

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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Public school pupils are making the JUMP to university

More than 230 Grade 6, 7 and 8 pupils from Waterloo Region and Perth County schools will be coming to Wilfrid Laurier University for three days this spring for a different kind of camp.

The JUMP (Junior University Multi-Disciplinary Preparation) Program, designed and developed by Laurier's Conference Office, gives pupils an opportunity to live on campus - staying in residence and eating Dining Hall food - while participating in numerous activities in a university setting.

A typical JUMP camp will consist of about 30 pupils. On the first day, they will move into residence after lunch and be given a brief campus tour. Then they move on to the first activity, which could be an overview of a number of computer applications, hands-on computer work, and the development of a newsletter. The second activity, taking place after dinner, could involve tennis, squash and badminton in the athletics facility.

Other activities offered over the three days - under the direction of Laurier professors - include archeology (excavation of an historic site, lab techniques and heritage tours), theatre (skits and presentations), social work (art therapy and family therapy techniques), chemistry (surface tension and soap bubbles), biology (life in fresh water, and photosynthesis), psychology (how we think, perceive, and use our memory), and geography (soil science).

The camp will conclude with a graduation lunch, a certificate of participation, and presentations of personal copies of the JUMP newsletter they worked on.

"The JUMP Program will provide an excellent linkage with the public school system and will allow students in Grades 6, 7 and 8 to be exposed to a university environment which may not happen otherwise," said Cliff Bilyea, director of ancillary services at Laurier.

The JUMP program is aimed at a general elementary school population, including students who may not see university as a part of their future.

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The trip to Laurier is replacing the traditional Grade 6 camping trip at Clemens Mill public school in Cambridge, and it is exceedingly popular with parents. At a cost of \$105 for three days, it's less than half the cost of a traditional camping trip, plus it will be "fun and educational, with hands-on things to do," said teacher Andy Goulden.

The JUMP program, he said, "gives the students exposure to a program they might be interested in in future. And Laurier is perfect, because it's close to home but not *at* home. We filled up in about 10 minutes and have six more people on a waiting list."

Teacher Wayne Graham of Stratford's Hamlet school, which is sending 30 Grade 6 students to JUMP in May, said the program is good because "It will provide an introduction to what school life is like beyond primary and secondary school," even if the kids don't end up going to university.

"I hope my students will get an opportunity to see what it's like to go to university, to see that it's something to shoot for, " said teacher Kathryn Edgecombe of MacGregor senior public school in Waterloo, which is sending 30 Grades 7 and 8 students to JUMP. "For some kids, university is not necessarily part of the picture. It gives them a chance to try it out."

Students from the following schools (with teacher contacts) will be participating:

Kitchener-Waterloo

Apr. 29 - May 1 - MacGregor public (Kathryn Edgecombe)
Apr. 29 - May 1 - Elizabeth Ziegler public (Mariane Kuwabara)
May 1 - 3 - McQuarrie Enrichment Centre (Darrell Kuwabara)

Cambridge

May 1 - 3 - Silverheights public (Laurie Douglas)
May 13 - 15 - Clemens Mill public (Andy Goulden)
May 15 - 17 - Preston public (Don Oberle)

Perth

May 13 - 15 - Hamlet public (Wayne Graham)
May 13 - 15 - Falstaff public (Shirley Weitzel, principal)
May 15 - 17 - Wallace public (Sherry Fleischauer)