

## Senior Division

The Senior Division at MPS offers high academic standards, ensuring our students succeed in their post-secondary endeavors. Our program offers the following:

- a maximum of 18 students per class, allowing for a personalized approach that meets individual student's needs,
- a seamless and comprehensive curriculum, satisfying and surpassing the expectations of the Ministry of Education,
- a skills-based approach to learning that stresses the fundamentals,
- a wide variety of credit courses to augment our core curriculum,
- an emphasis on critical thinking and analytical ability,
- a fostering of independent and self-directed study habits,
- an integration of the latest technology,
- a personal commitment to the learning needs of all of our students.

Student Services is available at all times to aid students in choosing courses appropriate to needs, interests and post-secondary destinations. Please see the Secondary Course Calendar for descriptions of the courses available at MPS.

## ENGLISH

The English program at MPS emphasizes the development of literate, articulate students who have mastered the fundamentals of spoken and written English. The literature component of each course includes a balanced selection of poems, plays, novels, short stories and essays. The English program offers the following:

- the study of language fundamentals and the mastering of various writing forms, especially the persuasive essay,
- a strong grounding in the classics, notably Shakespeare,
- the acquisition of essential analytical and critical skills,
- an emphasis on literary analysis and interpretation,
- the exploration of themes relevant to our students' lives.

## MATHEMATICS

The importance of mathematics is stressed throughout the high school curriculum. Logical problem solving skills are taught at all levels in a well balanced program involving computation, algebra and geometry. Emphasis is placed upon the understanding of mathematical principles and concepts and their application. The Mathematics program offers the following:

- challenging assignments which focus on the mastery of essential concepts,
- problem sets which are designed to relate mathematical concepts to applications in our daily lives,
- curriculum designed to develop student confidence and self esteem as they learn to approach new ideas and concepts with proficiency,
- regular mathematics tutorials to improve student performance,
- Grade 12 level mathematics courses designed to prepare students for success in university.

## SCIENCE

Our Science program provides a balanced and integrated approach to scientific knowledge and method. Our courses are designed to provide students with an understanding of nature and natural phenomena, as well as provide them with the skills they need to question and draw conclusions at the intuitive, conceptual and integrative levels. The Science program offers the following:

an emphasis on the requisite skills, theory and knowledge to ensure a deep understanding of the various branches of science,  
development of the critical thinking skills necessary for success in any post-secondary destination,  
a critical examination of the role of science and technology in our world in order to make informed decisions about our future,  
hands-on learning through labs, experiments and student-led demonstrations,  
a commitment to keep our students up to date with recent developments in scientific research, development and technology,

## **SOCIAL SCIENCE**

MPS offers a broad and diverse range of courses in Canadian and Contemporary Studies. These courses introduce students to the systematic study of history, law, economics, psychology, anthropology, and sociology in order to help them become mature, rational, caring adults equipped to deal with social issues. The Social Science program offers the following:

an inquiry approach that allows students to ask questions and seek answers,  
an emphasis on developing research skills that will be invaluable to post-secondary studies,  
an opportunity to gain an understanding and appreciation of different cultures and societies,  
the exploration of current issues that impact on the lives of our students,  
a better understanding of the unique aspects of Canadian culture and the role that Canada plays on the international stage.

## **BUSINESS STUDIES**

We offer a variety of courses in Business and related studies from grades nine through grade twelve. These courses are designed to give students a fundamental understanding of theoretical principles and practical applications in accounting, marketing, economics and related technology. The Business Studies program offers the following:

a case studies approach in the examination of current trends in the economy and in the business world,  
practical exercises and assignments designed to relate concepts to everyday life,  
discussion, investigation and research of key elements of Canadian and international business,  
computer and technology programs designed to augment our Business Studies courses,  
design, graphics and spreadsheet applications reflecting the most up-to-date software and technology.

## **COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY**

MPS strives to be on the cutting edge of computer education. We are committed to providing programs that reflect the changing needs of society and the rapid changes in technology. Our computer courses give students the skills necessary to succeed in business, industry, or university. The Computers and Technology program offers the following:

two fully networked computer labs, with state-of-the-art computers replaced and upgraded every second year,  
up-to-date business and advanced graphics/media software,  
programming courses in a number of different languages, including Java, C+, and C++,  
an integrated approach, combining theory with practical applications,  
emphasis on hands-on problem solving: students learn by doing,

## **FRENCH**

It is the goal of our French language programs to help students develop a higher degree of facility in using French. In order to achieve this outcome, students will focus on four language learning processes, namely: listening, speaking, reading and writing. It is through ongoing engagements in these interactive and interrelated language processes that students develop language fluency. The French program offers the following:

- a solid grounding in the fundamentals of using the French language,
- a hands-on and interactive approach designed to help students develop a working knowledge of French,
- an understanding and appreciation of the importance of the role of French in our culture,
- opportunities for students to participate in dramatic role playing exercises, and to create stories, scripts and television commercials, all in French,
- an emphasis on speaking skills and conversational French.

## **THE ARTS**

We offer a broad range of Arts courses including dramatic arts, visual arts, and music. The aim of these courses is to develop both the mind and the body and to stimulate the creative potential of our students. Our Arts education programs balance intellectual, emotional and physical development. The Arts program offers the following:

- a comprehensive instrumental music program for both beginner and advanced players,
- an opportunity to explore the role of the arts in society by enabling the participation in community-based projects,
- a hands-on and interactive approach designed to help students develop their creative potential,
- access to state-of-the-art graphics software which provides visual arts students with the tools to be creative in modern media,
- an opportunity for integration between courses as facilitated by annual productions which showcase the creative talents of our students.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH**

We believe that Physical and Health Education courses are essential. Students need the exercise and activity level necessary to enhance the overall learning experience. Understanding how the body works is especially important during adolescence, and we endeavor to help our students establish a positive and healthy sense of their physical selves. The Physical Education and Health program offers the following:

- an emphasis on personal fitness, exercise and nutrition,
- a skills-based exploration of a number of different sports,
- a co-operative and competitive range of hands-on activities,
- opportunities to explore health issues that are relevant to our students' lives,
- encouragement to participate in physical activities which will provide a basis for a life-time of healthy living.