# TDSB New Secondary (Gr. 9-12) Student Orientation

August 26, 2025 @ North York Central Library

Presented by the:

**International Student & Admissions Office (ISAO)** 















### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



"We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit peoples"

https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/Indigenous-Education/Resources/Land-Acknowledgement





### **WELCOME & AGENDA**

#### **Introduction & Welcome**

International Students & Admissions Office Team

#### **Study Insured**

Medical Insurance & Important information

#### Life in Toronto and Getting Ready to Start School

**General Information** 

**Hong Fook Youth and Family Services** 

**Exit Survey** 

**QR** Code

**End** 





# Introduction & Welcome

Thank you for joining us!

The International Student & Admissions Office is located at 5050 Yonge Street. Just next to the Library! The nearest TTC Subway station is: North York Centre Subway on Line 1.

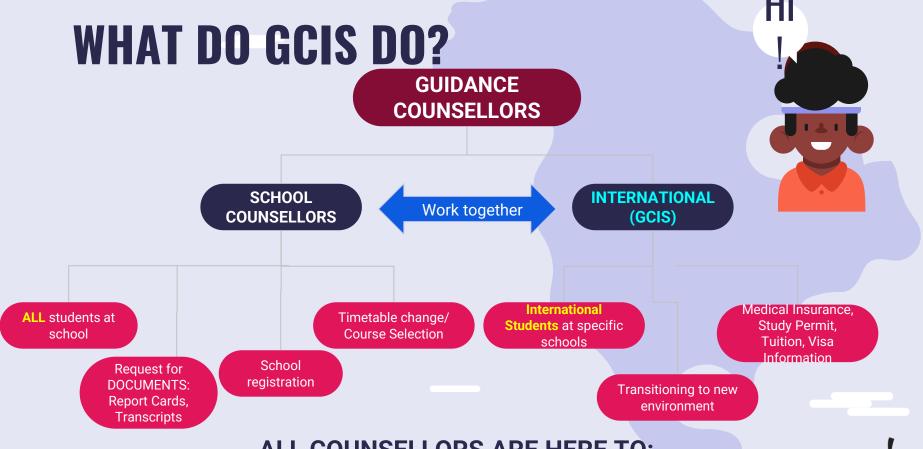
Our contact information is:

**Phone:** 416-395-8120 **Email:** studytoronto@tdsb.on.ca











Listen, Advise, Help, Problem Solve, Plan





### **StudyInsured Medical Insurance**

### studyinsured™





1-866-883-9787







# INFORMATION RESOURCES

Important websites to check and refer to

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & ADMISSIONS OFFICE

Study Toronto
Admissions

### TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH

Advisories
Health information

### TORONTO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Board Info Events, News

#### **IRCC**

Visas, Permits Documents, Travel





#### Ni hao!



### **LIVING IN TORONTO**



#### **DIVERSITY**

Toronto is one of the most diverse cities in the world. Almost 200 languages are spoken here



#### **TRANSPORTATION**

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) and Metrolinx is the public transportation system that includes subway, buses and streetcars

- Free for children 12 and under
- \$2.40 for ages 13-19 with 2hr transfer



#### **WEATHER (WINTER)**

Toronto can get VERY COLD and dark in the winter. Be sure to prepare with GOOD footwear, hat, scarf, gloves





















### 02 REPORTING, REGISTRATION & CUSTODIANS

Getting Started with the TDSB and your School

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: SEPTEMBER 2, 2025





### I. REPORTING ROAD MAP

Already reported? Great! Please call your school to arrange an appointment, otherwise go to ISAO with the following:

Passport, Transcripts, Immunizations
Notarized IRCC Custodian/Parental
forms\*

You will receive a confirmation email after verification including Medical Insurance for student

\*Only if Parent(s) will NOT be here with student during full study period





#### **Before Arrival in Toronto**

Complete the online English and Math assessments.

#### **After Arrival in Toronto**

- Complete the reporting procedure with the documents below in-person. Refer to instructions at studytoronto.ca.
  - Passport photographic page
  - Most recent transcripts (notarized in English)
  - Immunization Records (does not need to be notarized or translated into English)
  - Notarized IRCC Custodian/Parental forms (required only if the parent(s) will not be accompanying the student during their full study period)
- The International Students and Admissions Office will review the documents and send a confirmation email, along with medical insurance documents to the school.
- Attend the orientation on 10:00 AM 13:00 PM (EST),
  August 26, 2025 at Northview Heights Secondary School:
  550 Finch Ave. W., North York, ON M2R 1N6
- Contact your day school to register. The first day of school is September 02, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact us!

Email: studytoronto@tdsb.on.ca Phone: 416-395-8120



### II. VITAL ENGLISH & MATH ASSESSMENT

You have received emails to complete the Vital Assessment test - this must be completed BEFORE registration at school

Questions about Assessment?

Contact Philip.Qian@tdsb.on.ca





### III: REVIEW REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

ISAO will scan and email your documents to **YOU AND** your home school:

- Most recent transcripts from home country
- Immunization (Vaccine) Record
- Custodianship Documents Forms 1 & 2 (Notarized)
- Custodian and Homestay: Current & Local Phone #s and email
- Assessment Results (high school students only)

The ISAO will create a Student Profile document to share





### IV. SCHOOL REGISTRATION

You AND the school will receive a confirmation email from ISAO: **Subject:** "Please Register STUDENT NAME, TISP #"

Please register TISP#: 2023: at Newtonbrook Secondary School

#### **AFTER you receive this email:**

Call your school to make a REGISTRATION APPOINTMENT with Guidance

School will confirm date and time for appointment

When you call: "Hi, I'd like to make a Guidance registration appointment for a fee paying international student. The ISAO has sent our documents, when can we come to register?"



### V: FIRST GUIDANCE APPOINTMENT

- At this appointment you will meet your **SCHOOL counsellor**
- Receive your Timetable (Class schedule) with classes
- Review ENG/MATH results, previous transcript (for PLEs)
- Review Ontario Secondary School Graduation (OSSD) requirements
- Review courses offered at your language level and/or grade level
  - Bring cash for Student Activity Fee (All students pay): Locker, Yearbook, Clubs
  - Ask about school tour, how to set up TDSB email and Clubs/Teams





### ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE - ESL

ESL placement is based on LEVEL OF ABILITY/COMPETENCY NOT by grade or age

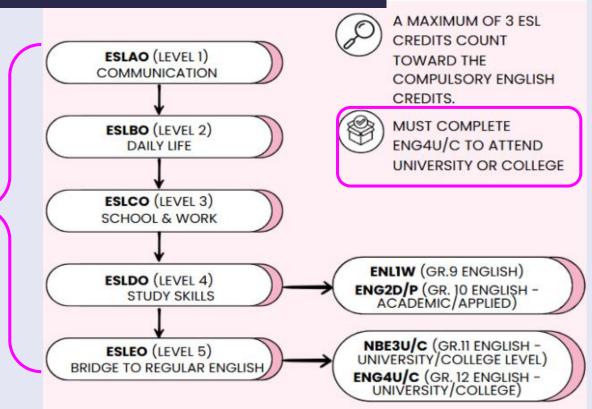
Can take up to 2 ESL/ENG courses per school year due to semesters (one per semester).





### **ESL PATHWAYS**

International Students usually start here



Planning to go to College/University?

To graduate/ Earn your OSSD (Diploma) You MUST earn:

-4 English credits -Complete: ENG4U (Univ) ENG4C (Coll)



### **Previous Learning Equivalency Credits**

What is PLE? This process involves a review of your grade 9, 10, 11, and/or 12 transcripts from outside of Ontario for Previous Learning Equivalency towards your OSSD diploma.

Who reviews? Home School guidance counsellor

When added? Once student has <u>successfully</u> finished a minimum of one semester in TDSB

Where documented? Transcript and Student Status Sheet

**Example:** Equivalency Credits PLE EQV 8





### **PLE Questions**

For more about your PREVIOUS LEARNING credits:

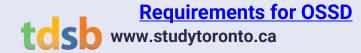






Graduation Requirements for OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma)

- 1. Minimum of **30 credits** including
  - -compulsory and elective courses across grades 9 12
  - -Any assigned PLE's are counted towards the 30 credits\*
- 1. Ontario **Literacy** Requirement (OSSLT Literacy Test/Course)
- 2. 40 **Community Service Hours** (Volunteering)
- 3. 2 **e-learning courses** (through e-Learning Department)
  - -or signed "opt out" form





### **New OSSD** Requirements 2011, 2010

#### LITERACY REQUIREMENT written in Gr. 10+

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

- ESLA-C do not write the test
- ESLD will write if in graduating position next year
- ESLE will write

or Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OLC4O)

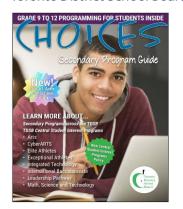
#### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

40 Volunteering Hours (see Blank Form)





Toronto District School Board



#### Technological Education (Grade 9 or 10)

- Technology and the Skilled Trades
- TAS10, TAS20

#### STEM related course

- Business Studies, or
- . Computer Studies, or
- Cooperative Education, or
- Mathematics (in addition to the 3 compulsory math credits)
- Science (in addition to the 2 compulsory science credits)
- Technological Education (in addition to the 1 compulsory tech credit)

Subject	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
English	1 (ESLA-C)	1 (ESLD-E)	1	1	4
French	1				1
Mathematics	1	1	1		3
Science	1	1			2
Geography	1				1
History		1			1
Arts		1			1
Phys. Ed.		1	l		1
Civics & Career		0.5 + 0.5			1
Technological Education		1			1
STEM related		1			1
Optional Credits			13		13
				1 TOTAL	30

### **OSSD Requirements**

2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005+

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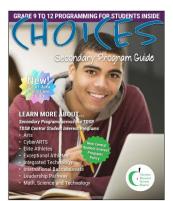
#### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**



40 Volunteering Hours (see Blank Form)



Toronto District School Board



#### Group 1

- English (additional credit)
- French as a second language or
- Social Sciences and Humanities or
- Canadian and World Studies or
- Guidance and Career Education or
- Cooperative Education

#### Group 2

- . Business Studies or
- · Health and Physical Education or
- Arts or
- · Cooperative Education or
- French as a second language

#### Group 3

- Grade 11 or 12 Science or
- Technological Education or
- Computer Studies or
- Cooperative Education or
- French as a second language

Subject	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
English	1 (ESLA-C)	1 (ESLD-E)	1	1	4
French	1				1
Mathematics	1	1	1		3
Science	1	1			2
Geography	1				1
History		1			1
Arts		1			1
Phys. Ed.	1		1		
Civics & Career		0.5 + 0.5			1
Group 1			1		1
Group 2			1		1
Group 3			1		1
Optional Credits			12		12
				1 TOTAL	30

### II. Ontario Secondary School Literacy Requirement

- The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is a computer-based test that measures whether students are meeting the minimum standard for literacy across all subjects up to the end of Gr. 9.
- Students write the OSSLT, in their Gr. 10 year (or higher),
  - except ESL A, B, C and D are normally "deferred" to write OSSLT in a later year to have more time to gain academic language proficiency across curriculum.
- Successful score is 70% (Level 3, or OSSLT scoreband of 300)
- If unsuccessful, students may attempt the OSSLT test the next school year, or may enrol in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OLC40).
- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)





### **III. 40 Community Service Hours**

- Purpose: to deepen an awareness for civic responsibility
- Gain new skills and connect to community
- Must be on the approved activity list (pg. 2 of form)
- Form or Letter to be completed by organization
- Submit form/letter to school's guidance department (or per school process), to be recorded in school system.
- For each semester or school year you were PLE'd for credits, you will also be PLE's for community service hours
  - ie. if you gained 8 PLE credits for grade 9, you will also be awarded 10 volunteer hours. <u>Community Service Form</u>





### IV. Online Learning Requirement

- New graduation requirement for secondary students
- Complete two e-Learning credits
- Promotes digital literacy and skills to support learning for success after graduating.
  - E-learning credits at TDSB are offered through night school and summer school at an additional cost to International Students (\$1500/course)
- If students do not have the opportunity to take an e-learning course, they may withdraw/opt out of this new requirement by completing the "opt out" form through school guidance dept.





### **Reading Course Codes**

#### BAF3M1

**BAF** 

The first three characters indicate the name of the course

3

The 4th character indicates grade

- 1 grade 9
- 2 grade 10
- 3 grade 11
- 4 grade 12

M

The 5th character indicates the level

O - open

W - destreamed

- D academic
- C college
- M mixed
- U university

1

The last character is the type of program

- 1- regular program
  - 8 ESL support
    - 0 AP





### 1st letter of course code = Subject Area

#### ESLDO8 MPM2D1 SBI3U1 TDJ4M1

- A = Arts
- **B** = Business
- C = Canadian and World Studies
- E = ESL & English
- F = French (FSF101 for Gr. 9 International students)
- G = Guidance course
- H = Humanities
- I = Information technology and Computer Studies
- M = Mathematics
- N = Natives course
- S = Science
- T = Technology





### **ATTENDANCE**

### Students <u>must be in school everyday | ABSENCES</u> MUST BE REPORTED TO SCHOOL BY CUSTODIAN

- Absences CUSTODIAN OR PARENT <u>must verify with an email or call school</u> before 9:00am and upon the student's return
- Unexplained Absence = phone call home by school
- 15 consecutive absences = can be demitted from school
- Chronic/multiple unexplained absences = can be demitted/denied renewal
- Planned absence = notify your school, teachers, counsellors \*form
- Students leaving during the day <u>MUST sign out in the main office with custodian/parental permission</u>
- See Student Handbook for more information





### **IRCC CUSTODIAN RESPONSIBILITIES**

- You are the LEGAL adult responsible for student
- You must be available for contact by school, student and homestay
- Regular and ongoing communication regarding student progress
  - Newsletters, emails, fact sheets, phone calls, letters
- Support student and school
  - Ensure that the student is attending all classes
  - Attend parent-interviews, school presentations, concerts
  - Help student prepare for school (sleep, nutrition)
  - Communicate with parents regularly
  - Escort student to any appointments medical
  - Monitor student's progress, check-ins about homework, tests etc.
  - You may request a meeting with the teacher at any time during the year
  - Make sure that your students renew and make payments on time

Join our Online Custodian Orientation on September 25, 2025 @ 6:00pm





### MEDICAL CONCERNS AND SCHOOL

- Toronto Public Health Resources/Information: https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/
- Immunization and up-to-date records
  - must be up to date and complete
  - measles, chickenpox, lice must be reported to the School office
  - fax immunization records to TPH (does not need to be translated)
- In case of Emergency (9-1-1)
  - maintain correct address & phone# (custodian / home) with school
  - provide additional emergency contact (name, number, email)
  - provide special medical history / medication details
- Long Term Illness, Allergies, and Medication
  - Refrain from bringing peanut products to school and heavy fragrance
  - Inform main office if you carry an EpiPen®
  - provide medical documentation (doctor's note) for illness more than 5 days





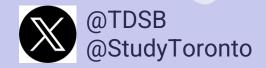
### REPORTING IMMUNIZATION



- Ontario requires that students be vaccinated against nine designated diseases or have a valid exemption: Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, Meningococcal, Pertussis (whooping cough), Varicella (chickenpox) – only applies to students born on or after 2010
- International students (16+) and/or the legal custodian must submit immunization records to Toronto Public Health (TPH) by regular mail, fax or email <a href="mailto:immunization@toronto.ca">immunization@toronto.ca</a>
- Immunization records do NOT need to be translated

ww.studytoronto.ca

- TPH will review immunization documents and notify by letter if information or vaccines are missing
- The letter will include instructions for "next steps", and TPH contact information
- If students do not comply with TPH about vaccine information in the timeframe provided, the Medical Officer of Health will issue suspension orders to the schools' principal







# LIFE AS A TDSB STUDENT

Schedule, Policies, Academics & Responsibilities





### **SCHOOL RESOURCES**



- Payment of School Registration Fee / School Activity Fee
  - Set up <u>School Cash Online account</u> once Student ID becomes available
- Agenda & Timetable
- Lockers provided, bring your own combination lock
- Student Photo ID card is also your TTC (Toronto Public Transit) Card
- Textbooks are provided
- Provide your own supplies (notebooks, pencils, pens, etc.)
- Contact with custodians and parents is common
- Parent nights, Curriculum nights, School performances....





## 2025-2026 School Year Calendar

#### **KEY DATES:**

Sept 2 - First Day of School

Dec 22 - Jan 2 - Winter Break

Jan 21 - Jan 27 - Sem 1 Exams (Secondary)

Jan 30 - Semester 2 Starts (Secondary)

Mar 16 - Mar 20 - March Break

Jun 17 - Jun 23 - Sem 2 Exams (Secondary)



#### KEY DATES – SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2025-2026

The official school year calendar for the Toronto District School Board runs from September 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, inclusive

Professional Activity Days	September	October	November	January	February	June
Elementary Schools	26	10	14	16	13	5, 26
Secondary Schools	26	10	14	29	13	25, 26

Designation of Profess	ional Activity Days
Elementary	Secondary
September 26, 2025 – Professional Development     October 10, 2025 – Professional Development     November 14, 2025 – Parent Teacher Conferences     January 16, 2026 – Assessment and Reporting     February 13, 2026 – Parent Teacher Conferences     June 26, 2026 – Assessment and Reporting     June 26, 2026 – Professional Development  Lest Day for Students – June 25, 2026	September 26, 2025 – Professional Development     Cotober 10, 2025 - Professional Development     November 14, 2025 - Professional Development     January 29, 2026 - Professional Development     February 13, 2026 - Professional Development     June 25, 2026 - Professional Development     June 26, 2026 - Professional Development

EQAO: - The following dates have been established:

Gr. 9 Math: TBD OSSLT: TBD

Gr. 9 Math: TBD Primary/Junior EQAO: TBD

Labour Day:	September 1, 2025
hanksgiving:	October 13, 2025
Winter Break:	December 22, 2025 - January 2, 2026
Family Day:	February 16, 2026
Mid-Winter Break:	March 16-20, 2026
Good Friday:	April 3, 2026
Easter Monday:	April 6, 2026
/ictoria Day:	May 18, 2026

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### **Student Panel**







#### **CLUBS & TEAMS at SCHOOL**

What are you interested in? Sports? Art? Music? K-Pop? Chess? Baking? Chances are your school will have a TEAM or CLUB that you can join!

Ask your home Guidance Counselor at your Registration appointment about opportunities at your school! It is a great way to:

- Stay healthy
- Get involved
- Make new friends
- Do something you love
- Have fun!







#### SECONDARY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Regular Daily Schedule	Day A (assigned to odd calendar days) e.g. September 7	Day B (assigned to even calendar days) e.g. September 8
9:00 - 10:20 a.m.	Class A*	Class B*
10:25 - 11:40 a.m.	Class B	Class A
11:40 - 12:40 p.m.	LUNCH	LUNCH
12:40 - 1:55 p.m.	Class C	Class D
2:00 - 3:15 p.m.	Class D	Class C

<sup>\*</sup> includes 5 minutes for opening exercises/announcements





# DAILY ROUTINE

- "O Canada", Land Acknowledgement & Announcements
- Bring healthy lunch not all schools have food service
- After School Activities include Sports, Clubs, Homework Help...
- Money/Valuables avoid bringing to school
- High School Classrooms Rotate by Subject
- Final Examinations and / or Culminating Assignments
- TDSB School Year Calendar for holiday dates, PA days, etc. https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/School-Year-Calendar



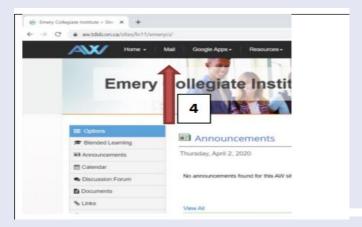


#### **CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY**

Access TDSB email and TDSB Google Drive through Academic Workspace at <a href="https://aw.tdsb.on.ca">https://aw.tdsb.on.ca</a>.

Enter your SCHOOL student number (9 digits) and password.

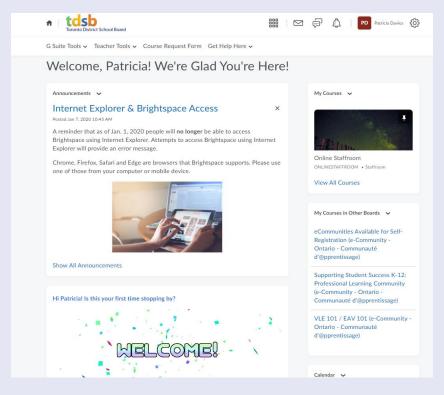








#### **BRIGHTSPACE**



- After logging in, you will be at your TDSB "My—Homepage" where you'll find links to all of your courses, system wide news and technical support information.
- OEN # school will generate Ontario
   Education Number first before you can access
   Brightspace.



#### **BRIGHTSPACE NAVIGATION BAR**



Use your TDSB email in order to access this!

Each Course Homepage has a Navigation Bar or Nav Bar.

The Navigation (Nav) Bar is customizable by your teacher. Ask your teacher for help!

You will likely find links to the Content, Discussions and Assignments.





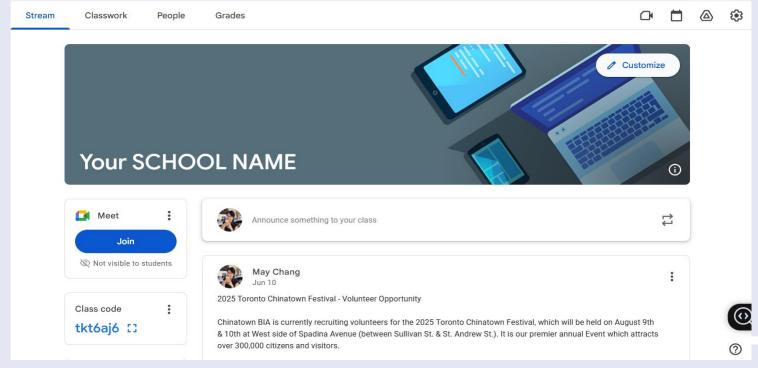
#### **GOOGLE CLASSROOM**

#### Use your TDSB email in order to access this!





# GOOGLE CLASSROOM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



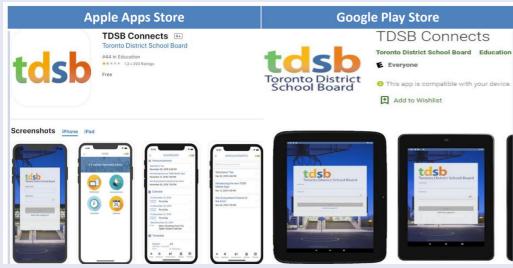


#### TDSB CONNECTS APP

Download the app at Google Play or Apple to access:

- My Day
- Announcements
- Timetable
- Calendar
- School Info
- School Resources

Use your TDSB email! Location setting: Canada







#### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Student expectations and responsibilities are clearly indicated in the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Code of Conduct, which applies to all students at TDSB.

Please review and understand the Code of Conduct in the student agenda which you will get when you register at your school, or review on your school's website.

It is also available on the TDSB - www.tdsb.on.ca

It is expected that students will:

- Be at school and be on time
- Be prepared to learn and accumulate credits
- Complete class work, homework, and assignments in a timely fashion
- Follow all school rules







#### **RESPONSIBILITIES & EXPECTATIONS**

- IRCC asks our office about your attendance when you renew study permit
- Let your parents know that it is common for your school to contact students' custodian and parents
- Get to know and use your school resources:
  - Library and extra-curricular activities (ranging from clubs, sports, support with OSSLT test, volunteering opportunities, etc).
    - Guidance counsellors (including GCIS)
    - Settlement workers
- Planning for your education is critical, consult one of the guidance counsellors.
- If you want to change your custodian or homestay, please discuss with your parents, and let your school know.





#### **HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL**

- Ask questions
- Make new friends
- Participate and try your best
- Volunteer
- Get extra help
- Speak to teachers, guidance counsellor, vice principal, principal





#### **SAFETY TIPS**



- Covid-19: Students are welcome to wear a medical mask at school (optional)
  - Toronto Public Health
- Parents, Guardians, Visitors must go to the school's office to 'Sign In' or 'Sign Out'
- Severe Weather
  - Bus or school cancellation, check <u>www.tdsb.on.ca</u> or local TV, Radio, Internet
  - Students remain in school until picked up
- Communication Record
  - Custodian and Emergency contact information (phone/email) must be correct!
- Change of Address must be given to:
  - International Students and Admissions Office
  - Your school



## **Protecting Yourself from Scams**



#### Always Be on Alert

- Unknown caller claiming to be from government agency or police
- Sense or urgency
- Threatening comments; asking for personal information or money
- Be Aware of what you post online
- Be Suspicious of urgent demands
- What to Do
  - Hang up the call, ignore text message, or scam email
  - Check with parent or legal custodian
  - If become a victim, report to bank or financial institution, contact local police, report to <u>Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre</u>
  - More information from <u>Government of Canada: Scams and Fraud</u>





#### REPORT BULLYING

- TDSB has strict anti-bullying policies
- TDSB is committed to creating a safe environment for all students
- Bullying online or in person will result in suspensions or expulsion from school
- If you are being bullied, talk to your teacher, parent, guardian or someone you trust and report it to the school right away.
- Remember: You are not alone!







WE HOPE THIS YEAR IS FULL OF WONDERFUL NEW EXPERIENCES!

**ANY QUESTIONS?** 



### **EXIT SURVEY**





