

1. What is your school schedule like?

The first class starts at 8:30am, and the day finishes at 2:38pm. We are a semestered school, which means you take four courses for five months, finish them, and switch to another four for the second half of the year.

2. What if I don't know anyone when I start?

Don't worry! Our school draws from over 30 different elementary schools. You are not the only one who is coming without old friends. There will be many opportunities for you to meet new people and make friends.

3. What if I need help?

There are lots of supports in place for you at Notre Dame. If you have an IEP, there is a special education teacher who can help you with your classes. There is also after school one-on-one help available in math, science, English and ESL. If you need any other help, you will have a guidance counsellor happy to meet with you any time.

4. I'm a little nervous about high school...

It's normal to feel anxious with this kind of change. Notre Dame is a small school of just 700 students, and you will find that the older students are welcoming and friendly. To help ease your transition, you can consider:

- Taking the summer school transition course during the month of July
- Going on the 3-day overnight trip for all grade 9s at the end of September
- Joining clubs and sports teams to meet lots of new people
- Getting to know the adults in the building who can support you if you need help

5. What are pre-advanced placement courses, and do you have them?

Notre Dame offers Pre-AP courses in English, Science and Math. Students may choose one, two or all three of these enriched courses. There is no formal application process, and we encourage students to choose Pre-AP in subject areas that they enjoy and in which they experience academic success.

6. Where are you located?

Our address is 12 Malvern Avenue, near the intersection of Main Street and Kingston Road. Make sure you check the route on google map from your house to our school before making your final decision. The time you spend travelling every day will matter to you!

7. How do I sign up for co-curricular activities?

We host a Club and Sport day in early September for grade 9s. This is your opportunity to learn about all the activities available at the school. Sport teams run at specific times of the year, and clubs usually start up some time in September. Listen for announcements letting you know how to get involved!

8. What unique courses and programs do you offer?

Notre Dame has a dance studio and full kitchen. You can take up to four dance credits while in high school, and two credits in culinary arts. We also offer two Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs for grade 11 and 12 students, one in Health and Wellness and one in Women in Technology. You can find out more about SHSM programs here: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/morestudentsuccess/shsm.html>

9. I know I take one art course in grade 9. What are my options?

You can choose between drama, music, dance and visual arts.

10. Where do I eat my lunch?

Grade 9 and 11 students have a 40-minute lunch together. Our cafeteria serves hot food if you want to buy something, but you are welcome to bring your own food. There are microwaves available for student use. You can also go out in the neighborhood over lunch.

