

Bluevale Collegiate Institute School Profile

Our School

Bluevale Collegiate Institute (BCI) opened in 1972 under the direction of Principal Robert Chilton, who envisioned a new, exciting environment in which students could learn and grow. Today, Bluevale builds on that initial vision. It has a well-deserved reputation for excellence in academics, athletics, arts and activities. Bluevale believes in a balance between the classroom and activities, creating a fun, exciting place to explore and grow, while preparing for the future. Bluevale serves East Waterloo as part of the Waterloo Region District School Board. Bluevale's feeder schools are: Lester B. Pearson P.S., Lincoln Heights P.S., and Margaret Avenue P.S.

Bluevale is a semestered school. There are four, 75- minute periods each day and students enjoy a common one hour lunch break.

Bluevale is a community of students, teachers, support staff and parents working together in pursuit of growth, awareness and responsibility. It is the aim of the Bluevale community to encourage, guide and assist all of its members:

- in their commitment to academic and extracurricular activities;
- in the development of a pleasant learning atmosphere;
- in the making of responsible decisions and in the acceptance of the consequences of such decisions;
- in the development of intellectual, physical, creative, emotional, social and moral needs;
- in their pursuit of excellence and the realization of their full potential;
- in the development of respect for themselves and others;
- in the acquisition of the knowledge, skills and attitudes to become well-adjusted and productive citizens;
- in the development of a feeling of self-worth.

The school motto, *non quis, sed quid*, means "it's not who you are, but what you are"; this defines Bluevale's role in developing well-rounded, life-long learners.

Bluevale is a leading school that has a long history of caring for the environment and one that currently maintains a gold Ontario EcoSchools rating.

Bluevale's facilities are well maintained and include: three gyms, two playing fields, four tennis courts, a track, a fully-equipped weight room, fitness room, an auto shop, a machine shop, a communications technology lab, an outdoor classroom and greenspace; and just completed, the Bluevale Free Inclusive Training (BFIT) Park, an outdoor training facility, adjacent to the tennis courts.

In March of 2010, renovations began at Bluevale. Since that time, the school has seen the addition of a new wing containing 18 classrooms, a fully equipped photography darkroom, eight science labs, two visual art labs, a family studies lab complete with four kitchens, a special education area, improved computer labs, fitness room, communications technology lab and a spacious library. Additionally, the school has WiFi throughout the building.



Address:

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Phone:

Phone:
Office: 519.885.4620
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School Hours:

8:15 am-2:25 pm

Office Hours:

7:30 am-3:30 pm

Administration:

Principal

Deborah Tyrrell

Vice Principals

Stephan Reist

Brian Wiechers

Website:

bci.wrdsb.ca

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Our Students

Bluevale's enrolment is nearly 1,250 students with approximately 300 grade nine students entering each year. Students enjoy BCI because of its kind, caring atmosphere, commitment to academic excellence, strong extra-curricular program, vibrant co-curricular program and highly qualified, dedicated faculty and staff. Bluevale students are proud to demonstrate respect for themselves and others. As well, they show responsibility for their actions, words and learning in order to be successful in all areas of school life.

Our Staff

Our knowledgeable, energetic teachers are constantly searching for new and exciting ways to challenge students in the classroom. Our staff also goes to great lengths to ensure student needs and goals are met—whether that be extra help outside school or additional learning experiences.

Members of our faculty have won prestigious awards:

- Chris Banks - Canadian Authors' Association Jack Chalmers Poetry Award for his debut book "Bonfires."
- Chris Banks - Gowlings Literary Award
- Laurel Brown - Kitchener-Waterloo Arts Mentor Award
- Lorie Guest - Findlay G. Stewart Award for teaching excellence
- Lorie Guest - Published Author with three books published - Fundamentals of International Business; Business Leadership; and The World of Business (Ontario and Newfoundland editions)
- James Hitchen - Golden Hawk Hall of Fame (Wilfrid Laurier University) for Men's Football
- Kelly Meissner - Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for volunteering with Kate's Cause.
- David Okum - Published Author with eight How to Draw Books published
- Paula Wagner - Golden Hawk Hall of Fame (Wilfrid Laurier University) for Women's Volleyball
- Ann Weber - Golden Hawk Hall of Fame (Wilfrid Laurier University) for Women's Basketball

Our Community

The BCI School Council meets one Monday each month. The council consists of a group of highly motivated individuals focused on issues that directly affect Bluevale students, the school as a whole and the community that supports the school. Please consider joining us.

Academics

A variety of specialized academic programs thrive at Bluevale:

- Advanced Placement (AP) and Pre-AP classes
- Arts classes such as: Dance, Drama, Vocal and Instrumental Music
- Choose to Lead (including The Duke of Edinburgh's Award)
- Computer Science Programs
- Cooperative Education offering a full range of placements in a wide variety of employment settings
- Futures Forum Classroom
- Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)
- Languages (including French, German and Spanish)
- Native Studies
- Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) in Arts and Culture; Information and Communications Technology; Business, and Sports
- Visual Arts courses including: Film Photography, Clay & Glass

Special Education Programs

Both credit and noncredit courses are available in our Learning Assistance Centre. Drop-in assistance for assignment completion, test writing, study techniques and stress management are invaluable services provided by our expert team. The list of Bluevale students involved in enrichment activities grows every year. Our school has had students participate in: Encounters with Canada, Shad Valley, Waterloo Unlimited and HOBY conferences, just to name a few.

Measures of Student Achievement and Success

Bluevale consistently scores well above regional and provincial averages on standardized math and literacy tests. Please consult the Education Quality and Assessment Office's website at www.eqao.com for information pertaining to Bluevale CI, the Grade 10 Literacy test and the Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics.

Bluevale Collegiate Institute boasts a long list of Ontario Scholars each year. Bluevale prides itself on providing outstanding academic opportunities for its students. A high percentage of our students go on to post-secondary studies and many earn scholarships for their efforts. We are proud of all of our students at Bluevale and we honour them at our awards assembly, our athletic awards ceremony and our commencement ceremony.

Activities

While academics are the first priority in any school, involvement in extracurricular activities makes school life unforgettable! Bluevale offers an incredible variety of activities to make school as fun as possible.

In addition to activities and clubs, we also run plenty of great events. Pep rallies, plays, charity drives, concerts, dances and assemblies bring the student body together.

Bluevale believes that the transition from grade 8 into high school is important. We welcome new Bluevale students with annual "Grade 9 Week" events in early September to ensure the transition to high school is a positive experience.

Other annual events include: Spirit of Waterloo, Mayfest, and the Many Moods of Music. These events are all student led by our student council, known as the Knights of the Round Table (KRT), and our many leadership students.

Athletics

When it comes to athletics, our Knights are a force to be reckoned with! Bluevale's athletic department is a powerhouse, fielding a huge roster of successful teams. Bluevale boasts WCSSAA Championship teams in: hockey, golf, swimming, cross country running, gymnastics, badminton, football, track & field, volleyball, basketball, soccer and more. We have CWOSSA Championship teams: in hockey, golf, swimming, cross country running, gymnastics, badminton, track and field, basketball, tennis, field hockey, skiing and more. We celebrate OFSAA Championship medals in swimming, cross country running, track and field and field hockey. Individual athletes have won the prestigious Mike Moser Award for basketball, Shawn Kempel Award for Hockey, and the Doug Shuh Award for football.

Arts

Singers, dancers, actors, musicians, artists - Bluevale showcases some of the finest student performers around! There are choirs, bands, stage performances and concerts galore – countless opportunities for our Knights to explore their artistic sides.

Bluevale music students are consistent medal earners in the Ontario Vocal Festival, Kiwanis, and MusicFest Canada for instrumental and vocal. Our drama students have traditionally been award winners at the Sears Drama Festival.

Notable Knights

- Artists: Rachel Beach and Phil Irish
- Olympic Swimmers: Victor Davis, Jen Button, Jenn Fratesi, and Mike West
- Canadian Basketball Team: Sean VanKoughnett
- CFL: Julian Radlein
- Competitive Figure Skaters: Andrew Poje and Kristen Moore-Towers
- Oscar Winning Director, Chris Williams for *Big Hero 6*
- Military Hero/Air Force Pilot: John Couch
- NHL: Steve Rice
- Olympic Gold Medalists in Figure Skating: Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir
- Olympic Skier: Todd Brooker
- Playwrights: Guillermo Verdecchia and Sunil Kurivill