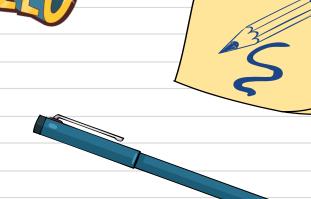


# Arpi Kurkjian





Currently Jr/Inter Resource
Teacher at Avondale and
previously Guidance
Counsellor at Avondale
Schools

### Goals For This Presentation Are:

- Inform families on how to make a smooth transition from Grade 8 to 9
- To help families to make informed decisions for Grade 9
- To become aware of the many the pathways and possibilities available in TDSB



### What Do You Need to Know?

#### Students need to know:

- What kind of learner they are
- What are their passions.
- What are their interests.
- What are their goals.
- What is available out there.
- How they are going to meet their goals.

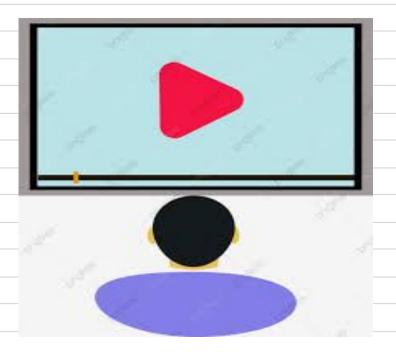


This is all called education/career/life planning!

In myBlueprint, we will do some research to help answer some of these questions.



## Some Things About High School



### Where is Your Home High School?

Every address is connected to a high school in the TDSB. Here is how you find your

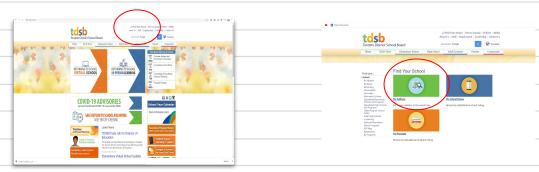
home high school.

Go to the TDSB home page

Click on "Find Your School"

Click on "By Address"

Type in your street name





### Your Home High School by Address

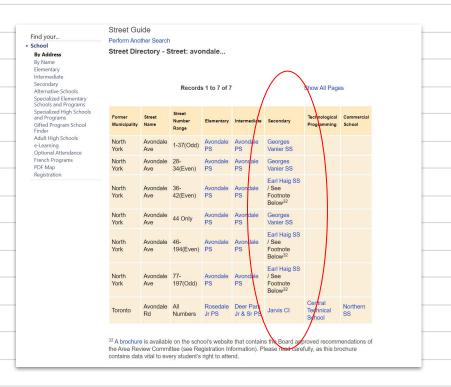
Your exact address will determine your child's home high school.

Once you know your high school, click on the blue hyperlink to learn more about it.

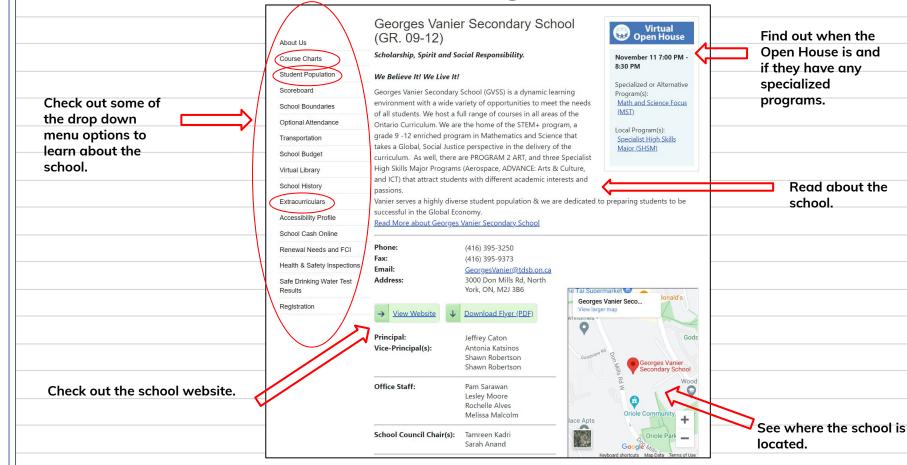
This is the high school your child is entitled to go to.

Note: The words high school, secondary school and collegiate are used interchangeably.

They mean the same thing!



Learn About Your Home High School



## Compulsory Courses in High School

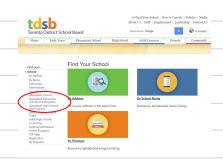
Gr 9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	
English	English	English	English	
Math	Math	Math		
Science	Science			
Geography	History			
French	Civics/Careers			
Phys. Ed				
Art				
Business/ Technical				

### Other High School Opportunities - Specialized

#### Now to look at other options.

Go to "Find Your School"





• Go to Specialized High Schools

#### and Programs

Here you will see a long list of specialized schools your child can apply to (they should have a real passion for it). These programs will need students to write an entrance exam, or do an audition, plus submit a package. Each program will have different expectations for their packages, so students have to go to their individual website to find out. All the due dates are different.

 Love them all? You students can only apply to <u>two</u> in the TDSB, even if they are in the same category or at the same school.

### More Options - SHSMs

<u>Specialized High Skills Majors</u> (SHSM) is an extra certification while completing high school diploma. Students decide on a "major" and take 8-10 courses in that area in Grades 11 and 12.

In order to register into a SHSM, you just have to be a student at the school.

In Gr 10 students apply to the particular SHSM they are passionate about .

Students should see if your home high school has a SHSM they are interested in.

If not, you can apply to a school outside your area under

"Optional Attendance". (This does not guarantee getting in )

Go to "Find Your School"

- -> "Specialized High Schools"
- -> "Specialized High Skills Major"



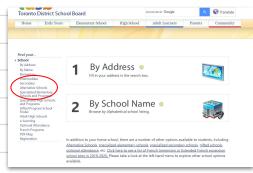


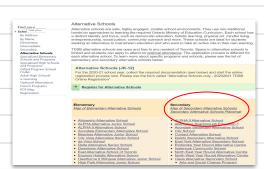
More Options - Alternative High Schools

<u>Alternative high</u> schools offer a different environment for students compared to the traditional high school.

Some students don't thrive in the large composite school setting.

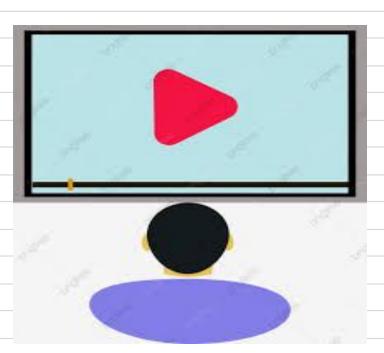
- Small class sizes but limited extra-curricular activities
- Most start for students in Gr 10 or Gr 11
- Each alternative high school is different





## Optional Attendance

<u>Optional Attendance</u>



### Optional Attendance Form



1 copy: To Parent/Guardian when decision is made 1 copy: To TDSB Home or Sending School

#### For Specialized Schools

- Need to complete for application package
- Don't leave it to the last minute!
- You can only apply to 2 specialized schools

#### For Regular/Alternative High Schools

- List of high schools accepting students out of area becomes available at the end of the first week of January 2022
- You can apply to 2 regular high schools outside your area
- Don't leave it to the last minute!
- You are responsible to get it to the high school before the end of January 2022

## Things to Think About When Looking at Schools

- •The range of subjects and programs offered in each grade
- Semester and non-semester schedules
- "Composite" schools and "Alternative" schools
- •The size of the school big or small settings
- The range of extracurricular activities, clubs and sports offered
- •The supports available for English Language Learners and students with special education needs
- Location from your home address
- •Where do you want to go? Why?





### Semestered

#### Pros/Cons

Only 4 courses at a time

Sept - Jan; Feb - June

Same students/teachers everyday

Everyday

One night to complete work

Fast paced

Fewer exams at the end of the semester

### Non-Semestered

#### Pros/Cons

All 8 courses all year long

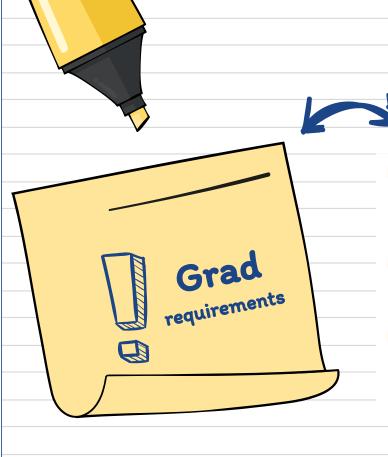
Same students/teachers all year long

Alternating days

Two nights to complete work

More time to understand work

Many exams at the end of the year



### **Ontario Secondary School Diploma** (OSSD)

- Total of 30 course credits
  - 18 compulsory courses12 elective courses
- 40 Hours Community Involvement
  - Begins in summer after Grade 8
- Ontario Literacy Requirement
  - Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

### **Courses and Credits**

In order to receive a credit for a course the student must:

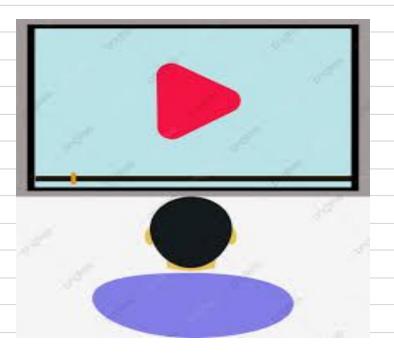
- Get 50% or higher
- Attend class to fulfill the hour requirements

Sounds easy. For most students it is very doable.



For some time management, attendance issues, not completing homework, and the newness of high school can make it a struggle to pass.

## Ontario Secondary School Diploma



## Compulsory Courses in High School

Gr 9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	
English	English	English	English	
Math	Math	Math		
Science	Science			
Geography	History			
French	Civics/Careers			
Phys. Ed				
Art				
Business/ Technical				

### **Community Hours**

#### What is Community Hours?

11 12 1 10 2 10 3 8 4 10 5

- Giving back to the community
  - o non-profit organizations e.g., Kids Help Phone, school, neighbour
  - 40 hours
- Can start collecting the hours July 1, 2022
- Record info on form that students can download from the TDSB website
- Students have 4 years to complete, but I recommend that the bulk is done before Gr 11
- Go above and beyond the minimum; it can open doors for students

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### **OSSLT**

#### **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test**

- It is comparable to the Language component of the EQAO in elementary
- Taken in Gr 10
- If an ELL student, the teacher will decide if the student is ready to take it
- If a student does not pass the OSSLT in Gr 10, they have to take it again





## English Language Learners

Students who are English Language Learners (ELL)

Learn oral language relatively quickly

- SUCCESS
- Studies show that it takes a person 5-7 years to learn academic language skills (school level reading and writing)
- If ESL is recommended for the student, consider the benefits (support in other academic subjects as well e.g., Geo, Sci)
- Statistically students who have taken ESL in high school have succeeded in Gr 12 regular English courses and beyond, because they have the foundational skills for success

## Special Education Support

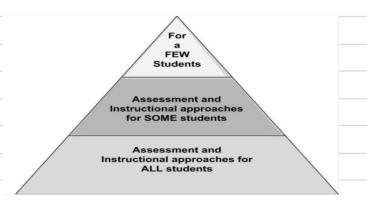
#### What is a special education program?

- o continuous assessment and evaluation
- plan with specific objectives
- outlines educational services that meet
   the needs of the student

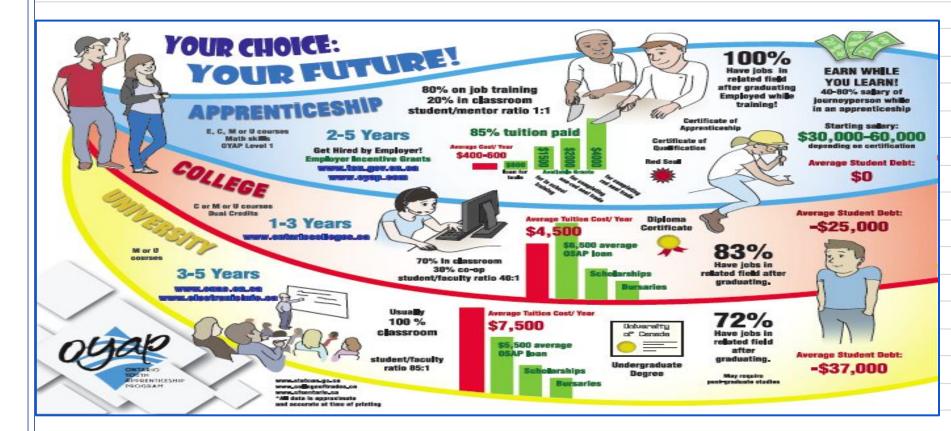
#### **Individual Education Plan (IEP)**

#### **Tiered Intervention**

- All: Universal Design for Learning,
   Differentiated Instruction, Experiential Learning
- **SOME**: IEP, GLE course, resource support
- o **FEW**: Intensive Support Program, Section Program



### **Future Options**



## Open Houses for High School

Check the TDSB website for high school Open House dates.



### **Important Dates**

#### November- December

- Virtual Open Houses for Specialized Programs
- Most applications due
- Regular High School Virtual Open Houses

#### January

- Regular High School Optional Attendance released
- Regular High School Optional Attendance due to the high school

#### February

- Mid- February all schools that you applied to have to inform you if you were accepted into their school or not.
- Mid February to the third week of February course selections sheets (hard copy or electronic) due

#### Students can only complete one course selection sheet.

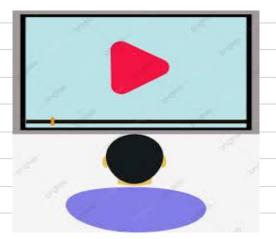
Completing a course selection sheet is the "Registration" into that school.

## What Else Can Students Expect from High School?

High school is a time to try new things, to get involved in the life of the school.

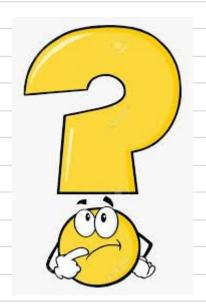
School is what students make it. What they put in is what they get out.

Students are encouraged to get involved, but should be mindful to balance their life.





### Questions



arpi.kurkjian@tdsb.on.ca



# Thanks also to...









Do you have any questions?

addyouremail@freepik.com +91 620 421 838 yourcompany.com

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