

School Profile 2008-2009



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Bell High School

Grades 9 to 12 (semestered)



40 Cassidy Rd.
Nepean, Ontario
K2H 6K1

Phone: 828-9101
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School hours:
9:05 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

www.bellhs.net

Principal
Bruce Whitehead

Vice Principals
Wendy Verreault
Darryl Kicul

Office Administrator
Catherine Seguin

Chief Custodian
George Banton

School Council Chair
Donna Bussiere-
Finnigan

*Superintendent of
Instruction*
Laura McAlister

School Trustee
Pam Fitzgerald

Chair of the Board
Lynn Scott

*Director of Education/
Secretary of the Board*
Lyll Thomson

*General Board
Information*
(613) 721-1820

www.ocdsb.ca

Our School

- Bell High School (Bell H.S.) is a composite school situated on the edge of the beautiful NCC parkland bordering Lynwood Village in Bells Corners near the junction of the Queensway and Highway 416. The school features a variety of academic programs serving students in grades 9 to 12. Bell H.S. boasts over 40 years of academic, extracurricular and athletic excellence. We provide opportunities for students empowering them in developing their skills and talents in a safe, equitable learning environment. We endeavour to promote a caring and respectful community through the following values: acceptance, appreciation, cooperation, empathy, fairness, integrity, optimism, perseverance, respect and responsibility.
- At Bell HS a respect and an acceptance for differences is part of our educational approach for preparing students for a successful future in Canada's diverse society.

Our Students

- In September 2008 enrolment at Bell High School was 946. Of these 189 entered in their grade 9 year and the remainder across grades 10 to 12. Our primary feeder school is D.A. Moodie; however, in being a Gifted Centre we also attract students from many other elementary schools from the western corridor of the district.
- As an E.S.L. (English as a Second Language) centre, we serve a student population rich in diversity with representation from over 30 countries. We also provide a safe and caring environment for many international students representing different countries who add additional richness to the school environment. Finally, Bell proudly teaches 20 students in our Program for Pupils with Developmental Disabilities who are involved in many aspects of school life.

Our Staff

- The principal, two vice-principals, custodial and office staff and over 70 teachers, educational assistants and technicians are dedicated and committed to creating a safe and caring learning environment for students. The staff is an active, eclectic group from a variety of cultural backgrounds, with a wide range of interests and expertise. Many staff possess coaching certification and expertise in a variety of sports and in the arts. Instructors in our Outdoor Education Program have experience as wilderness guides. Individual Bell staff members are recognized on a regular basis for their excellence in teaching and for their extra-curricular contributions. Bell teachers are also active in presenting creative programming and sharing best practices at the provincial level.

Educating for success – Inspiring learning and building citizenship

Our Community

Parents and Community

- The Bell High School Council is an active, dedicated group of parents, teaching and non-teaching staff, community representatives and students all working together to enhance educational opportunities for our students. The group meets on the last Monday of each month to discuss pertinent, relevant OCDSB issues pertaining to secondary education and to advise the principal on many matters affecting students. New members are always welcome. For further information please contact the school office.



Mission Statement

We, at Bell High School, foster excellence in individuals of all abilities, backgrounds and cultures, in a supportive, respectful and nurturing environment.

School Motto

Vitam Impendere Vero: Seek Truth in Life



Programs and Services

Academic Programs

- A triple track school, our programs include regular English, French Immersion, and a program for students identified as Gifted. Additionally, we have an ESL (English as a Second Language) program offering courses at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. Academic support is provided through our Student Success program.
- Our strong academic offerings include excellent Technology, Fine Arts and Outdoor Education programs. We also prepare students for a range of Advanced Placement (AP) exams in Grade 12.
- Our student services department features educational, career, and personal counseling, both in the classroom and on an individual basis. There are extensive opportunities available to students for career exploration through the Co-operative Education Program.

Classroom Organization

- Bell H.S. offers grade 9 through 12 courses in a fully semestered timetable.



Special Education and ESL Programs

- There are nearly 250 gifted students at Bell H.S. Students may take up to four credits at the gifted level in each grade, 9 through 11. In grade 12 students may take up to three gifted courses and Advanced Placement preparation (AP) is also an option in certain disciplines. Many of our gifted students are also in the French Immersion program.
- Bell H.S. features an excellent English as a Second Language program. In addition to five levels of English language instruction, other academic subjects are offered exclusively for ESL students so that academic and language skills may be reinforced.
- Students with special learning needs are supported by Special Education resource staff. Using primarily an integrated approach, students also receive small group instruction where necessary in an active resource classroom.

Facilities and Resources

- Outdoor facilities include several large playing fields, access to an on-site indoor ice surface, and over 10 km of trails through the Greenbelt. Indoor facilities include: spacious, bright classrooms and hallways with considerable natural light and fresh air; an excellent Library and Information Centre equipped with a variety of up-to-date information technology equipment; large gymnasiums with stadium seating; a dance studio; an art studio; 2 music studios; an outstanding drama studio; computer labs and technical areas which support a wide range of courses including information technology, computer engineering, transportation technology, construction technology, technological design, communication technology and grade 9 integrated technologies.

Safe Schools Initiatives

- The Bell H.S. Code of Conduct was developed by students, parents, and teachers and is printed in the Student Agenda issued to every student in September.
- Positive school climate is promoted through Student Council activities, school program initiatives, extra-curricular activities, and through awareness activities undertaken by the OCDSB Social Worker, the on-site Rideauwood counsellor, the Multicultural Liaison Officer, and the School Resource Officer.

Clubs and Activities

- A wide range of interscholastic teams and an intramural program provide all students with an opportunity to improve fitness by engaging in team and individual sports. A number of our teams have achieved success at the regional and provincial level, most recently Cross-Country Running, Alpine Skiing, Track and Field, and Rugby. Extra-curricular activities have included: a variety of vocal and instrumental music groups, drama performances, musicals, Students' Council, Athletic Council, Key Club, P.E.A.C.E. Club, Interact Club, Yearbook, OSAID, Christian Breakfast Club, Bell Islamic Students' Association, Debating Club, and EarthCare.

Achievement and School Improvement Planning

Measures of Student Achievement and Success

- Staff at Bell are justly proud of the achievements of our students in many different areas. In mathematics, Bell students placed first in the region in the University of Waterloo Pascal (grade 9) and Fermat (grade 11) contests and finished second in the region in the Cayley (grade 10) contest. The Pascal team came 20th in Canada out of almost 1200 schools. In addition 70 Bell students earned certificates for placing in the top 25% of all contestants in Canada. Four grade 11 students competed in Math Horizon's Day at the University of Ottawa and placed 2nd in the city-wide competition.
- Students in Bell's Science Program have a strong tradition of excellence in science competitions. Our students have achieved great success in the University of Toronto National Biology Competition (grade 12) and the Avogadro Chemistry Contest (grade 11).
- In May of 2008 students wrote 37 Advanced Placement (AP) exams with excellent results. 26 results were at the top levels of 4 or 5 in French Language, English Literature, Calculus, Physics and Micro and Macro Economics.
- In June 2008 we had 224 graduates, with 98 being Ontario Scholars. Of these, 33 earned OCDSB Silver medals with averages of 90% or more.
- The Huntsman Marine Science Centre in St. Andrews, N.B. has hosted senior Bell Biology students for a week of biological research and activities in each of the last six years. Several of our students have been chosen to attend the prestigious Shad Valley International Summer Program which promotes the study of science and technology.
- Our graduates are regularly accepted at a variety of prestigious university programs across Canada and in the United States. A number of our students have been recipients of prestigious scholarships including Nortel, the University of Toronto National Scholarship Program, the Nordinian, and the Queen's Chancellor.
- Our many annual student productions in drama, music, and visual arts are testimony to the level of excellence that Bell H.S. students attain through their academic program at the school. Bell's dramatic entries in the SEARS festival have consistently been very successful many times moving on to the provincial showcase. This year, our school participated in Canada's Capital Cappies. The Cappies (short for Critics and Awards Program) provides the opportunities for student writers to review performances at other schools. As well, Cappies recognize top performers, technicians, and critics at the gala awards evening.

School Improvement Plans and Initiatives

- Our School Improvement Plan for 2008-2009 focuses on three areas: literacy, numeracy and assessment and evaluation.
- Our active literacy committee has spearheaded a number of initiatives in recent years. A weekly, uninterrupted, sustained, silent reading program called B.E.A.R. (Bell Excels at Reading) has been fully implemented and positively received. This year will be the fourth year of Bell's Children's Literature Writing Contest.
- Preparation for the literacy test begins in grade 9 classes, continuing with in class preparation for all grade 10 students throughout the year. Remedial support is offered for students in grade 11 and 12 who still need to pass the OSSLT.
- In mathematics and science classrooms, teachers are focusing on the development of a rich performance tasks in each major unit. Our communication technology and computer engineering facility has been equipped with state of the art computers. There are three Smart Boards at Bell: one in Math, Science and Media Studies. In its fourth year of implementation our Student Success program continues to assist students in rescuing and recovering credits toward their Ontario Secondary School Diplomas.
- New this year to Bell HS is the LINK program, a program facilitating grade 8 to 9 school transition for our newest Bruins. The spirit of the program revolves around mentorship where senior LINK leaders are chosen and subsequently assigned to small groups of incoming students in a mentorship role, facilitating everything involved in the transition including academic, social, and psychological support.
- Also new this year is our Global Learning Center program. Dubbed GloBell, this program is Bell's connect with the ISC (International School Connection Organization) whose primary goal is to develop learning systems that prepare young people for success in a global age achieved through connectedness and communication.
- Students and staff enjoy working in a bright well-maintained school and we are committed to providing a comfortable physical learning environment for students.
- Bell is fortunate to have a long standing partnership with GDC (General Dynamics Canada), a locally based company. Their support covers many areas from printing our commencement programs to providing co-op placements for students. They also designate a portion of their United Way donations to support our Rideauwood program.

Leadership Recognition

"Leadership in the OCDSB is the demonstration of personal initiative to achieve a positive outcome."

Students:

- As representatives of the student population, our Students' Council demonstrates excellent leadership. They plan a wide, eclectic range of activities from dances to fundraising events for those in need in our community and beyond. The students of Bell High School have been recognized by the United Way for their outstanding contributions during the annual fund raising campaigns over the years.
- The annual student leadership camp, planned and run by students, has become a model for others to follow. Bell students have consistently maintained involvement with Live It Up, a city of Ottawa healthy lifestyles program encouraging participation in physical activity. We also have an active group of students working on environmental issues through EarthCare initiatives. Through peer mediation and peer tutoring many students work to assist their fellow students to develop their academic and interpersonal skills.
- In addition to informal recognition on a regular basis, we also acknowledge student contributions through school announcements, newsletters, assemblies, our principal's report to school council, and end-of-year awards ceremonies. In addition, we recognize student leadership by incorporating their suggestions into our planning. Our monthly V.I.B. award recognizes seven students who have demonstrated positive attributes such as academic improvement, academic excellence, leadership or perseverance.

Staff:

- Members of our staff have taken a leadership role in working on O.C.D.S.B. curriculum and evaluation initiatives.
- Our staff members have a wealth of professional qualifications including Bachelors and Masters degrees, specialist subject area qualifications as well as additional qualifications in Special Education, English as a Second Language, Music, Visual Arts, Guidance, Cooperative Education and Computers in Education. They have actively participated in numerous Board-wide professional development activities in literacy and numeracy, and we recognize their initiative by providing and supporting opportunities for further professional growth. Staff are active in the development and training of future teachers through partnerships with a number of Teacher Education programs including Ottawa, Nippissing and Queen's universities. We recognize staff leadership via personal interactions with one another, letters of thanks, school announcements, school newsletters, performance appraisals, and our principal's report to school council.

Parents/Guardians/Volunteers:

- We welcome parents, guardians and volunteers in many aspects of school life. We have very active volunteers in a number of areas around the school including our library and Community Living classrooms. Our school grounds look attractive all year thanks to volunteers. We are also proud to have a volunteer in the Science department through the Engineer in Residence program. Thanks to the support of grade 9 families our participation in the annual Take Our Kids To Work program is excellent with 174 grade 9 students participating in 2008. Our supportive School Council meets regularly throughout the school year. As invaluable partners, we thank our parents, guardians and volunteers on an ongoing basis and look for opportunities to acknowledge them.

Community:

- General Dynamics Canada has a long standing partnership with Bell H.S. and we continue to value their support.
- Our school is part of the Ottawa 67's Adopt-A –School program.
- We have a friendship agreement with CUDEC, a school in Mexico City, and look forward to seeing how this partnership develops.
- Many of the businesses in Bells Corners support the school through donations of advertising space, prizes and discounts on purchases.
- We recognize our community partners through our school announcements, school newsletters, principal's report to school council, and thank you cards. We also invite them to events such as awards ceremonies and commencement.

Results of EQAO Grade 9 Assessment

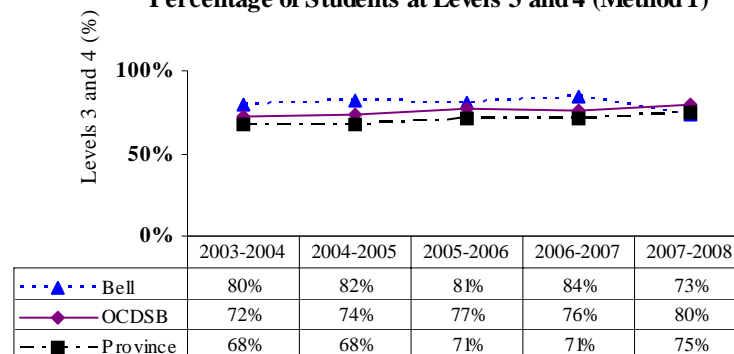
Each year, students participate in the province-wide assessment of mathematics. This assessment by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) is based on the Ontario Curriculum and is one way in which student achievement is measured. It is given at the end of the academic and applied courses in January and/or June, depending on whether or not a school is semestered. Results from these assessments should be viewed with caution since the achievement of a few students, particularly in small schools, can have a large impact on overall results. Further, it is important to view student achievement in the context of other available information, some of which is contained in this profile.

The following table describes grade 9 students in this school for 2007-2008 testing:

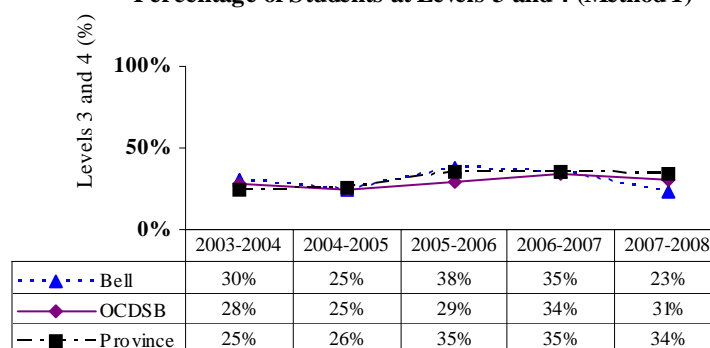
	Number of Students	Exempt/ No data*	Receiving Special Education support (excluding gifted)	ESL/ELD	Only/mostly speak language other than English at home	Speaks as often in English as another language at home
Academic	158	4%	8%	16%	14%	21%
Applied	30	3%	30%	37%	23%	19%

Results for *all grade 9* students in this school, compared to those for the district and province, are presented below. More detailed information about student performance on these assessments can be found at www.eqao.com.

**Grade 9 Academic Mathematics:
Percentage of Students at Levels 3 and 4 (Method 1)**



**Grade 9 Applied Mathematics:
Percentage of Students at Levels 3 and 4 (Method 1)**



Bell HS

* EQAO has combined "exempt" and "no data" categories for grade 9 assessment.

Results of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

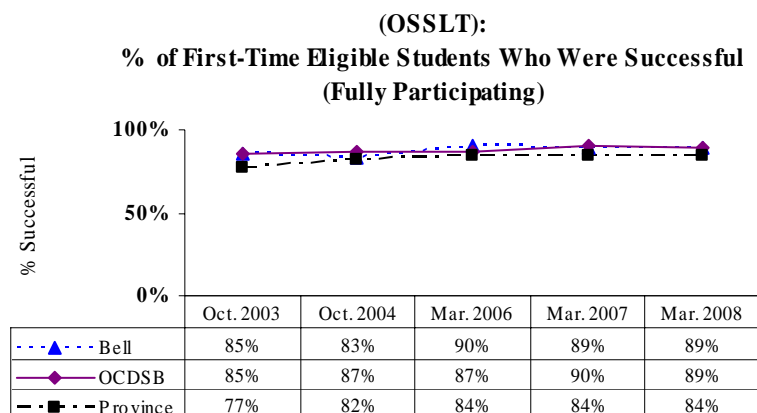
Each year, students participate in the Ministry mandated Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). This assessment by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) is given to Grade 10 students to determine if they can successfully demonstrate the reading and writing skills that apply to all subject areas in the provincial curriculum up to the end of Grade 9. Receiving a secondary school diploma depends on passing the OSSLT – i.e., this is a “credentialling test”. Exemptions and deferrals are given only under certain circumstances and in accordance with policies and procedures established by EQAO. Students who are not successful on the test are able to attempt it again in a future administration, or enroll in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC).

EQAO reports results only in terms of whether or not a student passed/was successful on the test, rather than levels of student performance.

The following table describes the students in this school who were eligible to write this test for the first time in 2007-2008:

	Number of first-time eligible students	% Deferred	% Absent	Receiving Special Education support (excluding gifted)	English Language Learners	Only/mostly speak language other than English at home	Speaks as often in English as another language at home
Bell HS	230	1%	2%	13%	10%	10%	20%

Results for *first-time eligible students who fully participated* in the testing (i.e., not deferred or absent) compared to those for the district and province, are presented below. More detailed information about student performance on this assessment can be found at www.eqao.com.



Next Steps

- Student achievement will be improved and monitored through the Student Success initiative, providing supports to students across the District, and at the school level supported by the school literacy team.
- Students who are not successful on the OSSLT have been, and will continue to be, provided with appropriate remedial help. Such remediation will be guided by individual student diagnostic feedback provided by EQAO. Each school will continue with its own school improvement plans concerning literacy.
- Students who have been unsuccessful on the OSSLT may obtain their literacy graduation requirement by successfully completing the OSSLC (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course).
- The District and schools will continue to provide a variety of strategies to assist in supporting students, including:
 - workshops and resources for grades 7, 8, and 9 teachers to help students with low literacy skills;
 - school-based preparation for students taking the OSSLT; and
 - workshops for teachers to promote best practices literacy instruction.

Results of District-wide Assessments

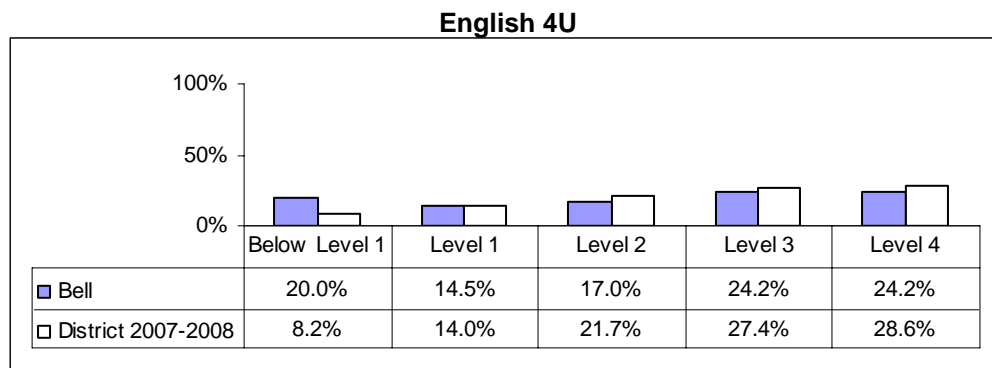
In 2007-2008, all schools fully participated in testing for the ENG4U, ENG4C, MPM2D and MPM2P District-wide evaluation projects.

These projects aim to create consistent evaluation of student performance by providing:

- a common examination;
- a detailed marking scheme for the examination;
- conference marking;
- exemplar booklets to show students and teachers the criteria for, and examples of, successful performance;
- workshops for teachers; and
- reports of school and Board results.

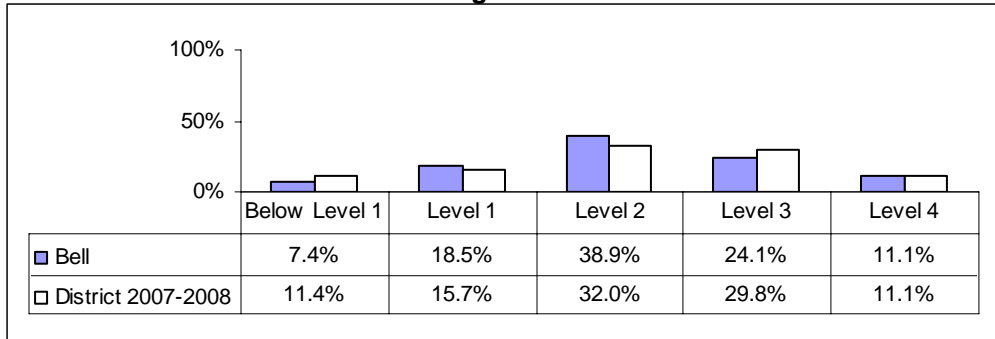
Heads of English and Mathematics would be pleased to discuss examination preparation, procedures, and marking with those who are interested. Please contact the school for further information.

Students in semestered schools write the exams at the end of each semester in which they took the course. For reporting purposes, results for the January and June exams have been combined in the charts below.



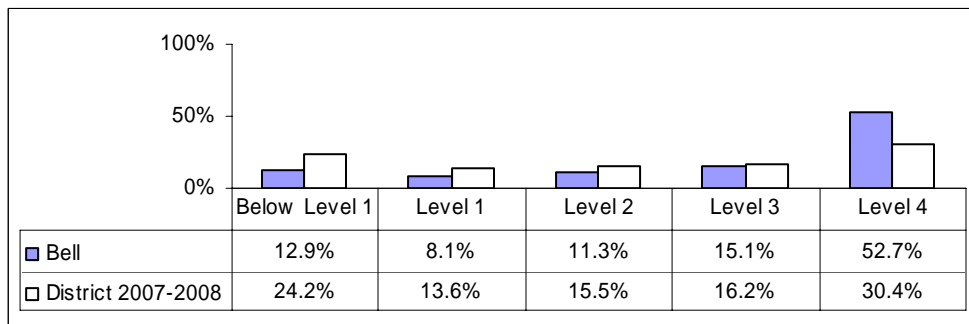
In 2007-2008, 165 students took the exam at this school and 3847 for the District.

English 4C



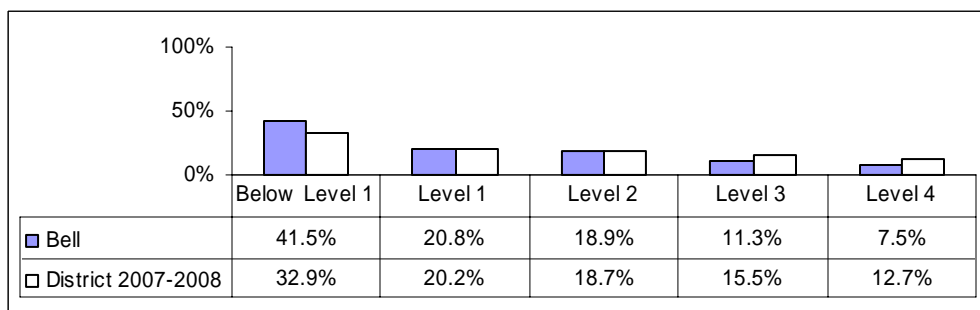
In 2007-2008, 54 students took the exam at this school and 1420 for the District.

Mathematics MPM2D



In 2007-2008, 186 students took the exam at this school and 3643 for the District.

Mathematics MPM2P



In 2007-2008, 53 students took the exam at this school and 1430 for the District.