

Intermediate Division

The Intermediate Division at MPS further develops the skills emphasized in our Primary and Junior grades. Our Intermediate program also aims to develop higher level thinking and organizational skills, which will enable the students to make a smooth transition into secondary education. Our program offers the following:

- a maximum of 18 students per class, allowing for a personalized approach that meets individual student's needs,
- an emphasis on skill development, integrated across all subjects,
- a structured approach to learning that encourages independent thinking,
- a comprehensive curriculum which prepares students for success in high school,
- an application of the latest computer technology to a variety of subjects,
- an effective partnership with parents ensuring students reach their full potential.

LITERATURE

The Literature 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 Literature program offers the following:

- exposure to a wide variety of genres including: novels, short stories, drama, poetry and mythology,
- an understanding of literary components such as plot development, character, resolution of conflict, irony, satire, 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. 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,

Grade Seven

Interactions within Ecosystems
Pure Substances and Mixtures
Heat
Structural Strength and Stability

Grade Eight

Cells, Tissues, Organs and Systems
Fluids
Mechanical Efficiency
Water Systems

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.

Grade Seven

New France
British North America
Conflict and Change

Grade Eight

Confederation
The Development of Western Canada
Canada: A Changing Society

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 on a daily basis,
an appreciation of how physical geography shapes cultural and political events today.

Grade Seven

The Themes of Geographic Inquiry
Patterns in Physical Geography
Natural Resources

Grade Eight

Patterns in Human Geography
Economic Systems
Migration

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 in 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.

COMPUTER STUDIES

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. The Visual Arts program offers the following:

- a reinforcement and expansion of the skills taught in the Junior grades,
- opportunities to learn and strengthen word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation skills using MS Office,
- an exploration of the Internet, especially on-line encyclopedias and resources to perform research for class projects,
- an introduction to desktop publishing and visual diagram programs such as Adobe Photoshop, MS Publisher and Kidspiration,
- access to educational software that reinforces math, grammar and problem solving skills.

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. 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.

MUSIC

The focus of the Intermediate Music program is on instrumental music. Our students are taught to play the brass or woodwind instruments of their choice. There are 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. 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.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

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.