

## **Grade 9 Teaming and Seminar Update**

School Committee Meeting March 20, 2023

Freshman Seminar was an integral part of our Freshman Teaming program. Originally, the teaming concept was implemented as a result of a study during the school year 2004-2005 funded by the Smaller Learning Communities Grant. Seminar and Teaming are not new to Sanford High School. We did this successfully for a little over a decade but eventually came to an end around 2014 when the grants dried up. Seminar was and will be a year-long every other day class for Grade 9 students. The teacher of this class will be one of their “core” teachers. Ultimately, the goal in the class is to help our students get better acquainted with the High School and connect well with their teachers while ensuring they are “on track” to graduate following their first year of high school. Some of the topics covered/skills built in Seminar are:

- Executive Functioning skills
- Social Emotional Learning
- Digital Citizenship
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Leadership
- Self-Awareness
- Conflict Resolution/Problem Solving
- The Transition to High School
- College and Career Readiness
- Career Exploration
- Opportunities in our Own Building - SRTC, Co- and Extra Curricular activities
- Team Building
- Goal Setting to Forming a Personalized Learning Plan

As we work towards scheduling next year’s classes, we have worked with our Department Chairs to put together two Grade 9 teams. Each team will consist of two English, two Math, one Science, and one Social Studies teacher. These team members along with some support from Bethany Lambert, the high school administration, school counseling, and our librarian will look at a variety of different curricula and determine the best curriculum for our Seminar class in the coming weeks. Currently, we have six different ones to look at. Some have a fee associated with them while others will be free to use.

Far too many of our Grade 9 students come to Sanford High School and struggle for many different reasons. This will give us an opportunity to acquaint them to the high school environment quicker in order to prevent them from becoming off track for graduation by the end of their grade 9 year.