

# New to Northern Parent Chat



October 5, 2022

# Tonight's Presentation

## 1. Important Information

- The hatching of high school
- How high school is different from elementary school
- “Normal” Northern
- Where to get help - important people, guidance, special needs, teachers
- Where to get Information

## 2. Parent Experience

- How to make the transition smoother
- Options that may help
- Meet the parents
- Points of perspective
- Stay Connected
- Warning Signs

# Introduction

Who are we???

Jen Ankenmann - co-secretary of Council, Grade 11 and 8 parent, Maurice Cody

Tania Osmond - co-secretary of Council, Grade 12 and 9 at Northern, Northern grad at university, Deer Park

Melanie Stassis - C.L. Guidance, mom, Dramatic Arts and English teacher

# Important Information

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# The “Hatching” of High School

- Students grow towards full independence (identity, responsibility)
- Students express their uniqueness - interests, people, strengths, weaknesses
- Parents become coaches and consultants

# How is High School Different from Elementary School

1. STUDENT LED - initiative, independence, responsibility
2. Increasing workload, final exams, organization
3. Rotating classrooms
4. Expansion and exploration socially
5. Stress, peer and academic (grades count now and they can fail!)
6. Career planning

This is a “bigger pool” - the level of challenge and diversity will reveal students’ interests, capacity, and skills

# “Normal” Northern

What is the “normal” culture?

1. Inclusivity/Diversity - a place for everyone
2. Creativity - opportunity for new ideas
3. Spirit - very engaged staff and students

What are typical activities for students to participate in?

- Extracurriculars and clubs, Fashion Show, Musical, UWay week, Walk-on Sports, Intramural Sports

What are regular events for parents to attend?

- Curriculum night, Parent/teacher interviews, Post-Secondary Planning, Course Selection

# Key Northern Contacts

Principal- Adam Marshall - [adam.marshall@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:adam.marshall@tdsb.on.ca)

Vice Principals (by last name)-

Eric Halling - (A-G) - [eric.halling@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:eric.halling@tdsb.on.ca)

Jessica Pearson - (H-O) - [jessica.pearson@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:jessica.pearson@tdsb.on.ca)

Tiffany Peel - (P-Z) - [tiffany.peel@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:tiffany.peel@tdsb.on.ca)

[Staff Directory 22-23](#) - click here to find your teacher



# Who to Ask When You Have A Concern

1

Classroom Teacher

Questions about the class

Class rules & consequences

Homework & assignments

2

Vice Principal

Concerns about school

Student schedules

Student suspensions

Report card concerns

Classroom concerns

Code of conduct

Safety and security

3

School Principal

Budget & Fundraising

School Council

# Connecting to Guidance

Make an appointment: <https://guidanceinterview.com/s/nss/>

Guidance (by last name)

Melanie Stassis – A, S, U-Z - [melanie.stassis@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:melanie.stassis@tdsb.on.ca)

Jennifer MacPhee – F-H, K, L - [jennifer.macphee@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:jennifer.macphee@tdsb.on.ca)

Leslie Usin-Rojas – B-E, I, T - [leslie.usin-rojas@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:leslie.usin-rojas@tdsb.on.ca)

Sean Magee-Saxton – J, M-R - [sean.magee-saxton@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:sean.magee-saxton@tdsb.on.ca)

Sign-up for your Google Classroom (with your student's TDSB email):

Grade 9 Google Classroom link: 4ixv2jl

Grade 11 Google Classroom link: twdxca6

Grade 10 Google Classroom link: kmv6fcz

Grade 12 Google Classroom link: hfg74ws

# Special Needs

**Amanda Kearney**- Assistant Curriculum Leader, Special Education-  
[amanda.kearney@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:amanda.kearney@tdsb.on.ca)

**Monique Cipollone**- Assistant Curriculum Leader, Gifted Special Education-  
[monique.cipollone@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:monique.cipollone@tdsb.on.ca)

**April Vibert**- Student Success- [april.vibert@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:april.vibert@tdsb.on.ca)

**Lucy Fernandez**- Full-time Child and Youth Worker - [lucy.fernandes@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:lucy.fernandes@tdsb.on.ca)

**Takwahin Kibalian** - TDSB social worker (Mon,Th) - [takwahin.kibalian@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:takwahin.kibalian@tdsb.on.ca)

**Dale Callender**- Lumenus, Rm 312A - [dale.callender@lumenus.ca](mailto:dale.callender@lumenus.ca)

Tel: Confidential direct line- 416-489-9586

# TDSB Contacts

**TDSB Superintendent, Ward 11: Roni Felsen - [Roni.Felsen@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Roni.Felsen@tdsb.on.ca)**

The superintendent can help with unanswered questions, provide information about alternate attendance request or suspension appeals

**TDSB Trustee, Ward 11: Rachel Chernos-Lin - [Rachel.ChernosLin@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Rachel.ChernosLin@tdsb.on.ca)**

Sign up to receive her newsletter or to write her to ask questions about the board, express concerns, etc. She also holds a regular virtual community coffee with parents in her ward.

**TDSB Ward 11 PIAC representative: Janice Barnett**

# Northern Sources of Information

Adam's weekly email bulletin: Sign up with [judy.forgione@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:judy.forgione@tdsb.on.ca)

Twitter: @PrincipalNSS

TDSB Northern website: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/northernss/>

Student-Athlete Resource page; BAA/GAA Instagram for intramurals

NSS Air (School Announcements): Available at TDSB Northern or School Council site

# School Council Information Sources

School Council website: [nsscouncil.com](https://www.nsscouncil.com)

School Council email updates: [nss.school.council@gmail.com](mailto:nss.school.council@gmail.com)

School Council Meetings:

Agenda & Minutes: <https://www.nsscouncil.com/meetings-minutes.html>

Budget: <https://www.nsscouncil.com/budget.html>

# School Council

Want to learn more about what is happening at Northern? Get involved?

Here are some ways:

- Attend our meetings to get updates from the council as well as Principal Marshall. Next meeting is October 18.
- [Elections](#) for the 2022-23 school year are open! Get involved and meet fellow parents. Please consider becoming a parent representative.
- Join a school council committee (Budget, ARC, Gifted, Wellness, Social). Email council for more information.

# FAQs

1. Where can I get Northern hoodies, yearbook etc?
2. How do I report a student absence?
3. When are sport tryouts?
4. What are activity fees?
5. Where can students or parents seek extra help or get support/bring concerns for extra help or reaching ahead?
6. How can a parent get more involved with the school?
7. How do I log into Bright Space/Google Classroom to check work?
8. How to join a club, start a club?
9. What are the Buddies?
10. ??



# Parent Experience

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# How to help your child transition smoothly

1. Go to the orientation and tour the school
2. Discuss course selection with your student
3. Meet with teachers early and check-in regularly
4. Set up a study routine and environment
5. Explore extracurricular activities
6. Support your student to make social connections
7. Make parent connections yourself
8. Teach and encourage self-advocacy
9. Get some sleep!!!!

# Options that may help

Summer school - TDSB, TCDSB

Reach Ahead - happens through summer school, night school, saturday school options. NSS prioritizes graded students in graded classes, therefore cannot guarantee reach ahead classes even with summer school/night school completion.

Private Credit options - can fill in gaps or help reach ahead to allow scheduling options

Fifth Year - allows further exploration of new directions or build lagging skills. Not all students are approved. See Guidance if you have any questions.

STEP, OYAP - bridge into job opportunities and apprenticeship programs

# Meet the parents

School Council meetings: Sept 21, Oct 18, Nov 22, Jan 12, Feb 23, Apr 4, May 24

GAC (Gifted Advisory Committee): TBA

ARC (Academic Resource Committee): Nov 16, Jan 19, Feb 9, Apr 20, May 11

School Council Committees (wellness, social, academic resource, gifted, website, budget)

Speakers - recordings on [nsscouncil.com](http://nsscouncil.com) (What's On)

School Council Socials

# Points of perspective

- About 80% of students end up changing their major in post-secondary studies
- About 30% of students drop out after first year of post-secondary studies
- Our high school report cards are largely forgotten
- Everyone has a different timeline for their development, even within different skills in the same person! They may not peak in high school.
- “We do not build our lives on remediated weaknesses.” Blow the embers of strengths into flame

# Stay connected with your student

- Be curious - ask questions gently but specifically
  - “Tell me more”
  - “What is it like...?”
- Offer suggestions and availability
  - “I wonder...”
  - “Let me know if you need help”
- **ABOVE ALL, YOU ARE SAFE WITH ME**
  - I love you no matter what
  - We are all growing all the time
  - Learning and achievement are not limited to academic environments
  - Spend time together that doesn't have to do with work

# Things to watch for with your student

- Areas of self-motivation
- Strengths beyond academics
- Balance of “buckets” (connection/loved, productive/work, restorative/play)
- Falling behind in work
- Erratic class attendance (tardy, absence)
- Poor sleep
- Limited social engagement
- Stress, anxiety (escapism, argumentative, dishonesty)
- Seasons

# Q and A