



Gr. 9 Enhanced Pathways Academic Program

A collaborative whole-school approach to
elevate the learning environment at Oakwood



WHAT THIS *IS NOT*...

- This is not destreaming
- This is not intended for grades beyond grade 9
- This is not about lowering of academic or learning standards for grade 9 students



WHAT THIS *IS*...

OUR VISION

To implement a program that promotes a community of excellence in our grade 9 learning environment



RATIONALE...

- The learning environment at Oakwood was not what it should or needs to be.
- We had a cohort of applied students (many students that we had not served well) that perpetuated a culture of poor learning, often causing significant behavioural problems.
- Our academic classes were already 'mixed-abilities' and large (30+)



STEPS TAKEN...

- Discussions and dialogue with Oakwood Curriculum Leaders
- Engaged in dialogue with Superintendent and Trustee.
- Engaged in dialogue and learning with other schools who have started similar work and other central TDSB staff
- Presented 'proposed plan' to full school staff
- Presented 'proposed plan' to School Council (parents)
- Engaged in dialogue and plan with student representatives
- Visited other schools and colleagues who have started this work (talked to teachers and observed classes)
- Visited Elementary 'feeder' schools
- Met with Elementary Guidance Counsellors
- Attended TDSB Professional Learning
- Provided release-time to teachers to collaborate & plan



WHAT THIS *IS*...

- A program to elevate the learning environment and achievement of all students.
- A plan developed for Oakwood, by Oakwood, based on what we have learned from other schools that have faced similar challenges and our own Oakwood experience.
- A program focused on high expectations, engagement, equity, and most importantly ‘belief’
- Placing students who have traditionally selected between the Academic & Applied level courses in all academic level programming.



WHAT THIS *IS*...

- This is ENHANCED program choice:
- “Doing something differently” for students - this program will ensure students keep their options open for post-secondary school and in turn, their career paths.
- It provides an opportunity for all students to have an enhanced academic experience in grade 9 before deciding which stream is best for them.
- Students’ decisions will be based on their high school experience (at Oakwood) rather than recommendations by their grade 8 schools.



WHAT THIS *LOOKS LIKE*...

- Academic classes capped at **25 students** (*smaller classes* vs. 30+)
- Expressing an **intentional 'BELIEF'** in our students to help instill confidence in their own academic abilities
- Purposeful teaching of the **academic skills, habits, and behaviours**
- A focus on **21st Century Global Competencies**:
 1. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
 2. Creativity, Innovation, Inquiry & Entrepreneurship
 3. Collaboration and Leadership
 4. Communication
 5. Global Citizenship and Character
 6. Self-Awareness and Self-directed learning



WHAT THIS *LOOKS LIKE*...

- **Intentional staffing and intentional scheduling of classes/blocks**
- **Instructional strategies** that meet the needs of the different learners and learning styles
- **Additional supports** including homework help, Student Success Teacher support, GLS/GLE additional class support, and CYW support.
- A **summer program** focusing on strategies to support reading and numeracy (**‘gap-closing’** for incoming students) and **‘credit recovery’** to support learners requiring additional time to meet course expectations and demonstrate learning.



Gr. 9 Program Options

ACADEMIC

The vast majority of our students

MPM1D1, ENG1D1, SNC1D1
All at the Academic Level

REGULAR

FSF1D1, CGC1D1,
PPL1O1

2 Optional courses

EXTENDED FRENCH

BTT1O4, CGC1D4, FEF1D4
PPL1O1

1 Optional course

Students with IEPs take GLE
Transferred students (w/o IEPs) take GLS

LOCALLY

DEVELOPED

A Small Group
(in consultation with
guidance counsellors)

MAT1L1, ENG1L1, SNC1L1
Locally Developed

FSF1O1 (open level available)
CGC1D1

PPL1O1
1 Optional course

GLE or GLS



WHAT THIS *IS*...

Oakwood CI believes in providing the best learning environment for all students. We are passionate about starting our students off on the right foot, teaching them the academic skills and habits that are integral for success in high school and their future post-secondary pathways.

