
SCI Grade 7 to 12 Secondary School Frequently Asked Questions

How will the transition be supported before, during and after the consolidation?

Transition activities have already begun. Last spring, students from all of the Stayner Family of Schools were invited to the Canada 150 Celebration at Stayner Collegiate (SCI). This fall, students from Byng and Clearview played flag football at SCI. SCI Principal Mark Keating has visited both elementary schools twice to meet with students and to answer their questions.

Schools are coordinating transition events where students will be able to see their new school environments and meet SCI staff and students. Students from all three schools will play a lead role in planning and organizing these activities. Also being planned are activities where current grade 6, 7 and 8 students will meet and get to know each other. Some of the ideas being explored include:

- completion of a Speak Up Grant application to support transition activities
- Can You Feel It? anti-stress workshop
- SCI school visits
- a joint Winter Walk
- garden project with the SCI greenhouse
- Paint the Town Pink
- a business fair
- other mentoring activities

Plans are also underway for parents to visit SCI and for a joint School Council meeting. School and board staff will continue to work with the community to ensure a smooth transition to the Grade 7 to 12 model. Details will be shared as plans are finalized.

A Transition Committee has been created which includes a community representative and student, staff and parent representation from each of the three affected schools. The first transition meeting was held in November and meetings are scheduled to take place throughout this year as we prepare.

A focus group consisting of students and administrators from all three schools, along with our community representative from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), is also working on specific activities to address concerns and build upon interests of Grade 6 and 7 students as highlighted in a survey done in October.

What will the school day schedule be? What time will school start and end?

Final decisions on the daily schedule for Grade 7 and 8 students will be shared later in the year. For Grade 9-12 students, we anticipate that there will be no changes to their current schedule, although the starting bell time may be moved later to accommodate shared bussing.

The school start and end times will be finalized once the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) determines their final routes for student transportation.

Will Grade 7 and 8 students follow an elementary balanced day, with nutrition breaks and recess, or will they follow the Grade 9-12 schedule?

This has yet to be determined. Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) central staff are working to finalize the school day schedule in partnership with school administration.

What will the Grade 7 and 8 program look like?

The Grade 7 and 8 curricula will be consistent with all Grade 7 and 8 programs in the SCDSB. Opportunities for access to specialized classrooms (science labs, music and art rooms) and programs related to the environmental and construction Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSMs) may be available.

Consistent with most Grade 7 and 8 programs in the SCDSB, students at SCI may move classrooms on a rotary program schedule. Planning for the Grade 7 and 8 program at SCI next school year will continue throughout the 2017-18 school year.

Will Grade 7 and 8 students have access to the cafeteria, gym and extracurricular activities?

Grade 7 and 8 students will have access to the entire SCI facility and resources.

Extracurricular programs are run by teachers who volunteer and community volunteers. The activities offered to students will be based on the availability and skill sets of staff and community volunteers.

Will the Grade 7 and 8 students be kept separate from the Grade 9-12 students? What are the impacts of having Grade 7-8 students integrated with Grade 9-12 students?

SCI will be a Grade 7 to 12 secondary school. Grade 7 and 8 students will not be segregated from their older peers. Every student who attends SCI will be a Stayner Collegiate Spartan. The SCDSB continues to explore opportunities for senior students to mentor and support Grade 7 and 8 students attending SCI.

Will Grade 7 and 8 students miss out on leadership opportunities (being the 'big fish')? What happens to Grade 8 grad, field trips and other rites of passage?

All students will be provided opportunities to develop their leadership skills.

Field trips are curriculum based and will be offered based on student interest, learning opportunities and availability of staff supervision.

Grade 8 graduation has always been a school responsibility. Details regarding this event and others of a similar nature will be shared as they become available.

How will transportation work for a 7 to 12 school if the busing distances are different for elementary and secondary students? Will secondary students have to walk from the same area where elementary students are bused from?

Transportation of students will follow SCDSB policies. Grade 9-12 students who are inside the secondary school walk zone (3.2km) will walk to school, while Grade 7-8 students who are outside of the 1.6km walking zone will be bused.

Will there be shared busing?

Based on discussions with the SCSTC, shared busing between Byng, Clearview Meadows and SCI students will be implemented in September 2018. The SCDSB currently uses shared busing in other areas of the county, specifically in the Elmvale and Midland areas.

There are students within the 1.6km walking zone that will have to cross Hwy. 26 and walk up Airport Road. How can we keep them safe?

Crossing guards and other traffic calming solutions are the responsibility of the municipality. Some walk path projects have already been undertaken to improve student safety along the routes to SCI and Clearview Meadows.

The Township of Clearview has an excellent record of working with the community and school board to ensure the safety of children. In some instances, this means that there are crossing guards provided.

A School Travel Planning Committee has been established. Membership includes representatives from Clearview Township, the OPP, the SMDHU and the Environment Network, as well as SCDSB central staff, parents and the principals from Clearview and Byng. They have been tasked with completing a walkability study, focusing on safe travel for all students and ensuring appropriate safety measures are in place.

Many of the students currently in the Byng PS attendance area are more than 1.6km from SCI, and so will be eligible for transportation.

Can students from other schools attend SCI in Grades 7 and 8?

Right now, the plan is to have only the Grade 7 and 8 classes from Byng and Clearview Meadows transfer to SCI. School board staff are studying enrolment numbers to determine the impact if students from other schools want to attend SCI starting in Grade 7 as well.

Will elementary teachers from Byng and Clearview Meadows transfer to SCI with the students?

Staffing at the JK-6 school will be based on the current collective agreements with the elementary teacher federation. The process for filling staff vacancies in this new model will be shared once finalized.

Is there room at Clearview to accommodate all of the K-6 students?

The SCDSB received funding from the Ministry of Education for a six-classroom addition at Clearview Meadows. That capital project will take place over the course of the next two years.

Portables will continue to be used as required to accommodate students before, during and after construction.

Will SCI get any renovations to support this change?

The SCDSB has not received any funding from the Ministry of Education for renovations to SCI during the Ministry's capital priorities funding process. SCDSB annual renewal and school condition improvement funds will be utilized to ensure that SCI receives project funding for facility upgrades.

Board staff will continue to explore opportunities to access funding to ensure SCI continues to be a positive learning environment with opportunities for a range of programs.

Is there room at SCI for all for the Grade 7 to 12 students?

SCI can accommodate a much larger population than the numbers that currently attend in Grades 9 to 12. We do expect that there will be some portables required on site for September 2018 that will be used for the full range of grades at the school.