

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Harriston students advance to university for Laurier JUMP program**

*Harriston Senior Public School students get a chance to experience university life first-hand*

**For Immediate Release**

**June 13, 2002**

**56-02**

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WATERLOO – Students from Harriston Senior Public School in Harriston are living the life of university students for three days as they attend classes at Wilfrid Laurier University. The grade seven students are sampling post-secondary learning as they participate in the Junior University Multidisciplinary Preparation (JUMP) program from June 12 to 14.

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 many schools return year after year.