

The Junior Division at Newton's Grove School continues to build solid foundations in reading, writing, speaking, critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration. Small class sizes are maintained throughout Junior classes and allow teachers to focus the student experience. The Junior program is designed to help students discover their strengths, interests and abilities. With a focus on educating the whole child, students are offered opportunities to shine in a multitude of areas including academics, sports and the arts. Building self esteem and fostering a love of learning in our students is at the core of what we do. Teachers focus on the needs of students and providing a stimulating program that meets or exceeds the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum at each grade level. Students who have mastered skills are provided with enrichment opportunities in all areas of the curriculum.

Key Features:

- small class sizes
- dedicated and caring teachers
- a demanding academic program, a rigorous physical education program and a dynamic music program that focuses on performance skills
- a well-developed curriculum that incorporates cross-curricular learning, inquiry, problem solving, collaboration and the development of strong foundational knowledge
- an emphasis on critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- emphasis on the development of independent work habits and study skills
- a wide variety of extra- curricular activities

Language

The goal of the Junior Language program is to teach students to communicate with clarity and precision, orally, in writing, and through a variety of media. Instruction is focussed on the main areas of knowledge and skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Cross-curricular instruction of Language within other subject areas helps to reinforce skills and provide practice in communicating about a variety of subject matters. A wide variety of approaches help all students build their language skills at an individualized level.

Key Features:

- a reading program that incorporates selected short stories, myths, poems, plays and novels and helps students develop an understanding of literary components such as plot development, character, setting and theme
- many opportunities for oral reading, listening, and public speaking
- an emphasis on reading and comprehension, stressed across the curriculum
- a focus on skills such as summarizing, looking for main ideas and responding to contextual clues
- the teaching of spelling, grammar, and penmanship skills with an emphasis on the application of these skills to all written activities
- the Canadian Spelling Program is followed at a year above grade level for most students
- formal lessons focusing on the steps of the writing process that include planning, drafting, revising, editing, publishing and reflecting
- many opportunities for students to express themselves creatively through a wide variety of writing tasks that include journal entries, retellings, narratives, descriptions and poetry

Mathematics

The goal of the Junior Mathematics program is to build strong foundational skills with emphasis on fluency, problem solving, reasoning and proving, strategizing, representing and communicating. Students are taught to think logically and to apply concepts through a wide variety of lessons that stress the language of math and address the five stands of mathematics: Number Sense and Numeration, Measurement, Geometry and Spatial Sense, Patterning and Algebra, Data Management and Probability.



Key Features:

- an emphasis on understanding the concepts behind mathematical operations
- regular math exercises to build accuracy and speed with recall of basic facts
- lessons with an emphasis on problem-solving and real-life application of concepts
- the use of concrete manipulatives to assist students in developing a deep understanding of all concepts

The Sciences

Children study Science and Technology through the exploration of the 4 strands: Life Systems, Structures and Mechanisms, Matter and Energy, Earth and Space Systems. The goal of the Science program is to build scientific and technological literacy. Students learn to read and understand reports about science and technology, critically evaluate information, and confidently engage in discussion and decision-making activities. The use of concrete materials, models, visuals, books, and computer software enhances the children's vocabulary development and knowledge base. Hands-on learning experiences encourage the students to develop their reasoning and inquiry skills as they are introduced to the Scientific Method.

The Junior Division Social Studies program focuses on developing students' knowledge, skills and attitudes through active inquiry, problem solving and decision making. Throughout all activities students are encouraged to explore, investigate, and ask questions in order to heighten their own curiosity about and understanding of the world around them as they study the two strands of Social Studies: People and Environments, Heritage and Identity.

Key Features

- hands on, experiential learning opportunities with a focus on connecting Science and Technology to society and the environment
- participation (at a class level), in our Annual Newton's Grove Science Fair
- emphasis on building the skills, strategies, and habits of mind required for scientific inquiry and technological problem solving
- students develop an understanding of natural systems and their impact on society, with a focus on the Indigenous Peoples of Canada

Health and Physical Education

The goal of the Physical Education program is to develop a lifelong participation in and appreciation for healthy, active living. Students in the Junior Division participate in structured Physical Education classes for 90 minutes each week. The Paul Coffey Park offers a beautiful and well-provisioned backdrop for many seasonal activities. A variety of intramural teams offer students of all abilities to participate in organized sports activities. Students can also participate in numerous teams and tournaments throughout the year. Through the Physical Education Program children build physical as well as sportsmanship and leadership skills. In addition, students develop important life skills through regular swimming and skating lessons scheduled throughout the year.

The Arts

The Visual Arts

In the Visual Arts program, students are provided with the opportunity to express themselves creatively through a wide variety of media including water colour, pastel, crayon, charcoal, collage, and three-dimensional constructions. Activities focus on the elements of design, shape and colour. Students are provided with ample opportunity for personal expression and the development of original ideas.



Music

The music program provides the opportunity for students to sing and perform. Each fall the students take part in a musical production, which involves all the Junior Division students. An introductory band program is also offered to students in Grades 5 and 6. A wide range of compositions, both modern and classical are used to teach students to read music, develop rhythm and play an instrument of choice. Students engage in a systematic study of the lives and works of well-known composers and performers. As well as a variety of musical genres to develop an understanding of their history and development. In the spring, all students take part in our annual Arts & Music Night performance held at Mississauga's Living Arts Centre.

Drama and Dance

Students participate in engaging activities such as role play, rhyme and movement. Imagination and effective social skills are used as they create unique pieces and contribute personal ideas and opinions about a variety of forms of drama and dance.

French

Junior students receive French instruction from a specialist teacher five times per week. The program continues to build upon the strong oral comprehension and communication skills developed in the Primary Division and incorporates more written components. Students learn conversational French and practice proper pronunciation. Oral reading and basic grammar activities are important parts of the program. Through observation, listening, and rehearsing with others, students refine their use of language and make thoughtful and meaningful connections to the world around them. Learning French as a second language helps to prepare students for their role as active and engaged citizens in our bilingual society.

Technology

The Junior Division accesses one of two computer labs located at Newton's Grove School. Students in the Junior Division spend two half hour periods in the lab each week and are taught by a specialist teacher. Students explore computer science through a variety of activities designed to introduce them to the concepts, skills and tools needed to create documents, presentations, computer-generated art and more. Computer science learning is integrated across subject areas as classroom teachers, specialists and students collaborate on interesting tech-based projects.