



Langstaff Secondary School

School Council Meeting

Date: Monday, November 15, 2021, 7:00pm

Attendees

Sheri Epstein
Heather Leatham
Jay Perri
Kim Dresser
Mahshid Azimi
Rebecca Finlason -Harper
Mohamad Ahmadian
Gao Li
Anne Lekhi

Meeting Topic: Destreaming in High Schools

For next Sept 2022, GR 9 Science will be destreamed in addition to Math (which occurred this year). English, Geography & French will also only be offered as Academic – which is a form of destreaming as well. The board feels destreaming of Grades 9 & 10 is urgent.

Streaming is sorting students based on perceived ability and occurs in elementary and secondary.

In Secondary, it means sorting into Academic and Applied levels.

Destreaming means that starting in Grade 9, the students will no longer be segregated in order to have more students having more pathway choices.

Streaming has been shown to be a barrier in marginalized and racial groups, and the OECD recommendation is to eliminate streaming for students younger than 15 yrs old. Destreaming keeps options open until the students themselves can make choices about their futures.

Research indicates a negative impact on those placed in APPLIED streams, and that streaming has little to no benefit for higher achieving students.

Currently Grade 9 Math is a Destreamed course

For Grade 10 students will be able to select Grade 10 Applied or Academic math

Next year there will be no Applied option for any Grade 9 courses

Some will be officially “destreamed” others will only be offered at the Academic level

Once all of Grade 9 is destreamed the plan is to then destream Grade 10 courses as well

Streaming will then only be a choice for Grade 11 and 12 courses when students are old enough to choose for themselves

Group Discussion

Re-cap: Next year, in Sept 2022, there will be no applied options for Grade 9.

Most kids in Applied level courses were not advancing to post-secondary studies. More likely that kids in M(mixed) and U(uni) courses will advance to college and university studies.

QUESTIONS:

Rebecca was asking about Engineering and Math Prerequisites

- In past, if you took Applied Math in Gr 9 & 10, you could move into M level

Kim inquired about curriculum changes for Grades 9 & 10

- Yes – the curriculum will change, and must ensure that all kids retain the key concepts

Lee Ann asked about Ms. Epstein’s views on destreaming

- She referred to early teaching experiences of stacked classes for General & Advanced. Her philosophy involved offering stretch goals to general students.

SPORTS:

Availability is dependent on teachers coaching. Basketball, volleyball, badminton club were able to begin. NO teacher volunteered to coach volleyball.

Basketball is starting now for BOYS. Have not yet had tryouts, but there was huge demand and interest.

LITERACY TEST:

Grades 11, 12 (not graduating) are writing the literacy test next week. Grade 10 are writing in March.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test → normally a grad requirement that was suspended temporarily because of COVID. It is based on Grade 9 applied English, and is not something the students need to study for. There is a Google Classroom with practice tests to understand the types of questions.

Overwhelmingly, kids pass; usually around a 96% pass rate. If you do not pass, you can re-take or attend a literacy course, which is a credited Grade 12 open level course.

There is an after school literacy course. Builds familiarity with the types of questions they will be asked.

A big part of the test is following instructions. For example, comply with the max # of lines.

On Nov 25th, all classes are asynchronous, and the only kids coming to school are those writing the test. There will be no attendance taken as a result.