

Dear Grade 8 Parents/Guardians,

A smooth transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9 contributes to a strong foundation for success in secondary school and beyond. Grade 8 is a time for students to look to the future and to think about their selection of courses for Grade 9 and throughout high school.

To support student planning for a successful transition from elementary to secondary school, the information and links below will assist Grade 8 students and their families as they navigate the transition to high school.

- [Video: Beyond 8 - Grade 8 to 9 Transition Information](#)
- [Beyond 8: Grade 8 to 9 Transition Website](#)  
(Provides an overview of the various aspects of the transition to high school)

*Please note: There is a 'Translate' button at the top of the TDSB website that will translate the contents of the web pages to your preferred language.*

### **Grade 8 Virtual Open Houses and Information Sessions**

This year, TDSB open houses and information sessions have been adapted to a virtual environment with “live” and/or pre-recorded sessions produced by our high schools that highlight key information about each school. Our high schools have put in considerable effort to meet the needs of Grade 8 students and their families typically met at in-person Open Houses and Information Sessions. Students and families are encouraged to view and/or join the available sessions to learn more and gather important program and school information. Students and families are also encouraged to participate in any live Q & A sessions that many schools are also hosting in addition to the Open House sessions, with regards to secondary programming. As is always the case, our high schools welcome families to connect with the guidance or administrative staff with any questions. Transition to high school is an exciting milestone and our high schools are pleased to support you child in this process.

To view the directory of schools, access the pre-recorded information sessions and see the dates/times for “live” information sessions, visit the [Virtual Open Houses and Information Sessions website](#).

### **Choices and “MyBlueprint”**

A key resource for “Beyond 8” is the [Choices: Secondary School Course Selection and Planning Guide](#) and accompanying resource [Choices Placemat: TDSB Secondary School Information Guide](#). TDSB students also use the planning application “MyBlueprint” to map out course choices. These resources contain information about high school courses, the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) requirements and planning materials for students to make informed decisions about course selections for Grade 9 and up to Grade 12.

Below is information to help better understand how to use the Choices resource, learn about graduation requirements, including community involvement, and to explore myBlueprint, an online career exploration and course selection tool available to all TDSB students. Within the

TDSB website, there are also helpful video clips presented by students about preparing for Secondary School.

- [Choices Course Selection and Planning Guide](#)
- [Choices: Secondary School Course Selection and Planning Guide](#)
- [TDSB Secondary School Information Guide](#)
- [Community Involvement](#)
- [myBlueprint](#)

### **Academic Pathways**

In 2018 the TDSB launched the Grade 9 and 10 Academic Pathways Implementation Plan with a goal to “*support the majority of our students to select **academic** courses for Grade 9 and Grade 10.*” To learn more, visit the [Academic Pathways](#) and [Course Types](#) web pages.

Beginning in September 2021, all TDSB Grade 9 students will take the academic course offerings in Geography, English, French, Math and Science. All other courses (for example, in the Arts, Business Studies, Healthy Active Living, etc.) will continue to be offered at the Open level (*courses that are designed to prepare students for further study and to enrich general education in a subject*)

Note: In the summer of 2020, the Ministry of Education announced a new Grade 9 math course titled *Grade 9 Foundational Mathematics*, which will be the compulsory Grade 9 math course for all students, in all Ontario schools effective September 2021.

### **Optional Attendance**

The TDSB encourages all students to attend the school determined by their residential address. However, we recognize that students have diverse needs and specialized schools/programs, or programs that require highly specialized equipment cannot be offered in every secondary school. For a student to apply to attend a school other than their home school, they must complete an Optional Attendance form.

In addition, students are asked to pay close attention to the application process, requirements and dates for specific specialized programs and specialized or alternative schools. Students may only apply to two (2) specialized programs/schools and two (2) regular schools if not attending their home school. For more information, visit the [Optional Attendance website](#).

To research and learn more about specific schools and programs, visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/findyourschool](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/findyourschool), [attend virtual open houses and/or watch pre-recorded information sessions](#).

### **Grade 8 to 9 Transition Timeline and Checklist**

Please use the attached timeline/checklist to help you navigate the Grade 8 to 9 Transition process this year.



Grade 8 to Grade 9  
Transition Timeline an

**Questions?**

If you have any questions regarding the Grade 8 to Grade 9 high school transition, please begin by talking to your child's current elementary school teacher and/or Principal/Vice-Principal. You are also welcome to reach out to the secondary schools for more school-/program-specific information.