



Welcome to...

# ORCHARD PARK'S GRADE 7 & 8 INFORMATION NIGHT



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# Tonight's Agenda

- Welcome and Remarks from Orchard Park's Principal: *Kristen Armstrong*
- Remarks from School Council Chair: *Holly Watts*
- Information from the Student Services Department Head: *Paul Vukosa*
- Information from the Learning Resource Department Head: *Peter Sheahan*
- Student Council Students Discussing Extra-Curricular Opportunities
- Video Presentation
- Upcoming Transition Events/Key Dates: *Andrea Lewis (Student Success Teacher)*
- Frequently Asked Questions and Closing Remarks: *Leanne Schaap*



# Kristen Armstrong, Principal

- A little about me...
- Academic programming
- Improvements to the facility and campus
- The staff
- Out of catchment process
- We welcome questions





# Welcome from the School Council

- At Orchard Park we value, and want to foster, the voice of parents.
- Some parents want to be involved in the education of their teenagers but aren't sure how to do so. School Council is an excellent way to have your voice heard, and to hear what is going on at the school.
- We welcome all parents/guardians to attend a meeting or reach out to the principal or school council chair for more information.
- Our kids aren't little anymore, but they still benefit from us being involved and advocating on their behalf. All are welcome!

**Holly Watts**  
**School Council Chair**

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Head of Student Services Department: Paul Vukosa

### HIGH SCHOOL FORMAT

- **2 Semesters: September to January and February to June**
- **4 courses each semester (first 4 in Semester 1 and remaining 4 in semester 2)**
- **Examinations and/or culminating activities at the end of each semester**
- **4 classes per day**
- **Each class is 75 minutes long**



# OSSD Requirements

- 30 credits
- 18 Compulsory
- 12 Elective
- 40 hours Community Involvement
- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Requirement (OSSLT or OSSLC)





# Compulsory Course Requirements

**Students must earn the following compulsory credits to obtain the Ontario Secondary School Diploma:**

- 4 English (1 at each grade level)
- 3 Mathematics (1 at senior level)
- 2 Science
- 1 French
- 1 Canadian History (Grade 10)
- 1 Canadian Geography
- 1 Arts (Visual, Media, Music, Drama)
- 1 Health and Physical Education
- .5 Civics (Grade 10)
- .5 Career Studies (Grade 10)



# Compulsory Course Requirements

In addition to the 15 Compulsory Credits on the previous slide, students must also earn **1 credit** in each of the Groups below for a total of 18 Compulsory Credits

### GROUP 1

- English or French as a second language\*\*
- a Native language
- a Classical or International language
- Social Sciences and the Humanities
- Canadian and World studies
- Guidance and Career education
- Cooperative education\*\*\*

### GROUP 2

- Health and Physical education
- The Arts
- Business studies
- French as a second language\*\*
- Cooperative education\*\*\*

### GROUP 3

- Science (Grade 11 or 12)
- Technological education
- French as a second language\*\*
- computer studies
- cooperative education\*\*\*

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## Community Involvement

### When Can I Complete Community Involvement Hours?

- Starting on July 1st the summer before grade 9.
- Outside scheduled class time; e.g., during lunch breaks/during spares (for grade 12 students).
- In the evenings, on weekends, during the summer months.
- Completed community hours can be submitted to the Student Services office as you complete them.



## Community Involvement

### Examples of Eligible Activities

- Supporting Sports e.g. timekeeping, managing a team or coaching (in school or the community)
- Fundraising
- Charity Walk-a-thons or Runs
- Community Events, Festivals or Fairs
- Community Projects e.g. tending a community garden
- Environmental Projects e.g. a community clean-up
- Youth Programs or Mentorship Programs
- Volunteer Work with Seniors
- Camp Leader or Counsellor
- Office Work for a non-profit organization
- Committee Work e.g. the Literacy Committee at your local library
- Advisory Board



# Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

- Administered in April of the Grade 10 year
- Based on expectations for language and communication up to and including Grade 9
- Accommodations and deferrals may be appropriate for some students

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# Unique Programs Offered at Orchard Park

- Robotics

**6 Specialist High Skills Major Programs offered in:**

- Arts and Culture

- Business

- Energy

- Health and Wellness

- Hospitality and Tourism

- Transportation

**NOTE: SHSM programs begin in Grade 11**

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### Head of Learning Resource Department: Peter Sheahan

- Inclusion model
- Accommodations
- Technology
- Ability assessments
- Individual Education Plans
- Self-contained program
- Friendly and accessible environment
- Grade nine transition support





### Head of Learning Resource: Remarks

- The Learning Resource department at Orchard Park is a team made up of teachers, librarians, and educational assistants who provide an inclusive and safe learning community.
- Learning Resource students are integrated with other students in the newly renovated learning commons where they are provided support and accommodations that will help them succeed. Technology, flashy furniture, and friendly teacher interactions have made the learning commons very popular with the student body.
- By making students comfortable in this area we have seen success in not only their courses and grades, but perhaps more importantly their social and emotional well being.

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Continued...

- The Learning Resource team monitors and supports students, while also collaborating with teachers to ensure student learning needs are met. Services we provide include ability assessments, developing and updating individual education plans (IEPs), and withdrawal and in class supports.
- Our team works collaboratively with Guidance, Student Success, Administration, and the School Board to ensure all students reach their full potential.
- One area of the Learning Resource department that embraces the Orchard Park spirit and character is our self-contained programs. This consists of the comprehensive, developmental, and ASD classes.
- Students in these classes are supported by teachers and educational assistants. Programming in all of these classes meets individualized curriculum expectations, while also providing opportunities for social communication and community involvement.

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# Learning Resource: Continued

- The Learning Resource department looks forward to supporting grade nine students next year and would be more than happy to answer any questions and provide transition tours if needed.
- Please contact us directly if you need any support with the grade nine transition. We hope you enjoy the rest of grade eight and look forward to seeing you in the learning commons next year!
- If you have any specific questions related to the individualized needs of your child, please email me at [psheahan@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:psheahan@hwdsb.on.ca)





# Extra-Curricular Life at Orchard Park

- Elisha Matharu
- Vanshika Bhatia
- Harleen Cheema
- Hannah Twiss
- Hafsa Shakeel

***~MEMBERS OF ORCHARD PARK'S STUDENT COUNCIL***

- What clubs can students join?
- What teams are at OP?
- How can getting involved enrich a student's experience?





# Extra-Curricular Opportunities

## CLUBS

- Student Council
- SSHOPSS
- Team 2056 Robotics
- Positive Space
- School Band
- Best Buddies
- Reach for the Top
- Coding Club
- Book Club
- Homework Club
- Anime/Video Game Club

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## TEAMS

- Football
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Hockey
- Water Polo
- Baseball/Slo-Pitch
- Soccer
- Track and Field/Cross-Country
- Badminton
- Wrestling
- Ultimate Frisbee

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### Elisha Matharu



- Grade 11 Student
- Member of Student Council and Book Club
- Plays on Slo-Pitch and Badminton teams
- Member of HWDSB Student Senate
- In Business SHSM Program
- Best piece of advice: *"Have good academic habits at the start (taking good notes and preparing for tests). This will keep your grades up and won't hurt you in the end".*



## Vanshika Bhatia



- Grade 11 Student
- Member of Student Council and Robotics Team 2056
- Favourite memory: helping out with Grade 9 Fun Day
- Best piece of advice: *“Join some clubs at OP because you will get to meet lots of people, gain experience and have fun!”*



# Harleen Cheema

- Grade 11 Student
- Member of Student Council and Anime Club
- Best piece of advice: *"If you don't do well on something, learn from it, and try not to be extremely hard on yourself. Take care of yourself, because you matter!"*
- Favourite memory: meeting so many beautiful friends and experiencing so many firsts together





# Hannah Twiss

- Grade 11 Student
- Member of Student Council
- Plays on Water Polo, Basketball, Touch Football, Ultimate Frisbee and Soccer teams
- Favourite memory: Grade 10 Formal
- Favourite quote: *"You'll never change until you change something you do daily. The secret of your success is found in your daily routine."*





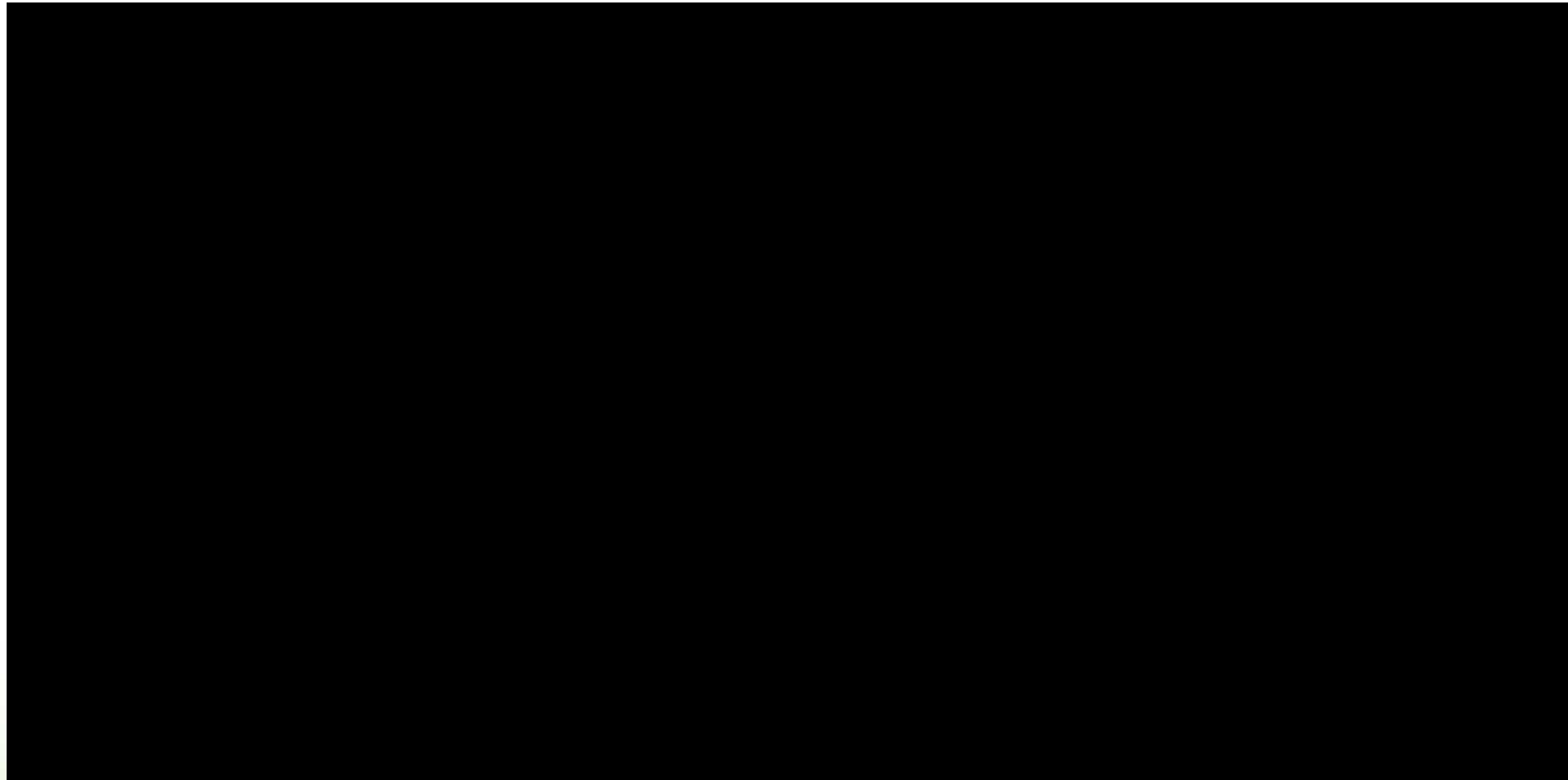
# Hafsah Shakeel

- Grade 12 Student
- Co-President of Student Council and member of SSHOPSS Club
- Plays on Volleyball team
- Best piece of advice: *"Always complete your homework! It may sound basic, but it makes a huge difference once you get to high school!"*





### Life at Orchard Park: Video Presentation



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# Upcoming Transition Events

- Elementary School Introductory Visits—*December*
- Option Sheet Information Night—*end of January (Date TBD)*
- Option Sheet Completion/Course Selection Visits—*February/March*
- Transition Meetings with Learning Resource/SST—*Spring 2021*
- Grade 9 Orientation Day—*last week of August*
- Grade 9 Fun Day—*end of 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Grade 9 in September*



## Stay Informed...

- Visit Orchard Park's website at:  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/orchardpark](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/orchardpark)

- Follow us on Twitter at:  
[@OP\\_HWDSB](https://twitter.com/OP_HWDSB)





# FAQ's and Closing Remarks



- Kristen Armstrong, Principal
- Mark Hopman, Vice-Principal
- Leanne Schaap, Vice-Principal

- Contact us if you have any other questions or concerns at:

**[orchardpark@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:orchardpark@hwdsb.on.ca)**

- Enjoy the rest of Grade 8 and we're looking forward to you joining our Patriot family next year!