

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Hundreds of Ontario students get a JUMP on university at Laurier

Program exposes students to university life and lets them study new disciplines

For Immediate Release

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WATERLOO – Some of the youngest university students in Canada will be attending Wilfrid Laurier University this summer. Over 1100 students have been enrolled straight out of grades six, seven and eight into a program designed to introduce them to post-secondary education starting May 15.

The students from 24 Ontario schools will study at Laurier as part of the annual Junior University Multi-Disciplinary Preparation (JUMP) program. Now in its seventh year, the series of three-day sessions gives students an opportunity to attend classes, tour campus and experience university life first hand.

"The students participating in JUMP aren't just visiting a university campus, they're getting the whole experience – from classes to residence life. It's encouraging to see how eagerly they take to the environment," said Glennice Snyder, Laurier's conference services co-ordinator. "Students are being encouraged at much younger ages to think about attending university or college and this program is an excellent way to get them started."

Coming from as far away as Huntsville, groups of 20 to 40 students attend seven classes from a list that includes archaeology, athletics, biology, business, chemistry, computing, fine arts, math, music, political science, psychology, social work and theatre. Topics like archaeology and chemistry – which aren't often found in elementary schools – are among the most popular.

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Aside from learning about how the brains works and about ancient artifacts from Laurier professors and graduate students, JUMP participants spend two nights in residence, eat in the dining hall, use the athletic facilities, and receive diplomas from Laurier deans and administrators at a graduation ceremony on the final day.

JUMP started with eight schools and just 180 students in 1994, and has grown steadily through word of mouth. "Without a doubt, the JUMP program is the best off-campus field trip I've ever been involved it," says Don Oberle, a teacher at Northlake Public School in Waterloo.

JUMP Schedule

DATE	SCHOOL		
May 15 – 17	<i>Jean Little P.S. (Guelph)</i> Rick Westgarth (519) 837-9582		
May 17 – 19	<i>Eastdale P.S. (Listowel)</i> Sue Knowlton (519) 291-2930	<i>St. Jacobs School (St. Jacobs)</i> Marianne Dziarski (519) 664-2273	
May 24 – 26	<i>Clemens Mill P.S. (Cambridge)</i> Karen Walimaki (519) 740-2364	<i>Harriston Senior School (Harriston)</i> Jim Newton (519) 338-2508	
May 29 – 31	<i>Saginaw P.S. (Cambridge)</i> Dave Allen (519) 624-7111	<i>Avenue Road P.S. (Cambridge)</i> Allyson Godfroid (519) 623-0860	
May 31 June 2	<i>Elizabeth Ziegler P.S. (Waterloo)</i> Marianne Kuwabara (519) 742-4402	<i>Wallace P.S. (Gowanstown)</i> Bob Woods (519) 291-2380	<i>Monsignor Michael O'Leary P.S. (Bracebridge)</i> Gerry Catry (705) 645-8759
	<i>Mornington Central School (Newton)</i> Linda Schurter (519) 595-8995	<i>Drayton P.S. (Drayton)</i> Joyce Spies (519) 638-3486	<i>Nancy Campbell C.I. (Stratford)</i> Blaine Anderson (519) 273-6435
June 5 – 7	<i>Wihnot Senior P.S. (Petersbury)</i> Gerry Peters (519) 634-8851	<i>New Lowell P.S. (New Lowell)</i> James Langer (705) 424-0991	
June 7 – 9	<i>Saint Mary's School (Huntsville)</i> Victoria Baumgart (705) 789-6481	<i>Tait Street School (Cambridge)</i> Glen Metcalf (519) 621-7621	
June 12 – 14	<i>Pahnerston P.S. (Palmerston)</i> Dan Belair (519) 343-3520	<i>Falstaff P.S. (Stratford)</i> Sharon Spier (519) 271-6618	
June 14 – 16	<i>Taylor Evans P.S. (Guelph)</i> Sandy Tubbs (519) 766-4544	<i>Irwin Memorial P.S. (Dwight)</i> Trudi MacKinnon (705) 635-2232	<i>Gravenhurst P.S. (Gravenhurst)</i> Marck Hachmer (705) 687-2011
June 19 – 21	<i>Forest Glen P.S. (New Hamburg)</i> Alison Roger (519) 662-2830		
June 21 – 23	<i>Lincoln Heights P.S. (Waterloo)</i> Marcel Sawyer (519) 884-4010		