**Post-Secondary Education**

"If you raise your children to feel that they can accomplish any goal or task they decide upon, you will have succeeded as a parent and you will have given your children the greatest of all gifts." — Brian Tracy

---

### Grades 4-7

**Grade 8**

- Explore career and education options open to your child.
- Develop a plan and set career goals that include high school courses needed for entry to college and university programs.
- Start to visit colleges and universities.

**Grade 3**

- This is an important year. Your child’s reading skills at this grade are an indicator of success in high school. If they are not reading at grade level, get help and the extra support your child needs.

Supplement what your child is learning in school with extra-curricular activities.

Remember that all children benefit from continuing to read. Reading physical books is best for them.

Be sure to take your child to community events and ensure they are reading books with black characters so that they are developing a positive racial and ethnic identity.

### Grades 1-2

**Grade 9**

- Begin to research colleges and universities and the programs they offer.
- Attend college and university fairs.
- Continue to visit colleges and universities.

Congratulations!

Good luck on an exciting and successful future!

**Grade 10-11**

- Begin to create a portfolio of your child’s accomplishments, volunteer work, hobbies, and other activities.

By the end of Grade 11 make a list of programs to apply to post-secondary. Research scholarships and bursaries. Admission decisions are based in part on Grade 11 marks. This is a critical year if your child is to enter college or university.

Congratulations! While you should celebrate your child’s success, your work continues. This is the beginning of another journey with your child. They need your continued support if they are to successfully complete post-secondary education.

**Grade 12**

- Apply for admission to college and/or university.
- Apply for scholarships and bursaries.
- Final admission decisions are based on Grade 12 marks. Encourage your child to focus in this critical year.

**Post-Secondary Options**

- **College:** Colleges focus more on career training and trades. Colleges tend to be more directly career-oriented than universities. This means they offer practical, or hands-on training. Generally, a certificate program is 1 year or less, and a diploma program is 2 or 3 years. Some Ontario colleges also offer bachelor degrees.

- **University:** Universities offer degrees and focus on academic and professional programs. Universities offer graduate programs leading to a Master’s degree or a Ph.D. These institutions also have medical or law schools. Students wishing to pursue professional degrees. All universities have undergraduate (bachelor’s) degrees, and many have graduate (master’s and doctoral) programs. Undergraduate degrees usually take 3-4 years to complete if you study full-time.

- **Apprenticeships:** An apprenticeship is a pathway to a career in the trades. Some apprenticeships can be entered right out of high school, others out of college. As an apprentice, you take classes and learn your trade by working under the direction of experienced workers, and get paid while you do it. It takes 2 to 5 years to complete an apprenticeship.

---

**JEAN AUGUSTINE CHAIR IN EDUCATION, COMMUNITY & DIASPORA, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, YORK UNIVERSITY**