

Parent News

Westside School

Please join us for the new Council Meeting on September 7:15pm in the library.

Principal's Message

It was another great year of learning! Thank you for all your support this year and everyone's focus on the learning. At Westside, our mission is to inspire growth learning and when you look at our results this year, that definitely happened. Students attempted 6406 credits this year and earned 6265 which is 98% success, up a percentage year. Through our school improvement plan, teachers have been focused on increasing the number of students earning marks at level 3/4 (70% or greater). This year, 324 students earned a mark of 80% or above, and 1694 credits a mark between 70% and 79%. This marks the credits earned were at level 3/4, up a few percent from last year. This success is the hard work of our students and the work of staff who have made student engagement through the instructional strategies they use, the types of assessments they create, and their willingness to give students multiple opportunities to succeed. In fact, as I write this, a group of students planning to work in the library next week, on missed credits, recovery. I love the commitment they have shown to their academics by willing to work of their summer.

This past June, we had our first June commencement. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen. It was a great year for graduates and having it in June really helped us finish strong. We are excited to report that 83% of the grade 12's who started with us in grade 9, graduated. That is a great 4-year grad rate and it could be even higher if all our original 227 (number in our 2015-2016 cohort) moved on from Westside and completed their studies elsewhere (grad rate is based on the grade 9's you started with in each cohort). Previous cohort (2014-2015) or 12+ group, had a minimum 4-year grade rate of 88%. A few more graduated this June, they have a minimum 5-year grad rate of 88%. I am proud of all our graduates and wish them much luck next as they start their careers in secondary studies.

For next year, there are a few staff changes. First, we have to say good-bye to Ms. McLean from Phys Ed, Jennifer Hutchinson and Shannon McLean from drama and Nativity from French who have all been transferred to other schools in the board. They have been greatly missed but we wish them much success in their next adventure. We also say good-bye to Marie Montgomery from science and Erica Mills from English much luck as they go to celebrate the arrival of their new babies. They will both be away on maternity leave for the school year. Mason Reid from science will be on a leave semester 1 as well. Even though we have Long Term Occasional teachers who fill in for teachers who are off on leave, some changes will happen over the summer. We will let you know who joins us in September and will help with welcoming the new staff this fall. You can reach all staff through our website and should find all the contact information on the school website, in the new school year. In September, be sure to also look for the first day sheets (course outlines) for all our students on our school website.

If your student hasn't picked up their timetable, they can get it by either coming to school this summer to pay the \$50 activity fee and verify their address and phone number, or until the last week in August when guidance we be in to assist with any timetable changes. New grade 9's for next year will get their timetable at the grade 9 orientation on August 28th. Our school council/parents will be sponsoring a BBQ that day for all our students with a special gift for all our students.

alist High Skills Major?

Skills Major is a program that
 o in conjunction with their
 ements. Through courses that
 already taking, SHSM gives
 n an area that matches their
 ests. The sector areas at

- Arts and Culture
- Environmental
- Health and Wellness
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Information and
 Communications Technology
- Transportation

ortunities are open to all grade
 students. There are no
 es to enter the program and
 t Westside that are interested
 up at any time starting in

guest speakers, recognized
 s, post-secondary and
 nt options are all done at no
 students and during school
 year students earned CPR and
 certifications, worked with
 t Avalon, toured Argo
 played in a 200 student band,
 ir Smart Serve and Food
 nd had many more unique
 es and experiences.

re encouraged to listen to
 nents and check [https://
 o.ca/westside/](https://o.ca/westside/) for up to date
 es.

ested, see Mr. Wardle in the
 nformation or email him at
 @ugdsb.on.ca. Online
 n also be found at <http://>

What's Going On in Guidance

Community Involvement Hours: all Ontario secondary school students must complete 40 hours of community involvement to graduate. We expect all students are to record their hours using Hour Republic. This program can be accessed through the UGCloud accounts, in Brightspace. Questions about the program or help with inputting hours should be directed to Ms.



Kirkland in Student Services. Need ideas for how to volunteer? There are flyers and contact information available for people/organizations looking for volunteers posted in student services throughout the year. For next year Grade 12's, all hours should be submitted by May 1, 2020 to prepare for our June commencement.

Timetables: Many students took advantage of the registration in June, and are ready for the first classes on September 3rd. Students that still need to register and pick up their 2019-2020 timetable can do so all summer long in the main office. Guidance counsellors will be available for required changes to schedules the last week in August. We cannot accommodate requests for specific teachers or classes with friends.



Fall visits from Colleges and Universities: September - November representatives from Ontario colleges and universities will be visiting Westside to share information about their programs, campuses and student life. Schedules will go out to Grade 12 students the second week of classes. The schedule will be announced on the Guidance Twitter account the day of the visit (@WSSGuidance). Learning from these representatives is a great way to narrow down your choices for college and university applications.



are very fortunate to host many students and groups over the past years. Next year promises to be another year with students visiting from Germany, France, Belgium and Brazil. Some of the students will be here for a few weeks, some for a few months, others the entire year.



In order to make this program successful, homestay families are needed within our school board. Families will receive financial compensation, as well as a rich learning experience from the visiting student.

If you think your family might be interested in hosting an international student, please contact the people listed below.

Urgent need for a family who is hosting a male German student who has a peanut and walnut allergy. He will be in Semester 1 (September - end of October). Please contact Jennifer.

Language International: Jennifer Gauthier, Homestay Coordinator. 519-217-0830
mlihomestay.com

Da Houseman, Homestay Coordinator,
houseman@red-leaf.com

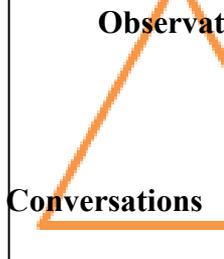
Student identified?

When a student is identified, the special education department will be notified. Identified students will be reviewed and a plan developed and shared with relevant teachers. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact special education. Do not hesitate to call the special education program leader for more information, at 519-938-1111.



Special Education

At Westside, our teachers use triangulation to ensure their assessment data is valid and reliable, as outlined in Ontario's assessment document, Growing Success. This means that teachers collect evidence of learning through a combination of **observations** of students working and problem-solving in class, **conversations** with students about learning, and **products** they are investigating and producing through assignments and tests. Teachers are looking for evidence of learning through all three modalities, to be confident that their students have mastered all the course expectations. Because of the value placed on observations, conversations, and products, it is necessary for students to be assessed regularly, to meet this requirement. Everything that happens in class has value and counts in their final grade.



We have seen a rise in students using vapes and e-cigarettes in the past year. Vapes range in size and appearance, resembling pens and USB sticks which makes them difficult to notice. Some of our students believe that vapes are harmless and the ingredients only contain flavourings. However, ever vaping is used to deliver nicotine which is highly addictive. In addition to nicotine, e-liquid can contain other chemicals such as propylene glycol, acetaldehyde, benzene, glycerin, diacetyl, benzene, nickel, tin, lead, and other chemicals, and additives.

Just a reminder if students are seen smoking or in possession of these items on school property, within the perimeter of the perimeter, the consequences are as follows:

- 1st offence - Letter and call home
- 2nd offence - suspension
- 3rd offence - fine of \$1000 from Public Health

Further offences - fine of \$5000 from Public Health

For more information about the risks of vaping, please visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/smoking-tobacco/vaping/risks.html>



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deThunder

ca/westside



Currently the School Messenger system is calling home for student absence monitor your child's attendance each day by following these instructions: <https://students.ugdsb.on.ca/WSS/Students> or follow the link on the Westside Website: www.ugdsb.on.ca/Westside

Username

- First 5 letters of the student's last name, followed by the first 3 letters of the first name.

Password

- The student's 9 digit OEN. This number can be found on a report card or report card. If unsure, please contact Student Services.

EVALUATIONS

schedule
for part time
during ANY exams



These exams are NOT excusable for employment reasons.

Exams for 2019-2020 school year will

Sem 1: Oct 24-30 Sem 2: June 17-23

THE UGDSB APP

The Upper Grand DSB has a parent communication tool for your smart phone. Designed to streamline communication between schools and the communities they serve.

and Mobile app provides parents with access with up to date information, calendars and social media feeds. The Upper Grand Mobile App is available today for download on the Google Play Store or at iTunes. Use the "Upper Grand" to find the app.

On-line?

What on-line services are available during school hours? Fees will be for: Activity fee)



Children's FOUNDATION
OF GUELPH AND WELLINGTON

Food & Friends Program
DUFFERIN · WELLINGTON · GUELPH

Bringing healthy food to hungry minds

Food and Friends student nutrition programs maximize students' potential to learn by providing healthy food in a convenient environment.

Westside Breakfast Club

- Breakfast is served in the baking lab, Rm 112
- Between 8:30-8:50
- Students can stay in the room to eat, or take food home with them.

Snacks Bin Program

- Available throughout the day in the main office for student services. The following snacks are available: cheese, crackers, yogurt and granola bars

Westside Toonie Lunch

- Available daily in the library
- The cost is \$2.00 per bag
- The lunch includes: chicken wrap, cheese, fruit, crackers, yogurt tube

Who is entitled to use this program?

- ALL students at Westside are welcome to use

Donations

If you would like to contribute to our program, you can do so through our convenient school cash online system. Thank you for bringing healthy food to hungry minds at Westside.