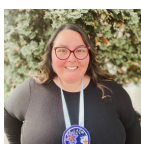




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# RIVER

## Alternative Secondary School Program

## INFORMATION BUNDLE



## What is the River Program?

The River Alternative Secondary School Program is a partnership between the Limestone District School Board and the Kingston Native Center and Language Nest, made possible by the generous support of the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centers. The program's mandate is to provide a safe, inclusive, differentiated learning environment for self-identifying Indigenous students. By supporting and providing opportunities for youth between the ages of 15-21 in grades 10-12 to learn about culture, and have access to mental health and social supports, the learning experience becomes personal as students are encouraged and uplifted while working towards their personal and academic goals as a community.



## What makes the program unique?

- ✓ - Students work towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma with a focus on four integrated credits per semester, similar to other secondary schools in the LDSB.
- ✓ - River ASSP offers coursework designed through Indigenous pedagogies and culturally sustainable instructional strategies.
- ✓ - Learning at River ASSP is hands-on, land-based, incorporates Indigenous languages, cross-curricular, and culturally connected.
- ✓ - Students' individual education plans are prioritized, providing a quiet, comfortable learning environment that meets their needs and engages their interests.
- ✓ - Cultural programming is central to the program. With the guidance of the Elder-in-Residence, Deb St. Amant, and local Knowledge Keepers, students can expect to learn through smudging, drumming, creating, survival skills, daily cooking instruction, and traditional knowledge sharing.



## What supports are offered?

In this program, students are offered an array of supports and services including an adolescent care worker; a trauma-informed counsellor; an addictions counsellor; a nutrition and hygiene take-what-you-need station; cultural programming such as art, music, ceremony, and traditional teachings; a free public transport pass; access to public and sexual health clinics and education; help with obtaining government ID such as Social Insurance Numbers and Status cards.

Students of River are also offered and encouraged to engage in experiential learning opportunities such as co-op placements, dual credits, and school-within-a-college (SWAC) during their time with the program to best prepare for a future in the workforce.



## Experiential Learning



Experiential trips are a highlight of the program. As a student with River, you can look forward to local trips to places such as Gould Lake, Kingston Native Centre and local organizations.

Out-of-town trips to events, galleries or areas are also possibilities!