District Program Applicants

Tips for Success

1. **Ensure your application is complete by the due date.** If you are missing something your application will be denied.
2. **Study for the math test**. Do the practice test and have Ms. Duffield mark it. Learn from your mistakes before you write the real test.
3. **Community Reference Letter** – must be from a member of the community. This is often the most difficult piece to obtain so start on this early. People who can write your community reference are a family friend, coach, employer, someone you’ve volunteered for, a youth group leader, etc. It cannot be a teacher or a family member.
4. **Do your research.** Make sure you have a good understanding of what the program you are applying to is all about. Read the brochure, research the career on myBlueprint and workBC.ca and check out the program on the ITA website.
5. **Ensure the site visit is current.** If you did one last year and didn’t get accepted to the program, do another visit this year. Instructors change and they want to ensure you are really committed.
6. **If this is a re-application,** it should be better than last year’s application. Do not submit the same application twice without making any changes. Highlight how you have improved over the past year (attendance, work experience, courses, etc.).
7. **Dress for the interview.** See the career centre if you need to borrow something, or need help putting together an outfit. Boys should wear dress pants, dress shoes, collared shirt and tie. Girls should wear dress pants or knee-length skirt, dress shoes (no open toes) and a work-appropriate shirt.

Possible Interview Questions:

* Tell me about yourself:
	+ Highlight your strengths, focus on positive attributes
	+ What are your long-term goals
	+ Why are you interested in the program
	+ Make sure you emphasize you can work well in a team environment
* Tell me about the apprenticeship model
	+ What is a Red Seal?
	+ What is the ITA and what do they do? How will you be a part of the ITA if you are accepted into the program?
	+ What is a journeyman?
	+ How does an apprenticeship work?
	+ How many hours does it take? In school vs. on the job?
* Tell me about the Youth Work in Trades program
	+ 120 hours paid word in red seal trade = 4 credits or one course towards graduation
	+ Graduate with a C+ average, work 900 hours within 6 months of your program and you can earn a $1000 scholarship.
* What is a pass in trades programs?
	+ 70%
* What do you know about the program?
	+ Do you research: brochures, workbc.ca, myBlueprint.ca, ita.bc.ca, talk to people in the trade
* How are you going to pay for the program?
	+ Books, materials, etc. are not covered by the Surrey School District
* How are you going to get there?
	+ Plan out the bus routes
	+ Do you have your driver’s license? Why or why not.
* You will miss spring break. How are you going to deal with all of your friends on vacation while you’re stuck in school?
	+ They want to know you are completely committed to the program.
* What type of work experience do you have? If none, what kind of shop or hands-on experience do you have?
	+ Discuss any experience that is relevant
	+ Discuss employability skills as well as hard skills relating to the program – punctuality, teamwork, adaptability, flexibility, communication, creativity, discipline, reliability, trustworthy, etc.
* How is your Math?
* Are you taking Physics?
* Why should we accept YOU into the program over all the other students who have applied?
* If you could improve on something, what would it be and why?
	+ Identify a weakness and discuss how you will overcome it.
	+ Don’t say you’re a perfectionist – everyone gives that answer.
* Do you smoke or vape?
* What are your plans for after high school?
	+ Your answers should include continuing on in the trades

Specific Program Tips

Carpentry

* Either Guildford Park or Frank Hurt
* 4 weeks at KPU, you get your level 1 carpentry foundations
* Post-secondary expectations
	+ You have more freedom and therefore more responsibility – don’t fool around and get yourself kicked out of the program
	+ Consequences in post-secondary are more severe than in high school

Electrical

* Instructors are very interested in your math skills
* If you are not doing well in math, ensure you are prepped with an answer of how you can improve – tutoring, upgrading – and follow through with this.
* Knowledge of affiliation (lights of hope, BCIT program, etc.)
* Electronics vs. electrical are very different

Hairstylist

* 2 semester program – how do you feel about this?
* High cost for the hairdressing kit ($900)

Piping

* Instructors are very interested in your math skills (physics)
* If you are not doing well in math, ensure you are prepped with an answer of how you can improve – tutoring, upgrading – and follow through with this.

Welding

* What kinds of welding are there?