

New to Northern Parent Chat



Sept 2024 edition

Tonight's Presentation

1. Important Information

- The hatching of high school
- How high school is different from elementary school
- “Normal” Northern
- Where to get help - important people, guidance, special needs, teachers
- Where to get Information

2. Parent Experience

- How to make the transition smoother
- Options that may help
- Meet the parents
- Points of perspective
- Stay Connected
- Warning Signs

Important Information

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The “Hatching” of High School

- Students grow towards full independence (identity, responsibility)
- Students express their uniqueness - interests, people, strengths, weaknesses
- Parents become coaches and consultants

How is High School Different from Elementary School

1. STUDENT LED - initiative, independence, responsibility
2. Increasing workload, final exams, organization
3. Rotating classrooms
4. Expansion and exploration socially
5. Stress, peer and academic (grades count now and they can fail!)
6. Career planning

This is a “bigger pool” - the level of challenge and diversity will reveal students’ interests, capacity, and skills

“Normal” Northern

What is the “normal” culture?

1. Inclusivity/Diversity - a place for everyone
2. Creativity - opportunity for new ideas
3. Spirit - very engaged staff and students

What are typical activities for students to participate in?

- Extracurriculars and clubs, Fashion Show, Musical, UWay week, Walk-on Sports, Intramural Sports

What are regular events for parents to attend?

- Curriculum night, Parent/teacher interviews, Post-Secondary Planning, Course Selection

Key Northern Contacts

Principal- Adam Marshall - adam.marshall@tdsb.on.ca

Vice Principals (by last name)-

Karen Stelling - (A-G) - karen.stelling@tdsb.on.ca

Jessica Pearson - (H-O) - jessica.pearson@tdsb.on.ca

Joy Kim- (P-Z) - joy.kim@tdsb.on.ca

[Staff Directory 23-24](#)- click here to find your teacher

Who to Ask When You Have A Concern

1

Classroom Teacher

Questions about the class

Class rules & consequences

Homework & assignments

2

Vice Principal

Concerns about school

Student schedules

Student suspensions

Report card concerns

Classroom concerns

Code of conduct

Safety and security

3

School Principal

Budget & Fundraising

School Council

Connecting to Guidance

Make an appointment: <https://guidanceinterview.com/s/nss/>

Guidance Counselors (assigned by last name):

Kristen Beach, Kristen.Beach@tdsb.on.ca, X 20042 - Alpha Last Names: **A, F, P**

Jenny Sohn, Jenny.Sohn@tdsb.on.ca, X 20041 - Alpha Last Names: **B, C, E, I**

Deborah Poutissou, Deborah.Poutissou@tdsb.on.ca, X 20046 - Alpha Last Names: **D, G, J, T, Z**

Jennifer MacPhee, Jennifer.MacPhee@tdsb.on.ca, X 20045 - Alpha Last Names: **H, K, L**

Sean Magee-Saxton, Sean.Magee-Saxton@tdsb.on.ca, X 20043 - Alpha Last Names: **M, N, O, Q, R**

Melanie Stassis, C.L., Melanie.Stassis@tdsb.on.ca, X 20044 - Alpha Last Names: **S, U, V, W, X, Y**

Connecting to Guidance

Sign-up for the grade specific Google Classroom (with your student's TDSB email) for updates on academic planning, volunteer opportunities, and more:

Grade 9 Google Classroom code: bedkqks

Grade 10 Google Classroom code: x6sh4ue

Grade 11 Google Classroom code: 4ixv2jl

Grade 12 Google Classroom code: kmv6fcz

Special Needs

Amanda Kearney - Assistant Curriculum Leader, Special Education-
amanda.kearney@tdsb.on.ca

John Moyer- - Assistant Curriculum Leader, Gifted Special Education-
john.moyer@tdsb.on.ca

Heather Kessler - Curriculum Leader, DHH- heather.kessler@tdsb.on.ca

April Vibert- Student Success- april.vibert@tdsb.on.ca

TDSB Contacts

TDSB Superintendent, Ward 11: Jennifer Chan - Jennifer.Chan@tdsb.on.ca

The superintendent can help with unanswered questions, provide information about alternate attendance request or suspension appeals

TDSB Trustee, Ward 11: Rachel Chernos-Lin - Rachel.ChernosLin@tdsb.on.ca

Sign up to receive her newsletter or to write her to ask questions about the board, express concerns, etc. She also holds a regular virtual community coffee with parents in her ward.

TDSB Ward 11 PIAC representative: Janice Barnett

Northern Sources of Information

Adam's weekly email bulletin: Sign up with danielle.trotto@tdsb.on.ca

TDSB Northern website: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/northernss/>

[NSS Air](#) (School Announcements): Available at TDSB Northern or School Council site

[Extracurricular Clubs and Sports](#)

School Council Information Sources

We bring you news “for parents, by parents”

School Council website: nsscouncil.com

School Council email updates: nss.school.council@gmail.com

School Council

Want to learn more about what is happening at Northern? Want to help?

- Come to a social event - we have ongoing, casual events for parents to meet parents.
- Attend our meetings to get updates from the council and principal and ask your own questions!
- Elections happen every October. Get involved to help support student success.
- Join a school council committee (Budget, Gifted, Website, Social, and more).

Details for all of these are on our website: nsscouncil.com!

Parent Experience

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How to help your child transition smoothly

1. Go to the orientation and tour the school
2. Discuss course selection with your student
3. Meet with teachers early and check-in regularly
4. Set up a study routine and environment
5. Explore extracurricular activities
6. Support your student to make social connections
7. Make parent connections yourself
8. Teach and encourage self-advocacy
9. Get some sleep!!!!

Options that may help

Summer school - TDSB, TCDSB

Reach Ahead - happens through summer school, night school, saturday school options. NSS prioritizes graded students in graded classes, therefore cannot guarantee reach ahead classes even with summer school/night school completion.

Private Credit options - can fill in gaps or help reach ahead to allow scheduling options

Fifth Year - allows further exploration of new directions or build lagging skills. Not all students are approved. See Guidance if you have any questions.

STEP, OYAP, COOP - bridge into job opportunities and apprenticeship programs

Points of perspective

- About 80% of students end up changing their major in post-secondary studies
- About 30% of students drop out after first year of post-secondary studies
- Our high school report cards are largely forgotten
- Everyone has a different timeline for their development, even within different skills in the same person! They may not peak in high school.
- “We do not build our lives on remediated weaknesses.” Blow the embers of strengths into flame

Stay connected with your student

- Be curious - ask questions gently but specifically
 - “Tell me more”
 - “What is it like...?”
- Offer suggestions and availability
 - “I wonder...”
 - “Let me know if you need help”
- **ABOVE ALL, YOU ARE SAFE WITH ME**
 - I love you no matter what
 - We are all growing all the time
 - Learning and achievement are not limited to academic environments
 - Spend time together that doesn't have to do with work

Things to watch for with your student

- Areas of self-motivation
- Strengths beyond academics
- Balance of “buckets” (connection/loved, productive/work, restorative/play)
- Falling behind in work
- Erratic class attendance (tardy, absence)
- Poor sleep
- Limited social engagement
- Stress, anxiety (escapism, argumentative, dishonesty)
- Seasons