

Everything you need to know about
The Embarkations Alternative Program



Photo: Our Class 2024

Embarkations
c/o Beaconsfield High School
250 Beaurepaire Drive, Beaconsfield, H9W 5G7
Phone: 514-697-7220



Photo: Students in their career day uniforms-getting ready for the professional world.

Who we are:

Embarkations is a graduation track **alternative** learning program designed to go beyond a regular classroom setting, in order to meet the **individual** needs of all students. Committed students will be rewarded with a staff that will provide a **co-operative learning environment**, where the qualities of initiative, commitment, innovation, integrity, personal responsibility, and resiliency will be fostered and valued. The program is staffed by full time, qualified, and experienced educators who are dedicated to their students and passionate about alternative education.



Photo: We offer Alternative seating including, but not limited to, Conference tables, individual desks, standing stations. We are also open to new ideas.

Our goals:

- To create an environment where students can develop to their fullest potential.
- To encourage students to ask questions, engage in discussion, actively listen, and develop positive interactions and social skills.
- To help students become organized and productive, by teaching effective work habits and study skills.
- To provide students with a program that allows them to fulfill their academic requirements for a high school diploma.
- To prepare students for the next step in their future, be it CEGEP, Vocational School, or the workforce.
- To provide students with experiences and information that will help them make healthy choices and live a healthy active lifestyle.
- To introduce students to the surrounding and extended community and help promote a sense of belonging.
- To help students to develop self confidence and use their individual strengths to grow and contribute to our community and our world.

Program Description:

Embarkations operates like a traditional **one-room schoolhouse**. **Grade 10 and 11** students share a workroom, on the third floor of BHS (C318). This **workroom is self-contained** and includes the student's lockers, cubbies, the teacher's office, a kitchen, student conference room, and a traditional closed classroom. Upon successful completion of the Embarkations Program, students will obtain their high school diploma.

The program offers all of the **Ministry Core Subjects**:

- English Language Arts
- French Second Language
- Cultural Social and Technological Math (CST)
- Science and Technology (Taught in Grade 11 to alleviate the grade 10 workload)
- History of Quebec and Canada

As well as several credit courses:

- Physical Education and Outdoor Education
- Culture and Citizenship in Quebec
- Arts
- Computer Skills
- Career Exploration
- Contemporary World
- Financial Literacy

Students in Embarkations have the **same report card as all secondary students**. It does not reflect that they have attended an alternative program.

They are following the **exact same Ministry standards, as the regular programs**.

The difference is the way we teach. Embarkations students do not follow a regular time-table, except for lunch-time and recess. We work at our **own pace** to meet the needs of our students. We offer **workshops and intensive classes/field trips**, in order to make

more room in the daily schedule for Ministry classes and extra academic support.

Formal classes are as brief as possible to allow for more **focused learning** and time to work on assignments independently and/or **one-on-one instruction from the teaching staff**.

When assignments are completed, to the teacher's standard and course requirement, Embarkations students have the privilege of '**signing out**' of school, **before the end of the regular school day**. Once a student has signed-out, they must leave the school property.



Photo: Ministry Science labs and hands on experiments

Embarkations and BHS:

Embarkations is a **Beaconsfield High School** program.

We are a **part of the BHS school community** and **we are Bison proud!**

Students are encouraged to **participate in BHS school activities, sports teams, band programs, and trips.**

Lunch-time is shared, so Embarkations students are able to socialize with their friends in the regular program. Their friends are welcome to join them for lunch in the Embarkations room and use our kitchen, if needed.



Photo: Our handmade jewelry sale to benefit the BHS music program.

Application Process:

The most important quality that an Embarkations applicant must possess is the desire to make a change.

As you have read, Embarkations has a lot of rules to follow and **high expectations** regarding behavior and work ethic. If you are ready to **commit** yourself and do everything it takes to graduate high school, in a whole new way, then Embarkations may be for you.

If you are excited by the prospect of learning how to become a better student, changing the bad habits that you have accumulated over your school life, **increasing your grades, graduating high school**, and working in a truly **supportive, individualized, and familial environment**, then please reach out **by email**:

Jesse Hayes: jhayes@lbpearson.ca

You can also speak to the school's guidance counselor or administration about your interest in the program. Arrangements can be made for you to come and visit us.

Once you receive the application, fill it out, and send it back to us. We will contact you shortly to schedule a meeting, so we can get to know you better and answer your questions.



Photo: Embarkations is a home away from home. We provide a familial and supportive environment.

Eligibility:

- **Students who are presently in grade 9 or 10** may apply for the program. Any applications made are for the following school year, as only students on the waiting list will be accepted into the program after the start of the school year.
- Students must show that they are **academically capable** to be considered for this type of **graduation-track program**. For this reason, students may be given conditional acceptance, pending final report cards in June – or even Summer School results in August. Further conditions may need to be addressed on an individual basis.
- Former teachers and administrators will be asked to comment on an applicant's readiness for the program. Only those who have shown that they have the potential to graduate will be considered.
- In order to **retain admission** in the program, students must maintain passing grades in their core subjects:
 - English Language Arts
 - French Second Language
 - Cultural Social and Technological Math (CST)
 - Science and Technology (Taught in Grade 11 to alleviate the grade 10 workload)
 - History of Quebec and Canada

If the student is **failing TWO core subjects or less**, they will be asked to attend **summer school** and **MUST pass at least ONE of the TWO courses in summer school to be admitted back into the program in the fall.**

Students who fail more than TWO CORE COURSES are not eligible for the Embarkations Program.

Embarkations Rules and Expectations:

1. You will treat the Embarkations teachers, school property, and all members of the BHS community with **respect** at all times.
2. Students and teachers will **work together** to make Embarkations a **safe and supportive environment** for all. Any act of aggression, harassment, or intimidation will not be tolerated.
3. BHS has **ZERO tolerance** for bullying and violence.
4. Absolute **honesty** is required at all times.
5. You must arrive at school **on time** and return from lunch before the bell. Failure to do so, will result in a detention.
6. If you are sick and need to take the day off of school, you need to **call in** or **email** before homeroom to let the teachers know that you will not be there.
7. Embarkations students must leave the school by the **courtyard exit**.
8. You are expected to do your best in Embarkations. You must hand in **ALL** assignments and they must be complete.
9. Once you have officially **signed-out** of Embarkations for the day, you must **leave school property**. You may only return at 3:35, if you need to take the school bus home.
10. Students are expected to have the **required materials** for all of their courses. If you need materials, please see one of the teachers.
11. **No illegal drugs or vapes are permitted at school**. Please refer to the BHS [Code of Respect](#) for full details.
12. Students who **do not follow the rules** may be asked to **leave the program**. A plan will be put into place for the student to complete their education elsewhere.

Warning System:

Along with following the BHS [Code of Respect](#), Embarkations students are expected to follow a strict code of behavior at all times. When a student applies, they are informed of the rules and expectations that go along with acceptance into the program. Warnings are given out when a student breaks a rule repeatedly or when their behavior is deemed unacceptable.

Some offenses for which a student will receive **an official warning**, include but not limited to: **fighting, theft, copying work, smoking on school property, vandalism, belligerent behavior towards an Embarkations teacher, or BHS employee, being caught with drugs or drug paraphernalia or alcohol on school property or on a school trip.** Additional consequences may also be given by the school administration.

Some warnings may contain conditions which must be met in order for the student to remain in the program. **Please note that a student will be asked to leave the program once they have accumulated four warnings.** Students who are asked to leave the program will meet with administrators in order to pursue their academic career.



Photo:Outdoor Education

Embarkations Drug Policy:

The Embarkations staff does not condone use of illegal drugs at any time, and expect parents to support us on this issue.

- Drug use is defined as using illegal drugs and/or having drugs or drug related paraphernalia in one's possession.
- Students found in possession of illegal drugs and or drug related paraphernalia OR students suspected of involvement in illegal drug use will be subject to the BHS Code of Respect, as well as any or all of the following sanctions:
 - Search of personal property (clothing, backpacks etc.) and locker(s)
 - Referral for drug therapy
 - Formal Embarkations warnings
 - Involvement of the police
 - Removal from the Embarkations program

Embarkations staff will determine the appropriate course of action, on a case by case basis, in order to assure the safety, health and well being of all Embarkations students throughout the year.



Photo: Birthday celebrations and holiday activities

Physical Education Component:

Students in Embarkations are offered exciting trips and activities that allow them to earn their Phys. Ed. credits. Here are some examples of activities.

- **Camping and outdoor education at facilities in the region.**

The camp includes indoor and outdoor activities with animation, as well as team building activities and individual skill development, including yoga, cooking, obstacle courses, light hiking, and appreciation for our natural surroundings.

- **Ski-day**

Students participate in lessons before heading up the slopes on their own to experience this fun Winter activity. (snowshoeing is also available.)

- **Day trips** to Arbraska, indoor rock climbing, curling and other physical challenges, based on student interest.

- Walking club, day hikes, and urban hikes



Photo: Ski lessons "Some students getting ready to ski down the mountain for the first time!"



Photo: Curling in Baie D'Urfe

Benefits:

- Smaller class sizes

- More individual attention
- The opportunity to build meaningful relationships with peers and teachers.
- Assigned work completed at school - fewer homework struggles
- Career Choice guest speakers and job skills training
- Monthly Phys. Ed. Trips and out of school activities to challenge students.
- Day trips and group team-building activities
- Possibility of early graduation for qualifying students
- A relaxed workroom – within a strict rule structure
- Access to a kitchen – students may eat at any time convenient to the group.
- Life skills development
- A life long support system. We are a family.

We try to keep costs to families at a minimum and take advantage of public transportation and free activities, when possible, but **families can expect to pay some additional fees for our Physical Education field trips.**



Photo: Our urban hike- exploring our city; our outdoor classroom

SUCCESS RATE:

Embarkations has a proven track record. The program has been serving the needs of

students for over thirty years and has celebrated the graduation of hundreds of students. The graduation rate for Embarkations students is very high. Students who do not graduate from the program are always assisted in creating a plan that will give them the credits they need to either apply to CEGEP or to a trade school.

TESTIMONIALS:

“Contrary to popular belief, Embarks isn’t only for ‘troubled kids’. What Embarks really is, is a mini private school within BHS. Since we have the same 3 teachers throughout the day and are with the same kids all day, we form a tight family-like bond. The three teachers are unbelievably dedicated to their students and always find time for our questions. They’re saints!” Thank You Embarks, Jorgia Sugleris 2012-2013

“Without Embarkations, I would have gone through my entire high school life believing I was stupid and just not cut out for school. Embarks taught me to take pride in my work. The two years I spent in Embarkations helped me mature and prepare for life after high school. Without Embarkations, I probably wouldn’t have plans to continue on to post secondary education and I definitely wouldn’t have the marks for it. I don’t know where I would be without Embarks and I am very thankful to have had three amazing devoted teachers pushing me to succeed during my last years at Beaconsfield High School. I can’t put into words how much Embarkations has helped me, not only academically, but in all aspects of my life” Thank you for everything you have done. Kathleen Cavanagh (Princess Zelda) 2011-2013

“Embarkations is the best program to have ever been created. Embarkations is the only reason that I am in school right now. In grade 9, I had a steady 37 average! I know, amazing right..! Thanks to Embarkations my confidence level has boosted to an all time high! I am now leaving Embarkations with close to an 80% average. Don’t let anyone tell you that Embarks is a bad idea, because without it, I could not have had the opportunity to go to college and later on become a doctor and save the lives of millions. So basically Embarkations just saved the lives of millions.” Matthew Scarfo September 2011- January 2013

"I came into Embarkations in Grade 10; my grades were in the low 60's and low 70's. I was initially failing high school. Coming into the program was tough, it was exclusive from the rest of the school therefore I could only see my friends at lunch. Even then, I would barely see them. But in a way it was good for me. I wasn't distracted; I could concentrate more. I was actually learning. All my subject marks improved! My overall mark is now in the mid 80's! Coming into Embarkations was hard. I had to give up a lot, but in the end I gained a lot more! Don't let anybody say Embarkations isn't worth it! Embarkations helped me and it sure as heck can help you too!" Kieran Ward, Embarkations student 2011 - 2013



Photo: Life Skills-Using an iron to press a shirt for career day (Our kitchen in the background)