

What can families do in advance to prepare the student for the transition?

- Attend parent information nights- Grade 8 nights are often held in the first semester. Check your local school.
- Check out school and board website and follow social media. You can find information about school events and transition opportunities.
- There are often lots of opportunities for a sneak peek into high school life (e.g., Grade 7 days, Grade 8 days where home schools meet and visit the high school)
- School isn't all about academics, there are loads of extra-curricular activities. Attend a school play. Come to a sporting event.

What can help make a good transition?

- Elementary schools have access to a Student Success Consultant, a position that bridges elementary and high school
- Grade 8 Transition Meetings for students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) are an important step in preparing. In that meeting, elementary and secondary school staff gather with you to discuss program options, and provide an opportunity for questions
- Head start – WCDSB Head Start is a program before the beginning of grade 9

***What questions
should families ask of
their school ahead of
time?***

- There are many Pathways and it is important that you understand the Pathways. Home schools are a great resource for this information. As well as our Student Success Consultants, Secondary Guidance Counselors and Special Education Teachers.
- Ask about school's Uniform Policy, Use of Lockers, Transportation, etc.

***What is
communication like
within the high
school setting?***

- Communication in a secondary school setting can feel a little more overwhelming because of the size of the school and number of staff in the building. In many cases you are coming from schools and staff who have known you and your family for many years. But rest assured that there are great teams of people in place looking out for your child.
- We operate in caseload teams which include an Administrator, a Guidance Counsellor and a Special Education Monitor/ Student Success Teacher. These people meet weekly as a team.
- Typically, you will have a main contact and oftentimes for your family this main point of contact is likely the Special Education Monitor.
- The Guidance Counsellors are there to discuss scheduling, course options, pathways and community resources.

***What is
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- The most important contact at the beginning of any learning cycle is the classroom teacher. Make contact early.
- WCDSB schools use School Messenger for communication of important information. Each school's website contains information, as well as the board's main website. You can also sign up for Newswire.

What are the differences between middle school and high school?

- WCDSB Inclusive model continues into high school
- Larger school environment and your child will have 3-4 classroom teachers daily
- Can choose courses of interest -called electives
- No recess: 5 minute transition times between classes
- Longer class times: 76 mins, lunch is approximately 45 mins
- Will be assigned a locker

What happens when something goes wrong at high school and the student needs extra support? Where do they go for support while at school? How do they access that?

- It is important that your student knows who they can go to in school. And it is important that parents know who they can go to as well.
- Always reach out to the teacher.
- Reach out to the Special Education Monitor teacher. They are really the case manager for your student and is highly connected to both classroom teachers.
- We are here and able to support

What assets do you have at your school to help students get involved in school life?

- Many extra curricular activities happen over common lunch and your student can participate during school day. Talk to your monitor teacher if you have any concerns about your student participating in extracurricular activities.
- LINK, SAC, Fairs of extra curricular activities in the school
- Monitor Teachers and Guidance Counsellors, Administrators encourage and facilitate involvement.
- Staff volunteers much time to extra curricular activities because we believe that it is important to have a balance between school life and academic success