SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73
(Kamloops - Thompson)

Trades and Transitions
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73
Career Development

District Career Programs and Events Handbook

Career Development Department

School District No.73 (Kamloops-Thompson)

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SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73
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Career Connect Program

PROGRAM

- This unique partnership between Thompson Rivers University and School District No. 73 provides high school students an opportunity to earn high school elective and university credits while still in high school.
- Students can start their university journey early and experience university life while in secondary school.
- For one semester in grade 12, students take:
    - 2 TRU Start Courses
    - 2 Work Experience (WEX) Courses (including 200 hours in a volunteer placement)
- Students do not enroll in other high school courses while in the program.

CREDITS

- Students earn 6 credits (2 courses) at TRU
- Students earn 16 elective credits (4 courses)



BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- Jump-start your university education by starting in high school.
- Gain valuable work experience in the career you are interested in.

REQUIREMENTS

In addition to meeting all TRU course and program requirements prior to the start date of classes, students are required to meet the following criteria as documented on their high school report card:

- Minimum 73% (B) in English 12
- Minimum 67% (C+) in Math 12 (for specified courses)
- Exemplary attendance record

DETAILS

- TRU Start Courses are offered on TRU's campus
- Students apply in grade 11 and commence course(s) in their grade 12 year
- Application Fee: $34.23 (charged to student's myTRU account)
- SD73 pays tuition for the course, student is responsible for all other costs

NEXT STEP

- For more information and an application form visit tnt.sd73.bc.ca

TRU Start Course List: https://lib.sd73.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/tru-start-course-list-for-2027-2028-as-of-nov-4-2026.e8f72115794.pdf

TRU Start Course Guide: ***under review as of Nov. 4, 2026***

DIGITAL ARTS & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

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PROGRAM

For students aspiring to become game designers, Digital Arts and Technology programs are highly recommended as one of the best to study for launching a career in this exciting field.

- **Art Design** – Concepts covered include: steps in the creative process, creative thinking, digital and non-digital best practices, psychology of design and colour, and art and design principles.
- **Physics and Math** – Get the skills you need to program and calculate your own collision engines, reflection, and vector based movement.
- **Programming** – The concepts of logic, flow algorithmic thinking, and creative problem solving are taught using Java and a variety of scripting languages.



CREDITS

- Students will receive four courses (16 credits) that show as electives on the Dogwood Diploma.
    - Video Game Programming Level 1:2D Video Games
    - Video Game Programming Level 2:2D Video Game Engine Programming

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- Provides students with an opportunity to participate in the curriculum of an internationally recognized video game university (DigiPen), while gaining experience with real-world video game creation.
- Students acquire the knowledge and skills to enable them to become successful candidates for other roles within the industry. Students will be able to draw on a cross–curricular knowledge and skills from disciplines such as Mathematics, Physics, Music, and Art.
- The concepts learned lead perfectly into a career as an engineer, software designer, physicist, or mathematician.

DETAILS

- Location: Valleyview Secondary School
- Semester 1 (September to January)
- Program fee: $350
- Students attend in their **grade 10, 11 or 12** year

NEXT STEP

- Students should meet with a school counsellor and TNT Coordinator to develop a Student Education Transition Plan in their grade 10 year to adequately prepare for this educational opportunity in their grade 10, 11 or 12 year.
- For more information and an application form visit **tnt.sd73.bc.ca** or contact your school's TNT Coordinator for details.

HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

PROGRAM

The Health Sciences Academy will allow students to explore and experience a range of in-demand, public sector health care occupations. Through this exploration, students will have the opportunity to connect their interests and passions to numerous health career experiences with an emphasis on hands-on learning. The academy will include 4 courses:

- Health Career Sampler 12
- Anatomy and Physiology 12
- Contemporary Issues in Health Care 12
- Career Life Connections 12



Emphasis will be placed on hands-on learning through complex case management simulation and work experience. Students will work in teams within the classroom taking on roles of a variety of health care professionals as they work to support a care plan for a simulated patient. Students will expand upon their knowledge of health care professions by completing 30 hours of work experience in one or more health care provider settings.

CREDITS

- Students will earn 16 credits after successful completion of the academy (four - 120 hour courses) which will be applied to their Dogwood Diploma.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- **Make informed choices** for yourself and your future. Before investing time and money or making assumptions about health care careers, you will be able to make informed choices about careers in that area. You will learn about skills, expectations, job requirements, rigor, and future training opportunities in the health care sector.
- **Hands-on work experience** in various health care careers.

RECOMMENDED COURSES

It is *strongly recommended* that students complete the following courses prior to the start of the Health Sciences Academy:

- Life Sciences 11
- Chemistry 11

DETAILS

- Location: Brocklehurst Secondary School
- Semester 1 (September to January)
- Academy Fee: $400
- Students attend in their **grade 11 or 12** year

NEXT STEP

- Students should meet with a school counsellor and TNT Coordinator to develop a Student Education Transition Plan.
- For more information and an application form visit **tnt.sd73.bc.ca** or contact your school's TNT Coordinator for details.

SAMPLER PROGRAM – CONSTRUCTION

PROGRAM



This TRU program is taught by TRU Red Seal instructors and designed to offer students a hands-on opportunity in gaining basic understanding of four common construction trades:

- Carpentry
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Construction Craft Worker

Students who attend this program are still eligible to play school sports for their home school and upon completion of this one semester program will return to their home school.

CREDITS

- Students will earn 16 elective credits after successful completion of the sampler (four - 120 hour courses) which will be applied to their Dogwood Diploma.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- **Make informed choices** for yourself and your future. Before investing time and money or making assumptions about the trades, you will know if you like the trade and if it's for you. You will know what the trade is about – skills, expectations, job requirements, rigor, and future training opportunities.
- **Experience the program** through 20% theory and 80% hands-on work.
- **Be taught by Red Seal instructors** who have experience in the trade, who will help guide you through the training, as well as provide you with real-life experience inside the classroom and on-site.
- **Earn priority seating at TRU's Youth Train in Trades program** - after successful completion of the Construction Sampler.

DETAILS

- Location: NorKam Secondary School
- Semester one or semester two
- Application Fee: $34.23
- Students attend in their **grade 10, 11, or 12** year

NEXT STEP

- Students should meet with a school counsellor and TNT Coordinator to develop a Student Education Transition Plan.
- For more information and an application form visit **tnt.sd73.bc.ca** or contact your school's TNT Coordinator for details.

SAMPLER PROGRAM – MECHANICAL

PROGRAM

This TRU program is taught by TRU Red Seal instructors and designed to offer students a hands-on opportunity in gaining basic understanding of four common mechanical trades:

- Automotive Service Technician
- Heavy Duty Equipment Technician
- Fabrication
- Welding

Students who attend this program are still eligible to play school sports for their home school and upon completion of this one semester program will return to their home school.

CREDITS

- Students will earn 16 credits after successful completion of the sampler (four - 120 hour courses) which will be applied to their Dogwood Diploma.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- **Make informed choices** for yourself and your future. Before investing time and money or making assumptions about the trades, you will know if you like the trade and if it's for you. You will know what the trade is about – skills, expectations, job requirements, rigor, and future training opportunities.
- **Experience the program** through 20% theory and 80% hands-on work.
- **Be taught by Red Seal instructors** who have experience in the trade, who will help guide you through the training, as well as provide you with real-life experience inside the classroom and on-site.
- **Earn priority seating at TRU's Youth Train in Trades program** - after successful completion of the Mechanical Sampler.

DETAILS

- Location: NorKam Secondary School
- Semester one or semester two
- Application Fee: $34.23
- Students attend in their **grade 10, 11, or 12** year



NEXT STEP

- Students should meet with a school counsellor and TNT Coordinator to develop a Student Education Transition Plan.
- For more information and an application form visit tnt.sd73.bc.ca or contact your school's TNT Coordinator for details.

TRU START COURSES

PROGRAM

- This unique partnership between Thompson Rivers University and School District No. 73 provides high school students an opportunity to earn high school elective and university credits while still in high school.
- Students can start their university journey early and experience university life while in secondary school.
- Students can take up to two university courses (one per semester) in their grade 12 year.

CREDITS

- Students earn TRU credits and 4 high school elective credits per course.
- Students may take up to 2 courses outside of school hours in their grade 12 year, one in the Fall semester and one in the Winter semester



BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- Jump-start your university education by starting in high school.

REQUIREMENTS

In addition to meeting all TRU course and program requirements prior to the start date of classes, students are required to meet the following criteria as documented on their high school report card:

- Minimum 73% (B) in English 12.
- Minimum 67% (C+) in Math 12 (for specified courses).
- Exemplary attendance record.

DETAILS

- Courses are offered after school hours on TRU's campus
- Students apply in grade 11 and commence course(s) in their grade 12 year.
- Application Fee: $34.23 (charged to student's myTRU account)
- SD73 pays tuition for the course, student is responsible for all other costs.

NEXT STEP

- For more information and an application form visit tnt.sd73.bc.ca

TRU Start Course List: https://lib.sd73.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/tru-start-course-list-for-2027-2028-as-of-nov-4-2026.e8f72115794.pdf

TRU Start Course Guide: ***under review as of Nov. 4, 2026***

TRU START PROGRAMS

TRU Start programs offer students an opportunity to experience university life and earn post-secondary credits before high school graduation. Students may choose from five programs, all taught at TRU during a student's grade 12 year.

BUSINESS FOUNDATIONS

Students will develop skills in areas such as accounting, oral and written communications, problem-solving, marketing, human relations, economics, law, information systems and business ethics.

This program ladders into the Accounting Technician Diploma, Management Diploma and Bachelor of Business Administration.

- Program length: 8 months (2 semesters)
- Delivery: In-Person
- Certification Upon Successful Completion: Business Foundations Certificate

EDUCATION ASSISTANT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Students will develop the skills to work with people who have exceptional needs, helping them acquire educational, social, vocational, recreational and personal life skills. This employment-ready eight-month certificate will prepare students for a career working in schools and community agencies.

- Program length: 8 months (2 semesters)
- Delivery: In-Person
- Certification Upon Successful Completion: Educational Assistant and Community Support Certificate

HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT

The Health Care Assistant program is designed to help students graduate from high school while also attaining certification as a Health Care Assistant. Learned skills are applied in the community through care and assisted living facilities and private homes. This program is designed to train the health care worker to assist the older adult in meeting their basic physical, emotional, environmental, and social needs. Students learn to provide practical assistance and help maintain the client's maximum independence within their ability.

- Program length: 1 year (2 semesters) – SD73 sponsorship **only includes Semester 1**
- Delivery: In-Person
- Certification: Students may return to TRU at 19 years of age to complete practicum and receive certification



POLICE AND JUSTICE STUDIES

Developed with police and other justice agencies, this two-year program will prepare students for the challenges of a career in policing, as well as in corrections, parole, customs, and other government services at the federal, provincial, or municipal levels. The diploma credits count towards completion of an arts, business, or criminology degree.

- Program length: 2 years
- Delivery: In-Person
- Certification Upon Successful Completion: Police and Justice Studies Diploma

POWER ENGINEERING

Students will gain the knowledge and skills needed to earn the 4th Class Power Engineering Certification through Technical Safety BC, and work as a 4th Class Power Engineer. Students will learn to maintain and operate heating and power plants, refrigeration systems and auxiliary equipment like pumps, compressors, steam turbines, electrical generators, cooling towers, and water treatment systems. Power Engineers have the opportunity to work in commercial facilities like hospitals, schools, and apartment buildings, or industrial facilities like mines, mills, power generation stations, and petrochemical plates.

- Program length: 1 year
- Delivery: In-Person
- Certification Upon Successful Completion: 4th Class Power Engineer

CREDITS

- Students will earn 32 credits after successful completion of the program that will be applied to the Dogwood Diploma.
- These courses will be recorded on the student's transcript as grade 12 elective courses.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- Students will be eligible for a post-secondary diploma or certification if they successfully complete the program.
- School District No. 73 covers the cost of the tuition for the first two semesters of a student's grade 12 year (subject to change). Other ancillary and further tuition costs are paid by the student.

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 SPONSORSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Students must complete admission requirements for both School District 73 and TRU Start Programs. Please see TRU Start Program applications for specific program requirements.

DETAILS

- Students apply in grade 10 or grade 11 and commence program in their grade 12 year.
- All programs are at TRU.
- Application Fee: $34.23 (charged to student's myTRU account)
- SD73 pays tuition of program for Fall and Winter semesters of their grade 12 year, student is responsible for all other costs.

NEXT STEP

- Students should meet with a school counsellor to develop a Student Education Transition Plan in their grade **10 year** in order to adequately prepare for this educational opportunity in their **grade 12 year**.
- For more information and an application form visit tnt.sd73.bc.ca or contact your school's TNT Coordinator for details.
- In addition, visit TRU's web site tru.ca/programs.html.

YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES (YTIT)

PROGRAMS

Foundation programs provide the knowledge and skills needed for entry into an industry occupation and proceed into an apprenticeship program. This is an innovative partnership between Thompson Rivers University and School District No. 73, bridging secondary and post-secondary education and training while enhancing transition to the workforce. These programs allow grade 10 and 11 students to apply for a Youth Train in Trades (YTIT) Program at TRU in their grade 12 year.

Mechanical Trades	Culinary Arts	Construction Trades	Horticulture
• Automotive Service Technician • Heavy Mechanical Foundation • Refrigeration and Air Conditioning • Welding Level 1 & 2 • Industrial Mechanic (Millwright)	• Baker *(tentative)* • Meatcutter • Professional Cook Level 1	• Carpentry Level 1 & 2 • Electrical-Construction • Instrumentation & Control Technician • Plumber	• Horticulture Foundation

CREDITS

- Students will earn between 24-40 credits after successful completion of the program. Approximately four credits per month for the duration of the course will be applied to the Dogwood Diploma.
- These courses will be recorded on the student's transcript as grade 12 elective courses.
- TRU will award a Foundation Certificate and credit will be earned towards the first year technical training as an apprentice.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- The tuition for a Youth Train In Trades Program is sponsored by School District No. 73. (Note: Ancillary fees, textbooks, and additional TRU fees are the responsibility of the student.)
- Students who take a trades program in their grade 12 year earn dual credit and graduate high school with more skills and more training.
- Be taught by Red Seal instructors.
- Registered with SkilledTradesBC as an apprentice.

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 SPONSORSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Recommended minimum 73% (B) in Math 11 (see application for requirements per trade).
- Exemplary attendance record.
- Exemplary attitude towards learning.



DETAILS

- Location: TRU - Trades & Technology (*Industrial Mechanic offered at NorKam Trades and Technology Centre)
- Students apply in grade 10 or grade 11 and commence program in their grade 12 year
- Application Fee: $34.23 (charged to student's myTRU account)
- SD73 pays tuition of program, student is responsible for all other costs

NEXT STEP

- Students should meet with a school counsellor and TNT Coordinator to develop a Student Education Transition Plan in their **grade 10** year in order to adequately prepare for this educational opportunity in their **grade 12 year**. For more information and an application form visit [tnt.sd73.bc.ca](tnt.sd73.bc.ca) or contact your school's TNT Coordinator for details.

YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES (YTIT) – HAIRSTYLIST

PROGRAM

Note: This program commences in Semester 2 at NorKam Secondary School. Students then complete a 300 hour work placement in a salon over the summer and return to NorKam for Semester 1.

For students aspiring to become hairstylists, this program allows students to explore this career preparation program. Upon successful completion of the eight learning units, students will have a firm foundation in the following:

- Theory of hairdressing fundamentals
- Anatomy and physiology
- Establishing a professional image
- Salon ecology (hygiene, bacteriology, and sanitation)
- Advanced hair services (cutting, hair colouring, and permanent waving)
- Retail sales and marketing
- Salon management

CREDITS

- The timetable is structured to allow students to complete one Ministry of Education and Child Care course in conjunction with the program, usually Career Life Connections (CLC) 12 Course for 4 credits.
- Students will earn 40 credits after successful completion of the program which will be applied as electives to their Dogwood Diploma.
- Students who successfully complete the program will receive their "Certificate of Completion" Level 1.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- Be taught by a Red Seal instructor who has experience in the trade, who will help guide you through the training, as well as provide you with real-life experience inside the classroom and on site.
- Experience the same quality and level of education offered by private sector institutions at a considerably reduced cost.
- Be engaged and experienced in the career of your choice prior to graduation.
- Registered with SkilledTradesBC as an apprentice.



DETAILS

- Location: NorKam Secondary School in the La Bella Saints salon
- Starts in semester two, 300 hour work experience over the summer, concludes in semester one of the following school year
- Program Fee: $1500
- Students attend in their **grade 11 and 12** years

NEXT STEP

- Students should meet with a school counsellor and TNT Coordinator to develop a Student Education Transition Plan in their grade 10 year in order to adequately prepare for this educational opportunity in their grade 11 year.
- For more information and an application form visit **tnt.sd73.bc.ca** or contact your school's TNT Coordinator for details.

YOUTH WORK IN TRADES (YWIT)

PROGRAM

The Youth Work in Trades (YWIT) Program is an initiative that allows students to claim high school course credit as well accumulate apprenticeship hours with SkilledTradesBC – all for the out of school work students are doing in their part-time and summer jobs. The work must be trades-related and supervised by a certified tradesperson to qualify.

CREDITS and BENEFITS

- Students will earn 4 high school course credits for every 120 hours worked, for a maximum of 16 credits.
- If students pursue a certification in that trade after high school, their accumulated hours count towards their certification.
- Students completing 900 hours, and graduating with a C+ average, may receive $1000 towards further trades training from the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

Examples of Trades

- Construction Trades – Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrician
- Mechanical Trades – Automotive Service Tech, Industrial Mechanic (Millwright), Small Engine Mechanic, Motorcycle Technician, Heavy Duty Mechanic
- Hospitality and Service Trades – Cook, Baker, Meatcutter, Hairstylist
- Other Trades – Embalmer, Funeral Director, Parts Person

DETAILS

- Tradesperson must be certified
- Employer must have WorkSafeBC coverage
- Students enrolled in the program are exempt from the WorkSafeBC age restrictions for high-risk work
- **Grade 10, 11, and 12** students may apply

NEXT STEP

- For more information and an application package visit **tnt.sd73.bc.ca** or contact your school's TNT Coordinator.



District Career Events

Trades and Transitions
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73
Career Development

School District No. 73 offers a variety of events that allow students to explore different career pathways. Spaces for each event are limited, and students must apply through their school-based Trades and Transitions (TNT) Coordinator. For more information and an application form, visit [tnt.sd73.bc.ca](tnt.sd73.bc.ca) "Transition Events".

BC WILDFIRE JR FIRE CREW

- 4-day introduction to wildfire fighting and other BC Wildfire careers
- Students learn about fire suppression, communication, teamwork, physical training, and much more
- Location: BC Wildfire station and remote locations
- Grade 11 and 12 students may apply
- Event fee: $175 Date: April



DISCOVER DAYS

- For each career of industry listed below, students spend the day exploring a cluster of career areas that they are interested in or passionate about
- Events:
  - Engineering with Molycop in December
  - Hairstyling with La Bella Saints Salon in December
  - Health Care with TRU Nursing & Respiratory Faculty in February
  - Future Women in Mining in May
- Grade 10 to 12 students may apply
- Event fee: FREE

GIRLS EXPLORE TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY (GETT)

- Females spend the day sampling four different trades under the guidance of Red Seal Trades instructors
- Students participate in a hands-on, immersive experience in a safe and inviting atmosphere
- Location: TRU – Trades and Technology
- Females in Grade 6 to 9 may apply
- Event fee: FREE Date: November & February

HEAVY METAL ROCKS

- 4-day introduction to heavy equipment operating in the Construction or Mechanical industry
- One-to-one guidance and mentorship from a certified instructor
- Location: Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Indian Band Gravel Pit
- Grade 11 and 12 students may apply
- Event fee: $175 Date: April



INDUSTRY CAREER FAIR

- Career fair evening where students looking for work in the trades sector have the opportunity to mix and mingle with employers, looking to find a great work fit
- Event is geared to trades-minded students looking for employment in the construction, mechanical/industrial, and restaurant/hospitality industry
- Location: Henry Grube Education Centre
- Grade 10 to 12 may attend, registration not required
- Event fee: FREE Date: May

MCQUEEN LAKE FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CAMP

- 2-day event where students learn about forestry and environmental careers including ecology, silviculture, search and rescue, tree planting, fire management, aquatics, First Nations (edible plants, medicines, culture), and more
- Location: McQueen Lake Environmental Education Centre
- Grade 10 to 12 students may apply
- Event fee: $175 Date: October



RCMP YOUTH ACADEMY

- The RCMP Youth Academy is being reviewed and restructured. Further information will be provided to students and families once the details have been confirmed.

REGIONAL SKILLS AND JR SKILLS

- **Regional Skills –** Grade 12 students highly skilled in a trade compete against others in selected trades
- **Jr Skills –** students in grades 6 to 9 compete in various categories (schools send groups of 2-3 students)

  Categories:
  - Gravity Vehicle Race
  - Potential Energy Vehicle
  - Spaghetti Bridge
  - Sumo Robots
  - Wind Turbine
- Location: TRU – Trades and Technology
- Event fee: FREE Date: March

TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK

- Annual national program where students are hosted by parents, friends, relatives, and workplaces
- Career experience where students connect school, the world of work, and their own futures
- Location: Arranged by parents/guardians
- Grade 9 students may participate
- Event fee: FREE Date: November



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Trades and Transitions

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