

# Welcome to Lorne Park S.S.

## Important Information for Grade 9 Course Selection

When you select your courses for grade 9 you will be required to choose between Applied and Academic level programming for your core subjects of English, Math, Science, Geography and French.

### Difference between Applied vs Academic

Both Academic and Applied Level courses set high expectations for students and focus on the essential concepts of the subject area. Academic and Applied Level courses differ in the balance between essential concepts and additional material, and in the balance between theory and application .

ACADEMIC LEVEL COURSES	APPLIED LEVEL COURSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Academic level courses focus on the essential concepts of the discipline but also explore materials and concepts related to the subject.</li><li>❖ Academic courses develop students' knowledge and skills by emphasizing theoretical, abstract applications of the essential concepts of the course and incorporate practical applications as appropriate.</li><li>❖ More emphasis on theory and abstract thinking</li><li>❖ Requires significant independent work</li><li>❖ Homework completion required outside of class time</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Applied level courses focus on the essential concepts of the subject but develop students' knowledge and skills by emphasizing practical, concrete applications of these concepts.</li><li>❖ Knowledge and skills are developed through both theory and practical applications, but more focus will be on practical, hands-on applications</li><li>❖ More real-life situations will be used to illustrate ideas</li><li>❖ Homework requirement is not as significant as classroom work completion</li><li>❖ Greater teacher direction and instruction</li><li>❖ Smaller teacher student ratio</li></ul>

#### Students who are successful at the academic level usually have the following profile:

- A 70% average or higher on their Grade 8 report card in the specific subject
- Are a strong reader and have the ability to summarize and explain the material they have read
- Are able to infer, elaborate upon, and apply concepts
- Are able to cover larger amounts of material at a fast pace
- In math, have a good mastery of all basic math skills such as the multiplication tables and fractions, and also have the ability to manage multi-step problems
- Grade 6 EQAO levels of 3 or 4
- Are self motivated and able to work independently
- Have a learning style suited to theoretical, abstract thinking

#### Students who are best suited for the applied level usually have the following profile:

- Are consistently working at 60% average or higher in Grade 8
- Are more dependent learners and require greater teacher direction and instruction
- Benefit from smaller teacher student ratio
- Have a learning style suited to a more hands-on and practical approach

#### Other important considerations when selecting program level of courses

- ❖ Please consider grade 8 teacher input and recommendations. They are the best source of information about student learning.
- ❖ We strongly recommend that students select courses in which they will most likely experience success. If not, students may be frustrated, unhappy and unsuccessful.
- ❖ Students who fail a core course in Grade 9 will need to attend Summer School for the month of July or repeat the course the following year.
- ❖ Statistically, if a student fails a credit course in Grade 9, they are at an increased risk of dropping out of school.
- ❖ It is rarely possible to change from one level to the other during a semester due to timetable limitations.
- ❖ Although students may choose a combination of Academic and Applied level courses (e.g. Academic English and Applied Level Mathematics), taking most courses at the Academic Level is ideal for university preparation.

When selecting level of courses please consider: ability, learning style, organizational skills, motivation and goals.