

# torontoeschool

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Course Name/Grade/Type: Physics, Grade 12, University Preparation

Course Code: SPH4U

Credit Value: 1.0

Prerequisite: Physics, Grade 11, University Preparation

Curriculum Policy : *Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting In Ontario Schools, 2010.*

*Science, The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11 and 12,  
(Revised 2008)*

Department: Science

Developed By/Date: Toronto Eschool, 2016

Course Description:

This course enables students to deepen their understanding of physics concepts and theories. Students will continue their exploration of energy transformations and the forces that affect motion, and will investigate electrical, gravitational, and magnetic fields and electromagnetic radiation. Students will also explore the wave nature of light, quantum mechanics, and special relativity. They will further develop their scientific investigation skills, learning, for example, how to analyse, qualitatively and quantitatively, data related to a variety of physics concepts and principles. Students will also consider the impact of technological applications of physics on society and the environment.

| <b>Unit</b> | <b>Course Content and Overall Curriculum Expectations</b>   | <b>Time</b> |
|-------------|---|-------------|
| 1           | <b>Dynamics</b><br><i>By the end of this unit, students will:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. analyse technological devices that apply the principles of the dynamics of motion, and assess the technologies' social and environmental impact;</li> <li>2. investigate, in qualitative and quantitative terms, forces involved in uniform circular motion and motion in a plane, and solve related problems;</li> <li>3. demonstrate an understanding of the forces involved in uniform circular motion and motion in a plane.</li> </ol>   | 20 hours    |
| 2           | <b>Energy and Momentum</b><br><i>By the end of this unit, students will:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. analyse, and propose ways to improve, technologies or procedures that apply principles related to energy and momentum, and assess the social and environmental impact of these technologies or procedures;</li> <li>2. investigate, in qualitative and quantitative terms, through laboratory inquiry or computer simulation, the relationship between the laws of conservation of energy and conservation of momentum, and solve related problems;</li> <li>3. demonstrate an understanding of work, energy, momentum, and the laws of conservation of energy and conservation of momentum, in one and two dimensions.</li> </ol> | 20 hours    |
| 3           | <b>Gravitational, Electric, and Magnetic Fields</b><br><i>By the end of this unit, students will:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. analyse the operation of technologies that use gravitational, electric, or magnetic fields, and assess the technologies' social and environmental impact;</li> <li>2. investigate, in qualitative and quantitative terms, gravitational, electric, and magnetic fields, and solve related problems;</li> <li>3. demonstrate an understanding of the concepts, properties, principles, and laws related to gravitational, electric, and magnetic fields and their interactions with matter.</li> </ol>   | 20 hours    |
| 4           | <b>The Wave Nature of Light</b><br><i>By the end of this unit, students will:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. analyse technologies that use the wave nature of light, and assess their impact on society and the environment;</li> <li>2. investigate, in qualitative and quantitative terms, the properties of waves and light, and solve related problems;</li> <li>3. demonstrate an understanding of the properties of waves and light in relation to diffraction, refraction, interference, and polarization.</li> </ol>   | 20 hours    |
| 5           | <b>Revolutions in Modern Physics: Quantum Mechanics and Special Relativity</b><br><i>By the end of this unit, students will:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. analyse, with reference to quantum mechanics and relativity, how the introduction of new conceptual models and theories can influence and/or change scientific thought and lead to the development of new technologies;</li> <li>2. investigate special relativity and quantum mechanics, and solve related problems;</li> </ol>   | 20 hours    |

|   |  |           |
|---|--|-----------|
|   | 3. demonstrate an understanding of the evidence that supports the basic concepts of quantum mechanics and Einstein's theory of special relativity. |           |
| 5 | <b>Review and Final Assignment</b><br>Review of each previous unit, with emphasis on preparation for the final exam.                               | 8 hours   |
|   | <b>Final Exam</b>  | 2 hours   |
|   | <b>Total</b>   | 110 hours |

### Teaching / Learning Strategies

As in a conventional classroom, instructors employ a range of strategies for teaching a course:

- Clear writing that connects science to relevant situational problems
- Examples of full solutions in various contexts and opportunities to practice
- Direct instruction and coaching on student work by the teacher

In addition, teachers and students have at their disposal a number of tools that are unique to electronic learning environments:

- Electronic simulation activities
- Video presentations
- Discussion boards and email
- Assessments with real-time feedback
- Interactive activities that engage both the student and teacher in the subject
- Peer review and assessment
- Internet Instructional Videos

All course material is online, no textbook is required. Assignments are submitted electronically. Tests are completed online at a time convenient for the student, and the course ends in a final exam which the student writes under the supervision of a proctor approved by Toronto eSchool at a predetermined time and place. The final mark and report card are then forwarded to the student's home school.

Students must achieve the Ministry of Education learning expectations of a course and complete 110 hours of planned learning activities, both online and offline, in order to earn a course credit. Students must keep a learning log throughout their course which outlines the activities they have completed and their total learning hours. This log must be submitted before the final exam can be written.

The chart below indicates some general examples of online and offline activities.

| Online Learning Activities    | Offline Learning Activities  |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Watching instructional videos | Reading materials for course |

|                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Watching additional resources videos | Studying instructional material |
| Completing online timed assignments  | Practicing skills               |
| Contributing to Forums               | Completing assignments          |
| Uploading video presentations        | Completing essays               |
| Communicating with instructor        | Preparing presentations         |
| Participating in live conferences    | Reviewing for tests and exams   |
| Practicing through online quizzes    | Researching topics on internet  |
| Reviewing peer submissions           |                                 |
| Assessing peer presentations         |                                 |
| Completing online timed exam         |                                 |

Students are expected to access and participate actively in course work and course forums on a regular and frequent basis. This interaction with other students is a major component of this course and there are minimum requirements for student communication and contribution.

Seven scientific processes will form the heart of the teaching and learning strategies used.

1. *Communicating*: To improve student success there will be several opportunities for students to share their understanding both in oral as well as written form.
2. *Problem solving*: Scaffolding of knowledge, detecting patterns, making and justifying conjectures, guiding students as they apply their chosen strategy, directing students to use multiple strategies to solve the same problem, when appropriate, recognizing, encouraging, and applauding perseverance, discussing the relative merits of different strategies for specific types of problems.
3. *Reasoning and proving*: Asking questions that get students to hypothesize, providing students with one or more numerical examples that parallel these with the generalization and describing their thinking in more detail.
4. *Reflecting*: Modeling the reflective process, asking students how they know.
5. *Selecting Tools and Computational Strategies*: Modeling the use of tools and having students use technology to help solve problems.
6. *Connecting*: Activating prior knowledge when introducing a new concept in order to make a smooth connection between previous learning and new concepts, and introducing skills in context to make connections between particular manipulations and problems that require them.
7. *Representing*: Modeling various ways to demonstrate understanding, posing questions that require students to use different representations as they are working at each level of conceptual development - concrete, visual or symbolic, allowing individual students the time they need to solidify their understanding at each conceptual stage.

### **Assessment and Evaluation**

Toronto School's approach to assessment and evaluation is based on the Ontario Ministry of Education's *Growing Success 2010* document. Assessment is the process of gathering information that accurately reflects how well a student is achieving the curriculum expectations in a subject or course.

The primary purpose of assessment is to improve student learning. Assessment for this purpose is seen as both "assessment for learning" and "assessment as learning". As part of assessment for learning, teachers provide students with descriptive feedback and coaching for improvement. Teachers engage in assessment as learning by helping all students develop their capacity to be

independent, autonomous learners who are able to set individual goals, monitor their own progress, determine next steps, and reflect on their thinking and learning. Toronto eSchool teachers use evidence from a variety of sources in their assessment. These include formal and informal observations, discussions, conversations, questioning, assignments, projects, portfolios, self-assessments, self-reflections, essays, and tests.

Assessment occurs concurrently and seamlessly with instruction. Our courses contain multiple opportunities for students to obtain information about their progress and achievement, and to receive feedback that will help them improve their learning. Students can monitor their own success through the tracking of learning goals and success criteria throughout all courses.

Summative "assessment of learning" activities occur at or near the end of periods of learning. Evidence of student achievement for evaluation is also collected over time from different sources, such as discussions, conversations and observation of the development of the student's learning. Using multiple sources of evidence increases the reliability and validity of this evaluation. The evaluations are expressed as a percentage based upon the levels of achievement.

### **Strategies for Assessment and Evaluation of Student Performance**

| <b>Assessment as Learning</b>  | <b>Assessment for Learning</b>   | <b>Assessment of Learning</b>  |
|--|--|--|
| In all Units students can complete an online practice quiz on each lesson that tests their knowledge of fundamental facts and definitions. The quiz can be retaken as many times as needed and only the highest score is recorded. Students discover their areas of weakness and can take steps to improve on them. The student and instructor can then have a conversation on how best to assist the student's learning.  | In all Units, students are expected to submit a mid-unit assignment directly to the instructor. The assignment provides a number of questions, problems, and activities balanced around the four categories of the Achievement Chart: Knowledge and Understanding, Thinking, Application, and Communication. The instructor grades each assignment and provides descriptive feedback and the student is asked to provide feedback on the feedback. | Each Unit ends with an assignment that is submitted directly to the instructor. A grade is recorded based on the Learning Goals and Success Criteria for that Unit. Students may be asked to resubmit parts of the assignment, or a modified assignment. |
| A Mid-Unit Assignment asks students to videotape themselves presenting solutions to various problems, or results of research, and post them to the forum for review by the instructor and selected peers. These comments and observations can be used to help the student assess their own listening and communicating skills, as well as their progress through the course. Feedback from both the instructor and the student can help the student advocate for their own learning. | Mid-Unit Video Presentation Assignments are used by the instructor as a form of diagnostic and formative assessment to help adjust instruction based on the needs of the student. It is another way the instructor gathers evidence for evaluating student performance.  | At the end of each Unit, students complete an online test of the material. A grade is recorded and the instructor can initiate a conversation with the student if there are concerns.  |
| Instructors communicate with their students through email or   | Occasionally instructors ask a student to post a solution to a   | At the end of the course, students complete a final exam   |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| live chat sessions. Students can raise concerns and reflect on their own personal goals and learning during these one to one conversations with their instructors. | unique problem designed for that student to the discussion forum, or to comment on the posting of another student. These activities become part of the student's grade under the category "Online Collaboration" and provide an opportunity for the instructor to provide feedback to the student. | that covers all the material studied in the course. |
|--|--|---|

### Example of an Assessment Rubric for an Assignment in this course

#### SPH4U Unit 5: Revolutions in Modern Physics (Quantum Mechanics and Special Relativity)

| <p>Learning Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To analyse, with reference to quantum mechanics and relativity, how the introduction of new conceptual models and theories can influence and/or change scientific thought and lead to the development of new technologies;</li> <li>To investigate special relativity and quantum mechanics, and solve related problems;</li> <li>To demonstrate an understanding of the evidence that supports the basic concepts of quantum mechanics and Einstein's theory of special relativity.</li> </ul> |       |   |   |   |
|--|-------|---|---|---|
| Success Criteria   | Level |   |   |   |
|  | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| I can analyse the development of the two major revolutions in modern physics and assess how they changed scientific thought.   |       |   |   |   |
| I can assess the impact on society and the environment of technologies that use the wave nature of light.  |       |   |   |   |
| I am able to use appropriate terminology related to the wave nature of light, including, but not limited to: diffraction, dispersion, wave interference, nodal line, phase, oscillate, polarization, and electromagnetic radiation.  |       |   |   |   |
| I can assess the importance of relativity and quantum mechanics to the development of various technologies.  |       |   |   |   |
| I am able to use appropriate terminology related to quantum mechanics and special relativity, including, but not limited to: quantum theory, photoelectric effect, matter waves, time dilation, and mass–energy transformation.  |       |   |   |   |
| I can solve problems related to the photoelectric effect, the Compton effect, and de Broglie's matter waves.   |       |   |   |   |
| I am able to solve problems related to Einstein's theory of special relativity in order to calculate the effects of relativistic motion on time, length, and mass.   |       |   |   |   |
| I can conduct a laboratory inquiry or computer simulation to analyse data that support a scientific theory related to relativity or quantum mechanics.   |       |   |   |   |
| I can describe the experimental evidence that supports a particle model of light.  |       |   |   |   |
| I am able to describe the experimental evidence that supports a wave model of matter.  |       |   |   |   |
| I can identify Einstein's two postulates for the theory of special relativity, and describe the evidence supporting the theory.  |       |   |   |   |
| I am able to describe the standard model of elementary particles in terms of the characteristics of quarks, hadrons, and field particles.  |       |   |   |   |
| Teacher Feedback:  |       |   |   |   |

|                   |
|-------------------|
|                   |
| Student Feedback: |

*Growing Success* articulates the vision the Ministry has for the purpose and structure of assessment and evaluation techniques. There are seven fundamental principles that ensure best practices and procedures of assessment and evaluation by Toronto eSchool teachers. Assessment and evaluations:

1. are fair, transparent, and equitable for all students;
2. support all students, including those with special education needs, those who are learning the language of instruction (English or French), and those who are First Nation, Metis, or Inuit;
3. are carefully planned to relate to the curriculum expectations and learning goals and, as much as possible, to the interests, learning styles and preferences, needs, and experiences of all students;
4. are communicated clearly to students and parents at the beginning of the school year or course and at other appropriate points throughout the school year or course;
5. are ongoing, varied in nature, and administered over a period of time to provide multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate the full range of their learning;
6. provide ongoing descriptive feedback that is clear, specific, meaningful, and timely to support improved learning and achievement;
7. develop students self-assessment skills to enable them to assess their own learning, set specific goals, and plan next steps for their learning.

### **The Final Grade**

The evaluation for this course is based on the student's achievement of curriculum expectations and the demonstrated skills required for effective learning. The percentage grade represents the quality of the student's overall achievement of the expectations for the course and reflects the corresponding level of achievement as described in the achievement chart for the discipline. A credit is granted and recorded for this course if the student's grade is 50% or higher. The final grade for this course will be determined as follows:

- 70% of the grade will be based upon evaluations conducted throughout the course. This portion of the grade will reflect the student's most consistent level of achievement throughout the course, although special consideration will be given to more recent evidence of achievement.
- 30% of the grade will be based on a final exam administered at the end of the course.

The general balance of weighting of the categories of the achievement chart throughout the course is:

|                             |     |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|
| Knowledge and Understanding | 25% |     |
| Thinking                    | 25% |     |
| Communication               |     | 25% |
| Application                 | 25% |     |

### **The Report Card**

Two official report cards are issued - midterm and final. Each report card will focus on two distinct but related aspects of student achievement. First, the achievement of curriculum expectations is reported as a percentage grade. Additionally, the course median is reported as a percentage. The teacher will also provide written comments concerning the student's strengths, areas for improvement and next steps. Second, the learning skills are reported as a letter grade, representing one of four levels of accomplishment. The report cards contain separate sections for the reporting of these two aspects. The report card also indicates whether an OSSD credit has been earned.

### **The Ontario Student Transcript**

The Ontario Student Transcript (OST) is an official document issued by public, Catholic, inspected private schools in Ontario or Ontario International Schools. The OST contains a list of the courses completed, withdrawals from courses occurring 5 days or longer after the midterm report card has been issued, repeated courses in Grades 11 and 12, and equivalent credits granted for work in non-inspected Ontario private schools or schools outside of Ontario. The OST is stored in the Ontario Student Record (OSR) and retained for 55 years after a student retires from school. If the student is currently attending another school - public or private - and is simply taking a single course from Torontoeschool, then that student's OSR continues to reside at the school that the student is attending. Upon completion of the course Torontoeschool will send a copy of the OST back to the home school where the course will be added to the ongoing list of courses on the student's transcript.

### **The Achievement Chart: Overall**

The purpose of the achievement chart is to:

1. provide a common framework that encompasses all curriculum expectations for all courses;
2. guide the development of high-quality assessment tasks and tools;
3. help teachers plan instruction for learning;
4. assist teachers in providing meaningful feedback to students;
5. provide various categories/criteria with which to assess and evaluate students' learning.

The achievement chart provides a reference point for all assessment practice and a framework within which achievement will be assessed and evaluated.

1. The chart is organized into four broad criteria; Knowledge / Understanding, Thinking / Investigation, Communication, and Application.
2. The achievement chart describes the levels of achievement of the curriculum expectations within each subset of criteria.
3. The "descriptor" indicates the characteristic of performance, with respect to a particular criterion, on which assessment or evaluation is focused.
4. A specific "qualifier" is used to define each of the four levels of achievement. It is used along with a descriptor to produce a description of performance at a particular level.



5. The following table provides a summary description of achievement in each percentage grade range and corresponding level of achievement:

| A Summary Description of Achievement in Each Percentage Grade Range and Corresponding Level of Achievement |                   |  |
|--|-------------------|--|
| Percentage Grade Range   | Achievement Level | Summary Description  |
| 80-100%  | Level 4           | A very high to outstanding level of achievement. Achievement is <i>above</i> the provincial standard.    |
| 70-79%   | Level 3           | A high level of achievement. Achievement is <i>at</i> the provincial standard.                           |
| 60-69%   | Level 2           | A moderate level of achievement. Achievement is <i>below, but approaching</i> , the provincial standard. |
| 50-59%   | Level 1           | A passable level of achievement. Achievement is <i>below</i> the provincial standard.                    |
| below 50%  | Level R           | Insufficient achievement of curriculum expectations. A credit will not be granted.                       |

## ACHIEVEMENT CHART: SCIENCE, GRADES 9–12

| Categories   | 50–59%<br>(Level 1)                           | 60–69%<br>(Level 2)                        | 70–79%<br>(Level 3)                                | 80–100%<br>(Level 4)                           |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Knowledge and Understanding</b> – Subject-specific content acquired in each course (knowledge), and the comprehension of its meaning and significance (understanding) |   |  |  |  |
|  | The student:                                  |  |  |  |
| <b>Knowledge of content</b><br>(e.g., facts, terminology, definitions, safe use of equipment and materials)  | demonstrates limited knowledge of content     | demonstrates some knowledge of content     | demonstrates considerable knowledge of content     | demonstrates thorough knowledge of content     |
| <b>Understanding of content</b><br>(e.g., concepts, ideas, theories, principles, procedures, processes)  | demonstrates limited understanding of content | demonstrates some understanding of content | demonstrates considerable understanding of content | demonstrates thorough understanding of content |

| Thinking and Investigation – The use of critical and creative thinking skills and inquiry, research, and problem-solving skills and/or processes   |  |   |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|---|
|  | The student:   |   |   |   |
| <b>Use of initiating and planning skills and strategies</b> (e.g., formulating questions, identifying the problem, developing hypotheses, selecting strategies and resources, developing plans)        | uses initiating and planning skills and strategies with limited effectiveness                | uses initiating and planning skills and strategies with some effectiveness                | uses initiating and planning skills and strategies with considerable effectiveness                | uses initiating and planning skills and strategies with a high degree of effectiveness                |
| <b>Use of processing skills and strategies</b> (e.g., performing and recording, gathering evidence and data, observing, manipulating materials and using equipment safely, solving equations, proving) | uses processing skills and strategies with limited effectiveness                             | uses processing skills and strategies with some effectiveness                             | uses processing skills and strategies with considerable effectiveness                             | uses processing skills and strategies with a high degree of effectiveness                             |
| <b>Use of critical/creative thinking processes, skills, and strategies</b> (e.g., analysing, interpreting, problem solving, evaluating, forming and justifying conclusions on the basis of evidence)   | uses critical/creative thinking processes, skills, and strategies with limited effectiveness | uses critical/creative thinking processes, skills, and strategies with some effectiveness | uses critical/creative thinking processes, skills, and strategies with considerable effectiveness | uses critical/creative thinking processes, skills, and strategies with a high degree of effectiveness |

| Categories  | 50–59%<br>(Level 1)  | 60–69%<br>(Level 2)   | 70–79%<br>(Level 3)   | 80–100%<br>(Level 4)  |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Communication</b> (continued)  |  |   |   |   |
|   | The student:   |   |   |   |
| <b>Communication for different audiences</b> (e.g., peers, adults) <b>and purposes</b> (e.g., to inform, to persuade) <b>in oral, visual, and/or written forms</b>      | communicates for different audiences and purposes with limited effectiveness               | communicates for different audiences and purposes with some effectiveness               | communicates for different audiences and purposes with considerable effectiveness               | communicates for different audiences and purposes with a high degree of effectiveness               |
| <b>Use of conventions, vocabulary, and terminology of the discipline in oral, visual, and/or written forms</b> (e.g., symbols, formulae, scientific notation, SI units) | uses conventions, vocabulary, and terminology of the discipline with limited effectiveness | uses conventions, vocabulary, and terminology of the discipline with some effectiveness | uses conventions, vocabulary, and terminology of the discipline with considerable effectiveness | uses conventions, vocabulary, and terminology of the discipline with a high degree of effectiveness |



| Communication – The conveying of meaning through various forms   |  |   |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|---|
|  | The student:   |   |   |   |
| <b>Expression and organization of ideas and information</b> (e.g., clear expression, logical organization) <b>in oral, visual, and/or written forms</b> (e.g., diagrams, models) | expresses and organizes ideas and information with limited effectiveness | expresses and organizes ideas and information with some effectiveness | expresses and organizes ideas and information with considerable effectiveness | expresses and organizes ideas and information with a high degree of effectiveness |

| Application – The use of knowledge and skills to make connections within and between various contexts  |  |   |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|---|
|  | The student:   |   |   |   |
| <b>Application of knowledge and skills</b> (e.g., concepts and processes, safe use of equipment, scientific investigation skills) <b>in familiar contexts</b>                                  | applies knowledge and skills in familiar contexts with limited effectiveness                           | applies knowledge and skills in familiar contexts with some effectiveness                           | applies knowledge and skills in familiar contexts with considerable effectiveness                           | applies knowledge and skills in familiar contexts with a high degree of effectiveness                           |
| <b>Transfer of knowledge and skills</b> (e.g., concepts and processes, safe use of equipment, scientific investigation skills) <b>to unfamiliar contexts</b>                                   | transfers knowledge and skills to unfamiliar contexts with limited effectiveness                       | transfers knowledge and skills to unfamiliar contexts with some effectiveness                       | transfers knowledge and skills to unfamiliar contexts with considerable effectiveness                       | transfers knowledge and skills to unfamiliar contexts with a high degree of effectiveness                       |
| <b>Making connections between science, technology, society, and the environment</b> (e.g., assessing the impact of science on technology, people and other living things, and the environment) | makes connections between science, technology, society, and the environment with limited effectiveness | makes connections between science, technology, society, and the environment with some effectiveness | makes connections between science, technology, society, and the environment with considerable effectiveness | makes connections between science, technology, society, and the environment with a high degree of effectiveness |
| <b>Proposing courses of practical action to deal with problems relating to science, technology, society, and the environment</b>   | proposes courses of practical action of limited effectiveness  | proposes courses of practical action of some effectiveness  | proposes courses of practical action of considerable effectiveness  | proposes highly effective courses of practical action   |

#### Resources required by the student

- Access to SPH4U online course of study
- Access to a scanner or digital camera
- Access to a spreadsheet and word-processing software

- Access to an online graphing calculator
- Access to Youtube

## Reference Texts

Note: This course is entirely online and does not require or rely on any textbook. Should students wish to seek additional information we would recommend these texts (provided):

- *Science Perspective: University Preparation, Nelson Education Ltd., 2011.*

## Program Planning Considerations

Teachers who are planning a program in this subject will make an effort to take into account considerations for program planning that align with the Ontario Ministry of Education policy and initiatives in a number of important areas

1. Education for students with special education needs
2. Environmental education
3. Equity and inclusive education
4. Financial literacy education
5. Ontario First Nations, Metis, and Inuit education
6. Role of information and communications technology
7. English language learners
8. Career education
9. Cooperative education and other workplace experiences
10. Health and safety

### 1. Education for Students with Special Education Needs:

Torontoeschool is committed to ensuring that all students are provided with the learning opportunities and supports they require to gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to succeed in a rapidly changing society. The context of special education and the provision of special education programs and services for exceptional students in Ontario are constantly evolving. Provisions included in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code have driven some of these changes. Others have resulted from the evolution and sharing of best practices related to the teaching and assessment of students with special educational needs.

The provision of special education programs and services for students at Torontoeschool rests within a legal framework. The Education Act and the regulations related to it set out the legal responsibilities pertaining to special education. They provide comprehensive procedures for the identification of exceptional pupils, for the placement of those pupils in educational settings where the special education programs and services appropriate to their needs can be delivered, and for the review of the identification of exceptional pupils and their placement.

Teachers will take into account the needs of exceptional students as set out in the students' Individual Education Plan. The online courses offer a vast array of opportunities for students with special education needs to acquire the knowledge and skills required for our evolving society. Students who use alternative techniques for communication may find a venue to use these special skills in these courses. There are a number of technical and learning aids that can assist in meeting the needs of exceptional students as set out in their Individual Education Plan. In the process of taking their online course, students may use a personal amplification system, tela-typewriter (via Bell relay service), an oral or a sign-language interpreter, a scribe, specialized computer programs, time extensions, ability to change font size, oral readers, etc.

## 2. Environmental Education:

Environmental education teaches students about how the planet's physical and biological systems work, and how we can create a more sustainable future. Good curriculum design allows environmental issues and topics to be woven in and out of the online course content. This ensures that the student will have opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills, perspectives and practices needed to become an environmentally literate citizen. The online course should provide opportunities for each student to address environmental issues in their home, in their local community, or even at the global level.

## 3. Equity and Inclusive Education:

Torontoeschool is taking important steps to reduce discrimination and embrace diversity in our online school in order to improve overall student achievement and reduce achievement gaps due to discrimination. The Ontario Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy was launched in April 2009 and states that all members of the Torontoeschool community are to be treated with respect and dignity. This strategy is helping Torontoeschool educators better identify and remove discriminatory biases and systemic barriers to student achievement. These barriers related to racism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination may prevent some students from reaching their full potential. The strategy supports the Ministry's key education priorities of high student achievement, reduced gaps in student achievement and increased accountability and public confidence in Ontario's schools. Students, regardless of their background or personal circumstances, must be given every opportunity to reach their full potential. Research shows that when students feel welcomed and accepted in their school, they are more likely to succeed academically. Torontoeschool desires to create a culture of high expectations where factors such as race, age, gender, sexual orientation and socio-economic status do not prevent students from achieving ambitious outcomes.

## 4. Critical Thinking And Critical Literacy In Science:

Students use critical thinking skills in science when they assess, analyse, and/or evaluate the impact of something on society and the environment; when they form an opinion about something and support that opinion with logical reasons; or when they create personal plans of action with regard to making a difference. In order to do these things, students need to examine the opinions and values of others, detect bias, look for implied meaning in their readings, and use the information gathered to form a personal opinion or stance. Good curriculum design allows for students to develop the skills of scientific investigation (inquiry/research skills). In order to do this, students must be allowed to ask appropriate questions to frame their research, interpret

information, and detect bias. Depending on the topic, they may be required to consider the values and perspectives of a variety of groups and individuals. This online course should give students the opportunity to look beyond the literal meaning of a text to determine what is present and what is missing. This allows them to analyse and evaluate the text's complete meaning and the author's intent. Critical literacy goes beyond conventional critical thinking by focusing on issues related to fairness, equity, and social justice. Critically literate students adopt a critical stance, asking what view of the world the text advances and whether they find this view acceptable.

#### 4. Ontario First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Education:

First Nation, Metis, and Inuit students in Ontario will need to have the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to successfully complete their elementary and secondary education in order to pursue postsecondary education or training and/or to enter the workforce. They will need to have the traditional and contemporary knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to be socially contributive, politically active, and economically prosperous citizens of the world. All students in Ontario will need to have knowledge and appreciation of contemporary and traditional First Nation, Metis, and Inuit traditions, cultures, and perspectives. Torontoeschool and the Ministry of Education are committed to First Nation, Metis, and Inuit student success. Torontoeschool teachers are committed to (1) developing strategies that will increase the capacity of the education system to respond to the learning and cultural needs of First Nation, Metis, and Inuit students; (2) providing quality programs, services, and resources to help create learning opportunities for First Nation, Metis, and Inuit students that support improved academic achievement and identity building; (3) providing a curriculum that facilitates learning about contemporary and traditional First Nation, Metis, and Inuit cultures, histories, and perspectives among all students where possible; and (4) developing and implementing strategies that facilitate increased participation by First Nation, Metis, and Inuit parents, students, communities, and organizations in working to support the academic success of the student.

#### 5. The Role of Information and Communications Technology in the Curriculum.

Information literacy is the ability to access, select, gather, critically evaluate, and create information. Communication literacy refers to the ability to communicate information and to use the information obtained to solve problems and make decisions. Information and communications technologies are utilized by all Torontoeschool students when the situation is appropriate within their online course. As a result, students will develop transferable skills through their experience with word processing, internet research, presentation software, and telecommunication tools, as would be expected in any other course or any business environment.

#### 6. English Language Learners:

This Torontoeschool online course can provide a wide range of options to address the needs of ESL/ELD students. This online course must be flexible in order to accommodate the needs of students who require instruction in English as a second language or English literacy development. The Torontoeschool teacher considers it to be their responsibility to help students develop their ability to use the English language properly. Appropriate modifications to teaching, learning, and evaluation strategies in this course may be made in order to help students gain proficiency in English, since students taking English as a second language at the secondary level have limited time in which to develop this proficiency. This online course can provide a wide range of options

to address the needs of ESL/ELD students. Well written content will aid ESL students in mastering not only the content of this course, but as well, the English language and all of its idiosyncrasies. Torontoeschool has created course content to enrich the student's learning experience. In addition, since many occupations in Canada require employees with capabilities in the English language, many students will learn English language skills which can contribute to their success in the larger world.

#### 7. Career Education:

As the online student progresses through their online course, their teacher is available to help the student prepare for employment in a huge number of diverse areas. With the help of their teacher, students will learn to set and achieve goals and will gain experience in making meaningful decisions concerning their career choices. The skills, knowledge and creativity that students acquire through this online course are essential for a wide range of careers. Throughout their secondary school education, students will learn about the educational and career opportunities that are available to them; explore and evaluate a variety of those opportunities; relate what they learn in their courses to potential careers in a variety of fields; and learn to make appropriate educational and career choices.

#### 8. Cooperative Education and Other Workplace Experiences:

By applying the skills they have developed, students will readily connect their classroom learning to real-life activities in the world in which they live. Cooperative education and other workplace experiences will broaden their knowledge of employment opportunities in a wide range of fields. In addition, students will increase their understanding of workplace practices and the nature of the employer-employee relationship. Torontoeschool teachers will try to help students link to Ministry programs to ensure that students have information concerning programs and opportunities.

#### 9. Health and Safety:

The Science program provides the reading and analytical skills for the student to be able to explore the variety of concepts relating to health and safety in the workplace. Teachers who provide support for students in workplace learning placements need to assess placements for safety and ensure that students can read and understand the importance of issues relating to health and safety in the workplace.