



HWDSB Program of Choice
at Ryerson Middle School

SAGE QUEST

Scholastics, Arts and Global Education
Program

Welcome Families
2022-2023

Land Acknowledgment

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board acknowledges our presence on ancestral Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Confederacy land as determined by the Dish with One Spoon treaty.

The Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt represents the treaty relationship between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and Anishinaabe with respect to sharing the land and resources thereon.

The intent of this agreement is for all nations sharing this territory to do so responsibly, respectfully and sustainably in perpetuity.

We respect the longstanding relationships with the local Indigenous communities, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River.



The logo for HWDSB (Halton-Wentworth District School Board) is displayed in a white rectangular box. The letters are in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A small blue triangle is positioned to the left of the box.

HWDSB

Introductions

- Mark Hopkins – Principal at Ryerson Middle School
- Adam Farr – SAGE QUEST teacher
- Student Ambassadors



History and Philosophy

- Holistic education is based on the premise that each person finds identity, meaning, and purpose in life through connections to the community, to the natural world, and values such as compassion and peace. By fostering collaboration rather than competition in classrooms, teachers help young people feel connected. By using real-life experiences, current events, the dramatic arts and other lively sources of knowledge in place of textbook information, teachers can kindle the love of learning. By encouraging reflection and questioning teachers keep alive the “flame of intelligence” that is so much more than abstract problem-solving skills.

Fundamentals of the SAGE QUEST Program

- Commitment to Social Justice/Equity
- Cross-curricular Learning
- Focus on Critical Thinking
- No Punishments or Rewards
- Inclusive Classroom Community
- Emphasis on Inquiry and Global Issues
- Opportunities for Rich Discussions





Commitment to Social Justice & Equity

Why this is important?

- What does it mean to teach for social justice? It means recognizing oppression in its multiple forms, and then taking action in the classroom to interrupt the cycles of oppression. When teachers teach for social justice they are working to end the cycle of oppression.

What it looks like?

What this means?

- Social Justice is infused in almost everything we do each day: Writing topics, reading tasks, health discussions, literary analysis, geographic and historical inquiry, etc.

Five Faces of Oppression
Race, Class, Gender Lens
Questioning bias
Representation and symbolism in media



Focus on Critical Thinking

Why this is important?

- Critical thinking skills include the ability to identify perspectives, values, and issues; detect bias; and read for implicit as well as explicit meaning. In the context of anti-discrimination, critical literacy involves asking questions and challenging the status quo, and leads students to look at issues of power and justice in society.

What it looks like?

- Critical-thinking skills used in reading include: examining opinions, questioning ideas, interpreting information, identifying values and issues, detecting bias, detecting implied as well as explicit meanings.
- Critical-thinking skills used in writing include: questioning, hypothesizing, interpreting, inferring, analysing, comparing, contrasting, evaluating, predicting, reasoning, distinguishing between alternatives, making and supporting judgements, synthesizing, elaborating on ideas, identifying values and issues, detecting bias, detecting implied as well as explicit meanings.

Cross-Curricular Learning

Why this is important?

- Learning is not isolated by subject(s) in real life; We consolidate learning best when we engage with ideas indifferent contexts.



What this means?

- Integrate subject area teaching whenever possible; especially literacy

What it looks like?

We try to teach rich concepts that connect two or more subject areas
Geography & Math
Media & Global Education
Literacy and Social Studies



Opportunities for Rich Discussions

Why this is important?

- Accountable talk is talk by students and the teacher that responds to and builds on what others in the classroom have said. It is focused, meaningful, and mutually beneficial to the speaker and listener. “In a classroom filled with accountable talk, students...extend understandings by using the statements they have heard from their classmates to form new ideas”. (Fisher, Frey & Rothenber, 2008)

What this means?

- Tangential learning happens very often

What it looks like?

Five Faces of Oppression
Equity Issues
Media Analysis

No Punishments or Rewards

Why this is important?

- Students that learn without punishment or rewards discover the intrinsic value in growing



What this means?

We use Restorative Justice to talk out our problems. Natural consequences instead of punishment.

What it looks like?

- Class Meetings
- Students making right their wrongs

Emphasis on Inquiry and Global Issues

Why this is important?

- Relevant learning is engaging learning

What this means?

We make global issues a part of how we teach curriculum



What it looks like?

- Studying Climate Change
- Making Political Videos
- Writing News in the Paper
- Election Study

A Student Reflection

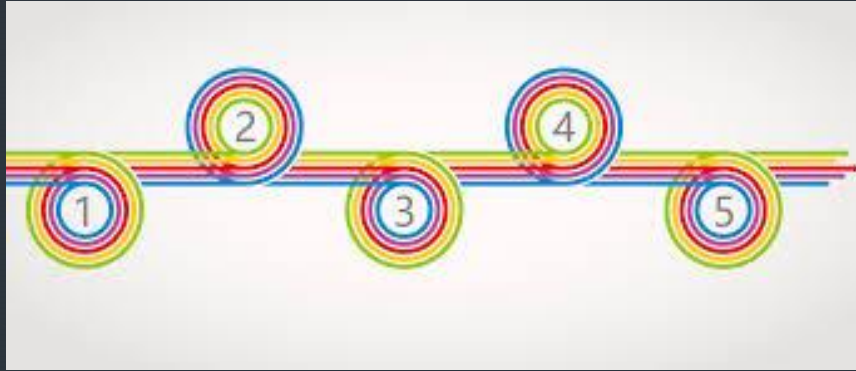


SAGE QUEST Application Process 2022-2023

Virtual Information Night	Wednesday Feb. 9 th 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm
Application Available on Ryerson Middle School Website	Thursday Feb 10 th by 10:00 am
Application Due Date (submit by email)	Friday March 11 th by 4:00 p.m. By email at ryerson@hwdsb.on.ca
Random Selection Process	March 21 st -31 st
Admission Offers Made & Next Steps	Friday April 1 st
Confirmation of Acceptance by Email	Friday April 8 th
Ryerson will contact the student's Home School	Thursday April 14 th

Random Selection Process

- All applications submitted by March 11th at 4 pm will be included.
- Siblings of students currently, and remaining, in the SAGE QUEST program (Gr 6-8) placed, prior to the Random Selection process
- Random Selection from remaining applications based on available spaces.
- Ranked waitlist based on Random Selection process of all remaining applications will be maintained in the event that spaces open up.



Reminders

- Students Currently in SAGE at Strathcona must apply for SAGE QUEST
- A reminder that SAGE QUEST is an HWDSB Program of Choice (transportation is not provided)

Questions?

