

NAPANEE DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL

GRADE 9 PROGRAM CALENDAR



2025 - 2026

HOME OF THE "GOLDEN HAWKS"

LETTER FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

Dear future NDSS Grade 9 Students
and Families,

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to Napanee District Secondary School for the 2025-2026 academic year. As you embark on this exciting journey, our dedicated staff is committed to providing a nurturing and enriching environment for your educational growth.

Our Grade 9 Course Program has been carefully designed to ignite curiosity, foster creativity, and build a strong foundation for your high school experience. With a diverse range of subjects, we aim to empower you to explore your passions and unlock your full potential.

I want to emphasize the importance of attendance as it is fundamental to your success. Regular attendance builds a strong foundation for learning and contributes to a vibrant school community. Your active participation not only enhances your understanding of the curriculum but also fosters meaningful connections with peers and teachers.

Getting involved in the life of NDSS is a catalyst for personal development. Join clubs, sports, and various activities that align with your interests. The relationships you form and the experiences you gain outside the classroom contribute immensely to your high school adventure. Our dedicated teachers and support staff are here to guide, inspire, and assist you in navigating the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Remember, your time at NDSS is more than just a collection of classes; it is an opportunity to discover your passions, forge lifelong friendships, and set the stage for a bright future.

I look forward to welcoming our new Hawks and witnessing your achievements, growth, and the positive impact you will undoubtedly make within our school community.

Wishing you an inspiring and successful school year!

Warm regards,



Paul MacDonald
Principal

GRADE 9 REQUIRED COURSES

Grade 9 students take a total of **eight (8)** courses during the school year. Of these eight courses, six (6) are **required**. Required courses are the courses that every* student takes.

*Please note that there are always some exceptions to this rule based on individual student needs. For example, it may be determined that some Grade 9 students would be better supported by receiving extra literacy / numeracy support rather than French instruction. These decisions are made in the **Spring** and will involve input from Elementary teachers, the Secondary Transition team, and families.

DE-STREAMED GRADE 9 COURSES

In the subject areas of **English, Math, Science, Geography,** and **French**, students will learn together in courses designed to both meet individual student needs, and keep post-secondary pathway options open for all.

De-streamed Grade 9 courses will help students continue to build on the knowledge and skills they bring to high school from across elementary curriculum areas, and will provide a strong foundation for future learning and problem solving in Grade 10 Applied and Academic courses, and beyond.

In Grade 11, and in consultation with Guidance Counsellors, teachers, and families, students will choose courses based on their intended post-secondary pathways. Courses in Grades 11 + 12 are available at the College, University, and Workplace levels and will equip students for further study in a subject area at college or university, for hands-on experiential learning in a Skilled Trade, or for direct entry into the workforce, respectively.



GRADE 9 REQUIRED COURSE CODES

Gr. 9 English
ENL 1W0

Gr. 9 Math
MTH 1W0

Gr. 9 Science
SNC 1W0

Gr. 9 Geography
CGC 1W0

Gr. 9 French
FSF 1D0

Gr. 9 Phys. Ed
PPL 1OG (Girl's)
PPL 1OB (Boy's)
PPL 1OO (All-Gender)

LOCALLY DEVELOPED

Grade 9 English, Math, and Science are also offered at the **LOCALLY DEVELOPED** level. These courses are designed to help students strengthen their basic skills in these subject areas. Students who have achieved Level 1, or been unsuccessful in achieving the Grade 8 curriculum standards, may consider taking one or more courses at the Locally Developed course level.

Discussions around the placement of students into one or more Locally Developed Grade 9 courses will occur in consultation with families and our elementary colleagues in the **Spring**.

Students who successfully complete a Grade 9 Locally Developed course have several pathways moving forward. They may:

- continue their skills development in a Grade 10 Locally Developed course
- proceed to a Grade 9 de-streamed course
- go directly to a Grade 11 Workplace course in the same subject area

COURSE	LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSE CODE
Gr. 9 English	ENG 1LO
Gr. 9 Math	MAT 1LO
Gr. 9 Science	SNC 1LO

GRADE 9 OPTIONAL COURSES

Most Grade 9 students will have the opportunity to take two (2) optional courses. Optional courses are driven by student interest. The Grade 9 optional course choices are noted below.

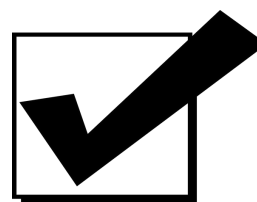
COURSE CODE	COURSE
AMU 100	Gr. 9 Music
AVI 100	Gr. 9 Visual Arts
NAC 100	Gr. 9 Visual Arts: Expressions of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Cultures
ADA 100	Gr. 9 Drama
BEM 100	Gr. 9 Business
HIF 100	Gr. 9 Family Studies
HFN 100	Gr. 9 Food & Nutrition
TAS 100/TAS 10B	Gr. 9 Technology <u>or</u> Technology - Robotics



French Immersion at NDSS

Students may take a 4-year French Immersion program at NDSS. Each year, students complete a core course in French, and in Grades 9, 10 & 11, receive French instruction in a variety of other subject areas. For more information, see page 8.

OSSD DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS



In order to graduate from high school with an **Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)**, students must complete:

- 17 **compulsory** credits (see below)
- 13 (or more) **optional** credits
- 40 hours of **community involvement**
- at least two (2) **online learning credits** (as part of the 30 required for graduation)
- the **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test** or **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course**

COMPULSORY CREDITS (TOTAL OF 17)

- 4 credits in **English** (one per grade)
- 1 credit in **French**
- 3 credits in **Math** (at least 1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
- 2 credits in **Science**
- 1 credit in **Canadian History**
- 1 credit in **Canadian Geography**
- 1 credit in the **Arts**
- 1 credit in **Health and Physical Education**
- 0.5 credit in **Civics**
- 0.5 credit in **Career Studies**
- 1 junior credit in **Technology** (must be in Grade 9 or 10)
- 1 extra credit from a STEM-related course group:
 - Business Studies
 - Computer Studies
 - Cooperative Education
 - Mathematics (in addition to required)
 - Science (in addition to required)
 - Technology (in addition to required)

OPTIONAL CREDITS (13 OR MORE)

- these are mostly accumulated during Grades 11 & 12
- Determined by student interests and post-secondary goals
- These may include up to 4 credits earned through approved Dual Credit programs

DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

At Napanee District Secondary School, we strongly recommend that students achieve the requirements for the **Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)**. However, there are two other options also available to students.

Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC)

Total of 14 credits:

- 7 compulsory credits
- 7 elective credits

Certificate of Accomplishment

The Certificate of Accomplishment can be awarded to students who leave school before fulfilling the requirements for the OSSD or OSSC.



TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE BEST COURSES FOR YOU!

- Talk to Grade 7 and Grade 8 teachers, and principals
- Discuss with family members and close friends
- Examine your strengths and interests, think about exploring new opportunities
- Research using the NDSS Course Calendar, Pathways charts, and website (napaneedss.limestone.on.ca)
- Use the tools available on myBlueprint.ca
- Talk to an NDSS guidance counsellor
- Think about your future goals

PLANNING FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

The Ontario high school program has been designed to enable students to graduate in four years. However, all Ontario students can stay longer than four years if they want to take additional courses, or spread their compulsory courses over a longer time period.

Students in Grade 9 will complete a program that will allow them to tailor their educational experiences in Grades 10, 11 + 12 to their desired pathway, based on their learning needs, academic strengths, and personal interests.



Some students will plan to go directly from high school to the **WORKPLACE**. After Grade 9, these students should select **Applied** or **Locally Developed** courses in Grade 10, which will enable them to take Grade 11 and 12 courses in the Workplace stream.



Other students will plan to start an **APPRENTICESHIP** or continue on to **COLLEGE**. Their Grade 10 courses should be at the **Applied** level in order to enable them to take courses in Grades 11 and 12 at the College or College/University level.



Still other students will plan to attend **UNIVERSITY**. These students must select **Academic** level Grade 10 courses, which will enable them to take courses at the College/University or University level in Grades 11 and 12.

GRADE 9 PROGRAM AT NDSS

Remember that in order to graduate from high school, students must successfully complete a minimum of **17 compulsory credits** and **13 optional credits**, for a total of **30 credits**.

Grade 9 students will complete **6 required credits** and **2 optional credits**, for a total of **8 credits** in Grade 9. In most cases, **ALL eight courses taken in Grade 9 will satisfy compulsory graduation requirements.**

REQUIRED Grade 9 COURSES (6)

- Grade 9 **English**
- Grade 9 **Mathematics**
- Grade 9 **Science**
- Grade 9 **Geography**
- Grade 9 **French***
- Grade 9 **Healthy + Active Living (Phys. Ed)**

*For some students, a Learning Strategies (Resource) Credit, Literacy Support Credit, or an additional optional credit may be **substituted**.

OPTIONAL Grade 9 COURSE CHOICES (2)

- Grade 9 **Music**
- Grade 9 **Visual Arts**
- Grade 9 **Visual Arts: Expressions of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Cultures**
- Grade 9 **Business**
- Grade 9 **Family Studies**
- Grade 9 **Food & Nutrition**
- Grade 9 **Technology** or **Technology - Robotics**
- Grade 9 **Drama**

STUDENT SUCCESS

The Student Success Program is successfully established at Napanee District Secondary School. The strategy of this program is to develop innovative programs for students who are struggling with the curriculum or are disengaged with school life.

Helping Grade 9 students make the transition to high school, re-engaging early school leavers, supporting school-wide efforts to improve student outcomes, and tracking the progress of students at-risk of not graduating are all part of the Student Success Strategy in Ontario high schools.

FRENCH IMMERSION GRADE 9 PROGRAM

Remember that in order to graduate from high school, all students must successfully complete a minimum of **17 compulsory credits** and **13 optional credits**, for a total of **30 credits**. In order to earn a **Certificate of Proficiency in French as a Second Language**, students must successfully complete **4 French Immersion Courses**, and a minimum of **6 courses in other subjects taught in French**.

A Grade 9 student in French Immersion will be expected to complete **6 required credits** and **2 optional credits**, for a total of **8 credits** in Grade 9. In most cases, **ALL eight courses taken in Grade 9 will satisfy compulsory graduation requirements.**

REQUIRED CREDITS (6)

- Grade 9 **French Immersion**
- Grade 9 **Geography (French)**
- Grade 9 **Healthy Active Living (French, Co-Ed)**
- Grade 9 **English**
- Grade 9 **Math**
- Grade 9 **Science**



These courses are delivered in French.

OPTIONAL COURSE CHOICES (2)

- Grade 9 **Music**
- Grade 9 **Visual Arts**
- Grade 9 **Visual Arts: Expressions of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Cultures**
- Grade 9 **Business**
- Grade 9 **Family Studies**
- Grade 9 **Food & Nutrition**
- Grade 9 **Technology or Technology - Robotics**
- Grade 9 **Drama**

In Grade 10, French Immersion students will take a total of 4 additional French credits - Immersion, History, Civics and Careers, and Peer Tutoring (where students will work with younger French students in the school, or at another location), plus English, Math, Science, and 1 elective. In Grade 11, students will take Immersion and Travel and Tourism in French, and in Grade 12, the only required French credit is the Immersion credit.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ADA100 DRAMA

This course provides opportunities for students to explore dramatic forms and techniques, using material from a wide range of sources and cultures. Students will use the elements of drama to examine situations and issues that are relevant to their lives. Students will create, perform, discuss, and analyse drama, and then reflect on the experiences to develop an understanding of themselves, the art form, and the world around them. The course will include drama games and productions of small skits, mime, tableau, mask making and improv games.

AVI100 VISUAL ARTS

This course is exploratory in nature, offering an overview of visual arts as a foundation for further study. Students will become familiar with the elements and principles of design and the expressive qualities of various materials by using a range of media, processes, techniques, and styles. Students will use the creative and critical analysis processes and will interpret art within a personal, contemporary, and historical context.

AMU100 MUSIC

This course emphasizes the performance of music at a level that strikes a balance between challenge and skill and is aimed at developing technique, sensitivity, and imagination. Students will participate in creative activities that teach them to listen with understanding. They will also learn correct musical terminology and its appropriate use. Students will select one instrument for study to develop musicianship skills, and literacy. A full semester will be devoted to the learning of a selected instrument to be used in a large ensemble setting and in small ensemble groups and activities. Students will choose one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon, percussion, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, or french horn. This beginning course is designed for further study in music in the areas of instrumental music, vocal music, and musical theatre. Students from this course can become members of our co-curricular bands and choirs and participate in music concerts, festivals and trips.

BEM100 BUSINESS: BUILDING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET

This course introduces students to information and communication technology in a business environment and builds a foundation of digital literacy skills necessary for success in a technologically driven society. Students will develop word processing, spreadsheet, database, desktop publishing, presentation software, and website design skills. Throughout the course, there is an emphasis on digital literacy, effective electronic research and communication skills, and current issues related to the impact of information and communication technology.

CGC 1W0 EXPLORING CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY

This course builds on learning in Grades 7 and 8 in geography. Students will explore relationships within and between Canada's natural and human systems and how they interconnect with other parts of the world. Students will also examine environmental and economic issues, and their impact related to topics such as natural resources and industries, careers, land use and responsible development, and sustainability. In addition, students will understand the connections that diverse communities and individuals have with the physical environment and each other throughout Canada, including First Nations, Metis, and Inuit perspectives. Students will apply geographic thinking, use the geographic inquiry process, and use geospatial technologies throughout their investigations.

CGC 1W3 EXPLORING CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY (FRENCH IMMERSION)

ENL 1W0 ENGLISH

This course enables students to continue to develop and consolidate the foundational knowledge and skills that they need for reading, writing, and oral and visual communication. Throughout the course, students will continue to enhance their media literacy and critical literacy skills, and to develop and apply transferable skills, including digital literacy. Students will also make connections to their lived experiences and to society and increase their understanding of the importance of language and literacy across the curriculum.

ENG 1LO ENGLISH - LOCALLY DEVELOPED

This course emphasizes key reading, writing, oral communication, and thinking skills that students need for success in secondary school and their daily lives. Students will study plays, short stories, and newspaper and magazine articles, and will describe and create media works. An important focus will be the correct use of spoken and written language. This course is intended for students who have significant difficulties with literacy skills. This course is organized into strands that develop listening and talking skills, reading and viewing skills, and writing skills. In all strands, the focus is on developing foundational literacy skills, and on using language clearly and accurately in a variety of authentic contexts. **Gr 8 transition meetings will help to identify students who would benefit from English at the Locally Developed level of study.**

ELS 200 LITERACY SKILLS (POTENTIAL FRENCH SUBSTITUTION)

This course emphasizes the strengthening of essential reading and writing skills. Students will read short plays, short stories, novels, poems, and newspaper and magazine articles and opinion pieces, with particular attention to locating important information, identifying main ideas and supporting details, extending personal knowledge, writing clear, accurate, coherent narratives, summaries, reports, letters, and short essays, using correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling. This course will be of particular help to students preparing for the Grade 10 Ontario Secondary Literacy Test (OSSLT). Reading selections in this course will include a variety of narrative, informational and graphical selections, with a focus on practice and preparation for the OSSLT. Assignments will include a variety of textual responses, paragraph writing, opinion pieces and news reports. **Gr 8 transition meetings will help to identify students who would benefit from ELS 200 as a substitution for French.**

FIF 1D0 FRENCH IMMERSION

This course provides opportunities for students to speak and interact in French independently in a variety of real-life and personally relevant contexts. Students will develop their ability to communicate in French with confidence by using language-learning strategies introduced in the elementary French Immersion program. Students will enhance their knowledge of the language through the study of French-Canadian literature. They will also continue to increase their understanding and appreciation of diverse French-speaking communities and to develop the skills necessary to become life-long language learners.

Prerequisite: Min. of 3800 hours of instruction in elementary French Immersion, or equivalent.

FSF 1D0 FRENCH

This course provides opportunities for students to communicate and interact in French with increasing independence, with a focus on familiar topics related to their daily lives. Students will continue to develop language knowledge and skills by using language-learning strategies introduced in the elementary Core French program, and will apply creative and critical thinking skills in various ways. They will also enhance their understanding and appreciation of diverse French-speaking communities, and will develop the skills necessary to become life-long language learners.

GLE 100 LEARNING STRATEGIES 1 (POTENTIAL FRENCH SUBSTITUTION)

This course focuses on learning strategies to help students become better, more independent learners. Students will learn how to develop and apply literacy and numeracy skills, personal management skills, and interpersonal and teamwork skills to improve their learning and achievement in school, the workplace, and the community. The course helps students build confidence and motivation to pursue opportunities for success in secondary school and beyond.

Prerequisite: Recommendation of Principal. Gr 8 transition meetings will help to identify students who would benefit from GLE 100 as a substitution for French.

HIF 100 EXPLORING FAMILY STUDIES

This course explores, within the context of families, some of the fundamental challenges people face: how to meet basic needs, how to relate to others, how to manage resources, and how to become responsible members of society. Students will explore adolescent development and will have opportunities to develop interpersonal, decision-making, and practical skills related to daily life. They will learn about the diverse ways in which families function in Canada and will use research skills as they explore topics related to individual and family needs and resources.

HFN 100 FOOD & NUTRITION

This course focuses on guidelines for making nutritious food choices. Students will investigate factors that influence food choices, including beliefs, attitudes, current trends, traditional eating patterns, food marketing strategies, and individual needs. Students will also explore the environmental impact of a variety of food choices at the local and global level. The course provides students with opportunities to develop food preparation skills and introduces them to the use of social science research methods in the area of food and nutrition. ***Please note that students may take this course in Grade 9 or 10, but not in both grades.**

MAT 1LO MATHEMATICS - LOCALLY DEVELOPED

This course emphasizes further development of mathematical knowledge and skills to prepare students for success in their everyday lives, in the workplace, and in the Grade 10 Locally Developed course. The course is organized in three strands related to money sense, measurement, and proportional reasoning. In all strands, the focus is on developing and consolidating key foundational mathematical concepts and skills by solving authentic, everyday problems. Students have opportunities to further develop their mathematical literacy and problem-solving skills and to continue developing their skills in reading, writing, and oral language through relevant and practical math activities. **Gr 8 transition meetings will help to identify students who would benefit from Math at the Locally Developed level of study.**

MTH 1WO MATHEMATICS

This course enables students to consolidate, and continue to develop, an understanding of mathematical concepts related to number sense and operations, algebra, measurement, geometry, data, probability, and financial literacy. Students will use mathematical processes, mathematical modelling, and coding to make sense of the mathematics they are learning and to apply their understanding to culturally responsive and relevant real-world situations. Students will continue to enhance their mathematical reasoning skills, including proportional reasoning, spatial reasoning, and algebraic reasoning, as they solve problems and communicate their thinking.

NAC 100 VISUAL ARTS: EXPRESSIONS OF FIRST NATIONS, METIS, AND INUIT CULTURES

This course is exploratory in nature, offering an overview of various arts disciplines and using visual arts as a foundation for further study. Students are given the opportunity to create, present, and analyse art works that explore or reflect First Nations, Metis, and Inuit perspectives and cultures. Students will examine the interconnected relationships between art forms and individual and cultural identities, histories, values, protocols, and ways of knowing and being. Students will become familiar with the elements and principles of designs and the expressive qualities of various materials by using a range of media, processes, techniques, and styles. Students will demonstrate innovation as they learn and apply art-related concepts, methods, and conventions, and acquire skills that are transferable beyond the classroom. Students will use the creative and critical analysis processes and will interpret art within a personal, contemporary, and historical context.

PPL 100 HEALTHY ACTIVE LIVING EDUCATION (ALL-GENDER)

This course emphasizes students' daily participation in a variety of enjoyable physical activities that promote lifelong healthy, active living. Students will learn movement techniques and principles, ways to improve personal fitness and physical competence, safety, and injury-prevention strategies. They will investigate issues related to healthy sexuality and the use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and will participate in activities designed to develop goal-setting, communication, and social skills.

PPL 10B HEALTHY ACTIVE LIVING EDUCATION (MALE)

PPL 10G HEALTHY ACTIVE LIVING EDUCATION (FEMALE)

PPL 103 HEALTHY ACTIVE LIVING EDUCATION (FRENCH IMMERSION, ALL-GENDER)

SNC 1W0 SCIENCE

This course enables students to develop their understanding of concepts related to biology, chemistry, physics, and earth and space science, and to relate science to technology, society, and the environment. Throughout the course, students will develop and refine their STEM skills as they use scientific research, scientific experimentation, and engineering design processes to investigate concepts and apply their knowledge in situations that are relevant to their lives and communities. Students will continue to develop transferable skills as they become scientifically literate global citizens.

SNC 1LO SCIENCE - LOCALLY DEVELOPED

This course emphasizes reinforcing and strengthening science-related knowledge and skills, including scientific inquiry, critical thinking, and the relationship between science, society, and the environment, to prepare students for success in everyday life, in the workplace, and in the Science Grade 10 Locally Developed course. Students explore a range of topics within the topics of biology, chemistry and environmental science. Students will have the opportunity to extend mathematical and scientific process skills and to develop their skills in reading, writing, and oral language through relevant and practical science activities. **Gr 8 transition meetings will help to identify students who would benefit from Science at the Locally Developed level of study.**

TAS 100 TECHNOLOGY AND THE SKILLED TRADES

This hands-on course enables students to further explore the engineering design process and develop other technological knowledge and skills introduced in earlier grades. Students will design and safely create prototypes, products, and/or services, working with tools and technologies from various industries. As students develop their projects to address real-life problems, they will apply technological concepts such as precision measurement, as well as health and safety standards. Students will begin to explore job skills programs and education and training pathways, including skilled trades, that can lead to a variety of careers. Students will gain exposure to all the varied Technological courses offered at NDSS.

TAS 10B TECHNOLOGY AND THE SKILLED TRADES, ROBOTICS

This hands-on course enables students to further explore the engineering design process and develop other technological knowledge and skills introduced in earlier grades. Students will design and safely create prototypes, products, and/or services, working with tools and technologies from various industries. As students develop their projects to address real-life problems, they will apply technological concepts such as precision measurement, as well as health and safety standards. Students will begin to explore job skills programs and education and training pathways, including skilled trades, that can lead to a variety of careers.



A Roadmap to Grade 9 at...

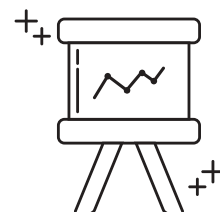
NAPANEE DSS

The Home of the Hawk!

**jan
21-28**

Grade 8 Classroom Visits - Feeder Schools

NDSS Guidance Counsellors will visit with LDSB Grade 8 classes to talk about life at NDSS. They'll explain the Grade 9 Program and beyond! Information regarding course selection and timelines will also be made available to families of Grade 8 students on our NDSS website.



**feb
19**

Future Hawk Open House

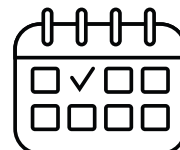
Future Golden Hawk families are invited to NDSS on **Wednesday, February 19** from **6:30pm - 8:00pm** to meet the entire Student Support team, visit classrooms, and see examples of student work.

**by
mar
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Grade 9 Course Selections

Following Open House, Grade 8 students will choose classes for Grade 9 using My BluePrint. **LDSB Students**, your Grade 8 teachers share the details for submitting. **Students from outside of LDSB** will be required to register as a Limestone student prior to submitting courses. Instructions for registering/course selection are included in this package for both LDSB and non LDSB students. We ask that **ALL** course selections be submitted no later than **March 1, 2025**.



**early
may**

May Day Assembly + Tours

Grade 8's are invited to NDSS where they will learn about the variety of ways to get involved as a Golden Hawk and go on a tour of the school during a regular school day.

**late
aug**

Grade 9 Orientation

During the return to school 2025, Grade 9's will attend a special day just for them! This day will include an official welcome to the Nest! *Students will receive an invitation to this event in the summer. Please ensure your correct mailing address is on file at your current school.*



A Grade 8 - 9 Transition Guide