



Thornhill Secondary School - Q&A

The questions in this document are from the form which was on the [Grade 8 Virtual Open House website](#). If you have a question which was not answered in this document, please contact Thornhill Secondary School directly at:

Phone: (905) 889-5453

E-mail: thornhill.ss@yrdsb.ca

1. What is your special program?

Answer: We offer the following specialized programs: Advanced Placement (AP), Gifted Program, Regional ELD Program, High Performance Athlete Program, PEAK, and Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM). For more information, please click on the [following link](#).

2. What science courses/programs do you have?

Answer: For a detailed listing of science courses offered at Thornhill SS, please click on the [following link](#).

3. Do you have any arts/music program?

Answer: We don't have a specialized arts/music program, but we do offer a variety of arts (visual and dramatic) and music courses, as well as a number extra-curricular activities. For a specific listing and descriptions of arts and music courses at Thornhill SS, please click on the [following link](#). As well, be sure to check out our website and view our student [Music Council video](#).

4. Do you have a bus service?

Answer: No, there is no transportation service available.

5. When the school finishes, can the student do their homework at school and wait for parents to pick them up?

Answer: Due to COVID-19 protocols, students must depart the school on days that they are in school at 11:00 am. When school returns to regular schedules, students can wait for parents to pick them up and complete their homework while waiting, however there is no staff supervision after school.

6. If my son decides to join your school, what is the deadline for registration?

Answer: Registration deadlines depend on if the student is coming from a YRDSB elementary school [inside the Thornhill SS boundary](#), YRDSB elementary school outside the Thornhill SS boundary, or a non-YRDSB elementary school. Please see the section "How to Register at Thornhill Secondary School" on the [Grade 8 Open House Page](#) for specific registration information depending on the enrolment category that applies to you.



Thornhill Secondary School - Q&A

7. Will classes for 2021-2022 be virtual or in person?

Answer: At this time, there is no information about the learning format for the 2021/2022 school year.

8. Hello, my son is more focused on math and computer programing. Do you have any programs that are focused on those subjects?

Answer: We offer a variety of math and computer science courses. For course descriptions, please click on the [following link](#). Please also ensure you view our [Grade 8 Open House presentation](#) for additional information on our STEM opportunities both within the classroom and extracurricularly.

9. In the 2021-2022 school year will there still be division between grade 9 academic and applied stream?

Answer: At this time, we don't have any specific information from the Ministry of Education about de-streaming grade 9 courses.

10. How many students (all grades) attend TSS?

Answer: There are approximately 1000 students who attend Thornhill Secondary School.

GIFTED PROGRAM

1. I would like to learn more about Gifted Programs

Answer: Our Gifted program is for students who meet the intellectual ability criterion as outlined in the Ministry categories and definitions. The Gifted program begins in Grade 9 and ends in Grade 10 with the opportunity to continue in Advanced Placement (AP) courses in Grades 11 and 12. Gifted courses that are offered in both grades 9 and 10 are Math, English, Science, French, Geography (grade 9 only) and History (Grade 10 only). Our goal is to cultivate, lead, and inspire innovative thinkers and expert communicators through a focus on challenging meaningful and engaging classroom activities and assessments. Our learning environments promote a love of learning and can ignite a passion to pursue more in-depth studies.

2. Could you please comment on the options for gifted programs please. Is there a pre-ap gifted program and a regular gifted program? If my child is in a gifted program in elementary school... What are his options? Also, can you provide more details on the difference with the gifted program and pre-ap program.

Answer: Thornhill Secondary School has a Pre-Advanced Placement (AP) program in Grade 9 and 10. There is an application to complete for entrance into the program. Please see the [TSS AP Flyer](#) for additional information. Gifted students are identified in elementary and transition directly into our Gifted program. Our Gifted students have the opportunity to continue into



Thornhill Secondary School - Q&A

Advanced Placement courses in Grades 11 and 12 if they choose. The AP pathway continues to be open to students after Grade 10. Gifted courses that are offered in both grades 9 and 10 are

Math, English, Science, French, Geography (grade 9 only) and History (Grade 10 only). AP courses that are offered in both grades 9 and 10 are English, Math and Science.

Please visit the following College Board website for additional information on AP courses:

<https://ap.collegeboard.org/>

3. My son is a student of Henderson Avenue Public School gift program, if I want to study at Thornhill SS, I need to apply?

Answer: There is no need to apply or transfer as Thornhill Secondary School is the gifted feeder school. We would have an IPRC meeting that is set up by the elementary gifted classroom teacher. A registration form will need to be completed and courses will be selected through [My Pathway Planner](#). The Guidance Department is currently preparing a presentation for elementary schools to support course option selection and registration steps.

4. What are the advantages of the gifted program as compared to IB program, how is the gifted program unique and has its advantages?

Answer: The Gifted program supports students academically, socially and emotionally through innovative classroom instruction and by ensuring a student's IEP is fully supported. Students have the support and guidance from Special Education Resource Teachers who work with them throughout their high school experience to help ensure their success. Students in our gifted program have the potential to achieve beyond what is expected of their same-age peers. At TSS, they are given the opportunity to understand their true abilities and passions through the exposure of innovative and engaging course curriculum. In addition, they have access to a vast number of leadership opportunities that are available through our extracurricular and co-curricular activities and programs. Be sure to check out our student videos highlighting our students and student leaders.

5. For the gifted program, what is the ratio of the time that a certified teacher leads the education?

Answer: Students must take at least 4 or 5 gifted courses per year to meet the 51% of the instructional day requirement for the partially integrated programming of the gifted program. All courses are delivered by certified OCT teachers.