

AP Framework for the PACE Program

The York Catholic District School Board's Program for Academic and Creative Extension (PACE) is a Special Education program offered to students who meet YCDSB criteria for Giftedness. YCDSB has elected to use the Advanced Placement (AP) program as the learning platform within the PACE program for Gifted students who would benefit from accelerated learning and enhanced skill development.



What is AP?

The Advanced Placement (AP) program is developed by the American College Board, an organization founded to expand access to higher education. The College Board creates AP curriculum and offers AP examinations globally. High school students in the AP program have the opportunity to study university level curriculum when they enter grade 12. This may allow them to be granted Advanced Placement status for some first year courses upon entering university.



Delivery of the PACE Program

In grades 9 and 10, students take AP-Preparatory (AP-PREP) courses as preparation for the grade 11 and 12 AP courses and College Board exams. AP-PREP courses have been developed by York Catholic District School Board teachers in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science, and Canadian and World Studies. The grade 9, 10, and 11 curriculum expectations/extensions have been modified/extended to vertically align with the grade 12 AP expectations that are evaluated on the College Board AP subject examination in May of each school year. AP College Board exams are optional. Students who opt to write these exams will be required to pay \$135 per exam.

For more information about AP, go to
<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/>

Benefits of the PACE/AP Program

- PACE/AP fosters a community of students and educators who are passionate and committed to academic excellence.
- Students study topics in greater depth and breadth, enhancing their intellectual development.
- In addition to earning an Ontario grade 12 university level credit, students who achieve a Level 3-5 result on the AP College Board exam, may earn a first year university credit or *Advanced Placement*, depending on the credit policy of the university of choice.
- University admissions committees recognize the high standards of AP courses and exams and consider AP credentials as a reliable indicator of future success.
- Students enrolled in the YCDSB PACE/AP program are consistently well prepared to meet the challenge of university courses due to the increased rigour of AP courses.
- Former PACE/AP students speak of transitioning with ease from high school to university owing to the strong academic skills, knowledge, and confidence gained through participation in the PACE/AP program.



Giftedness is an unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability that requires differentiated learning experiences of a depth and breadth beyond those normally provided in the regular school program to satisfy the level of educational potential indicated.



Admission Criteria for the PACE Program

- Students who have been identified as Gifted through the YCDSB IPRC process are granted automatic entry into the secondary PACE program based on their home address.
- Students who attend a YCDSB PACE program in grade 8 are granted automatic entry into the PACE program at the designated secondary PACE school through a grade 8 transition meeting.
- Non-YCDSB students who live within the PACE boundary and meet YCDSB criteria for Giftedness may be admitted through an application process.

Note: Admission of Gifted students outside the school boundary will be contingent upon the secondary Principal and Superintendent approval, according to board policy (TCH19).

The following is required as proof of Giftedness:

- ✓ A copy of a psychological report which includes the results of an individually administered cognitive assessment (e.g., WISC, WAIS, Stanford Binet etc.);
- ✓ The psychological assessment must have been completed when the student’s age was chronologically appropriate for grade 3 or later, or when the student was at least 8 years old;
- ✓ The cognitive assessment must have been completed by a registered Psychologist or Psychological Associate; and
- ✓ The cognitive assessment results must indicate a Full Scale or General Ability Index (GAI) at or above the 98th percentile.

NOTE: YCDSB Psychological Services Staff must review the cognitive assessment to determine whether the student meets YCDSB criteria for Giftedness.

Course Load

All students enrolled in the PACE program in grade 9 and 10 will take the following AP-PREP courses: English, Science, Geography (gr.9)/History (gr.10) and Mathematics. Students in a combined AP/French Immersion Program will only take 3 AP-PREP courses in grades 9 and 10 to accommodate the French Immersion Geography and History courses. In grades 11 and 12, students may opt to take as many AP courses as they wish.

Assessment Policy

Students will be evaluated according to the Ministry of Education Assessment and Evaluation Policy document and the curriculum expectations outlined in the Ministry documents for Math, Science, English, and Canadian and World Studies.

Transportation (Board Policy 203)

Students who meet YCDSB criteria for Giftedness living further than 4.8 km from the designated PACE school have access to transportation. For more information, please visit *School Locator* at <http://locator.ycdsb.ca/schoollocator/>



Note: Special transportation will end if the student chooses to exit the PACE program.

YCDSB High Schools Offering PACE

FATHER BRESSANI CHS
250 Ansley Grove Rd.
Woodbridge, ON L4L 3W4
Phone: (905) 851-6643

ST BROTHER ANDRE CHS
6160 16th Avenue
Markham, ON L3P 3K8
Phone: (905) 294-7671

SACRED HEART CHS
908 Lemar Road
Newmarket, ON L3Y 1R9
Phone: (905) 895-3340

ST. THERESA OF LISIEUX CHS
230 Shaftsbury Avenue
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 0E8
Phone: (905)787-1407

The York Catholic District School Board seeks to help all students reach their God-given potential so that they may participate fully in society, with competence and dignity. We recognize and celebrate the individual differences among students, and endeavour to offer inclusive and specialized programs which respect and accommodate individual student needs. YCDSB is committed to creating and maintaining an equitable learning environment reflected through inclusive programs, curriculum, and practices with a mission to ensure that every child has an equal chance for success.