

THE HODGSON WELCOME PACKAGE

Hodgson Middle School

282 Davisville Avenue

Toronto M4S1H2

(416) 393-0390

<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/hodgson>

@TDSB_HodgsonMS



Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year at Hodgson Middle School. The entire staff is excited to work with you this year.

Hodgson is a school that prides itself on high academic achievement. We create a learning environment that supports the individual growth of students. Teachers work in teams to design activities that reflect the curriculum and that are engaging and relevant for all students.

Hodgson offers many extra curricular activities that engage the interest of our diverse group of learners. Our activities include music groups, sports teams, student government, social justice groups, arts and crafts groups, and many more. We encourage all students to participate in extra curricular activities.

All students and their parents are encouraged to read and review the Hodgson Welcome Package. We hope you have a great year here at Hodgson.

Homeroom Teachers

Mr. Stamatopoulos, Grade 6
Mr. Tarleton, Grade 6
Mr. Lynch, Grade 6
Ms. Choudhury, Grade 6
Ms. Fyrrar, Grade 6
Ms. Relleve, Grade 6
Ms. McBurney, Grade 6
Ms. La Forest, Grade 7
Mr. Handelsman, Grade 7
Ms. Tassone, Grade 7
Mr. Tozer, Grade 7
Ms. Deboran-Hotrum, Grade 7
Mr. Pugh, Grade 7
Ms. Stewart, Grade 7
Ms. Noda, Grade 7
Mr. Jones, Grade 8
Ms. Buzadi, Grade 8
Mr. Spraggs, Grade 8
Mr. Mrkich, Grade 8
Ms. Propser, Grade 8
Mr. De Marco, Grade 8
Ms. E. Cheng, Grade 8
Ms. Carette, Grade 8

Rotary Subject Teachers

Ms. M. Cheng, Science & Tech
Mr. Culakovski, Math, Phys. Ed.
Ms. Grossman, French
Mr. Minta, Phys. Ed.
Ms. Williams, Math

Lunchroom Supervisors

Ms. Grandic
Ms. Mousa
Mr. Colyn

Guidance

Ms. McBride

Caretaking

Mr. Burnfield
Mr. Sutherland
Mr. Soto Galicia

Office Staff

Ms. Colyn, Office Administrator
Ms. Boroomand, Office Assistant
Ms. Campbell, Vice-Principal
Mr. Wilson, Principal

MISSION STATEMENT

Hodgson Senior Public School is committed to promoting a love of learning and preparing students to become lifelong learners with the ability to adapt to change.

We believe every student and staff member should be committed to encouraging a positive sense of self-worth and an appreciation, understanding and respect of all cultures and beliefs. Responsible citizenship is the cornerstone of Hodgson, helping to ensure it is a safe, nurturing, positive and respectful learning community.

Hodgson staff and students are encouraged to develop to their fullest potential. Parents, students, staff, and the community work in partnership to create a safe, caring and challenging learning environment.

DAILY PROGRAM

Hodgson offers a Homeroom and Rotary program for students. Grade 6 homeroom includes Language, Social Studies, Health, and the Arts. Rotary subjects for Grade 6 are French, Math, Music, Science and Technology, Physical Education and Fitness. Grade 7 and 8 Homeroom includes Language, Drama, History and Geography. Rotary subjects for Grade 7 and Grade 8 include Math, Science & Technology, French, Music, Visual Art, Dance, Health, Physical Education and Fitness.

Hodgson has an Extended French Program for students in Grade 6, 7 and Grade 8. Students come from the Extended French program at Eglinton Public School. French Language, History, Geography, Visual Arts, Dance & Drama are all instructed in French.

ATTENDANCE AND SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students as it supports continuity of the program and promotes success in academic and social areas. Students who arrive late to school in the morning, after lunch or are late to a rotary class must report to the office to get a late slip. Parents will be notified by our telephone system. *****If you know your child is going to be away or late please call or email our Office staff to let us know.***** Hodgson Safe Arrival line: (416) 393-0390. Office staff email: (Please copy both) sandy.colyn@tdsb.on.ca & sahar.boroomand@tdsb.on.ca

The Toronto District School Board's (TDSB) Safe Arrival Program uses an automated call-out system that will attempt to contact you if your child is late or absent on the day where the school was not previously informed. The system calls the home and cell numbers of parents and emergency contacts who are designated by you as priority 1 or priority 2. The systems makes these calls for the morning attendance period and also for the afternoon attendance period. If your child is late, the system will call in the evening.

When you receive a call, please listen to the entire message and follow the prompts to confirm your child's absence. If the system doesn't get a confirmation, it will move on to the next contact until it gets a confirmation of your child's absence. The order for the calls is: Priority 1's home number, Priority 1's cell number, Priority 2's home number, Priority 2's cell number. If there is no still no confirmation, the entire process is repeated 3 more times in 10 minute intervals.

If you know your child will be absent, please call the school at (416) 393-0390 or email both Sandy.Colyn@tdsb.on.ca and Sahar.Boroomand@tdsb.on.ca before the absence starts. If you do this, no calls will be made. [More information on the TDSB's Safe Arrival Program](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

LATE POLICY

Students who are late on a regular basis risk missing a significant amount of school work. If a student is going to be late because of an appointment parents are asked to call the school. These lates will be excused.

Students who are late first thing in the morning or at lunch will need to sign in at the office. They will receive a late slip.

Students who have numerous lates or absences in a term will have their parents contacted, may have school-based consequences and/or may have further follow up with TDSB staff.

SCHOOL HOURS

8:55 a.m.	Entry Bell
9:00 a.m.	Morning classes start
11:38 a.m.	Morning classes end
Lunch 11:38 a.m. – 12:28 p.m.	
12:28 p.m.	Student Entry
12:33 p.m.	Afternoon classes start
3:11 p.m.	Afternoon classes end/ End of Regular School Day
4:00 p.m.	Final Dismissal

Students who have completed all assignments and followed school expectations are dismissed at 3:11 p.m. Students with incomplete work or concerns following expectations may be asked to work at school until 4:00 p.m.

ENTRY AND DISMISSAL ROUTINES

Upon entry to the school, students proceed directly to their locker to gather all books and materials required for the morning or afternoon classes. **Hats, skateboards, scooters and any valuable items must be left in lockers.** Students who arrive late must enter the school via the main doors on Davisville Avenue and report to the office.

When travelling between classes students are to walk calmly in the halls. **They are not permitted to go to their locker between periods.** At the conclusion of the day, students will proceed to their lockers and exit the school in a safe and orderly manner.

APPROPRIATE CLOTHING POLICY

Hodgson's Appropriate Clothing policy is designed to promote a learning environment that is safe, nurturing, positive and respectful. At Hodgson appropriate clothing:

- Is respectful of others in the school community
- Does not bear inappropriate words, slogans or images
- Does not conceal your identity
- Covers all undergarments and body parts typically covered by undergarments
- Covers the body so that underwear, buttocks, chest or cleavage is not revealed

Students wearing clothing that violates the school's Appropriate Clothing Policy will be asked to change. *The Appropriate Clothing Policy does not apply to religious, cultural or similar forms of attire. The Appropriate Clothing Policy does not restrict, in any way, a student's right to dress in a manner that is prescribed by religious, cultural, ethnic or similar tenets and customs.*

USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Hodgson supports and promotes the use of informational technology to increase the academic achievement of our students. Students can use the computers and laptops purchased by the school. They are also welcome to use their own devices (known as BYOD: Bring Your Own Device). The TDSB and Hodgson policy is that personal electronic devices (PED) may be used during instructional class time **only with teacher permission** and **only for educational purposes**. All PEDs must be powered off (not on silent mode) and put away during all instructional times (9:00 am to 11:38 am & 12:33 to 3:11 pm) unless a teacher has given permission for educational use. Teachers follow a progressive discipline pathway with students who do not follow this policy (e.g., instruct student to turn off the PED, private discussion, classroom-based consequences, confiscation until end of day, conversation with parents, referral to Principal/Vice-Principal, etc.)

SKATEBOARDS, LONGBOARDS, SCOOTERS AND BIKES, etc.

Many students like to ride their skateboard, longboard, scooter or bike to school. However, once on school property or on the sidewalk in front of the school students are required to walk their bike/scooter or carry their skateboard/longboard. **Please, no riding on school property.**

Bikes/Scooters should be locked outside the school. Bikes are not permitted to be stored inside the school. Only scooters that fold are permitted inside the building.

Skateboards, longboards and folding scooters must be stored in a student's locker.

Hodgson and the TDSB does not take responsibility for any lost, damaged or stolen skateboards, longboards, scooters or bikes. Parents and students are reminded that Davisville and Mount Pleasant are very busy roads. Students should be very careful when travelling to and from school.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

The Toronto District School Board has launched School Cash Online, an easy to use, safe and convenient way for parents/guardians to pay for their children's school fees, including agendas, yearbooks and class trips. School Cash Online is now available for use at Hodgson Senior Public School.

All school fees applicable to your child will be posted on School Cash Online. Once you register, you can choose to purchase the items or activities using a debit or credit card. You will be able to see when the school has a new item posted online for purchase and you will also have the option to be notified whenever your child has a new school event requiring payment.

To register for School Cash Online, please visit <https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com> select "Get Started Today" and complete the three registration steps. If you have questions about the registration process or using School Cash Online, please select the "Get Help" option on the top of School Cash Online web page.

Once registered, you will receive an email notification when items become available online.

SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

All school staff members are expected to hold everyone to the highest standard of respectful and responsible behaviour. As role models, school staff shall uphold these high standards by:

- helping students work to their full potential and develop their sense of self-worth;
- empowering students to be positive leaders in their classroom, school, and community;
- communicating regularly and meaningfully with parents;
- maintaining consistent standards of behaviour for all students;
- demonstrating respect for all students, staff, parents, volunteers, and the members of the school community;
- preparing students for the responsibilities of citizenship

Students are to be treated with respect and dignity. In return, they shall demonstrate respect for themselves, for others, and for the responsibilities of citizenship by:

- coming to school prepared, on time, and ready to learn;
- showing respect for themselves, for others, and for those in authority;
- refrain from bringing anything to school that may compromise the safety of others;
- following the established rules and taking responsibility for their own actions
- exercising self-discipline;
- accepting such discipline as would be exercised by a kind, firm and judicious parent;
- being courteous to fellow pupils and obedient and courteous of teachers;
- showing respect for school property;
- understanding and complying with their school's code of conduct

Parents play an important role in the education of their children and have a responsibility to support the efforts of school staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. Parents fulfill their role by:

- showing an active interest in their child's school work and progress;
- showing respect for the Principal and school staff;
- communicating regularly with the school;
- helping their child to be neat, appropriately dressed and prepared for school;
- ensuring that their child attends school regularly and on time;
- promptly reporting to the school their child's absence or late arrival;
- showing that they are familiar with the Code of Conduct, the Board's Code of Conduct and school rules;
- encouraging and assisting their child in following the rules of behaviour;
- assisting school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child.

RESPONSES FOR POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

- Increased responsibility and self-worth
- Positive recognition by staff, students and parents
- Participation in co-curricular activities
- Eligibility for school awards of excellence

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PRACTICES

The Toronto District School Board supports and promotes a Progressive Discipline approach to managing student behaviour. Progressive Discipline is a whole-school approach that utilizes a continuum of interventions, supports, and consequences to address inappropriate student behaviour and to build upon strategies that promote positive behaviours.

If inappropriate behaviour occurs, disciplinary measures will be applied within a framework that shifts the focus from one that is solely punitive to a focus that is both corrective and supportive.

Progressive Discipline interventions may include:

- Discussions with a teacher, member of the support staff, vice-principal or principal
- Attendance/performance/behaviour contracts
- Time Out
- Reflection Sheet
- Parental contact and involvement in applying an appropriate remedy
- Loss of privilege to participate in specified school activities
- Peer mediation
- Individual or group counseling
- Detention
- Restitution for damage or stolen property
- Community service
- Restorative Practices
- Formal interventions (please see Chart of Consequences for Inappropriate Student Behaviour in the agenda).

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

TDSB Policy requires that all visitors report to the office upon arrival at the school and sign in. If you wish to meet with a teacher or visit a class, please arrange a time that is convenient for both.

STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES

Student activity fees in the Toronto District School Board are voluntary amounts that are used to supplement a student's school experience through materials and activities such as student agendas, student recognition programs, yearbooks, extracurricular activities, school dances, or theme days. Fees raised for school purposes are to complement and not to replace, public funding for education. Any fees charged should reflect the actual cost of the services or materials being provided to the student.

Here are some of the student activity fees you can expect at Hodgson:

September Activity Fee: Gym Uniform, Student Agenda & Combination Lock (approximately \$30.00)

Grade 6 Trip: (approximately \$200.00)

Grade 7 Trip: (approximately \$300.00)

Grade 8 Graduation Trip: (approximately \$450.00)

Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony, Dinner and Dance: (approximately \$50.00)

Attend and Perform at MusicFest (Concert Band, Stage Band or Wind Ensemble): (about \$100.00)

Field Trips, Excursions, Educational in-class Presenters: (costs vary)

LOCKERS

Lockers are provided for all students at school. Locker combinations will be kept for all students by the office. It is expected that students treat the lockers with respect. Students will be encouraged to clean their lockers on a regular basis. **The lockers are school property and may be opened by school administration.** Students are required to use the lock provided by the school in September.

VALUABLE PERSONAL ITEMS

Students are encouraged to leave valuable personal items at home as the school cannot assume responsibility for lost or stolen items. **In the past, we have had thefts of individual student property.**

LOST AND FOUND

The school maintains a "Lost and Found" box in the school's front foyer. Students and parents are encouraged to check regularly for lost items. At the end of each term, the articles in this box will be displayed so that all students and parents have a final opportunity to claim lost items. Unclaimed items are donated to a charitable organization. Please label your child's clothing, boots, shoes, school bags and lunch boxes.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips will be planned by teachers to support their classroom curriculum. Trips within walking distance of the school are part of the daily program. If field trips involve funding or transportation, descriptive letters are sent home with a sign-back portion. All forms and money are collected by homeroom teachers. When whole-school trips are planned, all students are expected to participate. Students are expected to follow the school's Code of Conduct on all trips.

TEXTBOOKS, LIBRARY BOOKS AND SUPPLIES

Students need to take responsibility for their learning materials. Respect for school property and school material is an expectation for the entire school community. Lost or damaged textbooks, library books, musical instruments and classroom materials are costly to repair or replace. In cases of irresponsibility or willful damage, parents/guardians will be informed so replacement costs can be arranged.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Hodgson offers students a diversity of extra-curricular activities that support students in developing their talents and interests. These include team sports, opportunities for music ensembles, student leadership and a variety of clubs/activities. All students are encouraged to take part in these activities. Participation privileges may be withdrawn in cases where behaviour, attitude or academic effort is not satisfactory.

LUNCH PROGRAM

During the lunch hour, students have two options. They may, with parental permission, leave school property for the lunch period (to go home, to eat somewhere in the community, etc.) or they may participate in our supervised lunch program offered to all students. Parents who are interested in the program must fill out a registration form that will be sent home through the classroom teacher early in September. Consistent misbehaviour by a student in the supervised lunch period may result in the loss of this privilege.

STUDENTS WITH LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES OR MEDICAL ALERT CONDITIONS

If your child has or develops life-threatening allergies (anaphylaxis) and/or medical alert conditions please inform the school immediately. We will require your child's doctor to provide up-to-date information and any change to diagnoses and the medications that your child is taking. We will provide you with an Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan form for your child doctor to complete.

If an epinephrine auto-injector (epi-pen) is prescribed, please provide one for us to keep in the office or ensure that your child has it at all times, if recommended by the doctor.

We keep this medical and anaphylaxis information in the office, but we also share it with school staff and occasional teachers so everyone is aware.

TDSB CONCUSSION POLICY

A concussion is brain injury that causes changes in the way the brain functions and can lead to symptoms that can be physical (e.g. headache, dizziness), cognitive (e.g. difficulty focusing, irritability), and/or related to sleep (e.g. drowsiness, difficulty falling asleep); and/or social. Most concussions occur without a loss of consciousness. More information about concussions and brain injuries can be found on the Ontario Ministry of Health's website: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/concussions/>

The TDSB Concussion Policy requires that parents inform the Principal/school of any concussions or suspected concussion and also seek medical attention/diagnosis in the event of a suspected concussion. The school will require a physician to be part of the Return to Physical Activity and Return to Learn Process. This involves follow up visits with the physician to assess the student's recovery and to provide medical recommendations to support the student's recovery.

If your child has a suspected concussion at school or any another location, you will be asked to bring her or him to a physician. Your child's progress, recovery and any medical recommendations will be recorded on the TDSB's Return to Physical Activity form, which will be provided by office staff.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Hodgson's Homework Policy is supported by the Toronto District School Board's **Homework Policy**. Completion of homework for middle school students can contribute to improved student achievement. Homework assignments for completion, practice, preparation or extension for students in Grades 6, 7 and 8 shall be clearly articulated and carefully planned, in partnership among homeroom and rotary teachers.

No homework will be assigned on scheduled holidays as outlined in the school year calendar or on days of significance.

We believe that:

- Hodgson students should spend 60 minutes or less completing homework.
- Flexibility and balance of homework needs to occur depending on individual needs of students, homework or tests in other subject areas.
- Reading for pleasure should occur for an additional 20 to 40 minutes outside of school time

All assigned homework will fall into one of these categories:

1. Completion of assignments and classroom work.
2. Preparation for tests, quizzes, projects and upcoming lessons.
3. Practice, application and review of specific skills.
4. Extension of classroom experiences to enrich student understanding and knowledge.

Homework is reported on only the *Learning Skills Section* of the Elementary Provincial Report Card as a part of *Independent Work and Homework Completion*. In order for the homework to be an effective extension of the school program, teachers, families and students share the responsibility for developing and maintaining good homework practices.

Teachers:

- Provide homework that is clear, meaningful, purposeful and understood.
- Monitor and provide feedback on homework for future learning.
- Communicate with parents if homework is not being completed.
- Co-ordinate major tests and/or assignments to ensure work is frequent but not overload students.

Students:

- Ask for help if homework assignments or expectations are not clear.
- Complete homework regularly.
- Assume appropriate responsibility for homework completion.
- Discuss with teachers tasks/assignments missed due to absence.

Families:

- Provide encouragement and appropriate support for their child.
- Show interest in their child's schoolwork and progress.
- Maintain regular contact with the teacher and communicate directly if there are concerns about the volume or content of homework.
- Website Resources:
 - Math Tutoring: www.homeworkhelp.ilc.org
 - Music Theory: www.musictheory.net
 - General academic information www.khanacademy.org

At Hodgson, we believe that every student can reach high levels of achievement, a positive sense of self-worth and acquire values to become respectful and responsible members of our community and society.

CONNECTING WITH HODGSON STAFF

We believe on-going communication is an important part of the Parent and Teacher relationship. Our staff are always ready to have conversations (telephone or in person) to discuss any questions or concerns their parents may have.

Without an educational background or knowledge of current and effective teaching practices, parents can find it challenging to have a full understanding of the work that our teaching staff do. If you have a question or a concern about a teacher-related matter (programming, assessment, your child's progress, etc.), please connect directly with the appropriate teacher.

You can connect with our staff by telephone at (416) 393-0390 or by e-mail using their TDSB addresses. Our teachers use Google Classroom and Twitter feeds to keep their students and their parents up to date on assignments, homework and other class information. All of this information can be found on the school's website: <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/hodgson>

STUDENT EVALUATION

Hodgson Senior Public School is committed to providing a comprehensive academic program that maximizes student learning and meets the needs of all its students. The staff works collaboratively to design activities that reflect the Ontario Curriculum and that are engaging and relevant for the adolescent learner.

A variety of assessment tools are used by staff to ensure an accurate and authentic evaluation of their students.

Flexibility and accommodation for individual student learner needs will be addressed through consultation amongst teachers, students and parents.

Students are evaluated on their highest, most consistent level of achievement of the curriculum expectations or strand.

Students are expected to:

- Complete and hand in all assigned work.
- Discuss concerns or problems with their teacher.
- Strive for their best at all times.

HODGSON GRADE 8 GRADUATION AWARDS

Principal's Cup - Awarded to the overall top academic student

Principal's Award for Student Leadership – Recognizes students who excel in the area of leadership

Hodgson Honour Award - Recognizes students who add positively to the Hodgson school community in a unique way not demonstrated by other Hodgson students.

Rauda Dickinson Citizenship Award – Recognizes students who excel in the area of citizenship

David Ehrlich Athlete of the Year Award –Recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding achievements in athletics

Proficiency Awards – Recognize the top academic students (by class)

Most Improved Student – Recognizes students outstanding progression during school year (by class)

Subject Awards – Recognizes academic excellence by students in the following areas:

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Language Arts | • Geography | • Performing Arts |
| • French Language Arts | • Science & Technology | • Drama |
| • Core French | • Mathematics | • Visual Arts |
| • History | • Music | • Physical Education & Health |

All academic award recipients, in addition to achieving academic excellence, must actively demonstrate the responsible citizenship outlined in our school mission statement. We also acknowledge academic achievement by term through our Honour Roll. Students on the Honour Roll achieve an average of 80% or more. Students on the Honour Roll with Distinction achieve an average of 90% or more.

KEEPING YOUR CONTACT INFO CURRENT

It is very important for us to maintain accurate and up to date records for the contact information of all our parents. Each September we send a **Student Data Verification Form** for you to review. Please review this form, update the information if anything has changed and return it to the school.

During the school year, if you move, change your home/business number, your emergency contact person, or any other vital information, it is critical that you inform the school office staff.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The Hodgson School Advisory Council is made up of parents, teachers and community members. The executive is elected yearly at the first General Meeting of the school year. The meetings take place on the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Staff Room. Please visit the school council's webpage: <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/hodgson/SchoolCouncil.aspx>

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

We use email to send school information directly to you. There are two methods that we use. One is TDSB's School Connects email system. School Connects uses the email addresses entered into our Trillium database. We use this system for school announcements for the whole school or for announcements for a specific group of parents (e.g., Grade 7 parents).

We also send a regular email newsletter, called The Hodgson Update. To subscribe to the Hodgson Update, please go to the Hodgson Update page on our school's website.

(<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/hodgson/TheHodgsonUpdate.aspx>)

Hodgson also maintains an informative website at <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/hodgson> and has an active Twitter feed @TDSB_HodgsonMS

HODGSON EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In early September, administration and staff will review with student the different emergency procedures of the school. These procedures include lockdown, hold and secure and fire drills. Several times over the school year we will practice these emergency procedures with the students.

LIBRARY

The library is a central meeting place for students at Hodgson, where they have access to a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction titles, plus a mini-lab of computers and laptops. The library is timetabled throughout the school day for class visits. The school's library website is a portal to an online encyclopedia, a periodical database and a bibliography generator, among other research tools. To access the School Library Website, visit Hodgson's website at <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/hodgson> The Library twitter feed is @hodgsonlibrary






TDSB VIRTUAL LIBRARY



Connect to your TDSB Virtual Library in school and from anywhere online for news/magazine/journal articles, eBooks, streamed video, images, recommended websites/tools and more, to answer questions, solve problems, tackle projects and have fun.

There are 3 ways to find your Virtual Library when outside of the TDSB network, choose the one that works for you:

1. <http://www.tdsb.on.ca> – Find your school (top nav bar) – School name – Virtual Library link (left nav bar)
2. **Search** on the Internet for “school name TDSB Virtual Library”
3. <http://aw.tdsb.on.ca> – sign in with student/employee number and network password –My home tab (top nav bar) – Virtual Library (left nav bar)

Virtual Library Resources (look for read-a-loud, translation, images, video, citation, persistent link features)			
	Library Catalogue	Search your school library. Login with your TDSB network account and check to see what you have borrowed, find and read eBooks, find and view streaming video.	
	Encyclopedias	A great place to start when you want to find out about almost anything	
	Article databases	Find current news/magazine/journal articles, topic overviews, and information written for students from hundreds of sources, in one simple search.	
	Media images, video, audio	Streaming video, images, and music for projects, for homework and for personal interest.	
	eBooks	Fiction and non-fiction eBooks for school assignments or for pleasure	
Use Login/Password when using the Virtual Library outside of the TDSB network			
Resource Name (format/type)	LOGIN	PASSWOR	DESCRIPTION

		D	
BookFLIX (eBooks)	tdsb	trillium	Fiction/non-fiction paired texts, 12 themes, elementary
Britannica Online (encyclopedia)	trillium	trillium	Start here for all subjects, 3 reading entry points, K to gr 12
Canadian Encyclopedia (encyclopedia)	no password needed		Start here for all subjects related to Canada, gr 5 to 12, ENG/FR
Canadian Literary Reference Centre (article database)	trillium	trillium	Canadian writers, English, drama, gr 7 to 12
Canadian Points of View (article database)	trillium	trillium	Current issues, Canadian point of view/perspective, gr 6 to 12
Canadian Reference Centre (article database)	trillium	trillium	Current information, Canadian content, gr 6 to 12
Capstone (eBooks)	trillium	trillium	Ancient civilizations, science, health, quick reads, gr 3 to 10
Career Cruising (database)	<i>Ask your Guidance Department</i>		Career information, gr 7 to 12
Culture Grams (database)	trillium	trillium	Countries, provinces, culture/maps/images/statistics, K to gr 12
Curio CBC (streaming media) <i>also see Educator Resources for teacher home access</i>	in school access for students		Streaming media, Canadian content, current issues, gr 7 to 12, ENG/FR
Encyclopedie Universalis Jr AND Sr (encyclopedias)	trillium	trillium	French language, two reading levels, read-aloud, gr 4 to 12, FR
Explora (article database search interface)	trillium	trillium	Searches multiple EBSCO article databases at the same time
Follett Shelf (eBooks)	student #	student #	Junior/Intermediate fiction books, biography, gr 1 to 12
Global Issues in Context (article database)	trillium	trillium	Global topics, overviews, articles, video, gr 7 to 12
Gale Virtual Reference Library (eBooks)	trillium	trillium	All subjects topic overviews, reference, e-books, gr 7 to 12
History Reference Centre (article database)	trillium	trillium	World, Ancient Civilizations, Explorers, European, gr 7 to 12
InfoBase e-Books (eBooks)	trillium	trillium	Science topics – e-books, gr 6 to 12
Jobs People Do (database)	TDSBjpd	TDSB	Careers, experiential learning, co-op, articles, videos gr 7 to 12
Learn 360 (streaming media) <i>also see Educator Resources for teacher access</i>	elem	elem	Streamed media, all subjects, K to 12
Literary Reference Centre (article database)	trillium	trillium	English, drama, gr 7 to 12
Naxos Music Library (streaming media)	trillium	trillium	Music, English, drama, public speaking, gr 5 to 12
NoveList K to 8 (article database)	trillium	trillium	Choosing fiction books. What to read next... K to gr 9
OERB <i>also see Educator Resources for teacher access</i>	tdsbstudent	tdsb	All subjects – lessons, tutorials
PebbleGo -Animals, Earth & Space (database)	trillium	trillium	Animals, Science, environment, K to gr 4
Primary Search (article database)	trillium	trillium	Wide range of topics for elementary students

Imagine the Learning/Research Success (research)		tdsb rearch	Helpful guides for inquiry /research projects, gr 1 to 12
Research Success in French (Liens français)		recherch etdsb	Helpful guide for inquiry /research projects gr 7 to 12, FR
Science Reference Centre (article databases)	trillium	trillium	Science, health, geography, gr 6-12
TABvue (eBooks)	tdsb	trillium	Canadian information, social studies, Gr 4-10, ENG/FR
Teen Health & Wellness (article database)	tdsb	trillium	Mental, physical health, teen issues, self-help, gr 7 to 12
EDUCATOR RESOURCES for TDSB staff Teaching Resources (bookable/streaming media, kits), classroom resources, Prof. Library resources, etc.	Find passwords and access information - bit.ly/tdsbstaffVL Professional Library eBooks (ASCD, Follett, EBSCO, Proquest); streaming media (CBC Curio FR/ENG & Learn 360 etc.); Les Plan FR/ENG classroom resources, STEM, OERB, OSAPAC resources and more.		

Use Login/Password when using the Virtual Library **outside of the TDSB network.**
PASSWORDS MAY NOT BE POSTED ELECTRONICALLY OUTSIDE OF THE TDSB NETWORK.



Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year

As we begin a new year, I would like to welcome all TDSB students back to school. I'm looking forward to an exciting and successful year ahead, and I hope that you are too.

At the TDSB, we are committed to supporting each and every student by providing conditions that encourage achievement and well-being for all. I hope that you will take advantage of every opportunity available to you and get involved in all that your school has to offer.

During these intermediate school years, you will be introduced to a variety of new concepts that will help you narrow down your focus as you start planning your pathway of learning. It is an exciting time to discover new interests, explore new ideas, and find and follow your passions.

Remember that your school has a network of supports in place to help you when you need it. We also want to hear from you about how we can better support your achievement and well-being. Your voice matters and can make a difference in your school, so please reach out to your principal, teachers and school staff to share your perspective and experiences.

I wish you all the best in the year ahead.

John Malloy
Director of Education

Vision for Learning

As Canada's largest school board, we are always looking for ways to improve our system so that all students, staff, parents/guardians and members of the community feel connected, involved and supported. That's why we have a strategy to improve the effectiveness of our schools, make us more responsive to the needs of our communities, and increase student achievement and well-being. Learn more about the TDSB's Vision for Learning by visiting www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/DirectorofEducation/VisionforLearning.

Integrated Equity Framework

Ensuring that we provide each and every student with the conditions that support achievement and well-being is a key part of the TDSB's Vision for Learning. With the Integrated Equity Framework, the TDSB has taken a great stride forward to support student achievement with a renewed, strategic focus on equity. This approach focuses on classrooms, schools and local communities where real change happens for students. To learn more, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Equity.



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School Year Calendar

The first day of classes for all students is September 5, 2017.

The last day of classes for elementary students is June 28, 2018.

The last day of classes for secondary students in full year schools is June 26, 2018.

The last day of classes for secondary students in semestered schools is June 27, 2018.

Professional Activity Days

Elementary

- October 6, 2017
- November 17, 2017
- December 1, 2017
- January 19, 2018
- February 16, 2018
- June 8, 2018
- June 29, 2018

Secondary

- October 6, 2017
- November 17, 2017
- December 1, 2017
- February 1, 2018*
- February 16, 2018
- June 27, 2018*
- June 28, 2018
- June 29, 2018

Semester change: The first day of the second semester is **February 2, 2018.
Secondary school year calendar includes a PA Day for semestered schools only on **February 1, 2018** and a PA Day for full-year schools only on **June 27, 2018**.*

Statutory Holidays

Labour Day:	September 4, 2017
Thanksgiving:	October 9, 2017
Christmas Break:	December 25, 2017 – January 5, 2018 (inclusive)
Family Day:	February 19, 2018
Mid-Winter Break:	March 12 – 16, 2018
Good Friday:	March 30, 2018
Easter Monday:	April 2, 2018
Victoria Day:	May 21, 2018

Severe Weather

On rare occasions, severe weather conditions may require the TDSB to cancel student transportation, classes and/or programs or even close schools. Should a cancellation or closure be necessary, information will be posted on the TDSB website and social media profiles, and will also be provided to local media by 6 a.m.

In the event of severe or rapidly deteriorating weather conditions, please remain at home if possible. It is also important that your school has an emergency telephone number.

If weather conditions become extreme after students are in school, a decision to close schools will be made by 11 a.m. and broadcast by noon. In this case, students will remain supervised in the school until they are picked up by a parent or parent designate. If there is no announcement about school closing by noon, schools will remain open for the day.

For more information on our severe weather procedures, please visit:
www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/SevereWeather



Caring and Safe Schools

The TDSB is committed to promoting positive school climates. School climate refers to the learning environment and relationships within a school community. A positive school climate exists when:

- All students, parents and staff members feel safe, comfortable and accepted;
- Healthy and respectful relationships are promoted among all members of the school community;
- Students are encouraged to be leaders and positive role models;
- Parent and community members are actively engaged;
- Positive behaviour is reinforced;
- Students are given opportunities to develop relationships that are free of discrimination and harassment;
- There is a culture of high expectations to help students reach their full potential; and,
- Diversity is respected and valued.

Creating Positive, Healthy and Accepting Schools

Creating positive, healthy and accepting schools requires a whole-school approach involving all members of the school community. All students, teachers, parents and other school staff have the right to be safe and to feel safe in their school community. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate. Student engagement, participation in extra-curricular activities and character development are important in fostering a positive school climate that supports student achievement and well-being. It is also important that all members of the school community feel comfortable and confident in sharing their perspectives and identifying any issues or concerns that can be addressed to improve school climate.

Bullying

The TDSB takes bullying seriously. Bullying will not be accepted on school property, at school-related activities, on school buses or in any other circumstances where the behaviour will have a negative impact on the school climate.

The definition of bullying (including cyber-bullying) is aggressive and typically repeated behaviour (physical, verbal, electronic, written or by other means) by a pupil where:

- (a) the behaviour is intended by the pupil to have the effect of, or the pupil ought to know that the behaviour would be likely to have the effect of:
- (i) causing harm, fear or distress to another individual, including physical, psychological, social or academic harm, harm to the individual's reputation or harm to the individual's property; or,
 - (ii) creating a negative environment at a school for another individual; and,

(b) the behaviour occurs in a context where there is real or perceived power imbalance between the pupil and the individual based on factors such as size, strength, age, intelligence, peer group power, economic status, social status, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, family circumstances, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, disability or the receipt of special education.

Cyber-bullying is bullying by electronic means, including:

- (a) creating a web page or a blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person;
- (b) impersonating another person as the author of content or messages posted on the internet; and,
- (c) communicating material electronically to more than one individual or posting material on a website that may be accessed by one or more individuals.

A key part of bullying prevention is educating students on responding in the moment should they be faced with harassment or bullying. Students are encouraged to stop the harassment, name the harassment, explain the impact, ask for a change in future behaviour and report it.

Gender-Based Violence

The Gender-Based Violence Policy (P071) states: “Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is any aggressive action that threatens safety, causes physical, social or emotional harm and denigrates a person because of his or her gender identity, perceived gender, sexual identity, biological sex or sexual behaviour.”

GBV includes putting someone down because of what their body looks like, how they express themselves, how they identify, who they like or who they are attracted to, making homophobic comments, using sexist language or making comments that value one gender over another, or engaging in aggressive sexualized behaviour such as relationship violence and sexual assault.

All staff are required to respond to and report any gender-based violence. The Gender-Based Violence Prevention Office is available to staff and students and offers resources, intervention, school-based programming, education and referral support.

If you think you may have experienced or witnessed some form of gender-based violence or if you would like to see specific programming in your school, speak with your child’s school Principal, teacher or guidance counsellor immediately.

Attendance

The Toronto District School Board recognizes that regular attendance and arriving on time at school contribute to academic success. The safe arrival, attendance and well-being of all students continues to be a priority and is everyone’s responsibility. To this end, an Attendance Policy and Procedures for both elementary and secondary school students have been established that include the close tracking and monitoring of student arrival and attendance, as well as the implementation of timely interventions that comply with Ministry policies and follow best practices. The Education Act stipulates that all children from the age of six to eighteen must attend school.

Code of Conduct

The TDSB Code of Conduct sets out clear standards of behaviour. These standards apply to students whether they are on school property, on school buses, at school-related events or activities or in other circumstances that may have an impact on the school climate. They also apply to all TDSB staff, parents, volunteers and community groups. For more information about the Board Code of Conduct (PR585) or your school's Code of Conduct, please contact your school Principal.

In addition, the TDSB provides specific guidelines and expectations for the use of personal communication devices, school board computer systems and student behaviour on excursions and at athletic events.

Code of Online Conduct

The Code of Online Conduct (PR571) protects the rights and safety of students and staff who use online systems and resources, including all material that is accessed through a TDSB computer or telecommunications network. All TDSB rules apply when using its computers and connections, and the Board has the right to monitor their use.

Some important tips:

- Never give out information online that someone could use to find you in person.
- Never give out information about anyone else without their permission.
- Never share your personal password with anyone.
- Never try to impersonate someone else or use another person's account.
- TDSB computers are not to be used for any purpose that is illegal, pornographic, hateful, threatening or is obviously offensive to an individual or group. If a message, a picture or anything else you see on the computer makes you uncomfortable, tell your teacher immediately.
- Report any computer damage that happens by accident or on purpose.
- Misuse of computers, telecommunication equipment, and their connections can result in disciplinary action, which may include legal or police action.

The Student and School Codes of Conduct apply to social media. Always think before posting online. The digital footprint you leave behind can stay on the internet forever.

See the complete TDSB Code of Online Conduct (PR571) at www.tdsb.on.ca/Students

Technology in Schools

Technology is used in classrooms to engage, enhance and support student learning. The TDSB is focused on enabling more technology-based learning tools by adding Wi-Fi in schools to help improve student learning in the digital age.

Students may choose to bring their own devices to school (such as smartphones and laptops). This can be an important way for parents and caregivers to stay connected and engaged with their child's learning, as well as a way to connect, when necessary.

It is important to make sure that technology is used responsibly, does not interfere with learning, and respects the rights of others at all times. To learn more, speak to your teacher or Principal.

Social media can enhance learning and networking for the future when used in a positive way, but don't forget that online behaviour matters. As part of digital literacy, students will be taught strategies to engage responsibly on social media platforms.

Know Your Rights

Every student has the right to feel safe and welcome at school. Everyone has the right to be treated with respect, dignity and understanding.

If you hear, see or experience:

- name calling or threats;
- unwelcome remarks or slurs;
- obscene gestures or jokes;
- unwanted touching or sexual bullying;
- online harassment;
- derogatory or offensive materials;
- threats of outing someone;
- intimidation or physical violence; or,
- anything else that negatively affects an individual or group, call the Student Safety Line.

Religious Accommodation

Students needing accommodations for religious observances or spiritual practices should speak with their school Principal or Vice-Principal. Verbal or written communication from a parent/guardian/caregiver is required, specifying needs relating to religious or spiritual observances, including holy days the student is expected to be absent from school. Please provide this information early in the year to ensure that scheduling of tests, assignments or exams can take religious observances into consideration.

Incident Reporting

Recent changes to the Education Act require all school staff to report serious incidents that could lead to suspension or expulsion (see chart on following pages) to their Principal and that the Principal notify parents of victims and alleged perpetrators when a student has been harmed. Staff who work directly with students must respond to serious incidents and inappropriate or disrespectful behaviour among students.

Progressive Discipline

When dealing with inappropriate student behaviour, the TDSB promotes the use of progressive discipline. When inappropriate student behaviour occurs, schools should use a range of interventions, supports and consequences that are both corrective and supportive in nature. These should be developmentally and socio-emotionally appropriate and include learning opportunities for reinforcing positive behaviour while helping students to make better choices.

KidsHelpPhone.ca
1 800 668 6868

Kids Help Phone

Student
SAFETY LINE



416-395-SAFE(7233)
416-620-9711(TTY)

www.tdsb.on.ca/safetyline

Chart of Consequences of Inappropriate Student Behaviour

1.	Uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person*	1–19 Days		x
2.	Possessing alcohol or illegal drugs*	1–19 Days		x
3.	Being under the influence of alcohol*	1–19 Days	x	
4.	Swearing at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority*	1–19 Days	N/A	N/A
5.	Committing an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property at the pupil’s school or to property located on the premises of the pupil’s school*	1–19 Days		x
6.	Bullying*	1–19 Days	x	

* Any activity listed in section 306(1) motivated by hate, bias or prejudice based on the prohibited grounds of the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) and gender identity and expression will be considered suspendable under section 310(1) of the Education Act.

1.	Willful destruction of school property; vandalism causing damage to school or Board property or property located on school or Board premises*	1–19 Days	x	
2.	Use of profane or improper language*	1–19 Days	N/A	
3.	Use of tobacco*	1–19 Days	x	
4.	Theft*	1–19 Days	x	
5.	Aiding or inciting harmful behaviour*	1–19 Days	x	
6.	Physical assault*	1–19 Days	x	
7.	Being under the influence of illegal drugs*	1–19 Days	x	
8.	Fighting*	1–19 Days	x	
9.	Possession or misuse of any harmful substances*	1–19 Days		x
10.	Extortion*	1–19 Days	x	
11.	Inappropriate use of electronic communications or media devices*		x	
12.	An act considered by the school’s Principal to be a breach of the Board’s or school’s code of conduct*	20 Days	N/A	N/A
13.	Immunization			

* Any activity listed in section 306(1) motivated by hate, bias or prejudice based on the prohibited grounds of the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) and gender identity and expression will be considered suspendable under section 310(1) of the Education Act.

Chart of Consequences of Inappropriate Student Behaviour

SUSPENSIONS PENDING POSSIBLE EXPULSION	Principal May Issue Suspension	Notify Police	
		May	Shall
In accordance with Board Policy and Section 310. (1) of the <i>Education Act</i> : Principal shall issue a suspension pending possible expulsion, and then conduct an investigation within five (5) school days. Following the investigation, confirm the suspension, shorten the suspension, withdraw the suspension, or refer to the Board for a hearing.			
1. Possessing a weapon, including a firearm	1–20 Days		x
2. Using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person	1–20 Days		x
3. Committing physical assault on another person that causes bodily harm requiring treatment by a medical practitioner	1–20 Days		x
4. Committing sexual assault (refer to Board Policy P.045: Dealing With Abuse and Neglect of Students)	1–20 Days		x
5. Trafficking in weapons or illegal drugs	1–20 Days		x
6. Committing robbery	1–20 Days		x
7. Giving alcohol to a minor	1–20 Days		x
7.1 Bullying if,	1–20 Days		x
i. the pupil has previously been suspended for engaging in bullying and,		x	
ii. The pupil’s continuing presence in the school creates an unacceptable risk to the safety of another person.			
7.2 Any activity listed in section 306(1) motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or any other similar factor	1–20 Days	x	x
1. Possession of an explosive substance	1–20 Days		x
2. Sexual harassment	1–20 Days	x	
3. Hate-motivated occurrences	1–20 Days		x
4. Distribution of hate material	1–20 Days	x	
5. Racial harassment	1–20 Days	x	
6. An act considered by the Principal to be a serious breach of the Board’s or school’s code of conduct	1–20 Days		x

Student Achievement and Well-Being

Homework

Homework is an important part of every student's school experience and encourages good study habits at an early age. School staff, teachers, students and families all play key roles in supporting homework. Positive and open school-home partnerships and communication ensure students have the support they need to be successful.

The TDSB Homework Policy (P036) is written based on current teaching and learning practices, research, student census data and consultation with parents, educators and the community. The policy balances the time required to complete homework with extra-curricular activities and other activities that support personal and family wellness.

Grades 7 to 8 (guidelines from Homework Policy P036)

Completion of homework for intermediate students can contribute to improved student achievement. Homework assignments for completion, practice, preparation or extension for students in Grades 7 and 8 shall be clearly articulated and carefully planned in partnership with core and rotary teachers. Homework should take one hour or less.

Virtual Library

Your school's Virtual Library provides 24/7 access to online resources (e.g., eBooks, videos, encyclopedias, databases, curated links) for all types of learning. Find the link at www.tdsb.on.ca/findyour/school on your school's website. Remote access passwords are available from your school's teacher-librarian.

Planning Your Pathway - A World of Choices

Moving from elementary to secondary school is a big milestone. The middle school years are an exciting time as students begin to think about their future. Parents/guardians and teachers offer support as students begin to make choices, explore options and prepare for secondary school and beyond.

TDSB offers a broad range of inspiring secondary programs and learning opportunities for every student's strengths, interests and career goals. In Grade 8, students and their parents will receive information packages to guide them through the transition to high school and secondary schools host parent information nights beginning in late fall.

Literacy and Numeracy Programs

Elementary students who require support with reading, writing or math can attend this program to improve their skills and understanding. Occurring outside of the regular school day, classes are small and focus on acquiring the tools and confidence students need to be successful. Through this summer program, all students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 can enhance numeracy and literacy skills through creative, active and locally-driven programming. For more information, please contact your child's school.

Student Councils

All TDSB schools with Grade 7-12 students are required to have a student council that is democratically elected. Student councils represent the voice of the student body of each school and seek to promote student leadership and engagement. Speak to your Principal to find out details for your school.

Student Super Council

The Student SuperCouncil is a group of 24 democratically elected students, including two Student Trustees, who work on advocating for the students in the TDSB. SuperCouncil allows the student voice to be heard in the Boardroom. In addition, it facilitates the communication between the Boardroom and all students in the TDSB and provides opportunities that foster student leadership. Its mandate is to provide consistent, responsive representation of all students and to help ensure students' needs and interests are met. For further information and to meet the Executive members visit www.tdsb.on.ca/Students/SuperCouncil.

Secondary Night and Summer Programs

TDSB offers night and summer school for secondary students and adults who want to earn credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

For more information, please visit www.CreditPrograms.ca

Field Trips and Excursions

Field trips are great learning opportunities. To ensure a safe, enjoyable experience for all participants, students need to follow the TDSB Code of Conduct and the expectations of their school while they are off school property during trips and athletic events.

For more information, please refer to the **Excursion Policy (P033)**.

Code of Behaviour for Athletes

It is important for student athletes to promote positive social behaviours and attitudes. The Code of Behaviour for Athletes describes expectations for students who take part in TDSB-approved sporting events:

- Compete for the enjoyment of the game and the pursuit of individual and team excellence;
- Strive to understand, respect and follow the rules of the game at all times;
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and fair play;
- Conduct yourself with honour, dignity and self-control;
- Appreciate the efforts of your teammates and opponents;
- Be generous in victory and gracious in defeat;
- Show respect for authority and decisions of coaches, staff and officials;
- Respect athletic facilities and property;
- Respect the rights of opponents, teammates and spectators on both sides;
- Refrain from the use of profanity, taunting, threatening actions and violence at all times;
- Behave in accordance with all TDSB policies; and,
- Immediately report all suspected concussions to their coach/staff advisor.

Student Accident Insurance

The TDSB does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that take place on school property or during school-approved activities. For information on how to purchase student accident insurance coverage, visit www.insuremykids.com.

For overnight excursions, the TDSB also offers a travel insurance program. Travel insurance is mandatory for out of country excursions and optional for in-country excursions. For further information, visit www.insuremykids.com/TDSB/.

Finding Help When You Need It

Research shows that as many as one in five children and youth experience emotional stress that can make it hard to focus on school work. Students struggling with feelings of depression, anxiety, anger or confusion are not alone.

Our Children and Youth Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy focuses on decreasing stigma, increasing understanding and awareness, and providing students, parents and staff with the tools they need to identify concerns and know what to do when they, or someone they know, needs help.

Please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/MentalHealth for more information on our plan for building *Healthy Schools. Healthy Relationships*.

School social workers and attendance counsellors understand and are here to help students overcome obstacles to success. Whether personal, family or school related, concerns can range from bullying to substance abuse or from questions about sexuality to difficulty adapting to a new culture. We offer a wide range of services that include individual or group counselling, as well as helping students connect with community resources. In addition, we build on students' strengths to enhance their ability to live mentally healthy lives.

To connect with your school social worker, speak to a teacher, advisor, guidance counsellor or your Principal.

Create an Allergen-Safe Environment

For anaphylactic students, allergies to peanuts and peanut products can cause serious health concerns. Many schools are peanut-free zones to protect children with allergies. If you are allergic to something that may be present in the school, or if you need to be given special medication throughout the day, speak to your Principal to discuss arrangements.

Exposure to perfumes and other scented products can trigger serious health reactions in those with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. Please be considerate of others who share the learning environment with you and reduce the use of fragranced products in your school.

Immunization for Students

Ontario children are required by law to be immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus and polio, as well as for pertussis (whooping cough), meningococcal disease before age six and chicken pox for children born in 2010 and later. Students between the ages of 14 and 16 require one needle for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. The TDSB provides student information, such as gender, grade and Ontario Education Number, to Toronto Public Health so they can successfully administer immunizations to students.

Learn more at Toronto Public Health at www.toronto.ca/health or call the Toronto Public Health Immunization Information Line at **416-392-1250**.

Vision Testing is Important

Good vision and hearing play an important role in a student's ability to learn. Regular vision and hearing examinations are part of being ready for school. Vision testing is covered by OHIP to age 19 and hearing tests up to age six. Please contact your family physician or 211 Toronto to find an optometrist or audiologist.

Getting Involved in Your School Community

Parents, guardians and families play a critical role in their child's education at every age. Getting involved with the school community is a rewarding way to support your child's learning. There are many opportunities for parents and families to get involved, including:

Home and Classroom Participation

Connecting and communicating with the teacher is a great way to be engaged with the classroom and get information on teaching and learning strategies, curriculum and data on your child. Parents/guardians are encouraged to stay in regular communication with the teacher. Please contact the school/teacher to find out the most appropriate way to do so.

Participating in the Local School Council

All schools in the TDSB are required to have a school council. Parents/guardians are important members of the school council and may make recommendations to the Principal of the school or to the Board on any matter. Contact the Principal for information.

Volunteering Within the School

All volunteers must have a Police Records Check prior to volunteering. A request form for a volunteer police records check can be obtained from the Principal. The cost is \$20 and is paid for by the volunteer however, Principals and school councils also have the discretion to assume the cost from their budgets.

Taking Part in the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)

PIAC is a committee of parents who advises the board on any parent-related matter. Parents/guardians interested in getting involved in PIAC should contact their local Trustee or PIAC at www.torontopiacc.com

Supporting our Multi-Lingual Community

TDSB students speak over 80 languages and come from almost 175 countries. Our schools are responsive to the needs of students/families new to Canada who may require help adjusting to life in a new country. For information on settlement services or interpretation and translation supports, contact **416-397-3529**.

Communicating Concerns

The TDSB Parent Concern Protocol (PR505) is a tool for parents to address school and classroom concerns. The protocol confirms the responsibility of the Principal, Superintendent of Education and the Trustee in providing advice, direction or decision making when a parent has a concern. Visit www.tdsb.on.ca to view the protocol.

To learn about parent involvement opportunities, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/Community, call **416-397-3529** or contact your school.



Supporting Families and Communities

International Languages Elementary and African Heritage Programs

In an increasingly global world, learning languages and cultures benefits our students today and helps them build skills for the future. Through our International Languages and African Heritage programs, 30,000 students learn in more than 50 languages. Join us!

For more information, please visit www.ILPrograms.ca or call **416-338-4100** for more details.

Adult English as a Second Language Program

TDSB is proud to be Canada's largest English as a Second Language (ESL) provider. Through our programs, in communities across the city, learners strengthen their English language skills, gain insight into Canadian culture, prepare for further education and learn about the settlement, employment and community services available to them. We also offer a certified training program for those who want to teach ESL.

For more information, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/AdultLearners/LearnEnglish

Adult High Schools

TDSB's five adult high schools support more than 12,000 learners to find a career pathway and meet their academic goals every year, in addition to offering a wide variety of credits for those who want to earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Some adult high schools also offer credit programs during the summer.

For more information, please visit www.AdultSchoolsToronto.ca

Adults can also earn credits in night school. For more information, please visit www.CreditPrograms.ca

Learn4Life General Interest Courses and Seniors' Daytime

Take up a hobby. Hone a skill. Meet new people in your community. Through Learn4Life, TDSB offers more than 2,600 courses – ranging from dance, to bicycle repair, to languages – every year. Join the 30,000 adult learners in our daytime, evening and weekend classes.

For more information, please visit www.Learn4Life.ca or call **416-338-4111** for more details.

Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) Program

LINC helps newcomers learn English and assists them in the settlement process and integration into Canadian society. Classes are free and run throughout the year, part-time and full-time, and some locations offer evening and weekend classes. Most locations provide child care services.

For more information about LINC classes, visit www.LINCtoronto.ca and contact the location nearest you.

North: **416-395-4820** | South: **416-393-8268** | East: **416-396-7815** | West: **416-394-6232**

Essential Skills Upgrading Program

This is a free non-credit, adult program that helps you improve your reading, writing and math skills, as well as your employability and workplace skills. Classes are available in many locations in Toronto from September to June, Monday to Friday, on a full-time or part-time basis, during the day or in the evening.

For more information, visit www.upgrademy skills.ca or call **416-396-6905**.

TDSB Community Services

Reaching beyond schools to support the community, TDSB offers settlement, employment, language and skills development programs to support adults, youth, newcomers and people with disabilities. There are locations in Toronto, Mississauga and Vaughan.

For more information, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/communityservices.

www.tdsb.on.ca

