

School Address

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Principal

Varla Abrams

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Ken Do
Sima Naymark
Lillian Perivolaris

Administrative Office Staff

Judy Forgione

*

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Yeugenia Kazantseva
Stephanie Holbik

*

Ward 11 Trustee

Josh Matlow
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Superintendent

Michael Smith
(416) 394-2046

Director of Education

Chris Spence

OUR SCHOOL

Northern Secondary School is a model of diversity. It offers a tradition of excellence and a wide range of opportunity. Our student population is characterized by high achievement, commitment, and a mix of cultural backgrounds reflecting the society in which we live.

Northern's size affords the luxury of offering an array of course options so critical to the enrichment of student learning. A sense of community participation enhances the Northern experience both inside the classroom and out. Students run their own newspapers and literary magazines, produce and direct plays, organize numerous sports, charitable, and social events and maintain a vibrant Student Council to address the immediate needs of the school.

Students are encouraged to set high academic standards and to pursue leadership and personal growth opportunities. Many students are involved in cooperative education programs, where these placements are in highly challenging locations, such as biotech labs, business firms, theatres, radio and television production companies.

Each year a number of graduates receive scholarships and awards recognizing outstanding leadership, community service, and academic achievement. Fifty per cent of our graduating students earn the distinction as an Ontario Scholar achieving an academic average of at least 80%. In addition, recent graduates have been recipients of the Canadian Merit Scholarship, TD Canada Trust Scholarship and many other prestigious scholarships offered by Canadian and United States universities.

Our parents and teachers are integral to the learning process at Northern, involving active participation and decision-making in a variety of committees, clubs, and event supervision. This has fostered a meaningful partnership between school and community, providing an environment conducive to intellectual curiosity, energy, and the fulfillment of promise.

Special Features

- ✦ Programmes for deaf and hard-of-hearing, learning-disabled, and gifted students. Opportunities for career exploration and practical workplace experience through a diverse and extensive Cooperative Education programme.
- ✦ Centre for Studies in Biotechnology
- ✦ Specialized facilities for design, manufacturing, communications technology, drama, and family studies
- ✦ Six areas of specialization in art
- ✦ Advanced Placement(AP)Programme

OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
✦ Total number of students:	1733	
✦ Gender:		
Female	757	44%
Male	976	56%
✦ Primary language other than English:	405	24%*
✦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	8	0%
Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years	52	3%

* Calculation does not include students for whom language information is missing.

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB), in partnership with students, parents, teachers and all our communities, is committed to taking responsibility for continuous improvement of schools. This is achieved through:

- ✦ **Relevant Curriculum**
- ✦ **Equity**
- ✦ **Accountability**

Regular Instructional Programs

In addition to the regular instructional program mandated by *The Ontario Curriculum*, our school offers optional programs. Details of these programs can be found in the Choices document available on the TDSB web (TDSB.on.ca). A hardcopy is provided to students and parents in January of each year to assist them in choosing courses for the following school year.

Special Education Programs

A variety of special education programs and services are offered to meet the needs of all students, including students with exceptionalities, such as behavioural, communication, intellectual, physical and multiple learning disabilities. Students' exceptionalities are identified through a formal review process undertaken by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).

OUR SCHOOL ALSO OFFERS:

Co-Curricular

Arts Programs

- ✦ Dance:
Hip-Hop Dance
- ✦ Dramatic Arts:
Drama Club, Dramatic Arts Festivals, Improv, Live Production/Play
- ✦ Music:
Band, Choir, Excursions, Guitar, Music Concerts / Performances, Strings, Vocal
- ✦ Visiting Artists:
Drama, Music, Visual Arts
- ✦ Visual Arts:
Ceramics, Computer/Graphic Arts, Excursions, Fashion, Film/Video Workshops, Photography

Athletic Teams

- ✦ Badminton
- ✦ Baseball
- ✦ Basketball
- ✦ Cross Country
- ✦ Curling
- ✦ Field Hockey
- ✦ Football
- ✦ Golf
- ✦ Ice hockey
- ✦ Rugby
- ✦ Skiing
- ✦ Soccer
- ✦ Softball
- ✦ Swimming
- ✦ Tennis

- ✦ Track and Field
- ✦ Ultimate Frisbee
- ✦ Volleyball

Clubs

- ✦ Art
- ✦ Buddies
- ✦ CANFAR
- ✦ Chess
- ✦ Community Assistance Program (CAP)
- ✦ Creative Writing
- ✦ Deaf & Hard of Hearing Clubs
- ✦ Debating
- ✦ Heritage
- ✦ NSS Air
- ✦ Northern Cancer Committee
- ✦ Northern Wildlife
- ✦ OSAID (Ontario Students Against Impaired Drivers)
- ✦ Peer Aids Faciliators
- ✦ Photography
- ✦ Recycling
- ✦ Robotics
- ✦ SAINTS (Students Assisting Seniors in North Toronto)
- ✦ Save and Sober Driving Committee
- ✦ Science
- ✦ Sound, Light and Stage Crew
- ✦ Student Newspaper Club/Yearbook Club
- ✦ United Nations

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:



Leadership

- ✦ Athletic Council
- ✦ Student Activity Council:
SAC
- ✦ Student Leadership:
Buddies

Competitions

- ✦ DECA Business Club
- ✦ FIRST Robotics
- ✦ Improv Olympics
- ✦ Mathematics Competitions:
Waterloo
- ✦ Ontario Business Contests:
DECA
- ✦ Science Competitions:
Waterloo
- ✦ Sears Drama Festival:
Sears
- ✦ Skills Canada

Curricular Enhancement

- ✦ The Alliance of Sector Councils (TASC)

Community, Culture and Caring

Community - Mentoring

- ✦ School Based:
Peer Mentoring

Community - Tutoring

- ✦ School Based:
Homework Clubs

Culture/Caring

- ✦ Camps:
Leadership
- ✦ Caring:
ACCESS, Delisle Youth Services Inschool
Program
- ✦ Fundraisers:
Run for the Cure, Terry Fox Run
- ✦ Nutrition Programs:
Lunch Program
- ✦ Safe & Caring Schools:
ESP: Empowered Student Partnerships
- ✦ Social Skills:
Peer Mediation/Helpers

Equity

- ✦ Assemblies

Student Success

Pathways Programs

- ✦ Schools to Future:

E-Learning and the Hospital for Sick Children,
First Generation - George Brown, Pathways to
Education

Remedial Activities

- ✦ Credit Rescue
- ✦ Remedial Numeracy Programs

Specializations and Other Programs

Other Programs (Not deemed specialized)

- ✦ Advanced Placement Courses
- ✦ Coop Packages:
Full-day Coop

Special Education Programs

- ✦ Gifted
- ✦ LD - Learning Disability

Information about the success of our programs comes from a wide variety of student assessments. These assessments are based on clear expectations for all learners, consistent with those described in *The Ontario Curriculum*.

The primary purpose of student assessment is to improve learning. Assessment has the greatest potential to improve learning when it is an integral part of classroom activities. Teachers assess student progress towards achieving the expectations on an ongoing basis by using strategies such as projects, class presentations, homework assignments, classroom observations, portfolios of student work, and tests.

Schools use assessment information and information from other sources to make informed decisions for school improvement planning. Schools identify areas of strength as well as areas that require improvement. Input is obtained from a variety of sources such as student assessments, teacher feedback, parent feedback, and community surveys. In this way, schools monitor, celebrate and improve their efforts in providing a supportive and challenging learning environment for all their students.

WHAT OUR SCHOOL IS PLANNING FOR THIS YEAR

- ♦ Continue upgrade of computer hardware, facilities and resources. Increase number of classrooms equipped with computers and wired to the Internet.
- ♦ Maintain Northern's EQAO literacy and numeracy scores above provincial average by means of a whole-school approach to literacy and numeracy. All subject areas will develop classroom activities and instructional approaches that promote student literacy and numeracy skills. The Special Education department will assist exceptional students who are at risk of not being successful in EQAO literacy and numeracy assessments, and provide testing accommodations that are specific to identified needs of individual students. Particular attention will be given to Applied level students in areas of Literacy and Numeracy with a mind to increasing report card pass rates by 5%.
- ♦ Continue to develop and support the Advanced placement program at Northern. We are currently offering Advanced Placement classes in: Chemistry, French, German, Spanish, History, and Math.
- ♦ Continue to support the variety of programmes that exist at Northern (including Gifted, Advanced Placement, Special Education and Hearing Impaired) to meet the diverse learning needs of all students.
- ♦ Continue to develop with departments an assessment and evaluation plan to support student learning and achievement that is in line with Ministry policy.
- ♦ Develop a Cooperative Education program that addresses the needs of at-risk students.
- ♦ Increase and enhance opportunities for credit-recovery for students in Grades 9 and 10.
- ♦ Deployment of Student Success Teachers to improve prospects for academic success among at-risk students. Key objective: 16 credits by 16 years of age.
- ♦ Increase and enhance opportunities for students to pursue varied academic and career pathways.
- ♦ Develop Professional Learning Community (PLC)

approach to school improvement, framed by three key questions: *i. What do we expect students to learn? ii. How will we know if students have learned it? iii. What will we do if students have not learned it?* School Action Plan for student success supported by regular department and whole staff meetings.

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Parent And Community Involvement

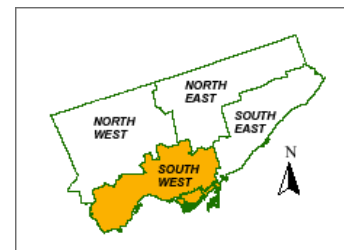
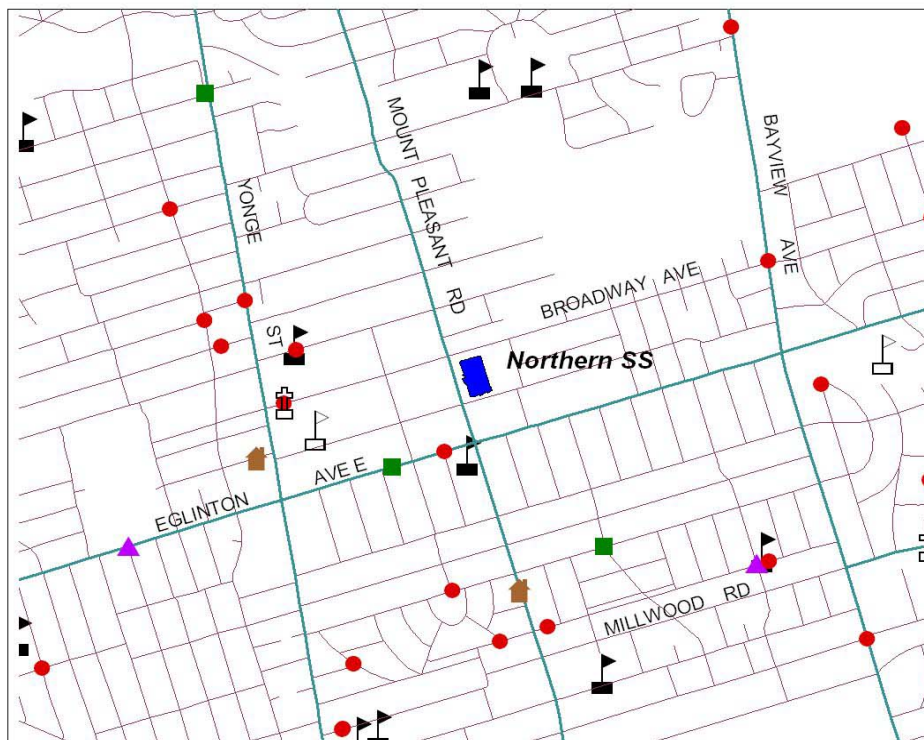
Parent Involvement:

- ✦ Parents are an active part of the Northern Community. Parents are members of all school committees and are consulted on school issues via the committees.
- ✦ The Northern Foundation is a Not for Profit organization that raises funds for scholarships and student activities. Parents, students, teachers and alumni are an active part of this enterprise.
- ✦ With assistance from parents and alumni, the school has established a Heritage room showcasing 75 years of memorabilia.
- ✦ Parent Council communicates with parents weekly by email. There are now over 800 parents on our email list who receive school information and schedules over the internet.
- ✦ Parents chair the Gifted Advisory Committee and the Learning Disabled Committee.

Community Links:

- ✦ Delisle at Northern is a social agency which is partnered with Northern and offers support to students at risk of leaving school without a diploma.
- ✦ Through our cooperative education program Northern has links with Sick Kids Hospital, Mount Sinai and Sunnybrook as well as many businesses and institutions in downtown Toronto which offer our students cooperative education placements.
- ✦ Northern students have developed outreach committees with both the TTC and the Police to foster good relations and deal with issues that may arise in a proactive way.
- ✦ Partnerships have been developed with the Anne Johnston Health Station.

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



- OUR SCHOOL
- ▲ TDSB Elementary School
- TDSB Secondary School
- ⊕ Separate School
- Daycare/Nursery School
- Family Resource/Parenting Centre
- ▲ Community/Recreation Centre
- Public Library

Notes: The map shows the locations of local schools, community and social service facilities. For more information about these locations please contact the school. Sources: TDSB - Academic Accountability, Facility Services; City of Toronto - Children's Services, Toronto Land Information Services.