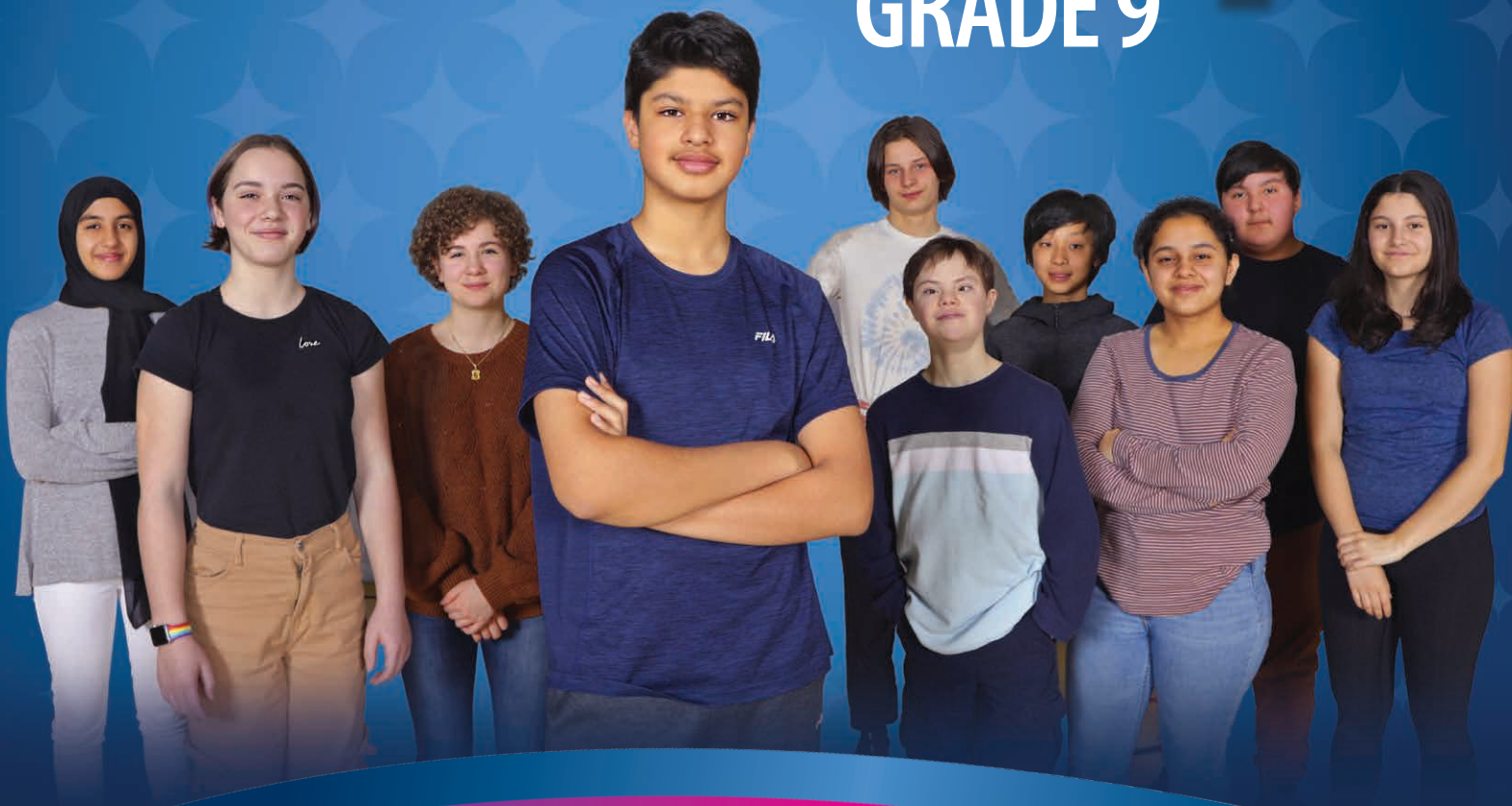


# Next Stop:

## GRADE 9



**Finding Your Way from Grade 8 to Grade 9**

A Guide for Students and Parents/Guardians

# Your future begins here!

## Secondary School Terms and Definitions

**Chelmsford Valley District Composite School (EP)**  
3594 Highway 144, Chelmsford  
705.675.0225

**Confederation Secondary School (EP & FI)**  
1918 Main Street West, Val Caron  
705.671.5948

**Espanola High School (EP)**  
147 Spruce Avenue, Espanola  
705.869.1590

**Lasalle Secondary School (EP & FI)**  
1545 Kennedy Street, Sudbury  
705.566.2280

**Lively District Secondary School (EP)**  
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**Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School (EP & FI)**  
*International Baccalaureate Program*  
275 Loach's Road, Sudbury  
705.522.2320

**Manitoulin Secondary School (EP)**  
107 Bay Street, M'Chigeeng  
705.368.7000

**Sudbury Secondary School (EP & FI)**  
*Arts Education Program*  
154 College Street, Sudbury  
705.674.7551

EP – English Program  
FI – French Immersion



### Welcome to secondary school, a new and exciting time in your life where endless opportunities and pathways are yours to discover.

Throughout this journey, caring teachers and supportive school administrators will work with you to help you maximize your potential and fulfill your aspirations.

As a secondary school student, you will have important choices to make that will open doors for your future.

You will be given opportunities to gain hands-on experience and explore careers of interest.

You will also be able to participate in school activities, clubs and sports.

This guide will help you along the way. It contains information about course codes, pathways and timetables. It also includes tips.

Parents/guardians are partners in their child's educational journey. We thank them for supporting their children as they make their way into Grade 9.

Together, we prepare students to become lifelong learners, achieving their full potential as confident, caring members of society.

Your future begins here.

### Enjoy the journey!

#### Inside

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### Community Involvement Hours

Every secondary school student in Ontario must complete a minimum of 40 hours of community involvement before graduation.

### Compulsory Course

This is a specific course students must take that fulfills part of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) requirements.

### Course Code

This six-character code describes the subject, grade level and stream or destination of a secondary school course.

### Credit

A credit value of 1.0 is granted upon successfully completing a 110-hour course with a minimum of 50%.

### Culminating Activity

Students may be asked to complete a course culminating activity, which is a project. There are a variety of assessment practices that teachers may use to address the individual learning styles of all students.

**EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office)**

### Literacy Test

The literacy test is written in Grade 10. A student must pass the literacy requirement to earn an OSSD. The purpose of this test is to ensure that students have acquired foundational reading and writing skills that apply to all subject areas in and up to the end of Grade 9.

### Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics

The Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics provides individual and system data on student knowledge and skills based on the curriculum expectations in Grade 9. All students in these programs are required to participate. Assessments count towards the final mark in Grade 9 mathematics.

### Exams

Students may write an exam, which assesses their knowledge on the entire course work, at or near the end of the semester.

### Optional Courses

Students will select 12 courses that are of specific interest to them and which will count towards the 30-credit OSSD requirement.

### Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

The Ontario Secondary School Diploma is granted after fulfilling all necessary credit, literacy and community involvement requirements.

### Prerequisite Course

This is a specific course students must successfully complete before taking another course at the next grade level.

### Semester

The school year is divided into two semesters. A student will take four courses in each semester.

### Student Success

Secondary schools have staff and programs in place to support and improve student learning.

### Timetable

A timetable outlines the course, time, room number, lunch period, teacher and semester in which students will take all of their courses.

# Decoding

## A Course Code

Courses use a six-character course code for identification.

The first five characters of the course code are set out by the Ministry of Education.

The sixth character is used by school boards to identify a specific characteristic of the course, for example, Co-operative Education.

**1** This school identifier is used to distinguish course characteristics.  
1 = Common code

**W** This letter identifies the course type for Grade 9:  
D = De-streamed      L = Locally Developed  
W = De-streamed      O = Open

**1** This number identifies the grade:  
1 = Grade 9      3 = Grade 11  
2 = Grade 10      4 = Grade 12

**ENL** These three letters identify the subject.  
Subject codes: The first letter in the course code denotes the course's department area.

A = Arts      H = Humanities and Social Sciences  
B = Business      L = International Languages  
C = Canadian and World Studies  
E = English      M = Mathematics  
F = French      P = Physical Education  
G = Guidance and Career Education      S = Science  
T = Technology

## A Timetable

Semester 1: September - January

**Period 1 / Homeroom:** Approximately 15 minutes longer to allow for morning announcements.

**Class Time:** 75 minutes with 3 minutes travel time

Period	Time	Subject
1	8:45 am to 10:04 am	English ENL1W-01 Wang, J.   203
2	10:07 am to 11:21 am	Mathematics MTH1W-03 Ramanujan, S.   105
Lunch	11:21 am to 12:14 pm	
3	12:14 pm to 1:28 pm	Art AVI101-01 Cywink, M.   105
4	1:31 pm to 2:45 pm	Geography CGC1W1-04 Jones, A.   215

**Course Credit**  
Students take 4 credits in each semester.

**Course Code and Section**  
Course and specific class

**Teacher's Name**

**Room Number**



# What do I need to graduate?

## Ontario Secondary School Diploma

The OSSD is the diploma that students work towards achieving in high school. Every Rainbow District School Board secondary school student must successfully complete the following requirements:

- 30 credits - 17 compulsory and 13 optional
- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Requirement
- 40 Community Involvement Hours

## What you should know...

**How do I earn a credit?**

You must earn a final grade of 50% or more in a course to earn a credit.

**How many credits can I earn each year?**  
The table below outlines a typical student's credits and credit totals year by year.

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Credits	8	8	8	6-8
Total	8	16	24	30-32

**What will happen if I am not successful on the literacy test?**

You will be given opportunities to repeat the test or take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course in its place.

**When can I begin earning my 40 hours of community involvement?**

- After graduating from Grade 8
- Community involvement hours must not be scheduled during class time.

**What happens if I am not successful in a course?**

You need to meet with your guidance counsellor or student success teacher to explain the following options that might be available to you:

- Repeating the course the next semester
- Taking the course at Summer School
- Recovering the credit in Credit Recovery

## Ontario Secondary School Diploma

**17 Compulsory Credits**

**Credits Required**

English (one per grade)	4.0
Math (Grades 9, 10 and at least one in Grades 11 or 12)	3.0
Science	2.0
French (Grade 9)	1.0
Canadian Geography (Grade 9)	1.0
Canadian History (Grade 10)	1.0
The Arts	1.0
Health and Physical Education	1.0
Civics (Grade 10)	0.5
Careers (Grade 10)	0.5
Technology (Grade 9 or 10)	1.0
STEM-related Course Group	1.0

## STEM-related Course Group

- Business Studies
- Computer Studies
- Cooperative Education
- Mathematics (in addition to the three compulsory credits required)
- Science (in addition to the two compulsory credits required)
- Technological Education (in addition to the one compulsory credit required)

## Other Graduation Requirements

- 13 optional credits
- Literacy Requirement
- 40 Hours of Community Involvement
- Online Learning Requirements (two credits)
- Financial Literacy Requirement (2025)

# Additional learning opportunities...

Find out what is available to you and your child to ensure success in secondary school.



## Different Pathways to Success:

### Co-operative Education

The Co-operative Education Program integrates classroom theory with practical experience. Students divide their time between the school and the workplace.

### Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

This Co-operative Education Program gives senior students an opportunity to begin a career in a skilled trade while attending high school.

### Dual Credit Programs

Students can earn credits that can be applied towards both their secondary school diploma and their post-secondary diploma, degree or apprenticeship certification.

### Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a specialized, Ministry of Education approved program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). SHSMs assist students in their transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university or the workplace.

### Steps to Success: Grade 8 to Grade 9

Elementary and secondary teachers work together to ease the transition, through special information nights for students/parents/guardians, transition activities in secondary schools, more dialogue between teachers in both panels, increased professional learning to share best practices and improved tracking of students and their progress.

### Student Success Teams

Each secondary school has a dedicated team that supports students to ensure they earn the credits they need to graduate.

### e-Learning

Two online learning courses are required to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Students may opt out of this requirement by completing a survey.

### Technological Education Courses

Students can explore careers in the trades in Rainbow District School Board's updated state-of-the-art shops, which combine in-class studies and hands-on learning. Technological education courses include Construction, Automotive, Welding, Millwright, Electrical and Design Technology. The curriculum provides opportunities for hands-on project-based learning. Students develop knowledge and skills, and gain experience in the technological subject area of their choice.



**myBlueprint** provides students in **Grades 7 to 12** with a simple step-by-step approach to career and life planning.

Students can build customized high school course plans, identify post-secondary options and explore valuable information about apprenticeships, college programs, university programs and workplace opportunities across Canada.

From their profile, students will be able to set goals, save unlimited plans, short-list programs and occupations of interest, record extra-curricular activities and more.

With direct access from home, parents/guardians can also get more involved in their child's education.

Visit [myBlueprint.ca](http://myBlueprint.ca) to learn about courses, graduation requirements and the endless options available for students.

For more information, contact your child's school.



# Which **one** do I choose?

# Q & A

## De-streamed or Locally Developed

You will be asked to select a course type for Grade 9 compulsory courses (English, French, geography, math and science). Read the information below to get a better idea of what course type is best for you. If you are uncertain, ask your teacher or guidance counsellor. They will be able to advise you.

## Course Types

### De-streamed Grade 9 (W or D)

Students will learn the essential concepts of a subject and explore related material. Students will be empowered to pursue their future with doors open to all post-secondary options, including apprenticeship, college, university, or the workplace.

### Locally Developed Courses (L)

Students will learn the most essential concepts of a subject. School staff generally recommend these courses for students with specific learning needs. Students who are recommended to take a Locally Developed course may be working on significantly modified curriculum expectations in Grades 7 and 8 or are not yet working at grade level and require additional support.

### Open Courses (O)

Students will learn concepts and skills designed to prepare for further study in the subject area. Curriculum expectations are designed and appropriate for all students. Generally, the optional courses (such as physical education, art, etc.) are offered in the open pathway.

## Is there somewhere or someone I can go to for help if I have questions about course selection?

**Yes.**

Your classroom teacher can assist you with selecting courses. You can also attend the Rainbow secondary school information evenings for assistance or call a Rainbow secondary school for more information. Don't forget that your parents/guardians will also be helpful in providing advice and assisting you with your planning.

## I have been studying in a French Immersion Program throughout elementary school. Can I continue to take French Immersion courses in secondary school?

**Yes.**

A variety of French Immersion courses are offered at select secondary schools. Students may obtain a French Immersion Certificate upon graduation by completing a minimum of 10 courses taught in French.

## According to the Ministry of Education,

these are the factors that may put a student at risk of not graduating on time:

- Elementary students who are performing at level 1 or below grade expectation.
- Students who are disengaged from classes for a variety of reasons, which tend to be reflected in poor attendance.
- Students who are skipping classes.
- Students who are performing poorly on assessments.
- Secondary students who are performing significantly below the provincial standard, earning marks in the 50s or low 60s, and who do not have the foundations to be successful as they move to the next level.

## Did you know?

- Students who are unsuccessful in one course in Grade 9 significantly reduce their chances of graduating.
- Students who miss three or more days a month are considered at risk of not being successful.

## Who to talk to:

- Teachers
- Guidance Counsellors
- Student Success Teachers
- Principals
- Vice-Principals

## How schools can help students

Secondary schools have a variety of programs and resources available to students to ensure their success:

- Homework clubs that take place at lunch and/or after school
- Homework websites posted by individual teachers for students to access homework assignments and due dates
- Peer helper programs
- Additional one-on-one assistance from classroom teachers
- Summer School programs
- Summer Co-operative Education
- Credit Recovery
- Student Success Teacher support
- Guidance Counsellor support
- Attendance Counsellor support
- Social Workers
- Indigenous Support Workers
- Mental Health and Addiction Nurses

## Indigenous Education

### Indigenous Support Workers

- Nurture a welcoming environment for students and their families
- Support student, family and school connections
- Work within the framework of the Seven Grandfather Teachings

### First Nations, Métis and Inuit Courses

- The Grade 9 Expressions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Cultures course (NAC 10) may be used to meet the compulsory credit requirement in the arts.
- The Grade 10 First Nations, Métis and Inuit in Canada course (NAC 20) may be used to meet the compulsory credit requirement for Grade 10 History.
- The Grade 11 English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices course (NBE 3C/U/E) may be used to meet the Grade 11 English compulsory credit requirement.

# What students can expect when entering secondary school with an Individual Education Plan (IEP)

## I already have an Individual Education Plan. Will it follow me to secondary school?

Your Individual Education Plan (IEP) will transition with you as you move on to secondary school. Typically held in the spring, Identification, Placement, Review Committee (IPRC) meetings serve as a framework to explore and address your unique strengths, requirements, and educational programming at the secondary level. To ensure a comprehensive discussion regarding your optimal placement, a dedicated Special Education Resource Teacher from your elementary school will accompany you at this meeting, which will be held at the secondary school. Both you and your parents/guardians will be invited to participate in this important meeting.

## What kind of supports are offered at secondary schools?

There are a number of supports that can be offered to secondary school students. Many of our secondary schools offer various help labs during lunch. Students who feel that they could benefit from additional practice or support can attend these labs.

Students who have an Individual Education Plan are able to access the resource room for additional supports. Before writing a test or an assignment, a student will make arrangements with their subject teacher. Some of these arrangements may include writing in the resource room, accessing assistive technology, having extra time to complete assignments, verbatim reading, or scribing.

## Can I use a computer in my classes?

All of our secondary schools are equipped with wireless Internet. If you would like to use your own personal computer you may choose to do so.

## What is the Learning Strategies course (GLE)?

Learning Strategies is a credit bearing course that is offered to students who might benefit from extra support. General learning skills such as study habits, note-taking, organization, time management, etc. are explicitly taught and students are able to bring work from their other courses to receive support. Students can earn up to four learning strategies credits over their secondary school career.

## How can parents/guardians support their child's transition to secondary school?

- Be knowledgeable about your child's current IEP and support
- Attend secondary school information nights
- Communicate with the Special Education Resource Teacher in elementary school and the Program Leader of Special Education in secondary school
- Discuss secondary school pathways and goals with your child and their teachers
- Remain actively involved in your child's IEP development, IPRC, and transition planning

## What assistive technology is available in secondary schools?

The availability of assistive technology remains consistent throughout both elementary and secondary school.

All students have the opportunity to reap the benefits of these technological tools. Assistive technology can be used both at school and in the comfort of your home. The purpose of assistive technology is to assist and support every student, ensuring an inclusive learning environment for all.



## What Intensive Support Placements are offered in secondary schools?

Grade 9 secondary courses are organized as De-streamed, Open or Locally Developed. Each offers a style of learning that meets the interests, strengths and needs of the student in a slightly different way. These courses are credit bearing and lead to a secondary school diploma or certificate.

Our secondary schools also offer Intensive Support Placements (ISP). These differ from school to school.

These are non-credit bearing. There are three types of ISP:

1. The Life Skills placement is a non-credit bearing program that focuses on life skills training, social skills training, functional academic skills, communication skills, and vocational skills. Most life skills students remain in the program throughout the school day without integration.
2. The Transition placement is a program with an academic focus tailored towards the strengths and needs of the students. Students will work on various subjects throughout the day and may be integrated into two credit bearing courses each semester. This program may be a mix of credit bearing and non-credit bearing courses.
3. The Autism Spectrum Disorder placement (ASD) is a non-credit bearing program. The program focuses on social skills training, behaviour intervention, functional academic skills development, and language development. Students who are in the ASD classroom may spend their school day with no integration into credit bearing classes while others may be integrated in credit bearing courses.

## The school provided me with Special Equipment Amount (SEA) equipment. Will I be able to use it in secondary school?

Some students may receive additional board level supports throughout their educational career. These supports may come in the form of equipment (for example, a laptop, an iPad, a classroom sound system, a brailier, a specialized desk and/or chairs, etc.) After Grade 8, this equipment will be delivered to your secondary school over the summer and be ready for you to use when you begin Grade 9.

## Transitioning to secondary school can be stressful. What resources and supports will be available to support mental health?

- Social Workers
- Mental Health and Addictions Nurses
- Various group-based programs
- Staff in all classrooms have access to evidence-based strategies to support students struggling with mental health.
- Information pamphlets are available for all staff, students and parents/guardians, covering a variety of mental health topics, including recognizing signs and symptoms, possible impact on educational achievement, and strategies for support.
- Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to speak with the school's Principal for more information.

## What is the difference between elementary and secondary school?

Elementary	Secondary
Full year with the same timetable all year	Two semesters with a different timetable for each semester
Daily timetable changes	Daily timetable remains the same
40 to 100 minute blocks of instructional time	60 to 76 minute periods
6-8 instructional blocks per day	4 courses per day
Same teacher for most of the school day	Different teacher for each course
All subjects are compulsory	Mix of compulsory and elective courses
Recess and nutrition breaks	Quick breaks to transition from class to class and lunch
No credits	Credit based, except ISP is non-credit bearing
Students grouped by grade	Students grouped by course type, level and pathway
No exam periods	Exam periods

# How parents/guardians can help students

Be aware of your child's strengths and struggles.

This will allow you to help your child choose the appropriate courses.

Closely monitor your child's attendance.

Continue to notify the school should your child be absent.

- On a daily basis, parents/guardians will receive an automated phone call advising them of any classes their child may have missed. Call your child's school for more information.

Communicate with your child's teachers on a regular basis.

- Call your child's school to find out how.

Closely monitor your child's progress.

- Report card cycle:
  - Interim reports are distributed in October and March.
  - Mid-term reports are distributed in November and April.
  - Final reports are distributed in February and July.
  - Parent/teacher interviews are typically held in October and March.

Be aware that your child will typically have four teachers per semester.

There is a direct relationship between a student's attendance and achievement.

Get involved in your child's school through School Council, community coaching opportunities, and the Parent Involvement Committee.

Attend school events.

# Six important learning skills necessary for student success

Striving to be successful in each learning skill will ensure overall academic success.

## Responsibility

**Fulfills** responsibilities and commitments within the learning environment

**Completes** and submits class work, homework and assignments according to agreed-upon timelines

**Takes** responsibility for and manages own behaviour

## Independent Work

**Monitors**, assesses and revises plans independently to complete tasks and meet goals

**Uses** class time appropriately to complete tasks

**Follows** instructions with minimal supervision

## Collaboration

**Accepts** various roles and an equitable share of work in a group

**Responds** positively to the ideas, opinions, values and traditions of others

**Builds** healthy peer-to-peer relationships through personal and media-assisted interactions

**Works** with others to resolve conflicts and build consensus to achieve group goals

**Shares** information, resources and expertise and promotes critical thinking to solve problems and make decisions

## Self-Regulation

**Sets** own goals and monitors progress towards achieving them

**Seeks** clarification or assistance when needed

**Assesses** and reflects critically on own strengths, needs and interests

**Identifies** learning opportunities, choices and strategies to meet personal needs and achieve goals

**Perseveres** and makes an effort when responding to challenges

## Organization

**Creates** and follows a plan and process for completing work and tasks

**Establishes** priorities and manages time to complete tasks and achieve goals

**Identifies**, gathers, evaluates and uses information, technology and resources to complete tasks

## Initiative

**Looks** for and acts on new ideas and opportunities for learning

**Demonstrates** the capacity for innovation and a willingness to take risks

**Demonstrates** curiosity and interest in learning

**Approaches** new tasks with a positive attitude

**Recognizes** and advocates appropriately for the rights of self and others



# Ensure **SUCCESS**

As parents/guardians, you can focus on key areas that can positively impact your child's success.

A few examples include:

## Attendance

### Recommendations:

- Students attend school each day.
- Students arrive to class on time.

### When to enact strategies:

- Discuss your child's attendance record with school administration and plan to ensure regular attendance.
- If your child is absent, ensure missed work is completed and submitted.

## Organization and time management

### Recommendations:

- Students are taking accurate notes and keeping binders well organized.
- Students are using an agenda to plan for assignment completion and evaluations.

### What to look for:

- Your child does not have or use an agenda.
- Your child's notebooks are disorganized and appear incomplete.

### Strategies:

- Obtain an agenda for your child.
- Monitor the use of the agenda and notebooks.

## Homework and submission of assignments

Ask your child if they have any homework or assignments to complete:

- Contact the school or teacher to stay informed.
- A student should be reading, reviewing and practicing each day.
- Talk to your child about what they are learning, homework and assignments.

# tips from secondary school students

## Get involved

There are many opportunities to participate in sports, bands, clubs, competitions and committees.

Listen to announcements for more information.

## Money

Schools may request a voluntary student fee.

Fees may also be charged for participation in some courses, clubs and school teams to cover extraordinary costs.

## Be prepared

Obtain general school supplies during the summer.

Teachers will let you know if you need specific course supplies on the first day of class.

Exchange phone numbers with a class buddy who can pick up notes or homework for you if you are absent from school.

## Getting good grades

Getting good grades is easier if you follow these tips from students.

Attend and participate in all classes.

Plan a regular time to study each evening.

Balance recreational activities with school work.

## Locks/lockers and books

You will be given your own lock and locker. Keep your lock combination a secret to protect your belongings.

You don't need to carry all your books for the day at all times. Store some in your locker and return to your locker during the day to exchange books.

## Relationships

Building positive relationships with your teachers and classmates will make school a great place - one that is more than just books and classes.

Build new friendships by joining clubs and teams.

You will be happy you did. Know when teachers offer extra help or ask them for help when needed.

## Transportation

If you are eligible for busing, find out your travel arrangements prior to school by contacting the Sudbury Student Services Consortium at 705.521.1234 or 1.877.225.1196.

Visit the Consortium website at [businfo.ca](http://businfo.ca).





# Where you belong.

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**Rainbow Schools**  
*Reaching minds. Touching hearts.*  
rainbowschools.ca

**Centre for Education**  
408 Wembley Drive  
Sudbury, Ontario P3E 1P2

Tel: 705.674.3171  
Toll Free: 1.888.421.2661