



**HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**Grade 8 Transition Program**

The Grade 8 Transition Program is a fully interactive program taught in a high school with an emphasis on providing a snapshot of the Grade 9 secondary experience. It is taught by high school teachers and focuses on preparing the students for the major differences between their elementary experience and their upcoming high school journey.

The program addresses a variety of topics including: peer pressure; getting involved in school activities; study skills; use of computer labs and Board internet policy; key secondary staff and roles; organizing personal time; staff available for help (academic and personal), etc.

- Each day begins with an “Agenda” overview and a reflection.
- Students are encouraged to set a goal at the beginning of each day.
- The daily activities involved individual work, group work, and educational computer activities
- At the end of each day, students write a short ‘journal note’ about something they did or learned that day. They are encouraged to comment on the goal they set that morning.

The comprehensive program includes:

1. Reflections—daily motivational quotes followed by discussions
2. Goal Setting (short term and long term) - reinforced daily
3. Research Skills/Search Engines—using the computer effectively
4. Website Reviews—determining good websites
5. High School Agenda Books—students get a copy of the agenda book used at the high school during the past year—an activity helps them through the content and the advantages of using it while in high school
6. Time Management for High School Students
7. Setting Priorities
8. Learning How to Learn
9. Notebooks—importance of organizing and maintaining
10. How to Be a Successful Student
11. Study Skills & Tips for Math
12. A Math Task—introduction to Grade 9 Math
13. How to Improve Reading Comprehension; Highlighting Text
14. An English Task—introduction to Grade 9 English
15. Steps to High School Success
16. Pathways to Success website
17. Guest Speakers (High School Counsellor, Chaplain, Librarian, Student Success Leader)
18. What’s Different about High School—the timelines, the rules, the personnel
19. Preparing for Exams; Tips for Studying
20. Practice Test involving all 4 categories (Knowledge/Understanding, Application, Communication, Thinking)
21. MarkBook printout followed by a discussion of the categories and report cards (Progress reports, Mid-term reports, Final reports)
22. Graduation Expectations—courses, Literacy test, volunteer hours—tips for graduating with your peers