

*This is a challenging age for children as they negotiate changing social dynamics and greater responsibilities. Their academic schedule now includes more rotary, with subjects increasingly taught by specialists. School work increases, and students are expected to wrestle conceptually at a deeper level, making connections across fields of knowledge. Good study habits are given more emphasis, and students are expected to maintain and rely upon their school agendas. Students in these years naturally seek greater independence, but they are shown that it must be tied to greater responsibility and accountability. Our Intermediate program ensures students have the discipline, conceptual thinking and self-reliance to excel in high school.*

## English

The English program teaches effective communication of ideas, both orally and in writing. Students are exposed to a wide variety of activities involving the process skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. An emphasis is placed on analysis, in order to develop an appreciation of literary technique.

The English program offers the following:

- exposure to a wide variety of genres including novels, short stories, non-fiction, drama, poetry and mythology
- an understanding of literary components such as plot development, character, resolution of conflict, irony, simile and metaphor
- opportunities for oral reading, listening, and personal creative exploration both in the written and oral form
- introduction to the essay: students learn to formulate a thesis and support it effectively
- an emphasis on reading comprehension and analysis stressed across the curriculum
- a focus on skills such as summarizing, looking for main ideas and responding to contextual clues

## Mathematics

The Mathematics program stresses the development of problem-solving skills. Students are taught to think logically and apply concepts, rather than memorize solutions. Our Math curriculum provides the broad mathematical foundation which is essential for Academic level courses in high school.

The Mathematics program offers the following:

- a wide variety of problem-solving approaches which are taught in every unit
- an emphasis on applications of solutions to real life situations
- an introduction to integers, rational numbers, order of operations, formulating and evaluating expressions with variables, collecting like terms, and solving equations using the method of inverse operations, geometry and measurement
- a greater application of the metric system to measure length, mass, volume and capacity
- an introduction to the concept of formulating variable expressions and equations to apply an algebraic approach to problem solving



## Science

Our Science program examines a wide variety of topics, which provides students with a sound base in science and technology. The approach is hands-on and emphasizes the process skills of the scientific method. Through inquiries, experiments and independent research, our students gain a scientist's perspective on the natural world. Specific STEM activities are designed to encourage and inspire a love of science.

The Science program offers the following:

- an application of all units of study to real life situations and challenges
- an understanding of the vital role that science plays in the world
- an awareness of environmental issues and the great need for ongoing scientific research and development
- the application of the scientific method in experiments and an individual Science Fair project

### Units of Study

#### Grade Seven

Interactions in the Environment  
Pure Substances and Mixtures  
Heat in the Environment  
Form and Function

#### Grade Eight

Cells  
Fluids  
Systems in Action  
Water Systems

## Geography

The Geography program focuses on aspects of physical and human geography. Students study how physical factors affect the development of cultures and dictate the way of life of people in different regions of the world. There is an emphasis on the Global Village and our role within it.

The Geography program offers the following:

- an opportunity to interpret material from a wide variety of sources including maps, diagrams, charts, photographs, and graphs
- a skills-based approach emphasizing note-taking skills, study techniques and research skills
- the incorporation of current events to keep students abreast of cultural issues as they unfold
- an appreciation of how physical geography shapes cultural and political events today

### Units of Study

#### Grade Seven

The Themes of Geographic Inquiry  
Patterns in Physical Geography  
Natural Resources

#### Grade Eight

Patterns in Human Geography  
Economic Systems  
Migration



## History

The Intermediate History program traces Canadian History from the origin and development of French settlement in North America through Confederation, and the ensuing growth of Western Canada. This course also explores the social and economic factors that contributed to the many changes in Canadian society up to 1914.

The History program offers the following:

- an appreciation of the struggles and perseverance that were required to make Canada into a great nation
- an emphasis on skills, such as note-taking, researching, and interpreting material from a wide variety of sources
- the development of study techniques and essay writing skills
- the interpretation and application of relevant historical issues to the present day

### Units of Study

#### Grade Seven

New France  
British North America  
Conflict and Change

#### Grade Eight

Confederation  
The Development of Western Canada  
Canada: A Changing Society

## French

The French program builds on the foundation established in the Junior years. The Intermediate course stresses both written and oral French and an appreciation of the language. Our program encourages an ease with the French language through interactive and skill-building exercises.

The French program offers the following:

- an emphasis on vocabulary and grammar, with a strong emphasis on oral communication skills
- encouragement to read, listen, watch and to use French for pleasure, using contextual clues to ascertain the meaning of unfamiliar words
- an understanding of language functions through oral, written and manipulative activities
- a nurturing environment which enables students to take risks in an unfamiliar language
- an appreciation of the role French plays in Canadian and international cultures

## Health and Physical Education

The focus of the Intermediate Physical Education program is on the improvement of fitness levels and the development of fundamental athletic skills through the exposure to a variety of sporting disciplines including soccer, volleyball, floor hockey, basketball, track and field, and softball.

The Physical Education and Health program offers the following:

- an emphasis on teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership skills
- a focus on the importance of the development of self esteem, and positive assertiveness
- assistance to students on developing effective decision-making skills when confronted with issues involving peer pressure
- an exploration of the harmful effects of tobacco, drugs and alcohol
- a safe forum in which students feel comfortable to voice their concerns and express their feelings



## Technology

The Technology course is comprised of a semester of robotics and a semester of computer studies. For each class, the students have access to one of two computer labs located at Newton's Grove School. Students in the Intermediate Division have a 40-minute technology class every three days instructed by specialist teachers.

The Robotics program offers the following:

- An opportunity to learn principles relating to engineering and design and to employ their understanding in a variety of ways including the building of physical models
- project-based learning to create a robot capable of mobility
- an opportunity to present various projects and designs

The Computer Studies program offers the following:

- a reinforcement and expansion of the skills taught in the Junior grades
- an exploration of the Internet, focusing on accessing and evaluating a variety of resources to perform research for class projects, as well as understanding how to use proper citation of web-based sources
- an introduction to desktop publishing using Adobe Photoshop and MS Publisher
- the teaching of formal keyboarding skills through a step-by-step typing program

## Music

The focus of the Intermediate Music program is on instrumental band music. Students continue their instrumental program from Grade 5 and 6. New students are taught to play a brass, woodwind or percussion instruments of their choice. There are many opportunities to perform publicly and develop self confidence and poise when performing in front of others culminating in a year end performance at Arts & Music Night. Many students are given the opportunity to perform with the Jazz band and the high school Senior Band. The program continues well into high school, right to Grade 12.

The Music program offers the following:

- an introduction to a wide range of compositions, both modern and classical
- an emphasis on reading music and developing rhythmic skills
- a hands-on approach that encourages musical performance, both individually and as part of a band
- an exposure to a variety of musical genres and an understanding of their history and development
- a systematic study of the lives and works of well-known composers and performers as well as the opportunity to be involved in the enriched Reach Ahead Credit program

## Visual Arts

In the Visual Arts program, students are provided with the opportunity to express themselves creatively through a wide variety of media including pastel, crayon, charcoal, collage, and three-dimensional constructions.

The Visual Arts program offers the following:

- activities which focus on the elements and principles of design
- an emphasis on the development of drawing skills, stressing perspective and proportion
- an exploration of a variety of media, including clay, papier-mâché, pastels, oils, and collage
- opportunities for personal expression and the development of original ideas
- a thematic approach that co-ordinates visual art with other units of study

