

SCHOOL MATTERS

A Parent's Guide to the TDSB





Message from the Chair

Together we share a common goal for our students - success in life. As a parent, you play a critical role in helping them achieve that goal.

There are many ways for you take an active role in your child's education, whether it's creating an environment that supports students doing homework, participating in school activities, attending parent-teacher meetings or getting involved in Board-wide consultations. Your involvement will help motivate and engage your child, as well as keep you informed and up-to-date about what's going on in the Board.

Together, we can help our students succeed.

Chris Bolton
Chair of the Board

Parents! Get involved and be heard...

Parent involvement in education is critical to student success. Let your voice be heard about school board policies and programs that affect your children. Join one of the TDSB's seven Community Advisory Committees: Early Years, Equity Policy, French, Inner City, Parent Involvement, Alternative Schools and Special Education.



Message from the Director

Welcome to 2010-11, a school year guaranteed to be a time of great learning, growing and positive change at the Toronto District School Board.

At Canada's largest and most diverse school board, we know education is a shared responsibility. Teachers, parents, families, communities and administration - it's up to all of us to provide the skills, confidence and encouragement our students need to become valuable citizens in our democratic society. Our goal is to make sure all students have the opportunity to explore the world safely, while being proud of who they are. Student success is about providing classroom and extracurricular activities that directly engage each and every one of the new generation of diverse Torontonians.

Improving student outcomes - the most important pillar of our Vision of Hope - requires a change in thinking, ideas that go beyond the conventional goals of school improvement. We must be committed to creating schools that embody the ideals of CARE - Caring, Accepting, Respecting and Engaging.

Learning is an adventure that begins at birth and does not end when a teenager graduates from secondary school. It happens at home, at school, on the play-ground, and every minute of every day. Success starts with having high expectations for every child, but it doesn't end there. If we ask a lot of our children, we must ask even more of ourselves as parents.

To really engage our students, we need your help. I encourage parents, grandparents, guardians, older brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles to become engaged in childhood education. To find out how, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/parents.

Because together we truly are better.

Dr. Chris Spence
Director of Education

School Year 2010-2011



Labour Day	September 6, 2010
Thanksgiving	October 11, 2010
Christmas Break (last day of school is Dec. 17, 2010. School resumes Jan. 3, 2011)	Dec. 20, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2010 inclusive
Family Day	February 21, 2011
Mid-Winter Break	March 14 to 18, 2011 inclusive
Good Friday	April 22, 2011
Easter Monday	April 25, 2011
Victoria Day	May 23, 2011

*Semestered secondary schools have the option of replacing the June 28 2011 PA day with February 2 2011 for semester changeover.

Frequently Called Numbers

General Information Switchboard: (416) 397-3000 TDSB web site: www.tdsb.on.ca

Board Meetings (416) 397-3000	Parenting & Family Literacy Programs (416) 394-2104
Child Care Services (East) (416) 394-2072	Permits (416) 395-7666
Child Care Services (West) (416) 394-7369	E-mail permits@tdsb.on.ca
Continuing Education (416) 338-4000	Scholarships/Trusts (416) 395-8006/8242
Driver Education (416) 397-3587	School Attendance Areas/Boundaries (416) 394-7526
Education Quality & Accountability Office – EQAO 1-888-327-7377	E-mail planning@tdsb.on.ca
www.eqao.com	School Councils (416) 397-3529
E-Learning/Virtual School (416) 396-8481	Special Education
E-mail vs@tdsb.on.ca	South East (416) 396-4984
Emergency – After Hours (416) 395-4620	North East (416) 396-9003
Equity (416) 396-7625	South West (416) 394-3763
Fundraising Hotline (416) 397-3510	North West (416) 394-7406
GED – General Educational Development (416) 481-6043	Student Safety Line (416) 395-7233
1-888-433-1211	Student SuperCouncil (416) 393-8100
www.ged.on.ca	E-mail supercouncil@tdsb.on.ca
Human Rights Office (416) 393-1029	TeleHealth Ontario 1-866-797-0000
International Programs & Admissions Office (416) 395-9618	Toronto Foundation for Student Success (416) 394-6880
E-mail tisp@tdsb.on.ca	www.studentsuccess.ca
Kids Help Phone Line 1-800-668-6868	Toronto Public Health (416) 338-7600
Newcomer Reception Centres	www.toronto.ca/health
South East - 24 Mountjoy Ave (Greenwood Subway) (416) 393-0750	Transcripts (416) 396-4783
South West - 777 Bloor Street West (Christie Subway) (416) 393-0542	E-mail transcriptsmailbox@tdsb.on.ca
North East - George Vanier SS (Don Mills Subway) (416) 395-9440	Transportation
North West - Thistletown Cl..... (416) 394-7698	East (416) 394-6163
Nutrition Services (416) 394-7494	West (416) 394-6175
Ontario College Application Services – OCAS 1-888-892-2228	Central (416) 394-6184
www.ontariocolleges.ca	Metro (416) 394-7379
Ontario Universities' Application Centre – OUA 1-519-823-1940	E-mail transportation@tdsb.on.ca
www.ouac.on.ca	Trustee Services (416) 397-3063
Parent & Community Involvement (416) 397-3528	



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2010-2014

School Matters: A Parent’s Guide to the TDSB is published for you, the parents. As partners in your children’s education, we want to keep you informed of the programs and services we provide, the policies that guide us, and other important information.

We hope that you find this publication informative and helpful during the 2010–2011 school year.

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Who is the TDSB?

Who We Are: Facts and Figures About the TDSB

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) was created on January 1, 1998, by the amalgamation of seven individual Boards of Education. Serving 1.6 million electors of the City of Toronto, we are the largest school board in Canada and sixth largest in North America. The city is divided into 22 wards and public school supporters elect a school trustee to represent each ward.

Our People, Our Schools

- 240,000 elementary and secondary students
- 16,211 teachers
- 986 principals and vice-principals 1,000
- 592 elementary, secondary, alternative, and specialized schools on 558 sites
- 3,192 classroom support staff (Special Education and regular programs)
- 196,000 Continuing Education students
- 3,440 school office staff and caretaking staff

Our Diversity

- 80+ languages represented in our schools
- 135,000 students who speak a language other than English
- (26%) of our students were born outside of Canada
- Canada's most culturally rich school Board

Our Student Success

- 45% of our students graduate as Ontario Scholars, achieving an 80% average in their top six courses
- an increasing graduation rate
- a large number of students return to complete high school

Our Commitment to Learning

- TDSB supports life-long learning, from early childhood to adult continuing education
- We are committed to helping all our students to reach their full learning potential.

Our Funding

FUNDING BUDGET

- Provincial education grants are tied to student enrollment - when the number of students rises or falls, it impacts our funding.
- Since 2001, our enrollment has fallen by approximately 12% or 33,000 students, and is projected to decline by a further 3,300 students.

Our Budget

At a Board meeting on May 26, 2010 TDSB Trustees approved a balanced budget with total operating expenditures of \$2.6 billion for the 2010-11 school year. This budget focuses on priority areas of teaching and learning, student success and supports for vulnerable students. The budget process also took two important steps toward long-term budget sustainability and to address the impact of declining enrollment:

1. The Toronto Lands Corporation (TLC) established in 2007 to make the most of the Board's under-utilized capital assets;
2. The Better Schools, Brighter Future process, which takes TDSB to the next level through a multi-year strategy supporting investment in school consolidation, up-to-date programs and school buildings to meet the 21st century needs of students and communities; and

For more information on our budget, please visit our web site at www.tdsb.on.ca and click on "About Us", scroll down the right hand side and click on "TDSB Budget".

Safe & Caring Schools

Safe & Caring Schools Department

Keeping our schools safe is a collective responsibility and it starts by encouraging responsible and respectful behaviour at all times. A safe and caring learning and working environment for students, staff, and visitors is of primary importance to the TDSB. Safe and Caring Schools, Professional Support Services, Equity and Gender Based Violence Prevention work in partnership to promote and support effective school planning, school-based and system prevention programs, student leadership, training initiatives and professional development programs. These departments also work in partnership with parents, parent groups, the community, and other organizations and partners to address any and all safety concerns.

Safe & Caring Schools

In order to ensure that our schools are safe and peaceful places of learning for all students, we focus on proactive rather than reactive measures to support students through our Safe and Caring School initiatives. Fire drills and lockdown drills are carried out throughout the school year in preparation of an emergency. Secondary schools have School Based Safety Monitors to help maintain a safe environment and thirty-six of our secondary schools also have the support of a School Resource Officer (SRO). The SRO program is a partnership between the TDSB and the Toronto Police Service. The school environment provides an excellent opportunity for positive interaction with young people outside of traditional enforcement activities. This interaction can build relationships and trust, have valuable preventative effects, and positively affect school safety.

All of our schools have functioning Safe and Caring School committees. These teams work on initiatives that prevent, intervene or respond to inappropriate school behaviour.

The TDSB revised its Code of Conduct Policy (P.044) and developed an Operational Procedure (PR.585) that focused on identifying consequences for inappropriate behaviour. We also revised the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy (P.065) to better address behavioural issues through a progressive discipline approach. Policy/Program Memorandum No. 145 describes progressive discipline as the use of “a continuum of prevention programs, interventions, support and consequences to address inappropriate student

behaviours and to build upon strategies that foster positive behaviours. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, disciplinary measures should be applied within a framework that shifts the focus from one that is solely punitive to one that is both corrective and supportive” (Ontario Ministry of Education, 2009g, p.3).

Student Action Teams (SAT)

Student Action Teams (SAT (formerly known as Empowering Student Partnerships-ESP) is a student-led partnership between the Toronto Police Service (TPS), the Safe Schools Network, City Council, ProAction and all the school boards in the City of Toronto. The primary focus of SAT is to empower students to plan, organize, and execute a year-long safe schools initiative in their local schools and communities. A priority of SAT is to collaborate with TPS in addressing one of their service priorities, youth victimization and violence. A central steering committee, chaired by the TPS with memberships from all involved constituents helps to organize main events, promote activities, and support the work undertaken by a local SAT Committee in each school. Local SAT school-based committees will meet on a regular basis at their school to plan and execute their activity. Representatives from each local school SAT committee will meet monthly with TPS and TDSB staff in Divisional Meetings. Three times a year the Divisional Committee will meet at a Central City-wide Committee to look at broader issues and help plan larger proactive activities.

Primary funding for this initiative is through ProAction (a voluntary network of corporate sponsors dedicated to initiatives involving TPS). Additional funding will be made available through the Safe Schools Network and some corporate sponsors.

Students involved directly in SAT activities will be able to earn their 40 hours of community service required for high school graduation.

This year, the TDSB expanded its highly successful SAT program to 66 schools with Grades 7 and 8 classes. The Safe and Caring Schools Office is working to expand the program to include all of our schools. Together the SAT program, at the elementary and secondary school levels, is the single largest student-led safety program in all of Canada.



Safe & Caring Schools (cont.)

School Resource Officers

In September 2008, the TDSB in partnership with the Toronto Police Service launched the School Resource Officer (SRO) Initiative in 21 schools across the City. This year, the program has been expanded to 36 schools. The goal of the SRO Initiative is to develop and enhance relationships with students, staff and parents to help foster environments of trust and openness in our school communities.

Safe Arrival Program

TDSB elementary schools have a child Safe Arrival program. Once attendance is checked and a child is found to be absent without notice, the school will call the emergency numbers provided by the parents/guardians. For more information, or to give advance absence notice, please contact your local school.

Bullying Prevention

Policy/Program Memorandum No.144, Bullying Prevention and Intervention requires that each school must have in place a Safe Schools team responsible for school safety that is composed of at least one student (where appropriate), one parent, one teacher, one non-teaching staff member, one community partner and the principal.

“Let’s Stop the Bullying” is a Resource for elementary school communities emphasizing specific ways to develop a safe and caring community. This TDSB-developed curriculum looks at ways to challenge bullying behaviour while providing strategies and resources to build up those who are engaged with bullies. This anti-bullying focus or program can be part of a good school-wide safe school plan. It consists of strategies for administrators to enhance current practices already in place in schools. It includes a series of classroom lessons from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Every school in the TDSB is expected to have a Bullying Prevention Program operating in their school. The TDSB has established a process of accountability to ensure that prevention programs like Bullying Prevention are in place and are active.

Severe Weather

SEVERE WEATHER

Severe weather conditions may require the TDSB to cancel transportation or, in extreme conditions, close schools. In the event transportation is cancelled or schools are closed, the local media will be informed by 6:00 a.m. Tune into your local radio and television stations for the latest information. If weather conditions become extreme after students are in school, a decision to close schools will be made by 11:00 a.m. and broadcast by noon. In this case, elementary students will remain in the school until they are picked up by a parent or parent designate.

It is recommended that:

- parents/guardians keep children at home if weather conditions appear to be extreme;
- become familiar with the Severe Weather Operational Procedure PR.519 COM found on the Board web site at www.tdsb.on.ca;
- listen to designated radio stations for school closures beginning at 6:00 a.m. or for possible early closing at noon;
- provide school with emergency telephone number for your child; and
- be prepared to pick your child up or make arrangements for the welfare and safety of your child if required.

Safe & Caring Schools (cont.)

Reporting Abuse

The Child and Family Services Act requires that anyone who has a suspicion that a child is being abused or neglected will report the situation to a Children's Aid Society. There are four Centres in Toronto.

They are:

- Children's Aid Society of Toronto: **(416) 924-4646**
- Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto: **(416) 395-1500**
- Jewish Child and Family Services of Toronto: **(416) 638-7800**
- Native Child and Family Services of Toronto: **(416) 969-8510**

For further information on the TDSB's policy, visit the TDSB web site at www.tdsb.on.ca, click on "About Us" then "Policies, Procedures and Forms", Enter "reporting abuse" in the search box.

Visitors

TDSB schools are the heart of the community. Visitors to schools are welcome and must begin their visit by reporting to the main office and signing in with staff. Each school has its own procedure regarding safety. Doors that are locked are to be respected and we ask that all visitors adhere to the school's safety procedures. This is to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, parents, and staff.

Police Reference Checks

Regulation 521/01 (now 322/03) of the Education Act requires school boards to collect a Police Reference Check (PRC). All employees of the TDSB must complete a PRC as part of the employment process prior to commencing work. Once a PRC has been collected under this Regulation, school boards are required to collect, on an annual basis, an "Offence Declaration" (a form to update a person's information on file by declaring any new criminal code convictions). As of September 1, 2004, all volunteers in schools are

also required to complete a PRC according to the standards outlined in the Volunteer and Police Check Protocol (SR23). Once the PRC is completed an annual Offence Declaration form is also required each school year. All service providers, post secondary co-op students completing their practicum and those individuals seeking volunteer experience to assist their entry into faculties of education are required to complete a PRC.

If you require more information, please call **(416) 393-0759**.



The Toronto Police Service Elementary School Safety Program Five-Core Curriculum

The TPS Elementary School Safety Program's Five-Core Curriculum teaches elementary school children about:

Traffic Safety—Junior & Senior Kindergarten

Safe Kids & Street Proofing—Grade 2

Bullying—Grade 5

Drug Awareness, Youth & The Law—Grade 6

Youth Violence & Gangs—Grade 8

"Educating children about personal safety, youth violence, and youth victimization are the keys to the reduction of youth violent crime and increase in community safety..."



Safe & Caring Schools (cont.)

Student SAFETY LINE



416-395-SAFE (7233)

416-620-9711 (TTY)

www.tdsb.on.ca/safetyline

First Aid

Should your child suddenly become ill or injured, school staff will tend to his or her immediate needs and contact you. It is imperative that you, as parents, provide the school with current emergency contact information. If you or an appointed guardian cannot be reached immediately, your child will be supervised at school. If emergency services are required, they will be contacted. Each of our schools has staff members with first aid training.

Long-Term Illness

Should your child need to stay away from school for an extended period of time, you can arrange to receive appropriate learning materials and curriculum outlines from your school. We also have programs for children in hospital. Talk to your principal for further information.

Allergies and Medication

Many schools are peanut-free zones to protect children with allergies. If your child is allergic to something that may be present in the school, or if your child needs to be given special medication throughout the day, speak to the principal to discuss arrangements.

**FIRST
AID**

Getting Started

Starting School

Starting school is a big step in your child's life. At the TDSB, your child is entering a school system that values the uniqueness and diversity of all its students and works to provide each and every student with an outstanding education. As a parent, you are your child's most important teacher. Because children achieve higher success when parents work closely with schools, we invite you to be involved in every aspect of your child's education. You can help your child to be successful by:

- preparing your child for their first school experience by visiting the school and playing on the schoolyard;
- getting to know your child's teacher and school principal;
- talking with your child about things that happen at school;
- attending school events or parenting programs offered by the school; and
- attending parent-teacher conferences.

You can become further involved by joining the School Council and participating in school activities. Before the first day of school, take some time to visit the school with your child so that the route to school, the building, and the surroundings become familiar.

For more information on ways to support your child at home, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca, click on "Kindergarten/Early Learning," then "Welcome to Kindergarten Resources" and "Frequently Asked Questions."

Immunization

It is the law in Ontario for all children attending school to be immunized against communicable diseases, or to provide a valid exemption as regulated by The Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA). Primary students need to be up-to-date with diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella vaccines. Secondary students need diphtheria and tetanus boosters in adolescence (usually between age 14 and 16).

Each year, Toronto Public Health (TPH) reviews the immunization records of TDSB students to ensure that all mandatory vaccines and valid exemptions are in place. To protect the health of all, children without an up-to-date record may be suspended from school until parents provide this information or file an exemption with TPH.

Clinics are offered by TPH for students who are having difficulty accessing vaccination services.

Many other immunizations are recommended but not required for school attendance. These include vaccines against chicken pox, pneumococcal disease, haemophilus influenzae B, meningococcal disease, hepatitis B, whooping cough and human papillomavirus.

To learn more, call the Toronto Public Health Immunization Information Line at **(416) 392-1250** or visit www.toronto.ca/health.



Getting Started (cont.)

Admissions

Every child who lives in Toronto is welcome to attend a TDSB school and can register at any time during the school year.

For more information, visit the International Programs and Admissions office at 5050 Yonge Street, call **(416) 395-8109** or **(416) 395-9618**, or e-mail **tisp@tdsb.on.ca**.

To register your child for all Kindergarten programs bring proof of:

- age (a birth certificate or baptismal record or passport)
- address (two pieces of identification that show your address, such as your telephone bill, drivers license, etc.)
- immunization (the card that shows a list of needles your child has received)

Note:

If your child was not born in Canada, verification of date of arrival is required. Families who are permanent residents and refugee claimants may register directly at the school. All other families should come to the International Program and Admissions Office, Toronto District School Board, 5050 Yonge Street, for a TDSB School Admission Letter. Children without immigration status are welcome in our schools and information about them or their families shall not be shared with immigration authorities, as per TDSB Policy P.061 SCH.

Kindergarten

To attend junior kindergarten in September, children must be four by December 31. To attend senior kindergarten, children must be five by December 31.

February is registration month at all TDSB schools. If parents miss the February registration, the TDSB welcomes families to register their children for kindergarten at any time before school starts. For registration dates and times, please call your local public school.

For more information about kindergarten, visit **www.tdsb.on.ca** click on “Kindergarten” in the “Top Ten” section.

Parenting and Family Literacy Centres

Parenting and Family Literacy centres are TDSB programs where parents and caregivers participate in active learning through play with their infants and young children. These free programs are located in 54 schools and positively introduce parents to an integrated early learning environment. This helps prepare children for school entry and builds positive connections to the child’s future school. Parents and caregivers must attend with the child.

Call **(416) 394-2104** for more information.

How to Find Your School

Students who reside within the City of Toronto have the right to attend a school which is designated to serve their residential address. The on-line TDSB Street Guide identifies the designated schools for each residential address.

Visit **www.tdsb.on.ca** and select “Find Your School” from the menu.

Getting Started (cont.)

Optional Attendance

Students also have the opportunity to access schools outside of the school that is designated to serve their residential address by applying for optional attendance. Acceptance at these schools is subject to space availability and program suitability. The procedures, conditions, and timelines relating to optional attendance are described in the Optional Attendance Policy (P013) and the Optional Attendance Operational Procedure (PR.545) found on the TDSB web site at www.tdsb.on.ca. Each year in January, schools are classified as limited or closed to optional attendance based on the space they have available for the upcoming school year.

- A school classified as limited can accept students on optional attendance. A limited school is not obliged to accept all students who apply on optional attendance. Acceptance is conditional upon space being available in the appropriate grade and program.
- A school classified as closed cannot accept any students on optional attendance. Only students residing within the school's attendance area will be accepted.

If a school is classified as limited and you are interested in applying to that school, please contact the school principal.

To find a particular school's Optional Attendance status, visit the TDSB web site at www.tdsb.on.ca and select "Optional Attendance" under "Find Your School."

Please note that the optional attendance status is updated every January for admission in September. Many schools that are limited to optional attendance have their available spaces filled in the spring. Please confirm if a limited school has space available by calling the school directly.



Student Accident Insurance

The Toronto District School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that take place on school property or during school sponsored activities. You may purchase coverage for your child at www.insuremykids.com or by calling toll free at **1-800-463-KIDS (5437)**.

Getting Started (cont.)

Student Transportation

Your child may be eligible for transportation to and from school if you live beyond the following distances:

- junior kindergarten to grade 5 – 1.6 km or more (school bus)
- grades 6 to 8 – 3.2 km or more (TTC tickets)
- grades 9 to 12 – 4.8 km or more (TTC tickets dependent on financial need)

Transportation may also be provided for students who have a medical condition or disability that severely limits their ability to walk. If your child is placed in a Special Education class or French Immersion program not located in your home school, he or she may also be eligible for transportation. Transportation is not provided for students attending any school or special program at their request, even when distance or medical condition is a factor.

To find out if your child is eligible for transportation, talk to your school principal. You can also ask for a copy of the TDSB student transportation brochure from your principal or your local Transportation Office.

- Transportation, East **(416) 394-6163**
- Transportation, West **(416) 394-6175**
- Transportation, Central **(416) 394-6184**
- Transportation, Metro **(416) 394-7379**

You can also contact Transportation via e-mail at transportation@tdsb.on.ca.

Cancellation: In times of severe weather, the TDSB updates radio and TV stations with the status of school closures or school bus cancellations. Parents and students are advised to listen to the radio and television broadcasts for the latest news, particularly during severe weather days.

International Students

The TDSB welcomes international students from many countries. In our schools, these students find a wide range of world-class academic, business, technological, and other specialized programs taught by highly qualified teachers. As well, international students receive English as a Second Language (ESL) courses to facilitate their rapid and smooth integration into the regular curriculum.

For more information about programs and supports for international students, call **(416) 395-9618** or **(416) 395-8109**, e-mail tisp@tdsb.on.ca, or visit www.studytoronto.ca.





Getting Started (cont.)

Families New to Canada

We are pleased to welcome students from around the world into our schools. Our teachers and counsellors are sensitive to the needs of students new to Canada who may need help adjusting to life in a new country.

For information about the admission eligibility to TDSB schools, please call **(416) 395-8109** or **(416) 395-9618** or via e-mail at **tisp@tdsb.on.ca**.

We have four **Newcomer Reception Centres** to welcome and assist secondary school students new to Canada. Secondary school students will have an assessment of their English proficiency and mathematics skills at the reception centre and will then proceed to their local secondary school. Please call first to book an appointment.

Students whose home secondary school is: Bloor C.I., Central Commerce, Central Technical School, Forest Hill C.I., George Harvey C.I., Harbord C.I., Humberside C.I., Jarvis C.I., Lakeshore C.I., Lawrence Park C.I., Oakwood C.I., North Toronto S.S., Northern S.S., Parkdale C.I., Runnymede C.I., West Toronto C.I., Western Technical Commercial, Vaughan Road Academy, or York Memorial C.I., should visit:

WEST END RECEPTION CENTRE

The Bickford Centre
777 Bloor Street West
(416) 393-0542
(near Christie subway station)

Students whose home secondary school is: C.W. Jefferys S.S., Downsview S.S., Emery C.I., Etobicoke C.I., Kipling C.I., Martingorve C.I., North Albion C.I., Northview Heights S.S., Scarlett Heights E.A., Thistletown C.I., Richview C.I., Silverthorn C.I., Sir Sandford Fleming S.S., West Humber C.I., Weston C.I., Westview Centennial S.S., or William Lyon Mackenzie C.I., should visit:

THISTLETOWN RECEPTION CENTRE

20 Fordwich Crescent
(416) 394-7698
(Islington Ave. south of Finch)

Students whose home secondary school is: Bendale BTI, Birchmount Park, Cedarbrae C.I., Danforth C.I., David and Mary Thomson C.I. Eastern Commerce, East York C.I., Leaside S.S., Malvern C.I., Marc Garneau C.I., Monarch Park C.I., RH King Academy, Riverdale C.I., Sir Oliver Mowat C.I., Sir Robert Borden BTI, W.A. Porter C.I., West Hill C.I., Wexford C.I., Wilfred Laurier C.I., Winston Churchill C.I., or Woburn C.I., should visit:

GREENWOOD RECEPTION CENTRE

24 Mountjoy Avenue
(416) 393-0750
(near Greenwood subway station)

Students whose home secondary school is: A.Y. Jackson S.S., Agincourt C.I., Albert Campbell C.I., Don Mills C.I., Dr. Norman Bethune C.I., Earl Haig S.S., George S. Henry S.S., Georges Vanier S.S., L'Amoreaux C.I., Lester B. Pearson C.I., Newtonbrook S.S., Sir John A. Macdonald C.I., Stephen Leacock C.I., Victoria Park S.S., or York Mills C.I., should visit:

GEORGES VANIER RECEPTION CENTRE

3000 Don Mills Road East
(416) 395-9440
(Don Mills Road East south of Finch)

Visit **www.tdsb.on.ca**, click on “Programs” and see “Newcomer Programs”.



Getting Started (cont.)

The Toronto Foundation for Student Success

The TDSB has its own charitable organization called the Toronto Foundation for Student Success.

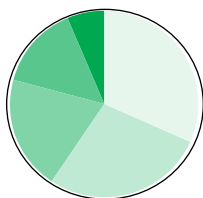
Funding what falls through the cracks so our children do not

The mission of the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS) is to assist the students of the TDSB to benefit physically, emotionally, and intellectually from each school day. The TFSS exists to address the many needs of our students—which are not covered through education funding—and they are dedicated to removing the non-academic obstacles to learning.

Students under extreme stress cannot learn and the TFSS' goal is to help alleviate stress factors experienced by students—such as hunger, poverty, and violence—which impede academic success. The Foundation works to achieve this through nutrition programs, providing support to Parenting and Family Literacy Centres, and the development of pilot programs, thereby contributing to an environment for learning in which students can be successful.

1 in 3 children in Toronto lives in poverty and goes to school hungry

The TFSS serves 135,000 students in 700 nutrition programs—that's over 24 million meals and snacks in a school year! The funding for these essential programs is from a variety of sources:



- City of Toronto
- Community (Parents, Corporate/Business, Foundations)
- Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- Estimated Value of Volunteer Time
- In Kind (Food Donations)

By working together with the community, the TFSS continues to seek out non-traditional funding sources to help students reach high levels of achievement and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and values they need to become responsible citizens.

How can you help?

In addition to individual donations, the TFSS is always in search of corporate partners, from the small entrepreneur to major institutions, who understand our mission and would like to make a dramatic difference in the lives of students.

The Toronto Foundation for Student Success serves 135,000 students in 700 nutrition programs

As well, there are ongoing volunteer opportunities with the Foundation ranging from working hands-on with our programs, helping to stuff envelopes for a mailing, or providing assistance with any of our many special fundraising events throughout the year.

If you are interested in contributing some of your time or in making a donation, please call us at **(416) 394-6880** or visit us at **www.studentsuccess.ca**.



NUTRITION AND SIGHT & SOUND

FEEDING OUR FUTURE—NOURISH THE BODY ... NOURISH THE MIND

Sadly, in Toronto, one in three children live in poverty. Too many students arrive at school hungry. A 2007 survey revealed that 41% of Toronto school children started school each day without breakfast.

In 2007/2008, the Toronto Foundation for Student Success and their partners made hunger a priority by helping to support over 500 breakfast, lunch and snack programs providing nutritious food to over 90,000 children every school day.

Today, this program serves 135,000 students in 700 nutrition programs. While these Student Nutrition Programs are making a tremendous impact, there is still much work to do. However, funding currently provides just a small fraction of every dollar required and the program has some significant shortfalls:

- Many hungry students are not receiving assistance;
- Some programs cannot afford fresh fruit and vegetables, crucial components of a healthy diet; and
- Other programs are forced to forgo milk to stretch their budget. Further support is needed to reach our goal of no hungry students.

SPROTT ASSET MANAGEMENT GIFT OF SIGHT AND SOUND PROGRAM

The Gift of Sight and Sound program is a collaboration between Sprott Asset Management, Wal-Mart Canada, the Canadian Hearing Society, the Parenting & Family Literacy Programs of the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success. Vision and Hearing screening tests are offered to elementary school students as well as pre-school students.

Elementary school staff told us that many children are struggling because they have difficulty seeing the blackboard or hearing classroom lessons clearly. Children that cannot see or hear clearly are unable to perform to their full potential. The Gift of Sight and Sound program not only provides screening but also facilitates medical follow-up. This can include free glasses and/or hearing assistance devices. More than 18,000 children were screened in 2009/2010.

HOPE IN ACTION

On a daily basis, the TDSB opens its doors to 240,000 students. Many of these students face the daily challenges that poverty presents and for them it is often a struggle to succeed at school. Many do not have warm coats, hats or boots and others do not have food or other essentials.

The Hope in Action Emergency Fund, developed by the TFSS, seeks to address poverty issues by providing funds to students with urgent needs. Any principal, social worker or teacher can apply for funds on behalf of their students, but grants are only made possible by local fundraising or with the help of generous donors.

When planning school fundraising activities or looking to make a donation, please consider supporting the TDSB Hope in Action Emergency Fund. For more information on the Fund, or to make a donation, please visit the TFSS web site at www.torontofoundationforstudentsuccess.ca or call **416-397-3510**.

Student and Parent Learning Support

Parent and Community Involvement Policy Statement (P.023) states “The TDSB believes that education is a shared responsibility among parents, the community, students, staff, and the Board. By working together, we all contribute to the improvement of our schools and to the success of our students.”

School Councils

Each TDSB school is required to have a School Council comprised of the principal, parents, teachers, support staff, students (secondary schools), and community members. The purpose of the Council is to actively engage parents to improve student success. It also provides a regular opportunity for its members to discuss how to make the school a better place for learning for its students. The principal brings important information about the school to the School Council. The School Council, in turn, advises the principal on matters related to the learning goals of the school, the school’s Policies and Procedures, students’ needs, activities and resources for students and parents, and ways of involving parents in the life of the school. The School Council is required to hold at least four general meetings each school year that are open to all parents in the school, and a membership election in September. The elected chair of the Council is a parent of a child in the school. For more information about your school council, please call your school or the Chair of your School Council.

For information on School Councils, visit the TDSB web site at www.tdsb.on.ca, select “Parents,” then “Parent and Community Involvement” and then “School Councils.”



Parent Concern Protocol

The TDSB Parent Concern Protocol is a tool for parents to address school and classroom concerns. These guidelines, based on practices currently used by the TDSB, have been formalized to ensure consistency, efficiency, and transparency across the school system. It is not intended to replace existing problem-solving processes set out in specific legislation or Board policies, but is to be used when not covered by existing guidelines. The Protocol confirms the responsibility of the Principal, Superintendent of Education and the Trustee in providing advice, direction, or decision making on parents’ concerns. It also outlines clear action steps for parents. When parents direct their concerns to the Director of Education or to central office Supervisory Officers, they will be assessed for appropriate action or redirection.

Trustees

Trustees are your elected representatives to the Board.

To contact your Trustee, please call **(416) 393-8809, (416) 397-3061, or (416) 397-3063**, or visit the TDSB web site at www.tdsb.on.ca, select the “About Us” button, and click on “Boardroom” and then “Trustees.”

Student and Parent Learning Support (cont.)

Child Care

The TDSB works in partnership with more than 300 child care centres housed in its schools to support children, parents, families, and communities. Child Care programs are licensed, regulated, legal corporations operating under the Provincial Day Nurseries Act, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, and further regulated by Children's Services, the City of Toronto, and Toronto Public Health. Most childcare centres have an agreement with the City of Toronto to accept families who qualify for a fee subsidy.

To locate a program in your area, use our on-line childcare finder at www.tdsb.on.ca, select "Child Care" on the TDSB Home Page, then select "Child Care Finder." Select the age of the child and click on the area of the city in which you live to find schools providing child care.

For further information, please call **(416) 394-2072** or **(416) 394-7369**.

Keeping Informed

Throughout the year, parents may receive a newsletter that provides key information about your school, special events, and more. As well, the Principal, Superintendent of Education, Trustee, and/or Director of Education may periodically send letters home to parents about issues of importance to your child's education, your school and community.

Comprehensive information about services at the TDSB is easily accessible on-line on our web site at www.tdsb.on.ca.

OUR
WEB SITE

www.tdsb.on.ca:

Your One-Stop Source for TDSB Information

Information about the TDSB's schools, programs, and services is easily accessible on our web site at www.tdsb.on.ca.

Unique features of the web site include school profiles that outline program offerings, province-wide reading, writing, and mathematics test results, and student demographics at each TDSB school;

an advanced map interface to our school boundaries;



a home page that features late breaking news as it happens;



a specific page for Parents that highlights key topics,



an improved search engine to help you find what you're looking for; and much more.



Student and Parent Learning Support (cont.)

Alternative Schools

TDSB alternative schools offer students and parents an alternative to mainstream schooling. Each alternative school, whether elementary or secondary, has a distinct identity and approach to curriculum delivery along with a strong volunteer commitment from parents and other community members. Each school varies in enrollment, age groups, and grade levels.

For more information on admissions and programs at the schools, visit the TDSB web site at www.tdsb.on.ca, at the top on the right click "Find Your School" and in the menu click on "Alternative Schools."

Student Agendas/Planners

TDSB schools use agendas/planners to help students keep track of their assignments, plan ahead, and to inform parents of daily and weekly work progress. The planners also include information customized for the student's school as well as Board-wide information such as the school year calendar, Code of On-line Conduct and more.

Students are strongly encouraged to purchase a planner. In some cases, it may be provided as part of the annual school activity fee. For more information, contact your child's school.



Volunteering at Your Child's School

As communities make a difference in people's lives, so can you at your child's school by volunteering your time and expertise. Parents are welcomed in schools and the classroom to supplement teacher support of student needs. Your child's school may have a variety of classroom positions available, including helping a child in one-on-one reading, in a computer lab, in art class, in the library reading to students or shelving books, or helping outside the classroom by chaperoning dances, assisting with the yearbook project, or accompanying classes on field trips. Your involvement is welcomed! To help guard our students' safety, volunteers are asked to undergo a confidential Police Reference Check. For information on how you can volunteer, please contact your local school principal.

Extracurricular Activities

School is more than academic subjects. TDSB schools have a wide variety of extracurricular activities run by teachers who volunteer their time to the students, either during lunch hour or before and after school. Participating in clubs and on teams exposes students to different and new activities, brings them together with peers who hold similar interests, rounds out their education, and makes their school experience more vital.

Encourage your children to investigate the many extracurricular activities available at their school. Many of the clubs are free. Others may require fees for equipment. Check with your school for details.

Student and Parent Learning Support (cont.)

Partnerships

PARTNERSHIPS

The TDSB welcomes partnerships with private individuals, groups, organizations, and companies that enhance students' education and learning resources.

Business Development is the first point of contact for those wanting to enter into entrepreneurial partnerships, to make donations or sponsorships, or to seek business opportunities with the Board. As well, they act as a resource for parent councils, schools, staff, and trustees and supports fundraising activities and sponsorships both inside and outside the Board. Business Development also answers questions about the Board's Fundraising (P021) and Advertising (P006) Policies through our Parent Fundraising Hotline, as well as the distribution of materials from outside of the Board.

Parent Fundraising Hotline: **(416) 397-3510**
 Business Development : **(416) 397-3509**
 E-mail: **businessdevelopment@tdsb.on.ca**

Partnership Development facilitates educational partnerships with external organizations to enhance student achievement. Partnership programs increase learning opportunities by providing tutors, mentors, guest speakers, workshops, field trips, presentations, scholarships, etc. Focus themes for these partnerships include academic improvement, career awareness and development, interpersonal and social/emotional skill development... all of which support student engagement and preparation for their future. Partnerships build strong, caring school communities. View partnership success stories at the web site below.

For more information, contact:

Educational Partnerships: **(416) 397-3340**
 E-mail: **partners@tdsb.on.ca**
 Web site: **www.tdsb.on.ca**, click on "Community", click on "Educational Partnerships"



Student and Parent Learning Support (cont.)



Alternative Programs

Alternative programs reach out primarily to students 12 to 16 years of age who are struggling both academically and in finding a positive sense of direction for the future. Their past performance shows they are capable of academic success, however, their lack of success may be linked to personal, family, or social problems or other events in their lives.

Alternative programs are positive transition programs rather than an alternative path to attaining high school graduation. Each program aims to return students to the regular home school setting with a focused and positive sense of direction and a set of skills to help them be successful, or to pursue other educational or career opportunities. They do not offer a full academic program for students but focus on core subject areas, literacy and numeracy, completion or attainment of subject-specific credits, and life skills, personal, and social skills development.

There are alternative programs for elementary and secondary students on long-term suspensions or who have been expelled from all schools of the Board. These programs can help a student return to a regular school setting by addressing conflict resolution, anger management, and feelings of hostility. These programs help students and schools by providing a proactive and preventative support for students. As well, students continue their academic studies with the support from teaching staff within the program.

Alternative Programs also provide opportunities for students who have been excused from regular daily school attendance through the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAP) process. These programs provide flexible scheduling and attendance options on an individualized basis.

Remedial Support

The TDSB has remedial help available for students at different stages of their education. At the elementary level, remedial programs, peer tutors, and homework clubs are offered. Talk to your child's teacher and principal for more information.

The After-School Literacy and Numeracy program offered by the Continuing Education department supports students in grades 7 to 12. The teachers focus on literacy and numeracy skills and concepts which will help students succeed in the regular day school classroom. For more information, speak to your school's guidance staff or principal.

Secondary Summer School Credit programs offered by the Continuing Education department are for students who earned a final mark between 35 and 49 percent in a course. For more information about remedial summer credit programs, speak to your school guidance staff.



Homework Tips

Homework Tips

Homework and parental involvement are key parts to a student's academic success. Staying up-to-date on homework assignments helps students retain knowledge learned in the classroom. Research also shows that students do better when parents participate in their child's education.

The TDSB provides resources and assistance in various forms to both students and parents to help them succeed.

On-Line Lessons

A number of learning activities for English and Mathematics are available for elementary students, grades 1 to 8. These on-line activities offer three days of lessons and are available as PDF files. You can download these lessons at www.tdsb.on.ca. Select the "Parents" button, then "Homework."

Extra Help

Many TDSB schools have remedial programs, peer tutors, or homework clubs. Talk to your child's teacher and principal. Many secondary schools offer extra help in skills labs and at lunchtime or after school.

Study Tips

- Praise and encourage your children in their work. Talk to your children about what they are learning in school.
- Read together with younger children.
- Let your children help you in writing recipes, letters, shopping lists, and reading newspapers.
- Encourage your children to ask the teacher for help if they find the work difficult or confusing.
- Set a consistent time when homework will be done every night. Check that homework is completed. Provide a quiet place away from distractions such as television, telephone, and computer.
- Have your children practise mathematics, reading, and writing skills daily.
- Keep in touch with the teachers and call when you have questions or concerns.

Library and Learning Resources

TDSB school libraries provide specialized, curriculum-related programs of information, literacy instruction and inclusive collections of print and electronic educational resources. A wide variety of books, magazines, and media are carefully selected to support student learning, research, technological skills, communication, and pleasure reading. Students also have access to on-line encyclopedias, periodical databases, electronic books (e-books), spoken stories, and quality web links anytime at home and school through a comprehensive school library web site:

For elementary, visit; www.tdsb.on.ca/libraries/Links.asp?schoolNo=10

For secondary, visit; www.tdsb.on.ca/libraries/Links.asp?schoolNo=9

Your school's teacher-librarian can supply home passwords for on-line resources and explain more about your child's school library program.

Special Education

Special Education

The TDSB, through its Special Education department, is committed to active and meaningful collaboration with students, parents/guardians, schools, and agencies to ensure that all students' special learning needs are met in the most inclusionary environment possible, in the most equitably resourced programs possible.

The TDSB offers a wide-ranging level of special education support and services. The needs of most school-aged children and youth can be effectively met within their neighbourhoods and through regular attendance in local schools. Some students do require small, specialized settings called Intensive Support Programs, which offer programs specific to the students' needs. As well, there are conditions where a child or youth's social, emotional, behavioural, and/or medical needs require the individual to be placed in a treatment facility. These programs are under the umbrella of Section Programs.

The TDSB has established a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) in accordance with the Education Act. SEAC makes recommendations to the Board concerning any matter affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of Special Education programs and services. The TDSB and SEAC work together to protect the rights

of students with special learning needs. The members of SEAC represent students with exceptionalities and have the opportunity to participate in the annual reviews of the Board's Special Education Plan and the Board's annual budget process as it relates to special education.

For more information regarding specific Special Education programs, please visit our web site at www.tdsb.on.ca click on "Programs," scroll down to "Student Support", and click "Special Education."

Marilyn Lowe, Supervising Principal

South East (416) 396-4984

Catherine Huycke, Supervising Principal

North East (416) 396-9003

Joy Reiter, Supervising Principal

South West (416) 394-3765

Sandra Tondat, Supervising Principal

North West (416) 394-4898

Leslie Milne, Supervising Principal

Section 23 Programs (416) 395-2291



Professional Support Services

Professional Support Services include Psychology, Social Work & Attendance, Speech/Language Pathology, Child and Youth Services and Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy. These services provide ongoing support to “at-risk” students with the goal of improving these students’ educational outcomes. Specifically they:

Support students’ classroom programs by:

- assisting teachers in understanding the special needs of students
- supporting students in accessing the curriculum
- linking programming suggestions and/or recommendations to curriculum expectations
- providing individual and group counselling

Support Board programs by:

- providing Crisis Response counselling to schools
- consulting to a wide variety of Special Education programs
- providing direct service to exceptional students and their families
- providing information for the Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) process
- acting as liaison to community-based services and agencies
- providing professional development for TDSB staff



Professional Support Services (cont.)

For more information regarding Professional Support Services, please visit our web site at www.tdsb.on.ca, click on “Professional Support Services,” on the Features menu on the left and/or contact your local school or the appropriate person below for your specific area or location:

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES:

Paul Legzdins, Chief, South East	(416) 396-4997
Dr. Ruth Baupal, Chief, North East	(416) 396-8459
Dr. Carolyn Lennox, Chief, South West	(416) 394-3904
Dr. Paul O’Connell, Chief, North West	(416) 394-7402

Social Work & Attendance Services:

Mark Dooner, Chief, South East	(416) 396-7935
Frank Orlando/Harvey Nagelberg (Acting), Chief, North East	(416) 396-3400
Wendy Shaw, Chief, South West	(416) 394-3767
Marcia Powers-Dunlop, Chief, North West	(416) 394-3388

Speech/Language Pathology Services:

David Haffner, Chief, East	(416) 396-7983
Sharon McWhirter, Chief, West	(416) 394-7400

Occupational Therapy & Physical Therapy

Anne Ricci, Chief	(416) 394-7351
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Child and Youth Services

Christine Gaitens, Chief	(416) 396-9198
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Checkpoint

Student Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting

The primary purpose of student assessment and evaluation is to improve learning for all students. The process of assessment identifies a student's areas of strength, and informs both the student and parents where additional support and encouragement are required. It is an important part of the regular communication between schools and families through the academic year. Evaluation of student progress occurs throughout the year, usually at the end of a unit of study. Formal reporting of student achievement occurs at certain times in the year through the use of the Ontario provincial report card.

Report Cards

Kindergarten

Reporting on the progress of Kindergarten children occurs in November, February and in June. Information is based on the teacher's observation of each child's personal and social development in terms of positive attitude, independence and responsibility, as well as problem solving, task completion, and decision-making ability. The kindergarten report cards also highlight the child's development in language, mathematics, science and technology, health and physical activity, and the arts based on the kindergarten program expectations.

Grades 1 to 8

Each child will receive a Progress Report in the Fall of the school year designed to show a student's development of the learning skills and work habits. As well, the Progress Report will show a student's general progress in working towards the achievement of the curriculum expectations in all subjects. Students will also receive two Provincial Report Cards, the first sent home between January 20 and February 20 and the second sent home near the end of June. These reports are designed to show a student's achievement at two points in the school year and will reflect the student's achievement of curriculum expectations, as well as the student's development of the learning skills and work habits.

Secondary

Semestered schools will use the Provincial Report Card, Grades 9-12, for formal written reports to parents twice a semester. Non-semestered schools will use the Provincial Report Card, Grades 9-12, for formal written reports to parents

three times a year. The first report card is issued in the Fall. Many secondary schools also send home interim report cards within the first eight to ten weeks of the year and/or semester. For more information, parents are encouraged to talk to their child's principal or guidance counsellor.

Essential Learning Skills and Work Habits

The Elementary Progress Card as well as all Provincial Report Cards from Grade 1 through 12 provide a record of the learning skills and work habits demonstrated by the students in the following six categories:

- Responsibility
- Organization
- Independent Work
- Collaboration
- Initiative
- Self-Regulation

Parents are encouraged to talk to their child's teacher to learn more about complete learning skills and next steps for achievement.

Parent/Teacher Conference

The parent-teacher conference is the most important time for parents to discuss their child's progress in school. In elementary schools, days are set aside during the school year specifically for parent-teacher conferences at a time immediately following the distribution of report cards. In secondary schools, the parent-teacher conferences occur either after the interim report or after the mid-semester report. Parents can also ask for an interview at any time during the school year by calling their child's school directly.

EQAO

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessments for the 2010-2011 school year will take place on the following dates:

- Grade 9 Assessments of Mathematics (first-semester students): January 6 to 21, 2011
- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test: March 31, 2011
- Primary Division (Grade 3) and Junior Division (Grade 6) Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics: May 30 to June 10, 2011
- Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics (second-semester and full-year students): June 2 to 17, 2011

Moving Up

Preparing to Move Up

One of the significant milestones in a child's life is the move from elementary to secondary school. Students may feel both excited and nervous about what, for them, is a large step. As they look forward to the increased freedom and choices that secondary school presents, they may worry about making friends, fitting in, increased homework, time management, and getting lost in a new school. Parents, students, and school staff can work together to help make the move less stressful and give students a successful start in secondary school.

What Parents Can Do

Parental involvement is critical to a student's successful transition from elementary to secondary school.

- Keep the lines of communication open. Listen for what excites or worries your children about the move to the secondary level. Give them the time to talk about what excites them and what they are learning from it. When your child appears worried, for instance about making new friends, ask the child to recount a similar situation in the past and how he or she dealt with it. Could the child use the same skills in this new situation? Children need to see that they already have many of the skills needed to handle most of their concerns.
- Act as a source of information for your children. Attend parent information evenings at the elementary school, open houses and information evenings at the secondary school, or meet with the elementary guidance counsellor and ask questions important to your child and yourself.
- Inform yourselves about the secondary school they will be attending. Help your child become familiar with secondary school life by attending music nights or school performances. An excellent resource for students and parents to access school information is the TDSB web site at www.tdsb.on.ca. Click on "Find Your School."

What Students Can Do

Students generally begin exploring the secondary school program in grade 8, however, planning for the transition to secondary school sooner may help them be better prepared.

- Beginning in grade 7, students have an opportunity to set academic, social, and career-related goals for the year.
- Students who are concerned about increased workload can ease their transition into secondary school by speaking to their guidance counsellors or teachers about study skills programs. Students can also access study skills and homework help on various web sites such as the Ontario School Counsellors' Association at www.osca.ca or the TVO web site at www.ilc.org and click on "Ask A Teacher!"
- For students wishing to attend secondary schools with specialized programs such as the arts, math, science, or computers, it is recommended that they research the entry requirements into these programs before grade 8, and work toward them. Students are encouraged to speak with guidance counsellors and attend open houses with their parents for more information.
- Students should reflect on or have a discussion about other significant transitions (grade to grade or school to school) and think about the skills they used to make the change as smooth as possible.



Moving Up (cont.)

Build Your Future See the Future Now!

In the Toronto District School Board, it is our shared belief that student success is dependent on a safe, caring, inclusive learning environment where every student feels valued. In addition to academic improvement, the TDSB continues to focus on the social, physical and emotional development of our students. Much of this starts with teaching our students about the value of character - respecting themselves and each other, making positive contributions to their school and community, thinking critically and creatively. By supporting the heart and art of teaching and learning in our classrooms, hallways, and our communities, we are nurturing the joy of learning.

As we develop our leaders of tomorrow, we are also developing our leaders of today. A variety of experiences that involve career awareness, character development, experiential learning, and involvement with colleagues, universities, and workplaces, allow our students to see their future now. A future that may include school, work, college, university, and/or apprenticeship, but more importantly a future of continuous learning, positive contributions to society, and personal and professional fulfilment.



Remember

- All pathways are equally important - college, university, apprenticeship and workplace.
- Understand that each individual has a unique learning style.
- Encourage individuals to identify and cultivate their strengths and interests.
- Effort and developing effective learning habits are essential in all pathways.
- Resources are available to assist in discovering more about pathways.
- Community involvement and Cooperative Education programs are great ways to explore interests and gain work experience.

Moving Up (cont.)

Earning Your Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) Ontario's Secondary School program is based on a credit system. To obtain a secondary school diploma (OSSD), students must earn a total of 30 credits (one credit is earned for each 110-hour course successfully completed), complete the Literacy requirement, and complete 40 hours of community involvement.

Eighteen of the credits must come from a list of compulsory subjects that every student must take. The remaining 12 credits are optional, earned in courses that the student may choose for him or herself from those available at the school.

In grade 9, most students will take eight courses during the school year.

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA (OSSD) Requirements

18 Compulsory Credits

- 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade)*
- 3 credits in Mathematics (1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
- 2 credits in Science
- 1 credit in Canadian History
- 1 credit in Canadian Geography
- 1 credit in the Arts
- 1 credit in Health and Physical Education
- 1 credit in French as a Second Language
- 0.5 credit in Career Studies
- 0.5 credit in Civics

PLUS

Plus one credit from each of the following groups:

group 1: additional credit in English, or French as a Second Language,** or a Native Language, or a Classical or an International Language, or Social Sciences and the Humanities, or Canadian and World Studies, or Guidance and Career Education, or Cooperative Education***

group 2: additional credit in Health and Physical Education, or the Arts, or Business Studies, or French as a Second Language,** or Cooperative Education***

group 3: additional credit in Science (Grade 11 or 12), or Technological Education, or French as a Second Language,** or Computer Studies, or Cooperative Education***

In addition, students must complete:

- 12 optional credits
- 40 hours of community involvement activities
- the provincial Literacy requirement

* A maximum of 3 credits in English as a Second Language (ESL) or English Literacy Development (ELD) may be counted towards the 4 compulsory credits in English, but the fourth must be a credit earned for a Grade 12 compulsory English course.

** In groups 1, 2, and 3, a maximum of 2 credits in French as a Second Language can count as compulsory credits, one from group 1 and one from either group 2 or group 3.

*** A maximum of 2 credits in Cooperative Education can count as compulsory credits.

The 12 optional credits may include up to 4 credits earned through approved dual credit courses.

Moving Up (cont.)

Apprenticeship and OYAP

Students who participate in Cooperative Education in an apprenticeship trade are able to participate in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) while they are still in secondary school. This program allows them to start working on post-secondary apprenticeship qualifications right away.

OYAP starts in Grade 11 or Grade 12 through the Cooperative Education program. Students in the TDSB have opportunities to become registered apprentices and work toward becoming certified journey persons in a skilled trade while completing their secondary school diplomas.

Admission Requirements

To be eligible for OYAP, a student must:

- be at least 16 years of age and in either Grade 11 or Grade 12
- have successfully completed at least 16 credits
- be registered as a full-time student
- be working toward the completion of all OSSD requirements
- be interested in a specific skilled profession as a future career pathway

Contact the Cooperative Education teacher, Guidance counselor, Technological Studies teacher, or OYAP representative at your local school or please call **(416) 394-7182** or visit **www.oyaptdsb.com**.



Cooperative Education

Your child has the opportunity to combine academic study with practical experience in business and industry. Through Cooperative Education placements, students develop the work habits, attitudes, and job skills necessary for a successful transition from school to workplace or post-secondary education. Students also earn credits toward an OSSD by successfully demonstrating course expectations in the workplace. Cooperative Education credits can be tied to any related secondary school course that students are studying or that they have successfully completed.

Now up to two Cooperative Education credits can count toward the compulsory credits for an OSSD. Students can choose from a wide variety of placements that will help them make decisions about future educational and career paths. Students are regularly monitored and assessed in the workplace by a Cooperative Education teacher. For more information, talk to your school's Cooperative Education teacher or Guidance counsellor.

BOARD SCHOLARSHIPS

The TDSB currently has approximately 800 scholarships available to its students. Many of these scholarships are awarded to graduating students based upon meeting established criteria. Parents and students interested in scholarship criteria and other details should call their local school.

For information on establishing new scholarships, please contact Scholarships and Trust at **(416) 395-8242** or **(416) 395-8006**.

Moving Up (cont.)

Student Leadership

The central purpose of school is teaching and learning and that includes more than core curriculum and classroom instruction. It includes opportunities for students to grow socially, get involved, and develop leadership skills. Students should be encouraged to investigate opportunities and participate in their school's many associations, whether it be student politics, promoting equity, stopping violence, or caring for the environment. TDSB students contribute their voices to the education system through Student Councils, the TDSB Student SuperCouncil, and on the Board itself through Student Trustees.

More information on our student leaders can be found on the TDSB web site at www.tdsb.on.ca. Select "Students," then click on the Student SuperCouncil logo. or, via e-mail supercouncil@tdsb.on.ca.



Driver Education

The Toronto District School Board's competitively-priced Driver Education program is certified by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario. Graduates of the program meet the requirements for insurance discounts and can take the G1 road test after eight months instead of one year.

Our curriculum is taught by experienced, qualified instructors. TDSB Driver Education classes are offered to students and to the general public. Participants must be at least 16 years of age and have a G1 licence in order to enrol in the TDSB program.

Courses operate after school, in the evenings, and on Saturdays throughout the year, at convenient sites across the city. As well, intensive one-week classes are offered during March Break and the summer.

For more information, please visit our web site at www.drivered.tdsb.on.ca or call (416) 397-3309.



Learning For Life

Continuing Education

The Continuing Education Department provides elementary, secondary and adult programming to more than 196,000 learners each year.

Programs include the following:

Literacy and Numeracy Programs for Success are for students (Grades 7-12) who need extra help to improve their literacy and numeracy skills so that they can be more successful in school. An elementary summer school program is offered for students in Grades 7-8 who need additional help; a Model Schools summer program is offered for students in Grades 1-6 who need to improve their skills. www.InTheZone.ca

International Languages Elementary - African Heritage Programs offer students, JK to Grade 8, the opportunity to learn another language (nearly 50 languages are presently offered) and to gain an understanding of, and appreciation for traditions, cultures and customs. www.ileprograms.ca

English as a Second Language Program for Adults helps newcomers to Canada improve and strengthen their English language skills so that they may participate more fully in Canadian society. www.ESLToronto.ca

Secondary School Programs (Credit Night School and Summer School) provides adolescent and adult students with an opportunity to earn credits after school and during the summer. www.CreditPrograms.ca

Community Programs - General Interest and Seniors' daytime classes are offered for a fee and generally run in our schools as day or evening classes. Explore opportunities open to all adults 18 years of age and older. www.Learn-4Life.ca

For more information about our many Continuing Education Programs, including summer opportunities for international study, please visit our web site at www.tdsb.on.ca/coned, or call (416) 338-4000.

Virtual Summer School

The TDSB Virtual Summer School provides students with quality education in a flexible and collaborative environment, enhancing their ability to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are critical for success in an information-based society. The TDSB Virtual Summer School offers students on-line access to:

- credit courses
- tutorials
- curriculum support materials
- certification programs
- an on-line library
- a Virtual Guidance Centre
- a Virtual Career Centre

Students enrolled in on-line credit courses work on-line with a teacher. Chat groups, threaded discussions, and conferencing are also available to support learning. Registration instructions and summer dates are available at www.tdsbvirtuelschool.com/.



Learning For Life (cont.)

Adult Day Schools

TDSB adult day schools offer credit courses for adults who want to complete their high school diploma, prepare for post-secondary education, or gain job-related training. Schools feature supportive staff and flexible services and programs. Courses are offered at the following sites:

- Burnhamthorpe Adult Learning Centre
500 The East Mall
(416) 394-7130
- City Adult Learning Centre (CALC)
1 Danforth Avenue
(416) 393-9759
- Emery Adult Learning Centre
3395 Weston Road
(416) 395-3225
- Scarborough Centre for Alternative Studies (Adults)
720 Midland Avenue, Scarborough
(416) 396-6921
- Yorkdale Adult Learning Centre
38 Orfus Road
(416) 395-4417

For more information about adult day schools, visit www.tdsb.on.ca and click on the “Schools” link.

Community Use of School Facilities—Permits

The TDSB makes many of its facilities and fields available for groups and organizations outside of the school day and encourages community use of its schools, within prescribed Policies and guidelines.

Permits are required for such use and fees will be charged according to an established schedule. Individuals and groups may apply for permits on a one-time or multi-use basis, depending upon the availability of the facility or field and availability of caretaking staff and/or other Board approved personnel.

For further information, visit the TDSB web site at www.tdsb.on.ca/permits, or call **(416) 395-7666**.





We value:

- each and every student
- a strong public education system
- a partnership of students, schools, family, and community
- the uniqueness and diversity of our students and our community
- the commitment and skills of our staff
- equity, innovation, accountability, and accessibility
- learning environments that are safe, nurturing, positive, and respectful.

Our mission

is to enable all students to reach high levels of achievement and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and values they need to become responsible members of a democratic society.

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