

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

Special Education

at

Holy Cross



Special Education

Department

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| Special Education | 1 |
| Overview of Placement Models..... | 2 |
| How it Works..... | 3 |
| Resource Assistance..... | 4 |
| Lifeskills Program | 5 |
| Lifeskills to Community (18-21)..... | 5 |
| Learning Strategies | 6 |
| Learning Strategies course outline..... | 7 |
| SEA Equipment Protocol..... | 8 |
| Transition and Self-Advocacy..... | 9 |

See it

Visual



Say it

Auditory



Do it

Kinesthetic



Special Education Department

The Holy Cross Special Education Department supports students who may require a wide range of special education services. The primary objective is to provide a constructive, compassionate learning environment for all.

This is achieved through a collaborative approach to learning and includes students, parents, subject teachers, special education teachers, educational assistants, administrators and community partners.

Holy Cross has three programs designed to enable students with the special learning environment they need to achieve success at their highest level;

- Resource Assistance Program
- Lifeskills Program (up to age 18)
- Lifeskills to Community Program (ages 18-21)

Holy Cross Placement Models

1. Resource Assistance Program

This program is offered to students who have been identified as exceptional through the IPRC process and to non-identified students with Individual Education Plans.

Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) provide individual consultation and monitor students' academic performance throughout the semester. They provide accommodations during tests, exams and EQAO assessments and they offer technical support to students with SEA equipment.

2. Lifeskills Program

This program is designed for students under the age of 18 who have been identified as exceptional through the IPRC process with a Developmental Disability.

3. Lifeskills to Community Program (18-21)

This program is designed for students between the age of 18 and 21 who have been identified as exceptional through the IPRC process with a Developmental Disability.

The focus of the program is to prepare the students for post-secondary life based on their individual goals.

In both the Lifeskills and the Lifeskills to Community Programs, students work towards achieving alternate learning expectations which are not included in the Ontario Curriculum.

How it Works

Resource Assistance Program

Students with an I.E.P. are offered resource assistance in one of two ways:

In the Resource Room (Rm 117) - an alternate, quiet location for tests/quizzes and completion of assignments.

- Accommodations are delivered by the Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT)
- Students are required to complete a **blue 'BOOK IN'** slip, a day in advance of a test/quiz requesting the accommodations they require (developing self-advocacy skills) and to sign in upon arrival in Rm 117 for a test.
- Tests and quizzes are returned to the classroom teacher by Special Education staff and EAs

In Regular Classrooms – accommodations are delivered by the Classroom teacher

- Educational Assistant (E.A.) may be available in some classes to offer additional support
- Opportunity for individual or small group learning
- Encourage, prompt and motivate students to make use of their accommodations
- Provide reading and writing (scribe) assistance when necessary
- Encourages the development of self-advocacy skills and an understanding of accommodations.

Lifeskills Program

Students may access this program for up to three periods a day depending on individual student needs. Students work on alternative learning expectations which are not based on the Ontario curriculum.

- **Life skills** - students work on developing functional literacy and numeracy skills along with self-care, social and life skills.
- **Integration into academic courses** - Students may attend courses offered at Holy Cross with accommodations, modifications and alternative curriculum, as needed in accordance with the student's Individual Education Plan.
- **Extra-curricular activities** - students are encouraged and provided support to participate fully in extra-curricular activities and opportunities available within the school community, based on individual student interests

Lifeskills to Community Program (18-21)

- **Life skills** - prepares students for post-secondary life through co-operative education placements, public transportation training and community based activities.
- **Integration into academic courses** - students may have the opportunity to attend courses offered at Holy Cross and participate in extra-curricular activities based on their interests.

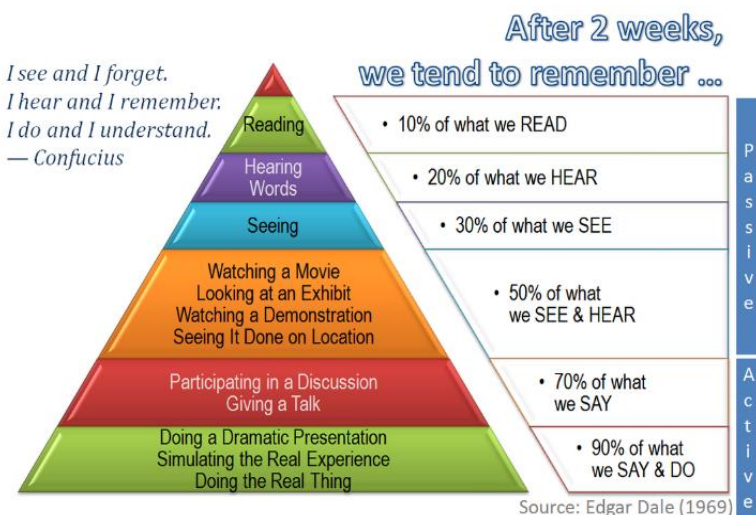
Learning Strategies Course (GLE) Outline

- Learning Strategies (coded GLE10) is a full-credit course designed to help develop learning, study habits and organisational skills.
- The GLE Course offers academic support and tracks student’s progress in their other 3 courses.
- Students have the opportunity to develop and become familiar with the use of Assistive Technology software available throughout the school and on SEA laptops.

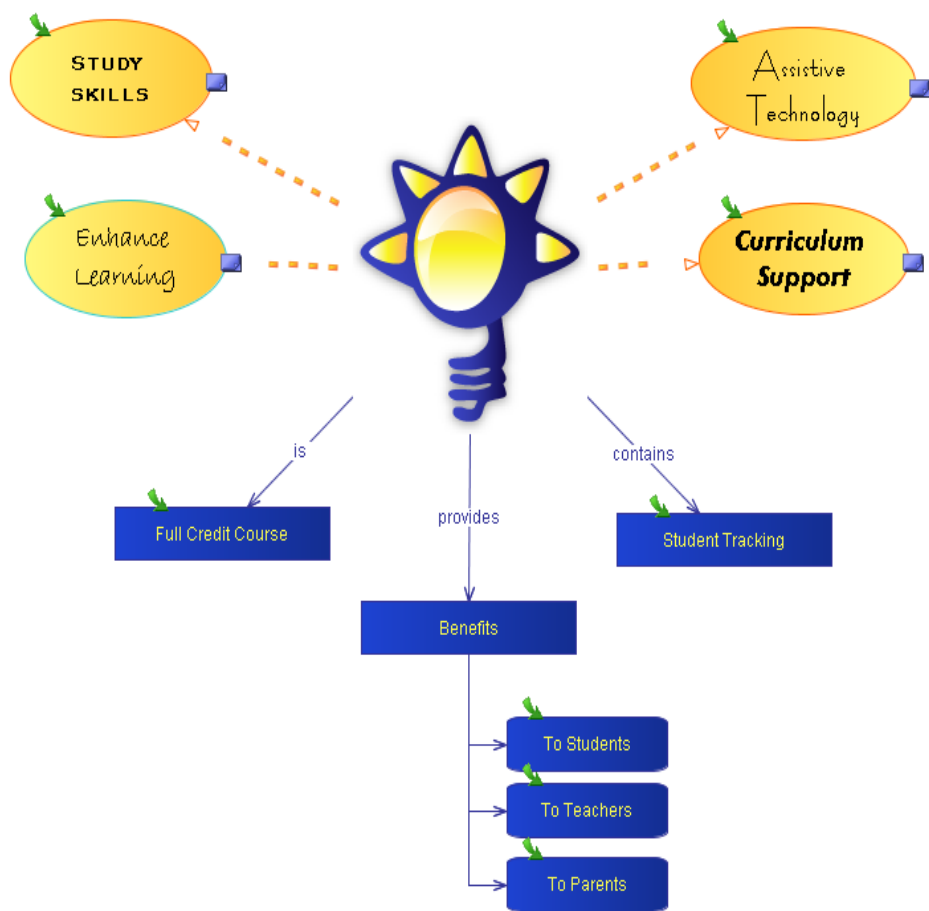
This course is not an automatic substitution for a French credit. A substitution is determined by the high school Principal or V.P. and depends in-part upon the student’s level of French taken during Elementary school.

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LEARNING STRATEGIES



Learning Strategies



SEA Equipment

Tier 3 SEA Equipment transitions to Holy Cross during the summer following Grade 8 and is ready for use in September. The following protocol is followed;

SEA Laptop protocol at Holy Cross

- Students and parents must complete and return to the Resource Room (Rm 117) by the end of **September** either
 - a) **Assumption of Responsibility Form** (in order to be able to access SEA equipment for use in school and at home) **OR**
 - b) **Consent to Decline Access to SEA Equipment Form** (if the laptop is no longer required by the student)

Classroom teachers, SERTs and EAs actively encourage the use of this equipment in the classroom on a daily basis.

- **Forms can be picked up in Rm 117 on Locker & Textbook Distribution Days**
- Laptops are the **responsibility** of the student and as such will remain with the student (wherever they wish to keep it) for the full year.
- Audio textbooks (Kurzweil, pdf or MP3 version) can be down loaded to student's laptops upon request.

Laptops must be returned to Rm 117 in June for summer storage and updating.

- Gr. 11 and 12 Students wishing to leave their laptop in Rm 117 must make arrangements to do so with their SERT (Special Education Resource Teacher)
- Laptops not being used will be returned to the board office for re-assignment to other students.

Kurzweil is now available

for **ALL** students at home via a web based version of the program (known as Firefly) found in the Virtual Commons .

To access Kurzweil students require a specific Username and Password.

Available by speaking to a SERT in the Resource room.

Microsoft Word DICTATE (speech to text) software is available to all students through the school's website (Office 365).

Microsoft Word Speech-to-Text software is available to all students through the school's website (Office 365)



Transition and Self-Advocacy

No one has a greater stake in the outcome of the transition to high school than students themselves. At Holy Cross students are encouraged to actively participate in this transition process and to develop the necessary self-advocacy skills to be independent learners.

Self-advocacy, the ability to communicate effectively on your own behalf, develops independence and builds self-confidence. This helps students learn to communicate effectively regarding their strengths, needs and supports necessary for success.

As confidence increases students take more risks, ask for the help and clarification needed to do better in school and life. High achieving adults have identified their ability to self-advocate as the most important factor contributing to success in both the post-secondary and workplace environments.

Grade 8 students transitioning to Holy Cross are invited to participate in a self-advocating activity by completing their **Student Profile letter**. The letter is designed as an introduction to teachers outlining the student's strengths, needs and accommodations.

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