

Specialist High Skill Major (SHSM)

What is a Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)?

A SHSM is a Ministry approved specialized program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements to graduate from secondary school. It also assists in their transition after graduation to university, college, apprenticeship training, or the workplace.

Key Benefits of a Specialist High Skills Major

- Pursuing a Specialized High Skills Major helps students to:
- customize their secondary school education to suit their interests
- develop specialized knowledge and skills
- gain sector-recognized certification and career-relevant training

Lively District Secondary School is proud to offer four SHSM programs

- Environmental
- Information and Communications Technology
- Mining
- Sports



The **Environmental SHSM** combines in class learning with outdoor experiential and environmental focused learning. Students will collaborate with green industry professionals and conservationists to build empathy for the environment while learning about environmental protection, environmental sustainability, conservation and preservation of natural resources. Essential components of the program will utilize local resources as students enjoy a variety of field trips. The students will have the opportunity to earn certifications in GPS, wilderness first aid, species identification, search and rescue, and habitat restorations.

Specialist High Skill Major (SHSM)

The **Information and Communications Technology (ICT) SHSM** is the sector that processes information using electronic systems (which includes capturing, transmitting, and displaying information). Students enrolled in the ICT SHSM will be involved in today's rapid and exciting changes in technology, and will contribute to new and emerging media and technologies in the years to come.

The **Mining SHSM** meets the increasing demands for skilled professionals. According to the Mining Industry Human Resources Council, over the next ten years there will be a shortage of 92 000 employees in the mining and minerals sector. The shortage will be especially critical in the following occupations: physical scientists, engineers, technicians/technologists, skilled tradespersons, mine laborers and support staff. The anticipated demand is a result of industry growth, retirements, competition for labor from other economic sectors, and the challenges of recruiting young people into mining occupations. The proximity of LDSS to mining industries and their affiliates makes this a very worthwhile program choice for many students.

The **Sports SHSM** enables students to build a foundation of sector-focused knowledge and skills before graduating and entering apprenticeship training, college, university, or an entry-level position in the workplace. Depending on local circumstances, this SHSM may be designed to have a particular focus – for example, competitive and recreational sports, sports management, or sports media and broadcasting. According to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, "There is a significant scope for new job seekers with regards to occupations in recreation and sport, especially announcers, athletes, coaches, referees and recreation leaders."

