

This lesson will help students in their last year of elementary/middle school build a *Transitioning to High School Portfolio* to showcase their learning and highlights from the year. It will also give them an avenue to prepare for the next big step - high school! It is a great way to address some of the emotions that develop with change. It can also provide you with some insight on feelings, challenges, and favourites!

Teacher Led	X	Requires Computer	X	Requires myBlueprint.ca	X
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LEARNING GOALS

In this lesson students will:

1. Highlight their growth, accomplishments, and memories from this school year
2. Plan for their transition to high school

MATERIALS

- Computers, tablets, or mobile devices
- **Handout - Transitioning to High School Portfolio Checklist**

LESSON INSTRUCTIONS

*Please note that you can adapt this lesson plan to best suit your teaching style and/or learning context. To make your own copy of this lesson plan, click **File > Make a Copy***

Part 1: Introducing the Activity

1. Have students reflect upon their **early elementary experience**:
 - What was the best game that you played during recess/PE?
 - What made early elementary school easy? Challenging?
 - What's a funny trend that you will always remember?
2. Have students reflect upon **transitions**:
 - Do you remember how you felt about joining Kindergarten?
 - Were you ever nervous about going from one grade to the next? If so, what were some things that you might have been nervous about?
 - What did you do to help ease your transition from one grade to the next?
3. Have students brainstorm about **documenting their experiences**:

- What is a portfolio?
- Why do people create portfolios?

Part 2: Completing the Activity

1. Provide students with a copy of **Handout – Transitioning to High School Portfolio Checklist**

- Review the instructions as a class
- Brainstorm the ways that students can find artifacts from the school year to use in their portfolio

2. Have students visit www.myBlueprint.ca, click **Log In** (top right-hand corner), and enter their email and password

- **Forgotten password?** Students can reset their passwords by clicking ‘Forgot password?’
- **Forgotten email?** As a teacher/counsellor, you can reset your students’ emails and passwords in your **Student Manager** or **Classes**
- **Haven’t signed up?** Students click Sign Up (in the top right-hand corner), select their school from the drop down menu, and click ‘Create Account.’ Students continue with the sign up procedure by entering the required information

3. Once logged in, students should start working on their **Handout - Transitioning to High School Portfolio Checklist**

Part 3: Extending the Activity

1. Create small discussion groups for students to share their completed portfolios with their peers

2. Students can share their portfolios by:

- a. Opening their **Transitioning to High School** portfolio
- b. Clicking **Slideshow** (top right)
- c. Pressing **Play** (top right)

*Tip: Students do not need to share everything in their portfolio! In Slideshow Mode, they can use the **blue arrows** to toggle between portfolio boxes*

***You could also have students share their portfolios with their families at home! It’s a great conversation starter between students and parents/guardians*

STUDENT HANDOUT - TRANSITIONING TO HIGH SCHOOL PORTFOLIO CHECKLIST

LOG IN

1. Visit www.myBlueprint.ca, click **Log In** in the top right corner, and enter your username and password

CREATE & PERSONALIZE YOUR PORTFOLIO

Add the following items to your *Transitioning to High School* portfolio:

- From the left-hand navigation menu, select **Home > Portfolios**. Click **+ Add Portfolio**, enter the title: *Transitioning to High School* and then click **Add Portfolio**
- Add a profile picture for your portfolio (Avatar)
- Add a banner image to personalize your portfolio

DOCUMENTING GROWTH, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND MEMORIES FROM THIS YEAR

Add the following items to your *Transitioning to High School* portfolio:

- **Extracurricular(s)**
 - Click **+Add Box > Add Media > choose your preferred Media type to add an example of your extracurricular(s)**
 - **Title** your entry and **in the Description** box answer these questions: *What do you like best about participating in this extracurricular activity? Do you think you will continue with this extracurricular activity in high school?*
- **Favourite Subject**
 - Click **+Add Box > Add Journal**
 - **Title** your entry and **in the Description** box answer these questions: *Why is this your favourite subject? What topic from this subject is the most interesting? Do you do anything that is related to this subject outside of school?*
- **Most Challenging Subject**
 - Click **+Add Box > Add Journal**
 - **Title** your entry and **in the Description** box answer these questions: *What are you most proud of accomplishing in this challenging subject? What will you do to continue improving in this subject?*

- **Most Exciting Project/Activity**
 - Click **+Add Box > Add Media > choose your preferred Media type to add an example of your most exciting project/activity**
 - **Title** your entry and **in the Description** box *explain what you needed to do in this project/activity. Identify why it is your favourite project/activity from this year.*
- **Favourite Musician/Artist/Sports Team/Author (choose one)**
 - Click **+Add Box > Add Media > choose your preferred Media type to add an example of your favourite musician/artist/sports team/author**
 - **Title** your entry and **in the Description** box answer this question: *What made this musician/artist/sports team/author so exciting or memorable this year?*

TRANSITIONING TO HIGH SCHOOL

- **High School Plan: Plan Next Year's Courses**
 - From the left hand navigation menu, select **High School**
 - Take a look at the *Graduation Indicator* (top right) to see how many credits you need to earn
 - Click each box to add your required and elective courses for next school year
 - From the left navigation menu click **Home > Portfolios** and choose your ***Transitioning to High School*** portfolio
 - Click **+Add Box > Add from myBlueprint > add your High School Plan**
 - Find your High School Plan in your portfolio and click **Add Reflection**
 - Explain one work habit or skill you want to improve upon to help you in one or more of your subjects for next school year. Click **Post** when you have completed your reflection
- **High School Transition Reflection**
 - Click **+Add Box > Add Journal**
 - **Title** your entry and **in the Description** box answer these questions: *What are you going to miss the most from this school year? What makes you the most nervous about entering high school? What excites you the most about going to high school?*
- **Advice for Next Year's Students**
 - Click **+Add Box > Add Journal**
 - **Title** your entry and **in the Description** box write down 1-2 pieces of advice that students in the grade below you should know before entering next year
- **BONUS:** Write or record a thank-you note to someone that has positively impacted your school year!
 - Click **+Add Box > Add Journal or Add Media**
 - Click **Share > Generate Link** and share the link to your *Transitioning to High School Portfolio*