

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Gravenhurst students advance to university for Laurier JUMP program *Muskoka Beechgrove Public School students get a chance to experience university life first-hand*

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WATERLOO – Students from Muskoka Beachgrove Public School in Gravenhurst will live the life of university students for the next three days as they attend classes at Wilfrid Laurier University. The grade eight students will sample post-secondary learning when they participate in the Junior University Multidisciplinary Preparation (JUMP) program from May 22 to 24.

In May and June, 1200 students from 31 different schools are participating in a series of three-day programs featuring interactive courses taught by Laurier professors. Classes include archaeology, fine arts, athletics, biology, business, chemistry, mathematics, music, political science, psychology and social work. The students also live in residence, eat in the Terrace Food Court and experience other aspects of campus life.

“This is a unique way to get younger students interested in higher education at an early age,” says Glennice Snyder, conference services coordinator. “JUMP classes are highly interactive and hands-on and give students a chance to explore topics not covered in elementary or even high school.”

Students also attend a university-life and career-choice seminar. It offers them the opportunity to learn some of the skills and attributes necessary for university life, and have their questions about university answered.

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Each three-day session includes participation in seven university level courses, the university-life and career-choice seminar, campus tours, a two-night stay in Willison residence and meals in the Terrace Food Court. The third day finishes with evaluations and a graduation lunch where students receive JUMP diplomas. Evening activities include theatre performances by the students themselves, swimming and outdoor sports.

“JUMP teaches the students about more than university,” says Snyder. “It teaches them about their growing independence, meeting new people and having the skills needed to make the choices that will shape their education in the future.”

Since its inception in 1994, JUMP has grown considerably. The number of participating schools has grown from only six to 31. Participants have come from as far away as Sault Ste. Marie and schools many return year after year.