

**BETTER TOGETHER**  
Stratford Schools



**AMDSB**  
Avon Maitland District School Board



## TRANSITION ACTIVITY UPDATE - March 2019

### “The best of both worlds”

As you know, all Stratford Central (SC) and Stratford Northwestern (SN) students, including incoming grades 7 and 9 students, will be together at SN for the 2019-2020 school year, beginning September 2019. Throughout the past several months, staff (and students) have been working on planning for this transition. Information has been provided through FAQs on the Board website, and more information will be provided as plans are finalized. Below is a general update of Transition activities. Stratford & area School Councils will play a role in joint transition work and activities.

#### Guidance and Administrator Visits to Elementary Classes and Open House

- Staff or an administrator from SN and SC visited all Grade 6 and 8 students
- Joint Open House held at SN on February 5
- Administrators are calling families of Grade 6s and 8s to learn more information about the choice of school and to answer questions students might have
- Rural feeder schools who have had no/minimal access to SN are participating in school tours of SN
- Guidance Departments at both schools will be engaging in academic counselling pertaining to course selection for next year for all grades 9 to 12 students starting in April

#### Well-being and Sense of Belonging

- Speak UP Grant (Ministry and Board Application) was awarded to promote student well-being through the transition process between the two school communities
- Board Mental Health and Wellness Coach meets with students in alternative education
- Grade 9 phys. ed. and health students across the district are receiving coping with stress lessons, which were designed by the Canadian Psychologist Association as part of wellness promotion
- Project TEAM is being explored and expanded to students in both schools for next year - the project focuses on student well-being and sense of belonging

#### June Activities (Grades 7 and 8)

- During the last week of June, staff are planning for tech and integrated subject area activities as part of the transition, in addition to welcome activities and tours. More information will follow.

## Activities to Support Transition for Students Coming into Grades 7 and 9

- School guidance, special education and administration reps (and others as needed) will meet with staff from elementary schools to review student needs
- A welcome barbecue will be held in August (dates and activities to be finalized)

## Sports Clubs, Teams and Activities

- After much discussion with staff, OFSAA, Huron-Perth Athletic Association and the Ministry, our position is one school team for sports during the transition year
  - This means that one team will have eligibility for OFSAA and will automatically attend WOSSA
  - All students from both schools could play sports during the transition year
  - It is possible for the school to run an additional exhibition team within the athletic conference and participate in tournaments
  - We are currently exploring the option of additional spaces at the YMCA and other buildings and are examining our transportation budget to determine possibilities
- Through our partnership at the YMCA, our goal is to expose elementary students to opportunities for swimming, dance, and drama in specialty areas
- All grades 7 and 8 students will receive instrumental music instruction
- Clubs and teams will be made available for all students in grades 7-12

## Special Education Students and Transitions

- Central board staff and both school staffs are meeting to review transition processes for students with special education needs - responses will be completed on an individual basis

## School Equipment

- Equipment will be moved to the offsite locations and to SN from SC
- Lockers will be moved to SN

## End of Year Celebrations and Commencements

- SC's and SN's Grade 8 celebrations will occur - dates to follow
- SN's graduation for Grade 12 and 12+ will be held - date to follow
- SC's graduation for Grade 12 and 12+ will be held - date to follow
- SN and SC awards program will be held for students in grades 9 to 11 - dates to follow

## Diplomas and Registration and Office Work/Assignments

- Multiple meetings have been held with Ed Centre and SN and SC office staff to determine everything from a re-organization of tasks to housing Ontario Student Records, and reporting systems
  - It was reconfirmed after conversations with board and Ministry staff that for the Transition Year, 2019-20, we will be honouring the home school for each student and will capture this important information in our records, including graduation diplomas, certificates and report cards

## Parking and Transportation

- We will be working with multiple partners - City of Stratford, Stratford Fire Department, Stratford Police and Huron-Perth Catholic DSB - to determine structure and location. We have plans underway, and have met with City of Stratford staff. More information will follow.
- We are working with our school bus operator and City of Stratford to finalize busing and we hope to have information to release in the near future
- We are exploring various options to reduce congestion along Forman and Short Streets, including a drop off area, and we are committed to monitoring area traffic and parking

## School Safety

- Upgraded security equipment is being purchased for SN
- Monitoring of the parking lot, school access, smoking areas and other high traffic areas will occur