



## OHS STUDENTS CLIMBING STEPS TO SUCCESS

A new door has opened for high school students who have struggled to succeed in a traditional school environment, and beyond the threshold lie some promising new Steps To Success. The program was launched at O’Gorman High School this semester thanks to a sizeable grant from the Ministry as part of their Pilot Project Funding to Support Learning to 18.

The goal of the Steps to Success program is to increase student achievement, credit accumulation and graduation rates. Students in the program are able to choose among multiple learning options that suit their needs and learning styles, including independent education courses and e-learning courses among others, in order to rescue or recover credits. Some will receive additional support in completing assignments or projects in order to rescue credits. The curriculum will naturally integrate with the regular day program to allow at-risk students who are achieving success to be re-integrated into the classroom. An on-site career centre will motivate and enable students to make informed decisions about education and career choices.

O’Gorman High School Principal Glenn Sheculski believes that the restructured instructional strategies will maximize student learning and even increase graduation rates. “We do see students who complete fewer than six credits in Grade Nine, which puts them at an increased risk of leaving school before completing their diploma requirements. In some cases, we know by mid-term which students are at-risk of failing a given course. Steps to Success will allow us to intervene through enhanced support and get them back on track to completing their diploma. It is truly a multi-faceted program that allow us to accommodate individualized programming based on a student’s knowledge, skills, learning styles and personal interests. Flexible scheduling, self-directed learning and adaptive instruction will be conducive to student learning.”

Students who have dropped out of school will also be able to access this program as a bridge to returning to part-time or full-time studies.

Chair of the Board Colleen Landers is thrilled that the Board will now be able to reach out to even more students and provide them with the support that they need to graduate. “The Ministry funding will give our small northern Ontario school the flexibility in programming needed to accommodate at-risk students,” stated Landers. “We will also be evaluating this program through key indicators of success in order to determine the effectiveness of the project and improve our delivery of the program. Our implementation plan will serve as a blueprint for other boards committed to seeking alternate means for attaining student success.”

The Steps to Success program was launched this semester at O’Gorman High School.



Teacher Eleanor Milne works with students Kristy-Grace Guenette and Amanda Poulin, while Mirka Villeneuve works at a computer station.

**For more information, please contact Mélanie Bidal-Mainville, Community Relations Officer**



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