

North Peace Secondary School Senior Alternate Program (2026 - 2027)

Information Package

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SENIOR ALTERNATE EDUCATION

Philosophy

The Senior Alternate program is a community of diverse individuals aged 15 - 19 who are dealing with social, emotional, and/or behavioral challenges. The program aims to strengthen students' resilience so that they can continue toward graduation, employment, trades, apprenticeship, or post-secondary education.

Program Goals

- To provide multi-level social/emotional/behavioral/academic support with flexibility and understanding
- To help students understand who they are and how to grow
- To prepare students to participate positively in society by helping them to develop pathways to transition to mainstream high school, BC Dogwood graduation, Adult graduation, post-secondary training and/or education, and employment
- To build resilience by helping students to develop positive and lasting relationships within the community

Program Objectives

- To increase social and self-awareness
- To improve social, emotional, and behavioral well-being
- To develop the ability to regulate emotions, thoughts, and behaviors
- To improve the ability to make constructive and respectful choices
- To strengthen resiliency
- To develop empathy for others from diverse backgrounds
- To develop healthy and rewarding relationships
- To provide flexible program scheduling
- To adapt teaching styles to meet individual needs
- To develop appropriate work habits
- To achieve academic goals

Program Components

The program offers all core academic subjects required for a regular BC Dogwood Graduation Diploma. Courses offered include:

- Composition 10
- Creative Writing 10
- English First Peoples: Literary Studies and Writing 11
- English Studies 12
- Social Studies 10
- Social Justice 12
- BC First Peoples 12
- Workplace Math 10
- Workplace Math 11
- Apprenticeship Math 12
- Foundations of Math & Precalculus
- Foundations of Math 11
- Foundations of Math 12
- Precalculus 11
- Science 10
- Chemistry 11
- Life Science 11
- Physics 11
- Earth Science 11
- Career Life Education 10

The program also offers some elective courses including Foods 11/12, and Role-Playing Games 10/11/12. Personal and Social Development 10 is a mandatory course for students entering into the Senior Alternate Program. Students can complete elective requirements by enrolling in NPSS mainstream courses and/or completing work experience, apprenticeship programs or dual credit courses. Students are able to complete Distant Education coursework during tutorial blocks in the Senior Alternate classrooms.

Students are provided with necessary academic support and adaptations. The program offers smaller class sizes. Individually paced coursework allows greater flexibility and group activities build a sense of community.

A Social/Emotional Learning Support teacher and Youth Support Workers assist in the implementation of social-emotional components of the program, offer emotional support, and act as liaisons and advocates for the students in the community. Youth Support Workers also provide a breakfast program, and nutrition as needed.

Program Prerequisites

The Alternate Education candidate should:

- Be 15-19 years of age;
- Have a documented history of social, emotional, and/or behavioral difficulties which has interfered with normal school progress and for which intensive intervention is required.
- Be involved with or be willing to be referred to agencies or organizations that specialize in particular areas of need such as: Northern Health Stabilization Program, Community Bridge, Youth/Adult Mental Health, Child and Youth Mental Health, and Ministry of Children and Family Development.
- Be willing to examine and improve social, emotional, and behavioral aspects of self
- Be willing, motivated, and desirous of the placement
- Sign an expectations contract upon entry, which articulates academic and behavioral expectations

Referral and Admission Process

Referrals are made by parents/guardians, students, school counselors, outside agencies (i.e. Social Services, Corrections) and/or school district staff. A Recommendation Form must be completed by a school district staff member or outside agency professional. The application for the program is a Google Form and the link to it can be shared by the NPSS Student Services Office or one of the program teachers. This must be completed before the school-based team will consider applicants for placement in the program.

The applicant will participate in an intake interview. The applicant, program teacher, and guardian must be in attendance. As well, Administrator, Youth Support Worker, and Outside Agency representatives are welcome to attend the interview. During the interview the program is outlined, information about the applicant and how the program might best help him/her to be successful are discussed, and forms are reviewed and signed. The School-based team will review the current class profiles and the applicant's needs, and will make a recommendation as to whether the applicant is waitlisted or proceeds to admission.

The Program teacher will inform the applicant and parents/guardians of the committee's decisions. If the placement in the Senior Alternate Program is not appropriate, the applicant's parents or guardians will be advised of other possible placements.