

ADVISING

Supports and Resources

VEGA Academy provides support for our students and their parents in a number of ways, including:

- counselling and guidance support for career planning
- each student has an Individual Pathways Plan
- students are required to consult with their counsellor during the course selection process
- counsellors, teachers, and administrators meet on a regular basis to identify at-risk students
- supports are provided for English Language Learners through our House system
- our school has a very well-equipped computer lab and our students are provided with access to the Toronto Library system
- counsellors maintain contact with students' parents, as the need arises
- peer counsellors are trained through our leadership program
- students are given information about community resources such as sports clubs and cultural groups
- referral services for personal support, immigration assistance, housing.

Special Education

Students with special education needs may require accommodations to allow them to participate in the curriculum and to demonstrate their achievement. Accommodations include individualized teaching and assessment strategies, human supports, and/or individualized equipment. In a subject or course identified in the student's IEP as "Accommodated Only", **the provincial curriculum expectations are not altered**. Assessment accommodations are changes in procedures that enable the student to demonstrate his or her learning. These may include:

- visual supports to clarify verbal instructions, assistive devices, or some form of human support;
- alternative methods for the student to demonstrate his or her achievement of expectations (e.g., allowing the student to take tests orally) or the allowance of extra time to complete the assessment; and,
- alternative settings that may be more suitable for the student to demonstrate his or her learning.

If accommodations are required to assess and evaluate student learning, the strategies to be used are outlined in the student's IEP.

Counsellor

VEGA Academy Counsellor:

- advises and counsels students regarding academic, educational, and short-term social and emotional problems.

- remains universally accessible and makes an effort to know every student for whom they are responsible.
- provides individual student planning and responsive services to support students and their families regarding academic matters.
- teaches guidance classes and provides guidance counseling to students through planned activities in small-group or classroom settings to convey educational, social, and important school information, and offers workshops/seminars for parents.
- consults, facilitates, and maintains communication with parents, teachers, administrators, and pertinent agents on specific student and parent academic and educational matters including academic modifications and/or accommodations.
- provides feedback and recommends appropriate action and solutions to individual student's academic and educational needs and abilities.
- participates on students related meetings, identifies students who may need targeted or intensive services, and coordinates with behavioral health specialists.
- assists students/parents in understanding school policies and procedures.
- provides brief counseling to address social and emotional concerns and appropriately refers students to behavioral health specialists.
- communicates, coordinates, and collaborates with behavioral health specialists on developing and implementing student supports.
- supports and attends appropriate student activities and events.

Student Mentors

VEGA Academy has student leaders who mentor and act as role models for incoming Grade 9 students. These senior student leaders play an integral role in planning activities for Grade 9 students as they begin their secondary school experience. Grade 9 students are grouped with student leaders to familiarize them with life at secondary school through a variety of activities designed to develop a strong sense of belonging in the school community. These events may include tours, dances, or BBQs. Student mentors stay connected with Grade 9 students throughout the year to support academic success and community building. Every Grade 9 student is encouraged to engage in the wide range of activities that all secondary schools offer.

Support Services Team

VEGA Academy has a Support Services team that assists students in a variety of ways to ensure success for all students. Support Services team includes, but is not limited to; Administrators, Guidance Counsellor, English as a Second Language teachers, and senior students.