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Getting Started



Choices is published annually to encourage parents/guardians* and students to keep themselves informed about the opportunities available to them, both in and beyond secondary school. It is the goal of this publication to provide information that will help with the decision making process that must occur around the course selection process.

Planning Guide

At the centre of this book there is a course selection planning guide to assist students and their parents/guardians with the course selection process. Students are encouraged to use this guide and keep it, where possible, in their academic or career portfolio. Also visit www.myBlueprint.ca/tdsb to create an education plan.

Course Selection Process

The final decision on course selection for students under 18 years of age rests with parents/guardians. Therefore, keeping in touch with the school's guidance counsellor is of great importance. Consideration of the student's achievement for the past several years and the advice of the school, aid in choosing a program within reasonable reach.

Course Selection Sheet

Program selection for September will be made in February (course selection sheets usually contain the list of courses offered to students). Course selection sheets are an important vehicle for the educational planning process and are required each year. It is the responsibility of all students and their parents/guardians to complete course selections by the prescribed date. Subsequent modifications to a student's program will be made for sound educational reasons only. Please note that where enrolment is insufficient, a course may be withdrawn or cancelled.

Creating Futures: Guidance and Career Education Program

Choices Into Action, Guidance and Career Education Program Policy for Ontario Elementary and Secondary Schools, 1999, is the basis for delivery of guidance and career education programs, grades 1 – 12. By the end of secondary school, students are expected to:

- understand the concepts related to life-long learning, interpersonal relationships, responsible citizenship, and career planning;
- develop learning skills, social skills, a sense of social responsibility, and the ability to formulate and pursue educational and career goals;
- apply this learning in their daily lives, both at school and in the larger community.

Guidance and Career Education is a school-wide program which:

- provides all students with the opportunity to understand, develop and apply the concepts in three areas of learning: Student Development, Interpersonal Development and Career Development.
- provides structures and processes which identify the unique needs of all students.
- provides supportive settings, programs and resources to prepare students for life-long learning and responsible citizenship in a global environment.

The Guidance and Career Education program is comprehensive, developmental and applied and offers learning opportunities where students can Build Character, Build Careers, Build Success. This is accomplished with clearly stated competencies for grades 1 to 6, grades 7 and 8, and grades 9 to 12. The development of the competencies is accomplished through a range of program delivery components including the Ontario curriculum, orientation and exit programs, the academic and career portfolios, career exploration activities, workshops, seminars, and small groups, mentorship programs, peer assistance programs and individual assistance and short-term counselling.

The program's effectiveness is determined by students' achievement of competencies and ongoing communication with parent/guardian and community partners.

* Where parent/guardian is found it is inclusive of caregivers and a significant adult.

Website For additional information on Choices Into Action, please refer to:
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/programs/guidance>