



MIDDLE SCHOOL



Grades Six to Eight

Middle School Program



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.

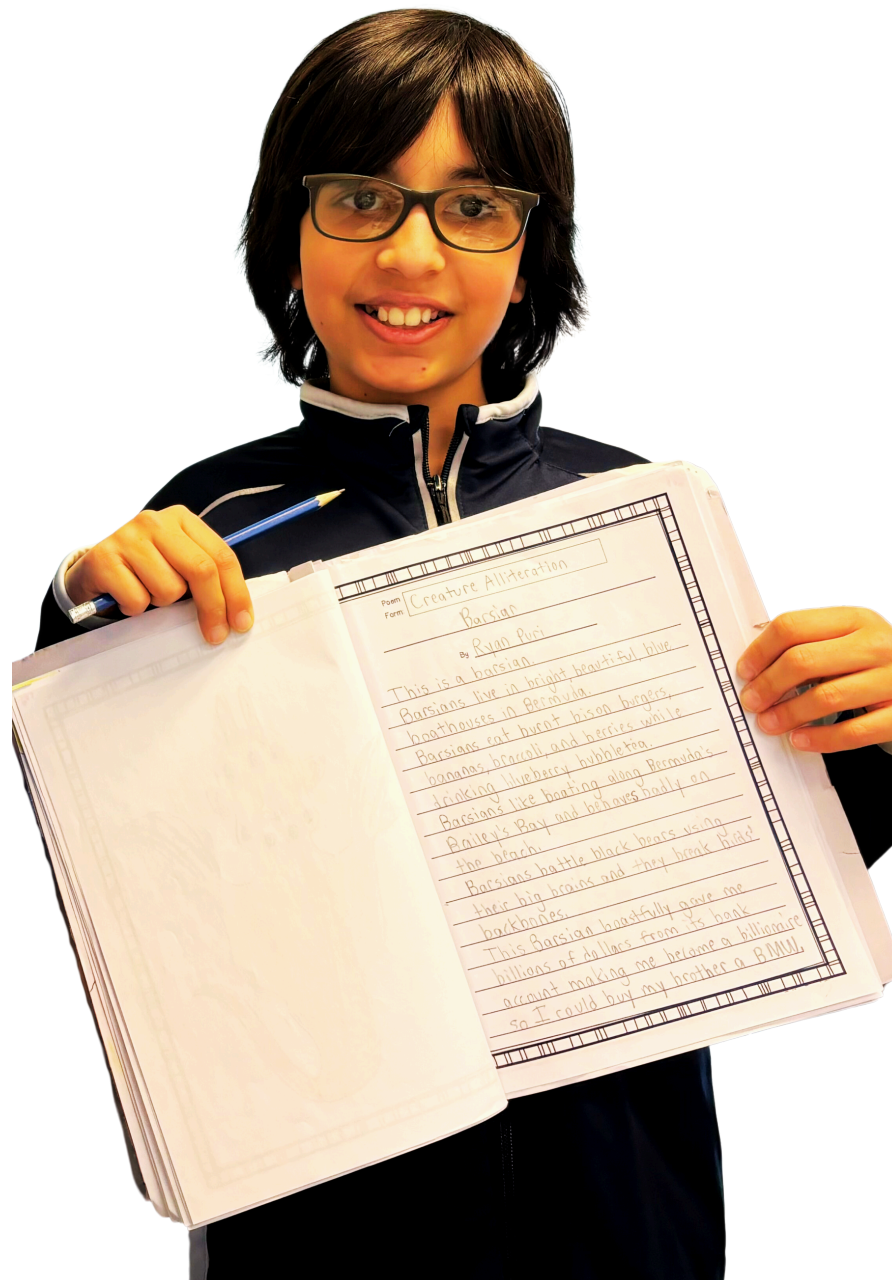
Good study habits are given more emphasis, and students are expected to maintain and rely upon their school agendas. Students in these years naturally seek greater independence, but they are shown that it must be tied to greater responsibility and accountability.

Our Middle School program ensures students have the discipline, conceptual thinking and self-reliance to excel in Senior School.

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



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

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 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

Units of Study: 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

Units of Study: Grade Eight

Patterns in Human Geography

Economic Systems

Migration

The Middle School 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

Units of Study: Grade Eight

Confederation

The Development of Western Canada

Canada: A Changing Society



The French program builds on the foundation established in the Junior years. The Middle School 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 Middle School 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.

This 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



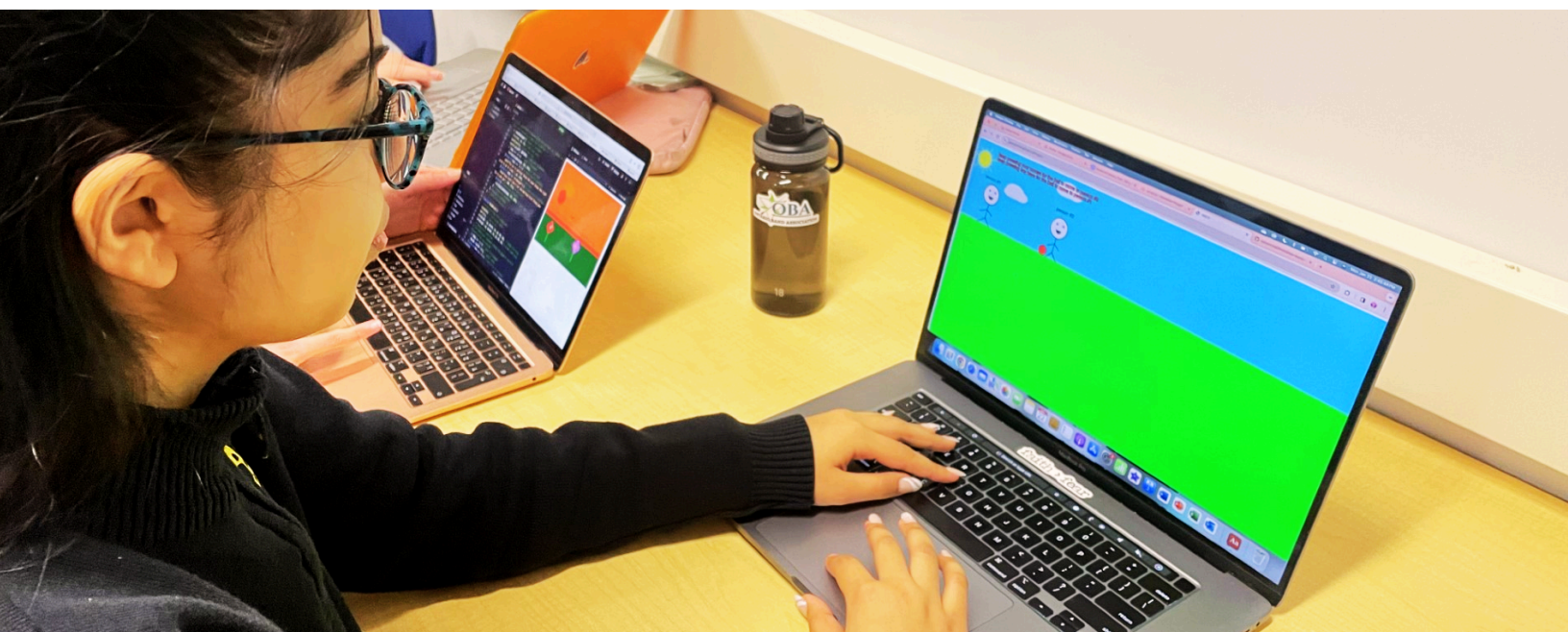
The Technology course is comprised of a semester of robotics and a semester of computer studies. For each class, the students have access to one of two computer labs located at Newton's Grove School. Students in Middle School have a 40-minute technology class every three days instructed by specialist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

Robotics. The 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

Computer Studies. The program offers the following:

- A reinforcement and expansion of the skills taught in Junior School
- 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



The focus of the Middle School 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

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

Experience Newton's Grove Extraordinary



MISS CHERI GROGAN
Head of School

Miss Cheri Grogan has worked in Education for over 30 years as a teacher, Assistant Head and Head of School in some of the finest schools in the GTA. More than her credentials, it is Miss Grogan's ability to inspire, support, and lead others that makes her the perfect choice for our community.



MRS. EVA DIAB
Principal

Mrs. Diab's has a master's degree in Educational Leadership and Policy and is pursuing her PhD pursuance currently in the same realm. Mrs. Diab is extremely proficient at building strong relationships with students and within the school community. She is passionate about implementing innovative methods of curriculum delivery as well as synergistic relationships with faculty.



MRS. MARNY BURKE
Vice Principal, Middle School

Mrs. Burke oversees the growth, development and success of every student in our Middle School. Through her many years of innovative teaching at both the Junior and Middle School levels, Mrs. Burke knows first-hand what makes for inspirational learning. Mrs. Burke, working alongside an outstanding team of teachers, ensures that each child feels safe, supported, challenged, and eager to learn.



MRS. EMILY PETROFF
Admissions Coordinator

Having been a classroom teacher for over 20 years at Newton's Grove School, Mrs. Petroff is well qualified to be our Admissions Coordinator. Mrs. Petroff is outstanding in assisting prospective parents and students to learn about the school's many strengths. Her honesty and outgoing nature ensures parents are well served in learning how the school works to challenge and support every child in all areas.