

## Junior Division

The Junior Division at Mississauga Private School offers a well rounded educational experience. Our program is designed to build self esteem and promote a love of learning. Students who have mastered skills are provided with enrichment opportunities in all areas of the curriculum. Teachers provide a stimulating program that meets or exceeds the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum at each grade level and develops higher level thinking and organizational skills. This will enable the students to make a smooth transition into the Intermediate Division. Our program offers the following:

- a well-developed seamless curriculum, that incorporates all the strands of the Ontario Curriculum for each subject area,
- a skills-based approach to learning that stresses the fundamentals,
- current textbooks, all of which are included on the Trillium List ,
- a wide variety of supplementary resources to enhance and enrich all subject areas,
- a demanding academic program, a rigorous physical education program and a dynamic music program that focuses on performance skills ,
- an emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving skills,
- a fostering of the development of independent work habits and study skills,
- a wide variety of extra- curricular activities to enhance our strong academic program,
- a personal commitment to the learning needs of all of our students.

## LANGUAGE

The Junior Language program gives all students the opportunity to develop their skills within the four curriculum strands: Oral Communication, Reading, Writing and Media Literacy. The development of effective speaking and listening skills is integrated in all areas of the curriculum. A wide variety of approaches is employed to help all students build their reading and writing skills at their individual levels, and relate to a variety of media texts. The Language program offers the following:

- a literature based reading program that incorporates selected stories, 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, phonics and penmanship as formal programs,
- 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,
- an introduction to essay writing,
- many opportunities for students to express themselves creatively through a wide variety of writing tasks that include journal entries, retellings, narratives, descriptions and poetry,
- formal grammar lessons based on grade appropriate expectations are taught and reinforced in all the students' written activities.

## MATHEMATICS

The goal of the Junior Mathematics program is the development of effective problem solving and analytical thinking skills to help build a deep understanding of all concepts covered. Students are taught to think logically and apply concepts through a wide variety of lessons that stress the language of math and number skills across the five curriculum strands: Number Sense and Numeration, Measurement, Geometry and Spatial Sense, Patterning and Algebra and Data Management and Probability. An emphasis is also placed on compu-

tational skills and the development of effective strategies when solving word problems. The Mathematics program offers:

- regular speed drills to reinforce the retention of basic facts at each grade level,
- the teaching of computation/ operational skills at a year above grade level for most students,
- the application of a problem solving approach towards the teaching of new concepts introduced in all strands,
- the use of concrete manipulatives to assist students in developing a deep understanding of all concepts,
- the teaching of the Four Step Problem Solving Model : Understand the Problem, Make a Plan, Carry out the Plan and Look Back at the Solution.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The Junior Science program emphasizes a hands-on approach to the exploration and understanding of science concepts. Students are introduced to concepts through discovery learning, lecture, experiments and discussion. As a part of the Science program, students develop study skills such as how to take notes, study for tests and write lab reports. Students work with various themes that cover the four strands of the Science and Technology curriculum. The following topics are covered:

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<b>Grade Four</b>	<b>Grade Five</b>	<b>Grade Six</b>
Habitats and Communities	Properties of and Changes in Matter	Diversity of Living Things
Light and Sound	Conservation of Energy and Resources	Flight
Pulleys and Gears	Forces Acting on Structures and Mechanisms	Electricity and Electrical Devices
Rocks, Minerals and Erosion	Human Body Systems	Space

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## SOCIAL STUDIES

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 a part of the Social Studies program, students develop study skills, such as how to take notes and study for tests. They also learn to develop complete, thoughtful answers to both content and analysis questions. Students work with various themes that cover the strands of the Social Studies curriculum. The following topics are covered:

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<b>Grade Four</b>	<b>Grade Five</b>	<b>Grade Six</b>
Medieval Times	Early Civilizations	First Nations Peoples and European Explorers
Canada's Provinces, Territories and Regions	Aspects of Citizenship and Government in Canada	Canada's Links to the World

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## COMPUTERS

The Junior Division accesses one of two computer labs located at MPS. Students in the Junior grades spend two half hour periods in the lab each week.

The Computer program gives students many opportunities to learn and strengthen word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation skills using MS Office,

Students learn to use the Internet as well as online Encyclopedias effectively to perform research for class projects,

Formal keyboarding skills are taught through a step-by-step typing program that allows each student to progress at their own pace,

Students also enjoy using desktop publishing programs such as Kid Pix Studio Deluxe and Print Shop to create cards, certificates and banners for school and holiday functions,

Students have opportunities to explore educational software and Internet sites that reinforce math, grammar and problem solving skills.

## **FRENCH**

Students in the Junior Division receive instruction in French as a Second Language four 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. Curriculum expectations are covered using the programs Visages 1 for Grade 4, Visages 2 for Grade 5 and Visages 3 for Grade 6. The Visages Program includes texts, workbooks, and audio CD's. Students write comprehensive tests at the end of each Visages unit, and weekly quizzes, both oral and written are used to assess vocabulary acquisition.

Supplementary activities from a wide variety of resources are offered to enhance the program and increase the students' level of understanding. Oral reading and basic grammar activities are important parts of the program. Songs, games, and puzzles are used on a regular basis to generate enthusiasm and to reinforce vocabulary and skill development.

## **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 of design, shape, and colour,
- 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 music program provides the opportunity for students to sing, perform and play the recorder. Students learn to read notes and to apply their skills to singing in harmony and composing their own pieces.

Each fall the students take part in a musical production, which involves all of the Junior students. They are required to audition for roles and each grade level is responsible for several musical pieces. In the spring students in all divisions partake in our annual Arts & Music Night. An introductory band program is also offered to Junior Division students at MPS.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH**

The aim of the Junior Physical Education program is to promote physical activity, teamwork, sportsmanship and cooperation. Students learn the skills and rules that will enable them to participate in sports such as soccer, football, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey and softball. Games and activities such as dodge ball, scooter ball, capture the flag and skipping promote a high level of participation. Physical Education classes are structured to include warm-up and stretching activities, drills and/or games and cool down activities. Weekly swimming classes are scheduled every week during the first term as an addition to the regular program.

The Health program focuses on grade appropriate lessons based on the expectations of the Curriculum strands which include:

- Healthy Eating
- Growth and Development
- Personal Safety and Injury Prevention
- Substance Use/ Abuse