



Thornlea Secondary School  
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<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/thornlea.ss/Pages/default.aspx>

# Welcome to Thornlea

Please check out the Special Education Transition Information website:

<https://sites.google.com/gapps.yrdsb.ca/thornlesecondaryschool/home>

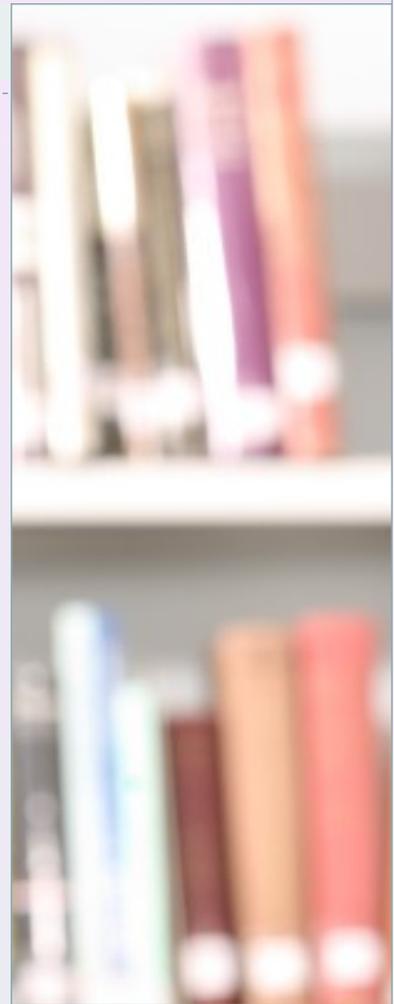
It is not unusual to struggle with uncertainty and insecurity as you get older. You may worry about the number of friends you have, your classes and grades, or your ability to manage school and personal goals. But there is no reward without hard work. The key is to learn who you are as a person and as a learner with the goal of embracing your own personal foibles instead of defying or hating them.

Life is full of ups and downs, and a large part of the growing process are learning how to handle them. Over time, you will learn the strategies to manage and overcome them. It may be hard work, but in the end you will be better prepared to achieve success. High school doesn't last forever. You spend 10 years in elementary school, but only 4-5 years in high school. Embrace what it has to offer. Don't be scared to try new things. Make mistakes and learn from them. But most of all, be the best you that you can be.

*“Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life. Remember that fear always lurks behind perfectionism.”*

**David M. Burns**

Embrace your struggles, but never be afraid to ask for help. While high school does encourage students to be more independent, this doesn't have to mean that you are completely on your own. **There is always someone there to help.**



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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- motto: *"Think and be thought of"*
- song: *"Thunderstruck"* by AC/DC
- brand: *"Thornlea Thunder"*

# CHANGING SCHOOLS

	Elementary	Secondary
Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ one teacher for all core subjects</li> <li>◆ specialist teachers for Art, Special Education, and additional learning support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ a different teacher for each subject on your timetable, with different expectations</li> </ul>
Timetable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ full year program for all subjects (10 months to learn)</li> <li>◆ recess/lunch recess</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ semestered program</li> <li>◆ 4 subjects per semester</li> <li>◆ 5 months to learn one subject</li> </ul>
Report Cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ a report card at the end of each term</li> <li>◆ 3 in total for the year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Mid-term reports in each semester</li> <li>◆ Final report cards at end of each semester</li> <li>◆ 6 in total for the year (including progress reports)</li> </ul>
Size and Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ small building, all classes close together</li> <li>◆ often 200-600 students</li> <li>◆ students in grades k-8</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ large building, classes set out on 2 floors</li> <li>◆ approximately 1,050 students</li> <li>◆ students in grades 9-12</li> </ul>
Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ primarily in one classroom throughout the day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ different classroom for each subject</li> </ul>
Tests/Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ tests given by core teacher – spaced out</li> <li>◆ no exams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ tests given by each course teacher (possibly more than one a day)</li> <li>◆ exams at the end of the semester</li> </ul>

*“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”*  
**Malcolm X**



*Thornlea Secondary School*

**WE BELIEVE IN:**

**TRUSTWORTHINESS**

**HONESTY**

**OPTIMISM**

**RESPECT**

**NOBLENES**

**LEADERSHIP**

**EMPATHY**

**ACHIEVEMENT**

## WHAT WE DO IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

When you start high school, it can be hard to know where to get help if you need it. Supports through the Special Education department include:

- ◆ Academic
- ◆ Social-emotional
- ◆ Transition
- ◆ Life skills
- ◆ Home-school balance
- ◆ Withdrawal (in class)
- ◆ Resource (room 214)
- ◆ Indirect (as needed)

When you have questions, concerns or just need to talk remember to speak to your SERT. They can advocate for you, work with your teachers, speak to your parents, or just be a listening ear.

For more information go to <https://sites.google.com/gapps.yrdsb.ca/>

## SCHOOL PARTNERS

In Special Education, we work closely with our Guidance department, Student Success team, and administration. You can find us all in the same area of the school.

- ◆ Special Education Resource Room (room 214)
- ◆ Administration (main office)
- ◆ Guidance (room 207)
- ◆ Student Success (room 213)

## ABOUT YOUR IEP

- ◆ Your IEP is a legal document.
- ◆ The accommodations in there are specific to you and your learning needs.
- ◆ Your Grade 9 IEP will be completed in the first 30 days of school. Until your Grade 9 IEP is complete, your Grade 8 IEP is used.
- ◆ All of your classroom teachers have access to your IEP.
- ◆ You should know what is in your IEP so you can advocate for your learning needs.
- ◆ We want to hear from you, because it is all about you. Be a part of the process and give us input for your IEP.

*“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.”*  
**Sydney J. Harris**

### FAQs:

Q: Am I allowed to leave the school at lunchtime?

A: Yes. There are many places near the school to go get lunch, but remember that lunch begins at 11:30 and the first afternoon bell is 12:25. Leave yourself enough time to get back so you are not late for period 3.

Q: Is there somewhere to buy food at the school?

A: Yes. We have a servery in the cafeteria where you can buy lunch.

Q: Do I have to take Learning Strategies every year?

A: No. Each year focuses on specific topics so you may decide that you don't need to take it all 4 years of high school.

Q: How will I know who my SERT is and where do I find them?

A: If you have Learning Strategies, that teacher is usually your SERT for the year. You will usually get a call from your SERT within the first few weeks of school to get some paperwork. If you don't have Learning Strategies, usually the department head is your SERT. Come to room 214 to introduce yourself. We love visitors.

Q: How do I get help?

A: You may have an extra adult in your class (a resource teacher or EA) so you can always ask them for help. You can ask your classroom teacher who can reach out to your SERT. You can ask to go to room 214 after the lesson is done in your class. You can speak to your SERT. The resource room is open before the first bell until after school. We are open at lunch almost everyday, so bring your lunch and your work. You are always welcome!