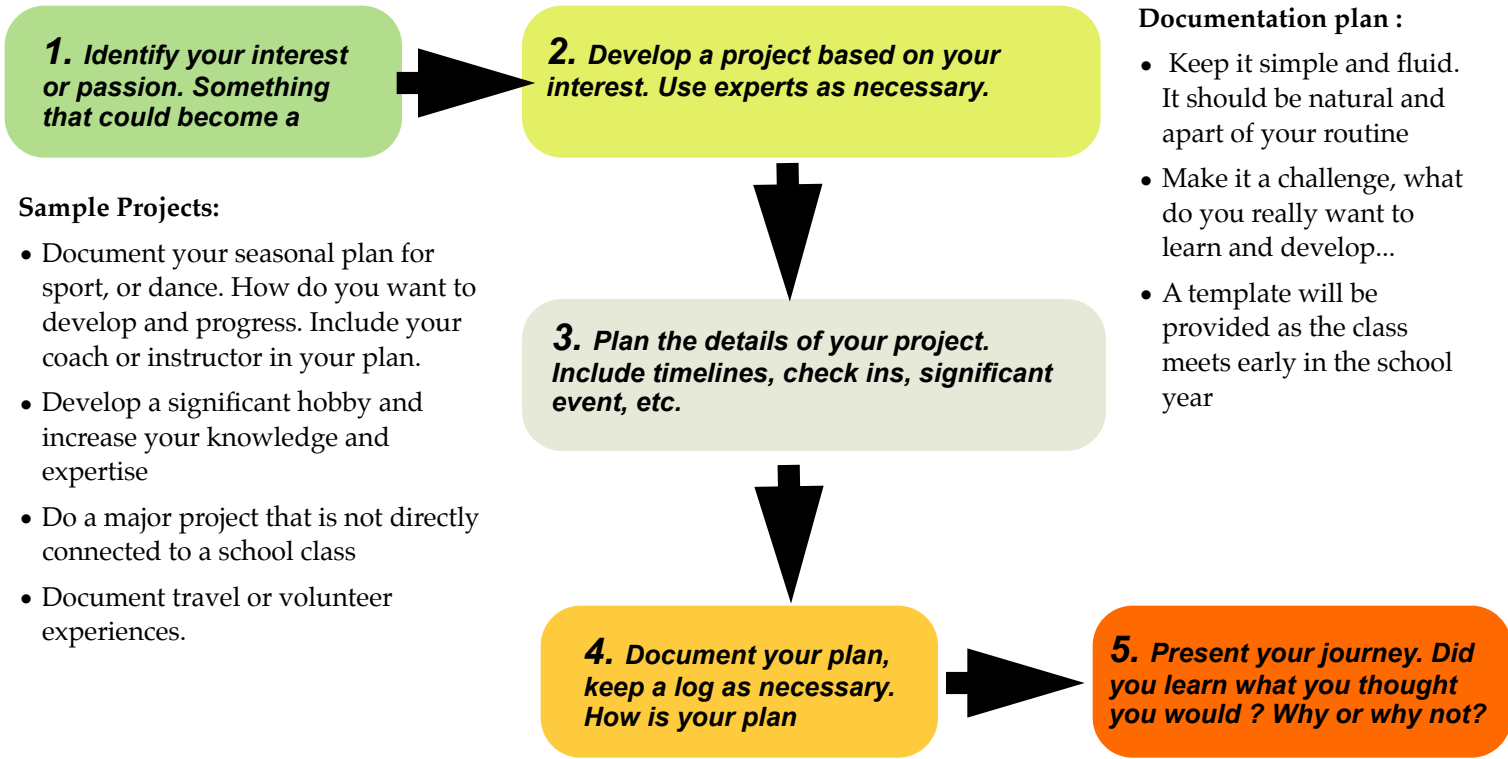
**Can I do only one IDS course?** The maximum value for a single IDS course is four credits, but there is no limit to the total number of IDS credits a student may earn. The number of credits a

student earns for an IDS will be set out in the plan developed by that student and a teacher, and approved by a principal.

**How many hours does course take ?** In general a full 4 credit ministry course is 120 hours. The IDS course format mirrors this ratio. Typically 1credit is about 40 hours of effort.

**Is there a limit to the number of IDS course I can take?** Yes, but do not worry about it, we cannot exceed that limit but we will ensure that you efforts are in compliance. Develop a plan, pursue your passion, document the journey, and share you experiences.

## Components of the THSS - IDS Program:



**Sample Projects:**

- Document your seasonal plan for sport, or dance. How do you want to develop and progress. Include your coach or instructor in your plan.
- Develop a significant hobby and increase your knowledge and expertise
- Do a major project that is not directly connected to a school class
- Document travel or volunteer experiences.

**Where to go from here:**

In the spring the course selection begins. We advertise and collect student interested in beginning the IDS journey. Students identify a theme and “register” as a 9th or 10th school course. We have IDS groupings for dance, specific team sports, and fine arts, yet others can be added as necessary.

Do not be afraid to think about potential plan, there is a wide variety of options. Do not be afraid to ask.

IDS can help you connect school to your greater goals.

**Key Contacts:**

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|-----------------|--|
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