

Toronto District School Board – Grade 8 to Grade 9 Transition Information Session For the 2018-2019 School Year



Victoria Park Collegiate Institute
November 16, 2017



Goals for the Evening

- To inform students, parents and guardians about high school choices in order to make a smooth and successful transition from Grade 8 to 9
- To assist students, parents and guardians in making informed choices about courses, programs and schools
- To raise student, parent and guardian awareness of the various program pathways available throughout the Toronto District School Board

SLC President Hassan Alawie

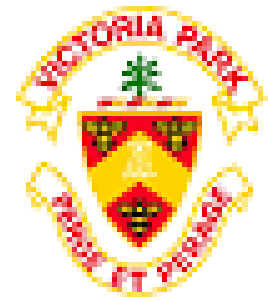
Welcome to Victoria Park!



About us:

- Community school with approximately 1300 students (one of the largest in TDSB)
- Students from over 70 countries and dozens of languages spoken
- Three floors with:
 - Swimming Pool, 3 Gymnasiums, State-of-the-art Weight Room
 - Biotech & Robotics labs,
 - Greenhouse, Community Gardens,
 - Full Technical Shops (wood, auto)
 - Dark Room, Dance and Drama Studios, Music Rooms
 - And much more!!!

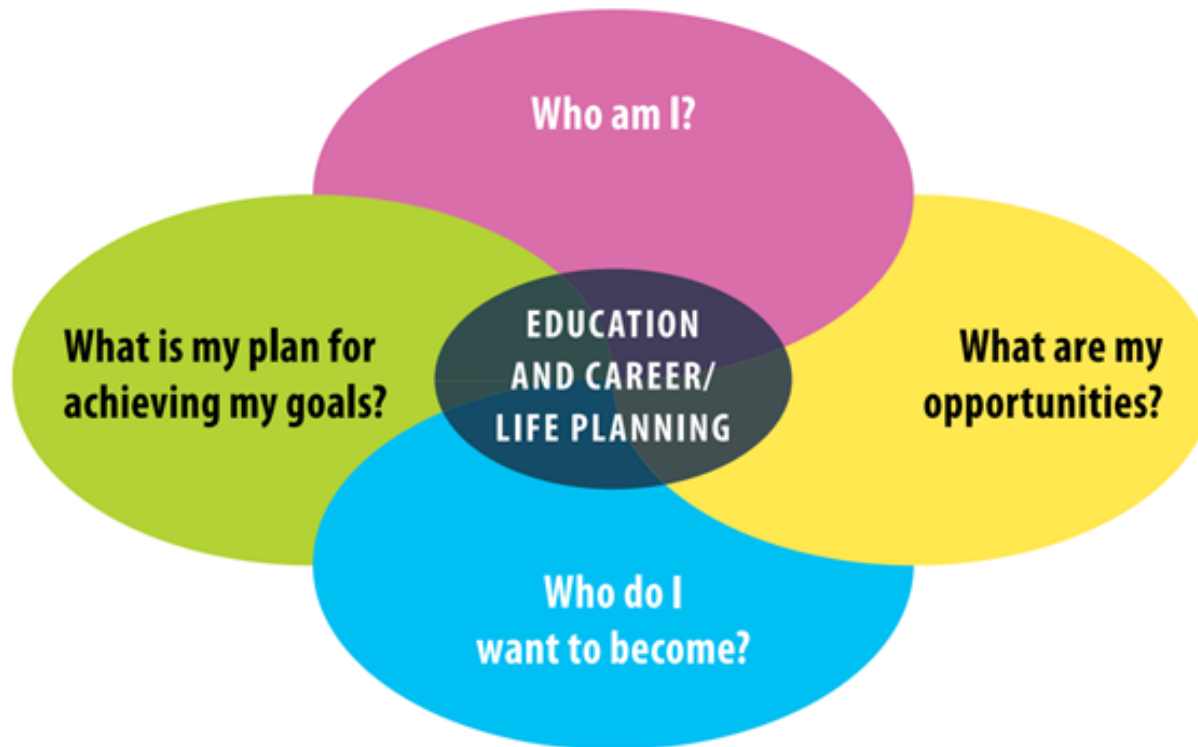
Welcome to Victoria Park



- Over 70 clubs, including:
 - A very active Student Leadership Council
 - Athletics Council (intramurals and leadership)
 - Arts & Music Councils
 - Newspaper
 - Robotics
- Over 30 sports teams
- Breakfast Program
- Grade 9 Orientation and Team Building Excursion
- Peer Tutoring Program
- Field Trips
- If it is not offered, students create it!



Creating Pathways to Success, 2013



Accessing myBlueprint.ca/tdsb

Online educational & career planning tool for students and parents

Are you ready for

high school?

Signup with **myBlueprint** and get prepared.

CREATE YOUR INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS PLAN (IPP)

- 1 Visit www.myBlueprint.ca/tdsb
- 2 Select your high school or login

You may require your Ontario Education Number (OEN)

- ✔ Plan your **courses** for high school
- ✔ Discover your **learning style** and interests
- ✔ Set S.M.A.R.T. **goals** and **action plans**
- ✔ Create a visual **resume** and **cover letter**
- ✔ Compare **college** and **university programs**
- ✔ Explore **skilled trades/apprenticeships**
- ✔ Research **occupations** and **jobs**
- ✔ Learn to **budget** your money

my **Blueprint**

THE EASIEST WAY TO PLAN
YOUR EDUCATION AND CAREER

www.myBlueprint.ca/tdsb
Activation Key: tdsb

What Can Families Do to Help Students Make the Best Choices?

- Access and investigate *myBlueprint* career planning tool
- Attend ANY Secondary Information Evenings/Open Houses of interest, including Regular or Specialized Programs
- Encourage continued participation in extracurricular activities
- Choose courses of interest
- Discuss future plans
- Stay involved and connected with the school
- Contact a school's Guidance department

Considerations When Choosing a High School

- The range of subjects and programs offered in each grade
- Semestered and non-semestered schedules
- “Composite” schools and “Alternative” schools
- The size of the school – big, medium, 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
- What does your child want to do?

Considerations When Choosing Victoria Park

- Victoria Park is a **Semestered** School
 - Courses are 5 months in length – 110 hours each
- 8 subjects per year:
 - 4 from September to January
 - 4 from February to June
- 70 minute classes per subject per day on a 4 day tumbling timetable

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
A	C	B	D
B	D	A	C
C	A	D	B
D	B	C	A

Considerations When Choosing Victoria Park (con't)

- Day runs from 8:45am – 3pm
- One hour lunch 11:35am – 12:35pm
- Twice per month late start (10am) for staff professional development
- School doors open at 7am
- Library open 7:45am – 4pm
- Resource Room open 8am-4pm
- Wifi throughout the school
- Hundreds of computers/cutting edge technology

Something for everyone! 

The Year Ahead: Educational Planning and Course Selection Process

- Planning for the coming year is a process
- That process begins now and will continue until Course Selection Sheets are due in late February

www.tdsb.on.ca/GoingtoHighSchool

Find Your School

The screenshot shows the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) website. At the top left is the TDSB logo and the text "Toronto District School Board". To the right, there is a navigation menu with links: "Find Your School" (circled in green), "Newcomers", "Media", "About Us", "Staff", "Innovation", "Leadership", and "Contact Us". Below the navigation is a search bar with the text "Search TDSB Here" and a magnifying glass icon. A secondary search bar below it has radio buttons for "Search TDSB website" (selected) and "Search Schools". A horizontal menu below the search bar contains links for "Home", "Early Years", "Elementary School", "High School", "Adult Learners", and "Community". The main content area features a large banner with the text "From the latest news to lunch time recipes" and "Follow TDSB on social media" with icons for Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, and Instagram. To the right of the banner is a "Latest News for: Oct 02, 2013" section with three news items: "Remembering Joshua at Ellesmere-Statton PS", "Etobicoke School of the Arts Photography Students Receive ...", and "Elizabeth Simcoe Jr. Public School is Celebrating 50 Years". A "Read More News Here" button is at the bottom of the news section.

www.tdsb.on.ca


Click on “Find your School”


Find Your School

Find your school by selecting how you want to search.

The screenshot shows the top of the TDSB website. On the left is the TDSB logo and the text "Toronto District School Board". On the right is a navigation menu with links: "Find Your School" (circled in red), "Newcomers", "Policies", "Media", "About Us", "Staff", "Innovation", "Leadership", "Contact Us", and "Hello". Below the navigation is a search bar with the text "Search TDSB Here..." and a "Search" button. Below the search bar is a horizontal navigation menu with tabs: "Home", "Early Years", "Elementary School", "High School", "Adult Learners", and "Community".

- Find your...
- ▶ **School**
 - By Address
 - By Name
 - Elementary
 - Intermediate
 - Secondary
 - Alternative Schools
 - Specialized Elementary Schools and Programs
 - Specialized High Schools and Programs
 - Gifted Program School Finder
 - Adult High Schools
 - e-Learning
 - Optional Attendance
 - French Programs
 - PDF Map

1 **By Address** »
Fill in your address in the search box. 

2 **By School Name** »
Browse by Alphabetical school listing. 

Choices for Nine

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Former Municipality	Street Name	Street Number Range	Next			Last	
			Elementary	Intermediate	Secondary	Technological Programming	Commercial School
Toronto	Dundas Sq	All Numbers	Lord Dufferin Jr & Sr PS	Lord Dufferin Jr & Sr PS	Jarvis CI	Central Technical School	Central Toronto Academy */ Northern SS
Toronto	Dundas St E	1-445 (Odd)	Lord Dufferin Jr & Sr PS	Lord Dufferin Jr & Sr PS	Jarvis CI	Central Technical School	Central Toronto Academy */ Northern SS
Toronto	Dundas St E	2-308 (Even)	Lord Dufferin Jr & Sr PS	Lord Dufferin Jr & Sr PS	Jarvis CI	Central Technical School	Central Toronto Academy */ Northern SS
Toronto	Dundas St E	310-744 (Even)	Nelson Mandela Park PS	Nelson Mandela Park PS	Jarvis CI	Central Technical School	Central Toronto Academy */ Northern SS
Toronto	Dundas St E	465-761 (Odd)	Nelson Mandela Park PS	Nelson Mandela Park PS	Jarvis CI	Central Technical School	Central Toronto Academy */ Northern SS

Information Evenings at Specialized Schools

Specialized Schools and Programs include, but are not limited to: Arts, Entrepreneurship, International Baccalaureate, Science & Technology

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/aboutus/innovation/highschoolspecializedprograms.aspx>

- . To investigate specialized schools or programs, check school websites and/or contact the specific school for admission requirements
- . Optional attendance guidelines and specific admission requirements will apply – check deadline dates for application

Making Course Choices

- Ultimately, students and families make the final course choices
- Grade 8 teachers and counsellors are there to offer their best suggestions about course choices based on evidence of a student's achievement, learning style, interests, and learning goals
- All Grade 8 students will complete a course selection sheet for their home school

Specific Programs offered at Victoria Park

- Feeder Schools (in area) and Optional Attendance
- International Baccalaureate
*Students are **not** automatically enrolled in pre-IB program from MYP
- Intensive Support Special Education/MID
- International Students & ELL Support
- Technology Option



What Course Type Choices Do Students Make in Grades 9 and 10?

As per Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12: Policy and Program Requirements, 2016 (OS)

- Applied
 - Academic
 - Locally Developed
 - Open
-
- Students can mix course types based on their achievement, interests, and skills. For example, a student may take applied English and French courses and academic Math

Choosing Course Types

Let's listen to Jenna, who will outline what the different course types there are available for you to choose from for Grade 9:

[Course Types to Choose From](#)

Academic and Applied Course Types

Academic Courses

Focus on theory and abstract problems

Applied Courses

Focus on practical applications and concrete examples

These Courses Include:

English, French, History, Math, and Science

Open Course Types

Open Courses

Optional courses that prepare students for further study and enriches the learning

These courses include (but not limited to):

Art, Music, Health and Physical Education

Locally Developed Course Types

Locally Developed

Compulsory courses for students provide more flexibility and support in learning

Together with our Special Education Department, we will collaborate to develop the best transition plan and program course type for your child.

Courses that may be developed locally include:

English, French, History, Math, and Science

Work Habits For Success

Applied

- Works in a focused manner (not always independently)
- Applies new learning to task but may require review of skills from previous units/years
- May require assistance to organize/complete homework

Academic

- Works independently in a focused manner
- Perseveres when challenged
- Uses prior knowledge/experience to solve problems
- Completes homework consistently and thoroughly

Victoria Park Grade 9 Pathways

Courses in Grade 9 include:

- English
- Math
- Science
- Canadian Geography
- Health and Physical Education
- French
- Arts (one of Music – Band or Strings, Drama, or Visual Art – Indigenous Focus)
- One of Introduction to Business, Integrated Technologies, or General Learning Strategies

How do Course Types Fit with Pathways

- All students can be successful in high school and there are many pathways to success
- Pathways are designed to keep options open and students can revise plans just like climbing a wall, where every step is varied



Undecided?

If you are unsure about choosing a course, keep as many options open as possible and set a goal for success

Students should speak with their parents/guardians, Guidance Counsellor and Grade 8 teachers to determine the appropriate course selection for grade 9

What Are the Graduation Requirements?

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

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

*Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12:
Policy & Program Requirements, 2011*

How do I earn a secondary school diploma?

Diploma Requirements

An Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) requires the completion of:

- a minimum of 30 credits, including 18 compulsory and 12 optional
- 40 hours of community involvement activities
- the literacy requirement

The 18 compulsory credits are:

- 4 English, one per grade level
- 1 French as a Second Language
- 3 Mathematics, at least one in Grade 11 or 12
- 2 Science
- 1 Canadian Geography
- 1 Canadian History
- 1 Arts (dance, drama, media, music, visual arts)
- 1 Health and Physical Education
- 0.5 Civics
- 0.5 Career Studies

Plus one credit from each of the following groups:

Group 1: additional credit in English
or French as a Second Language*
or a third language
or Social Sciences and the Humanities
or Canadian and World Studies
or Guidance and Career Education
or Cooperative Education*

Group 2: additional credit in Business Studies
or French as a Second Language*
or Health and Physical Education
or Arts
or Cooperative Education*

Group 3: a Grade 11 or 12 Science credit
or French as a Second Language*
or Technological Education
or Computer Studies
or Cooperative Education*

** A maximum of two credits in Cooperative Education and two credits in French can count as compulsories*

*Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12:
Policy & Program Requirements, 2011*

What Course Type Choices Do Students Have in Grades 11 and 12?

- Students choose courses depending on their destination after high school:
 - Workplace
 - College
 - University
 - Mixed (University/College Preparation)
 - Open

Choices Beyond Grade 9

Arts

- Photography, Graphic Design, Guitar, Keyboard

Science

- Biotech, Physics, Environmental Science, Biology

Technology

- Construction, Auto, Robotics, Design Tech

Canadian and World Studies

- Law, World Issues, Travel and Tourism, Visual History

Computer Studies

- Computer Programming, Computer Engineering

Choices Beyond Grade 9

Business

- Accounting, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Business Leadership

Physical Education

- Aquatics, Weight Training, Phys. Ed. Leadership, Kinesiology

Social Science

- Nutrition, Philosophy, World Religion, Families, Gender Studies

English

- Presentation and Speaking Skills, Writers Craft, Film Studies

Experiential Education

- Cooperative Education, Dual Credits, OYAP

What Happens if My Child Does Not Pass a Course?

- Students may repeat the course in summer school – research suggests this is the most effective way to “catch-up” and move on to the next grade level
 - Must have 35% - Math, English, Science, Geography, & French
- Students may be recommended for “Credit Recovery” – research suggests this is the next-best way to “catch-up”
- Students may repeat the course in the next semester or year – research suggests this is the least effective way for students to “catch-up” and move on to the next grade level

What Kinds of Programs Are Available to High School Students?

- See **TDSB website** for a full list of specialized schools and programs
- Many home schools also offer these additional learning opportunities:
 - Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM)
 - Specialized Programs
 - Cooperative Education (co-op)
 - Technological Education Programs
 - Centres of Innovation for Skills and Technologies
 - Dual Credit Programs
 - Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/aboutus/innovation/highschoolspecializedprograms.aspx>

Optional Attendance

- Students are encouraged to attend the high school within the catchment area of their residential address (home school)
- Use an *Optional Attendance Application Form (PR545)* when applying to a school other than your home school
- Forms will be available at the Grade 8 school in January
- **Specialized Programs may have earlier deadlines. Please review school specific deadlines for more information*
- Specific information regarding *Optional Attendance Procedures* will be communicated to students and families in early January
- Victoria Park is a “limited” school – few spaces available

www.tdsb.on.ca/FindyourSchool/OptionalAttendance

Specific Dates

- **February 2, 2018** Optional Attendance applications due to secondary schools – delivered by student/parent/guardian
- **February 18, 2018** Secondary schools will inform Optional Attendance applicants by this date
- **February 23, 2018** completed course selections via myBlueprint and returned to elementary teacher/counsellor
- **March 2, 2018** All course selection sheets due to secondary schools – delivered by Elementary Counsellor

Note:

- Only ONE course selection per student is submitted for ONE secondary school by the elementary school counsellor

Questions & Contact Information

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