

January 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9 is an exciting time for students and their families. Grade 9 program selection for September 2018 will be made in **January** and **February**. Final course selection will take place on line via My Blueprint. Courses offered at secondary school will be listed on My Blueprint and on the course selection sheet. Student course selection is a process finalized by students, parents/guardians in consultation with classroom teachers and Elementary Guidance Counsellors.

Parents/guardians in collaboration with their child make the final decision when choosing course types by reviewing the course selection sheet for their child's secondary school, determined by address. Signed course selection sheets are then returned to the grade 8 homeroom teacher by Monday, February 5th. A copy will be given back to the students.

The course selection sheets will then be used to facilitate the on line registration on My Blueprint. Students can log onto My Blueprint at home or at school in order to complete the registration process. A print out of the My Blueprint online registration, signed by a parent, is to be handed in to the student's grade 8 homeroom teacher to indicate that registration is complete by Tuesday, February 20th.

If a student is accepted through optional attendance to another school, the student should know by February 16th. A student who wishes to accept the optional attendance offer should fill out a course selection sheet for the school and return it to the Elementary Guidance Counsellor. The student should then register on My Blueprint for that school.

The Ministry of Education has developed three primary types of core courses in Grade 9 and 10: **Academic, Applied, and Locally Developed Compulsory Credits**. Mathematics, English, Science, French and Geography are offered at both the Applied and Academic course type. Locally Developed courses are offered in Mathematics, English and Science. Courses such as Physical Education, and Business, which have a set of expectations appropriate for all students and are not designed with the specific requirements of university, college or the workplace in mind, are offered as **Open** Courses.

Academic courses develop students' knowledge and skills through the study of theory and abstract problems. These courses focus on the essential concepts of a subject and explore related concepts as well. They incorporate practical applications as appropriate (OS, Section 7.2.1).

Applied courses focus on the essential concepts of a subject and develop students' knowledge and skills through practical applications and concrete examples. Students are given more opportunities to experience hands-on applications of the concepts and theories they study. Familiar situations are used to illustrate ideas, and students are given opportunities to experience hands-on applications of the concepts and theories studied. (OS, Section 7.2.1)

Locally Developed Compulsory Credit (LDCC) courses have been developed to meet students' education needs not met by the existing provincial curriculum. Courses currently available in Grade 9 include: English, Mathematics and Science. (OS, Section 7.3.1) Families are encouraged to visit the ***Beyond 8 Interactive Guide*** for students, parents & guardians online at: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Going-to-High-School/Beyond-8> to find very important information about high school and to assist students and families with the course selection process.

Please note that the timelines for the 2018 Course Selection are as follows:

February 2, 2018: Application for Optional Attendance forms due at secondary school(s) no later than 4pm
February 16, 2018: Deadline for families to be informed of the status of their Application for Optional Attendance
February 5th: Course Selection sheets due
February 20th: My Blueprint Signed Registration Form due

**Applications and due dates for Specialized Programs are shared at the High School Information evenings and are determined by the Individual Secondary School. Please contact the high school Guidance Department if you have any questions or for additional information.*

Sincerely,

LC1 Elementary Itinerant Guidance Counsellor