



Dear TVDSB Educator/Community Member,

If you are receiving this letter, it is because a student you know is interested in taking part in an exciting new program where they will earn a grade 11 Experiential Learning credit over the spring and early summer. The course involves researching, training, planning, and then helping to lead a 7-day canoe trip in a wilderness region of Ontario. In the application process through Google Forms we will be assessing students' hard skills, leadership qualities, dedication, and overall goals for participating in such a course. Please visit www.tvdsb.ca/WILD to learn more about the course.

The course will be structured as a blended-learning course, with several days prior to the trip where we will all meet to do swim and canoe training and some trip planning as a group. There will be essential online assignments throughout to heighten student awareness of themselves, their capacity to lead, and how to best understand roles during situations with heightened risk or uncertainty. In the process they will also focus on subjects of their choosing and lead lessons for their peers over the course of the trip. A few examples could be a lesson on the history of the pictographs in the park, on photography and the art of the natural landscape, on the science behind the local ecology, on voyageur and Indigenous peoples' relationship as settlement moved west across Canada, or on proper stretching and strengthening for extended paddling trips. Students will be required to research as well as access an expert in order to prepare their lesson to be delivered on the trip.

After the trip, students will be asked to utilize their completed reflection journals to create a culminating presentation reflective of their leadership experiences on the trip and their learning throughout the course.

We are very interested in selecting 16-24 students who represent the diversity that makes the Thames Valley District School Board such a wonderful place to learn from one another.

As part of the application process, students must obtain a reference letter from a teacher, guidance counselor, vice principal, or principal. Students will then scan and upload their reference letter as part of their application, **due February 20th, 2026**.

If you would, please provide the student with a reference letter before this date. If you are more comfortable emailing the reference letter directly to me, please use the email below.

If you have any questions, please contact John Musvosvi - Learning Coordinator for Environmental Education (7-12) at j.musvosvi@tvdsb.ca