

## **Tips For Parents**

The following are tips for maximizing your son/daughter's potential for success in secondary school:

- if you have any questions/concerns of a general nature, please phone the Special Education Department as we are your primary contact.
- if you have any questions/concerns about a particular class/course, please phone the teacher first.
- please be patient. It takes a few weeks for everyone to get settled into a routine. Our department needs time to understand the needs of your son/daughter and they need to get used to their new environment.
- if there is a change in your son/daughter's medication, please notify the Special Education Department as soon as possible.
- check your son/daughter's agenda every night: homework assignments should be recorded there and it helps to keep them organized!
- please ensure that your son/daughter has all the necessary school supplies every day which includes: pens, pencils, calculator, ruler, binders with extra paper and coloured pencils as well as their agenda.
- if there are any new developments in your son/daughter's life that could affect his/her academic progress, please let us know.
- **MOST IMPORTANTLY:** studies show that parents who are involved with their child's academic career find that students tend to do better in school. Be sure to attend all Parent/Teacher Interview nights and call if there is ever any concerns/issues.

## **Frequently Asked Questions!**

***My son/daughter is taking Locally Developed/Workplace courses. Do these count towards the OSSD?***

Yes! All of these courses are credited courses recognized by the Ministry of Education and count towards the OSSD.

***My son/daughter is in the Locally Developed/Workplace program. Can he/she still earn an OSSD?***

Yes! He/she can earn an OSSD provided they fulfill all of the requirements: 18 compulsory courses, 12 elective courses, pass the gr. 10 literacy test or course (OLC 400) and complete their 40 hours of community service.

***I'm not sure if my son/daughter should be taking Locally Developed or Applied level courses. What should I do?***

Phone the Department Head of Special Education for assistance in making that decision.

***Can my son/daughter move from the Locally Developed courses to Applied if he/she is successful?***

If your son/daughter does extremely well in any of the Locally Developed courses, the classroom teacher may recommend a move to the Applied course(s) for next year. This decision is discussed in conjunction with the classroom teacher, Department Head of Special Education and most importantly, the parent/guardian.

***My son/daughter is at grade level in Math but needs modifications in English. What stream should he/she be in? (Or vice versa)***

Courses can be taken in different streams. All language based courses should match streams and all Math/Science should match. This should be discussed with the grade 8 teacher and the Department Head of Special Education at Villanova before a final decision is made.

***What happens if my son/daughter is exempted from French in high school?***

The principal will substitute a different compulsory course for French. This happens quite often especially for Workplace students and this does not affect their diploma. All students that are exempted from French attain the same diploma as those who take this course.

***What is the Learning Strategies course?***

The GLE 100 or GLS 100 course are mandatory for students in grade 9 who are either exempted from taking French or are in the Locally Developed courses. Students are taught organizational skills, note making skills, study skills and strategies for success for the gr. 10 literacy test. There is also the opportunity to complete homework and access support from a Special Education teacher for assistance in all areas of the curriculum.

***Can my son/daughter take French if they choose instead of taking Learning Strategies?***

Of course!

***My son/daughter used a laptop computer in elementary school. Will he/she be allowed to use it in high school?***

Yes! The laptop is provided by the Ministry and school board to access the curriculum both in elementary and secondary schools. The same applies to FM systems.

***My son/daughter had a communication book in elementary school. Will this continue?***

If your son/daughter is in the Life Skills Program, the agenda or other form of communication book is utilized.

***My son/daughter has difficulties managing buttons and/or zippers. Can the school uniform be adapted?***

Yes, in special cases the uniform can be altered according to individual need. Any alterations must be approved by the Principal of Villanova.

***Are goals completed on the IEP for students in the Life Skills program?***

Goals will be completed at the request of the parent. The ultimate goal for your son/daughter is to become as independent and self-sufficient as possible by the end of their high school career. Your son/daughter's program is discussed ongoing by support staff, teaching staff and you! A plan is put into place at the IPRC review meeting scheduled in April/May of every school year.

***Are goals completed on the IEP for students who are formally identified and are in other high school programs such as Locally Developed, Applied or Academic?***

Goals will be completed at the request of the parent. The ultimate goal for your son/daughter is to pass all of their courses in order to attain their OSSD. Any questions regarding this should be directed to the Department Head of Special Education. Any concerns regarding goals for your son/daughter can also be discussed at Parent/Teacher interview nights or the IPRC review meeting scheduled in April/May of every school year.