

Braemar House School

Curriculum Guide

Striving for
Excellence

September 2025

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~ Striving for Excellence ~

Vision Statement:

Braemar House School offers an **enriched education** in a non-denominational community.

We work **together with families** to raise well-rounded, compassionate **citizens ready for any future**.

Braemar House School is more than a house, it's a home.

Strategic Directions: Enriched Education; Together with Families we are Raising Citizens of Tomorrow; Building a HOME not a house; and Managing Resources Ethically & Responsibly

Mission Statement:

In partnership with the school, home and community:

- To support each student as they acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to become a self-disciplined and life-long learner
- To create a safe, nurturing school environment that treats each student as an individual
- To deliver programs that maximize individual potential
- To foster in students a moral strength connected to citizenship and stewardship.



Our Philosophy

Braemar House School is an independent school that focuses on strong academic programming within a nurturing environment. Class sizes are small to provide the opportunity for individualized learning and effective enrichment.

Enrichment is achieved within subject programming at Braemar through acceleration and extension, as the needs of students are identified. While individual students will benefit from deliberate differentiation of curriculum content, teachers are supported and encouraged to introduce material to the whole class that broadens the curriculum content, integrates other subject matters, promotes problem solving, and includes topics of local interest and importance. Teachers give students more advanced subject matter or higher-order treatment of our regular curriculum, and offer students greater freedom and latitude in achieving expectations.

Braemar's curriculum is comprehensive, with a strong academic foundation in language arts, mathematics, science and social studies, as well as notably enriched programming in information technology, drama, music and art. The Ministry of Education's Curriculum Guidelines are explored in a richer, broader and more independent way. Our qualified and dedicated educators provide a caring, supportive, relevant and stimulating environment for students and ensure that extra help and challenges are readily available.

The school participates annually in the Canadian Achievement Tests (CAT 4), a standardized and highly informative test given each October to students in Grades 1 to 8. The majority of our students perform at levels one to one and a half grades higher than the Canadian averages, and individual strengths and areas of growth are effectively identified for extension and timely support.

We foster excellent study and work habits, while maintaining high academic standards and expectations. For our students, competence in these areas leads to greater self confidence and a sense of achievement, as well as engagement and involvement beyond their Braemar experience.

Citizenship Programs

The Virtues Project is a holistic approach to character education which shapes and informs Braemar's Citizenship programs, and is integrated into all our programming. The *Virtues Project* introduces simple elements of character honored by all cultures and spiritual traditions, and defines them by 52 basic virtues. Braemar uses "the language of virtues" for drawing out the best in our students, inspiring Courtesy, Tolerance, Respect, and Kindness.

Each year students are grouped into Clans named after one of the clan animals of the Six Nations. In Indigenous tradition, the animals themselves hold specific character traits in keeping with our Virtues statements. Each "clan" is led by our Grade 8 students and includes students from Prep One to Grade 7. Each Montessori classroom is its own Clan.

As well, grade specific programs ensure the living out of our commitment to citizenship.

Grade 1 - Roots of Empathy. This innovative classroom-based program teaches child development, tolerance and an appreciation of differences, and emotional literacy. A baby makes monthly classroom visits with his/her mother and a trained facilitator, giving students the opportunity to interact with and respond to the baby.

Grade 2 - Gems Club. This program teaches children the importance of using virtues in their daily lives and provides them with support to build their self esteem as they attempt to put the virtues in action..

Grade 3 - Kindness in Me/ Leader in Me Program. This fast paced active learning program addresses bullying and classroom dynamic from a proactive standpoint. It builds critical thinking skills through various activities. It empowers the students to use kindness as a tool of impact and change through collaboration among students

Grade 4— Buddy Mentoring. Our Grade 4 students will work to become "Buddies" with our Montessori class. They will do activities together over the year. (Gardening, Art, Reading, Etc.)

Grade 5 - Environmental Stewardship. Our students are encouraged to see themselves as an integral part of our environment, embracing the challenge of protecting it by acting responsibly and positively. Our Grade 5 class takes care of our school environment by encouraging and managing our recycling program.

Grade 6 - KidLead Program focuses on 16 leader qualities taught in the context of leading. This program conditions young leaders to respond automatically as team builders and problem solvers.

Grade 7 and 8 - Y.E.S.! (Youth Experiencing Service) . This program is an opportunity for our students to appreciate and respond to the challenges faced by underprivileged children and adults, both locally and globally.

Pre and Junior Montessori and Prep One

For our youngest Braemar students, a Montessori philosophy is used to guide our programming. Taking full advantage of the hands-on inspired learning, concept building and critical thinking skills that come with a Montessori introduction to school, students in these pre-Grade One programs make an effective transition to the more traditional learning environments found in our Grade 1 to 8 elementary school programs.

Pre Montessori

We operate a non-licensed program for 3.8 year olds or younger. This child care program is not licensed by the Government of Ontario.

In accordance with the requirements of the *Child Care and Early Years Act*, 2014, the Pre Montessori students have their own classroom. We use the Montessori philosophy including the prepared environment, apparatus and child-led perspective.

Junior Montessori

Maria Montessori believed the hand is the chief teacher of the child. Children best learn by fixing their attention on a task that is being performed with their own hands. The equipment in a Montessori classroom allows children to experience the joy of learning and the time to enjoy the process, ensuring the development of self-esteem, and providing the experiences from which children create their knowledge.

The prepared environment is designed to encourage them to interact with people and objects and help them to develop physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. Providing opportunities for self-correction, the children learn from their own mistakes and improve their judgment while doing activities that interest them.

Braemar's Montessori classroom contains five primary areas:
Practical Life, Sensorial, Math, Language Arts, and Cultural.

Practical Life exercises provide children with the opportunity to strengthen their muscles, perfect their coordination, hone their concentration and gain confidence in a particular skill.

Sensorial materials help children become aware of details by isolating differing qualities such as colour, weight, shape, texture, size, sound, etc. The children work with equipment to develop vocabulary, pre-writing and pre-math skills, as well the ability to distinguish, categorize and relate new information to what they know.

Numeration and computational skills are developed with specific math equipment. The children learn first with concrete materials, then by using abstract methods, and then a combination of both. Later by combining materials, separating, sharing, counting and comparing them, they demonstrate basic operations of arithmetic.

Language materials help children raise their awareness of sounds and how words are made up of units of sound. They begin to develop correct hand movement for writing letters, use symbols to write down their thoughts, and discover their own writing as a bridge to reading. In addition to the Montessori language material, children continue to build their phonetic knowledge and reading comprehension by working with the "Mac and Tab Primary Phonics" story books and workbooks.

The Cultural subjects are designed to broaden the children's view of the world. The children are introduced to science, history, geography, botany, zoology, art and French through a variety of "hands on" activities, visual materials and oral discussion in the classroom and through field trips during the school year. Children are introduced to the days of the week, months of the year, the weather around us and the changing of the seasons during daily calendar time.

Prep One

Language - The Science of Reading program is introduced in Prep One. Students have the opportunity to work with phonetic words, phonograms, rhyming words, singular/plurals, sight words, vowels/consonants and with initial, middle and ending sounds. Students work with Mini Readers. Students develop printing skills with a wide variety of activities, including our highly-effective Handwriting Without Tears Program. Students work with Mini Readers that will be read with the teacher in class and then invited into the Home Reading Program. Students will learn about the components of grammar and will explore the fundamentals of creative writing.

Mathematics - Students learn pertinent vocabulary and demonstrate their problem-solving skills through analysis, predictions and classifications. They investigate 2 and 3 dimensional geometric shapes, study basic spatial relationships, build structures, create patterns and designs, demonstrate an understanding of number relationships, investigate concepts of quantity and make use of one-to-one correspondence in counting and matching objects.

Science & Technology - Students investigate the natural world and the basic laws of nature through physical manipulation and observation, questioning, and prediction. Students are exposed to the classifications of different animals from around the world, seeds, study leaves, flowers, root systems and trees, and explore the structure and functioning of particular organisms, with special focus on the human body. Familiar objects and simple machines will be examined and safety awareness will be demonstrated.

Students will investigate the different countries and continents climates and cultures, including celebrations and traditions, to learn traditional dances & songs and to become familiar with an assortment of different flags from several countries. In addition students will investigate Canada's provinces and territories.

To gain a more concrete appreciation of the world, the historical evolution of everyday objects and concepts in our present lives, from transportation to clothing, homes, tools, musical instruments and even games, will be explored. Sequencing by creating personal timelines, as well as observing and discussing other timelines throughout history, will be introduced.

Language

Braemar's language curriculum is based on the understanding that literacy is vital to responsible and productive citizenship. Students develop skills in communication that are integrated with the study of other subjects; these ensure they will become effective:

- Readers, able to grasp ideas communicated in a text and to apply them in new contexts;
- Writers, able to organize their thoughts, remember important information, reflect on a widening range of perspectives, and learn how to communicate effectively for specific purposes and audiences
- Oral Communicators, able to communicate information, and express and clarify their thoughts, feelings, and opinions
-

Resource support for literacy development is provided through specialized teacher training, and generous classroom libraries. Early skills in penmanship are developed with the highly effective *Handwriting Without Tears* program, and oral communication skills are enriched through our Drama program and formal Public Speaking competitions. Assessment in Reading is ongoing throughout the school year:

Prep One to Grade 3 - Developmental Reading Assessments (DRA3)

Grade 1:

Reading - Decoding strategies, home reading program (RAZ Kids), stories, poetry, language structures, comprehension strategies

Writing - Writing for a variety of purposes, proper punctuation, creative writing, story writing, editing

Oral Language - Reader's Theatre

Spelling - Word families, word ladders, sight words by phonics skills

Penmanship - Formation of upper and lower case letters (*Handwriting Without Tears*)

Phonics- Scope of Sequence-alphabet, short vowels, Consonant Blends, Basic Digraphs Long vowels, Vowel Teams, Silent letters.

Grade 2:

Reading - Building fluency, poetry, narratives, novel studies, home reading program (RAZ Kids)

Writing - Creative story writing, elements of a story, grammar, Poetry Cafe

Oral Language - Reader's Theatre, story telling

Spelling - Words from the UFLI Program

Penmanship - Proper printing formation (*Handwriting Without Tears*)

Grade 3:

Reading - Novel studies, short stories, poetry

Writing - Comprehension, Creative, Research, Informative, Instructional, Organization, Formal Letter writing, Editing, Publishing

Oral Language - Storytelling

Spelling and Grammar - Punctuation, sentences, parts of speech, Dictionary skills

Penmanship - Cursive writing (*Handwriting Without Tears*)

Grade 4:

Literature - Group and independent novel studies, poetry, book reports

Grammar - Punctuation, sentences, parts of speech

Oral Language - Book talks, Speeches

Spelling - Punctuation, sentences, parts of speech, individual enrichment

Creative Writing - Descriptive paragraphs, poetry, story writing, newspaper articles, book writing, journals, persuasive writing, Reading Response journals

Penmanship - Cursive Writing (Handwriting Without Tears)

Grade 5:

Literature - Novel studies, short stories, poetry, independent book reports

Grammar - Parts of speech, punctuation, building vocabulary, paragraph development, morphology, Word of the Day

Oral Language - Speeches

Creative Writing - narrative writing, poetry, descriptive compositions,

Penmanship - Cursive Writing (Handwriting Without Tears)

Grade 6:

Literature - Novel studies, poetry, short stories, articles

Grammar - Mechanics of speech, complex sentence structure

Oral Language - Speeches, debates, class discussion of current events

Creative Writing - Persuasive and informative writing, poetry, novel responses, revising and editing skills, use of story planners, scripting, quick writes, writing portfolios

Grade 7:

Literature - Novel studies, articles, reports, poetry, essays, Writing Portfolios

Grammar - Sentence structures, editing, parts of speech

Oral Language - Speeches

Creative Writing - Multi-media text, narratives, poetry, journals

Media Literacy- Analyze, Interpret and create effective media messages.

Grade 8:

Literature - Novel studies, short stories, media study, essays, reports, editorials

Grammar- Editing, proofreading and application of grammar

Oral Language- Speeches

Creative Writing - Multi-media text, narratives, poetry, Thesis Paper

Math –Braemar 's curriculum is designed to give students opportunities to investigate ideas and concepts through problem solving and then be guided carefully into an understanding of the mathematical principles involved. The acquisition of operational fluency basic skills remains an important focus of the curriculum. Braemar strives to offer a continuous, cohesive program through the grades. Five major areas of knowledge and skills have been identified and will be reported on:

Number Spatial Sense Algebra Data Financial Literacy

Math Power Hour Instruction occurs in a 60 minute block every morning.

Grade 1:

Number - Whole Numbers, Fractions, Addition and Subtraction, Introduction to Multiplication and Division, Math Facts, Mental Math

Algebra - Patterns, Variables, Equalities and Inequalities, Coding Skills

Financial Literacy - Money Concepts

Spatial Sense - Geometric Reasoning, Location and Movement, Attributes (length, mass/ capacity) Time (calendar, days, weeks)

Data - Data Collection and Organization, Data Visualization, Data Analysis and Probability

Grade 2:

Number - Whole Numbers, Fractions, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, Math Facts, Mental Math

Algebra - Patterns, Variables, Equalities and Inequalities, Coding Skills

Financial Literacy - Money Concepts

Spatial Sense - Geometric Reasoning, Location and Movement, Attributes, Length, Mass/ Capacity

Data - Data Collection and Organization, Data Visualization, Data Analysis and Probability

Grade 3:

Number - Whole Numbers, Fractions, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, Math Facts, Mental Math

Algebra - Patterns, Variables, Equalities and Inequalities, Coding Skills

Financial Literacy - Money Concepts

Spatial Sense - Geometric Reasoning, Location and Movement, Attributes, Length, Mass/ Capacity, Time (analog, digital clocks- hours, minutes, seconds), Area, Calculating change

Data - Data Collection and Organization, Data Visualization, Data Analysis and Probability

Grade 4:

Number - Whole Numbers, Fractions and Decimals, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division (2 and 3 digit by 1 digit), Math Facts, Mental Math

Algebra - Patterns, Variables, Equalities and Inequalities, Coding Skills

Financial Literacy - Money Concepts

Spatial Sense - Geometric Reasoning, Location and Movement, Attributes, Length, Mass/ Capacity, Elapsed Time , Metric System, Angles (right straight, acute or obtuse) Area, Money (payment methods, saving, investing etc)

Data - Data Collection and Organization, Data Visualization, Data Analysis and Probability

Grade 5:

Number - Whole Numbers, Fractions, Decimals and Percents, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division (2 and 3 digit by 2 digit), Math Facts, Mental Math
Algebra - Patterns, Variables and Expressions, Equalities and Inequalities, Coding Skills
Financial Literacy - Money -cost of multiple items including tax, transfer of money
Spatial Sense - Geometric Reasoning, Location and Movement, Attributes, Length, Mass/Capacity, Elapsed Time, Metric System, Angles (right straight, acute or obtuse) Area, **Data** - Data Collection and Organization, Data Visualization, Data Analysis and Probability

Grade 6:

Number - Rational Numbers, Fractions, Decimals and Percents, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division (3 digit whole numbers by decimal tenths), Multiply whole numbers by fractions
Algebra - Patterns, Variables and Expressions, Equalities and Inequalities, Coding Skills
Financial Literacy - Financial Planning, factors that impede saving/investing
Spatial Sense - Geometric Reasoning, Location and Movement, plot on Cartesian plane, Metric System, Measure and Construct Angles Area, Money (cost of multiple items including tax, transfer of money)
Data - Data Collection and Organization, Data Visualization, Data Analysis and Probability

Grade 7:

Number - Rational Numbers, Fractions, Convert between fractions decimals and percents, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division (fractions)
Algebra - Patterns, Variables and Expressions, Equalities and Inequalities, Coding Skills
Financial Literacy - Financial Planning, factors that impede saving/investing
Spatial Sense - Geometric Reasoning, Location and Movement, plot on Cartesian plane, Metric System, Measure and Construct Angles, Area, Circles, Volume and Surface area, Money (identify and compare exchange rates)
Data - Data Collection and Organization, Data Visualization, Data Analysis and Probability

Grade 8:

Number - Rational and Irrational Numbers, Fractions, Decimals and Percents, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division (fractions)
Algebra - Patterns, Variables and Expressions, Equalities and Inequalities, Coding Skills
Financial Literacy - Financial Planning, factors that impede saving/investing
Spatial Sense - Geometric Reasoning, Location and Movement, describe and perform rotations, translations on Cartesian plane, Metric System, Circles, Lines and Angles, Measure and Construct various angles, Length, Volume and Area, Money (Advantages and disadvantages of various payment methods tax, transfer of money)
Data - Data Collection and Organization, Data Visualization, Data Analysis and Probability

In addition, Braemar will integrate Social—Emotional Skill development within all 5 strands. Whenever possible, teachers will apply mathematics to real-life situations.

Social Studies, History and Geography

The focus of teaching and learning in the social studies, history and geography curriculums is to have students learn to evaluate different points of view and examine information critically. Social studies seek to examine and understand communities, from the local to the global, their various heritages, physical systems, and the nature of citizenship within them, and to acquire a knowledge of concepts like change, culture, environment, power, and the dynamics of the marketplace. The Grade 1 to 6 programs focus on Heritage, Citizenship, and Canada and its world connections. The Grade 7 and 8 history program focuses on Canadian history and students learn how lessons from the past can be used to make wise decisions for the present and the future. The study of history in Grades 7 and 8 builds on the skills, attitudes, and knowledge developed in Grades 1 to 6. The Geography program examines the earth's physical systems and the people in them, and investigates how people and environments affect each other.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade 1:

- Heritage and Identity: Our Changing Roles and Responsibilities
- People and Environments: The Local Community

Grade 2:

- Heritage and Identity: Changing Family and Community Traditions
- People and Environments: Global Communities

Grade 3:

- Heritage and Identity: Communities in Canada, 1780-1850
- People and Environments: Living and Working in Ontario

Grade 4:

- Early Societies 3000 BCE-1500 CE
- Political and Physical Regions of Canada

Grade 5:

- First Nations and Europeans in New France And Early Canada
- Role of Government and Responsible Citizenship

Grade 6:

- Heritage and Identity -Communities in Canada Past, Present.
- People and Environments -Canada's interactions with the Global Community

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Grade 7 and 8

Grade 7:

History - New France and British North America exploring conflict and change 1713-1800

Canada 1800-1850: Conflict and Challenges

Geography - Physical Patterns in a changing world
Natural Resources around the world: use and sustainability

Grade 8:

History - Creating Canada, 1850-1890

Canada, 1890-1914: A Changing Society

Geography - Global Settlement: Patterns and Sustainability
Global Inequalities: Economic Development and Quality of Life

PERSONAL WELLNESS

Braemar has conscientiously developed strong Personal Wellness programming. Yoga for all students that includes Mindfulness exercises as well as a strong supportive Guidance framework.

Yoga

All students participate Yoga class , led by a trained Yoga Instructor. The students will learn yoga moves, practice mindfulness, breathing exercises, stress management and relaxation techniques.

Guidance

We offer Guidance sessions for any student needing extra support with academic, social or emotional issues. As we have done in the past, the Principal and Grade 8 teacher will support the Grade 8 students as they select their high school, Grade 9 courses and prepare for the move into High School.

There is additional resource support from the Mind Up Wellness Curriculum as well as the Zones of Regulation Program.

French

All Braemar students, from Prep One to Grade 8, receive instruction in French, and each passing year gives them the opportunity to build and develop their skills. Students easily meet Ministry curriculum expectations and many work well beyond their grade level.

Various enrichment activities complement work in class and every effort is made to connect the French program with other areas of the curriculum. Activities include puppet show presentations, a celebration of Le Carnaval du Mardi-Gras, maple sugar season, a glimpse of Francophone culture around the world, and a fashion show.

Prep One:

- Greetings
- Seasons
- Numbers
- Colours

Grade 1:

- Days and Months
- Seasons/Calendar
- Classroom objects
- Family members
- Review of Numbers and Colours

Grade 2:

- The Calendar
- Food
- Community
- Transportation

Students develop oral skills with increased vocabulary to include simple sentences.

Grade 3:

- Pets
- Emotions
- Exploring an island
- Music and actions

Grade 4:

- The media
- Heroes
- Advertising
- Forest life

Language structures are introduced, such as the use of pronouns, simple verbs, adjectives and questions.

Grade 5:

- Clothes
- Foods and recipes
- Sports
- A visit to the fire station
- School activities
- Trades and professions
- Outdoor activities

Introduction to main verbs, prepositions, possessive adjectives, agreement in gender

Grade 6:

- Family and community
- Clothing and physical descriptions
- Ordering in a restaurant

and number.

Grade 7:

- Virtual reality
- Microbes
- Winter destinations
- Diversity
- A visit to a museum

Grade 8

- Police investigations
- Travels in the Francophonic world
- Promoting and marketing a snack bar

Past and future tenses, irregular verbs, negation, imperative, and creative writing.

Primary French focuses on the Oral component of the French language program. The Junior Intermediate program focuses on Reading, Writing and Oral components of the French language.

Science

Braemar's Science program involves exploration, experimentation, observation, measurement, and analysis - specific skills necessary to effective learning. Our focus is on interaction, structure, function, sustainability, continuity, and change. The program is enriched through our School Food Garden (details on the next page) and our Science Fair which is held every other year. Through both experiences, students have the opportunity to apply their knowledge and interests in practical, relevant, and concrete activities.

Grade 1:

STEM Skills and Connections-Stem Investigations
Life Systems-Needs and Characteristics of Living Things
Matter and Energy-Energy in our lives
Structures and Mechanisms-Everyday Objects and Materials
Earth and Space Systems-Daily and Seasonal Changes

STEM Skills and Connections-Stem Investigations
Life Systems-Human Health and Body Systems
Matter and Energy-Properties of and Changes in Matter
Structures and Mechanisms-Forces acting on Structures
Earth and Space Systems-Conservation of Energy and Resources

Grade 2

STEM Skills and Connections-Stem Investigations
Life Systems-Growth and Changes in animals
Matter and Energy-Properties of liquids and solids
Structures and Mechanisms-Simple Machines and Movement
Earth and Space Systems-Air and Water in the Environment

Grade 6

STEM Skills and Connections-Stem Investigations
Life Systems-Biodiversity
Matter and Energy-Electrical Phenomena, Energy and Devices
Structures and Mechanisms-Flight
Earth and Space Systems-Space

Grade 3

STEM Skills and Connections-Stem Investigations
Life Systems-Growth and Changes in plants
Matter and Energy-Forces in Motion
Structures and Mechanisms-Strong and Stable Structures
Earth and Space Systems-Soils in the Environment

Grade 7

STEM Skills and Connections-Stem Investigations
Life Systems-Interactions in the Environment
Matter and Energy-Pure Substances and Mixtures
Structures and Mechanisms-Form, Function and Designs of Structures
Earth and Space Systems-Heat in the Environment

Grade 4

STEM Skills and Connections-Stem Investigations
Life Systems-Habitats and Communities
Matter and Energy-Light and Sound
Structures and Mechanisms-Pulleys and Gears
Earth and Space Systems-Rocks and Minerals

Grade 8

STEM Skills and Connections-Stem Investigations
Life Systems-Cells
Matter and Energy-Fluids
Structures and Mechanisms-Systems in Action
Earth and Space Systems-Water Systems

Grade 5

The Braemar School Food Garden

An ongoing Enriched Learning Opportunity for all students.

In 2008 Braemar built and planted a school food garden to support curriculum objectives in Science, Social Studies, and Healthy Living. The hands-on experience has proven to be a welcome resource for students and staff, and provides for additional learning opportunities in almost all the other subject areas. The garden was designed and built, and is planted, maintained, and harvested, by the school community, and is a Healthy Living Coalition supported project.

Social Studies

Students have an opportunity to:

Understand how the early settlers lived off of the land

Understand the importance of crops for the Indigenous Peoples

Science

Students have the opportunity to:

Learn the different parts of a plant, flower and leaf

Discuss how the sun's energy works to grow food.

Study the Life Cycle of the plant

Understand the importance of good soil to successfully grow plants

Garden Club/Classroom Gardening

Students have the opportunity to:

Learn about the function of mulch for garden maintenance

Learn how to weed and cultivate garden beds

Plant, grow and compost vegetables

Harvest vegetables

Math

Students have the opportunity to:

Research recipes, follow and adapt recipes using math skills

Use math skills to determine the volume of mulch required to successfully support the planted items

Art

Students have the opportunity to:

Sit in the outside classroom to sketch the garden, the plants and wildlife visiting the garden.



Arts Programming

The Arts programming at Braemar provides for one Arts focus each term. This allows for greater depth, more effective resource allocation, and a shared concentration on each of the three Art subjects; Visual Arts, Music and Drama. We actively encourage the presence of the Arts in all subjects at any time and the Arts are integrated into ALL learning experiences; science, math, language, social studies, and technology. Braemar students sing, draw, paint and perform throughout the year, even though they are not being formally assessed outside of the terms identified.

Visual Arts: Artistic experiences foster creative thinking and provide opportunity for individual expression. The culminating event for the Visual Art focus is the Braemar Art Show, allowing students to exhibit their work for the public.

Montessori:

- Plastercine
- Painting
- Scissor and paper designs
- Colouring
- pastels

Prep One:

- Paper design
- Colouring
- Painting
- Plastercine

Grade 1:

- Lines
- Colour mixing
- Texture
- Mixed media
- Art appreciation

Grade 2:

- Watercolours
- Pastels
- Mixed media
- Plastercine sculpture

Grade 3:

- Collage
- Perspective
- Watercolour
- Dioramas
- Clay and sculpture
- Mixed media
- Colour wheel

Grade 4:

- Mixed Media
- Oil pastel prints
- Landscape painting
- Watercolour
- Mosaics
- Miniatures

Grade 5:

- Shading, drawing, painting
- Mixed media, sculpture
- Art Show critique
- Print making
- Design
- Clay and sculpture
- Mixed media
- Paper technique

Grade 6:

- Shading and blending
- Watercolours
- Paper techniques
- Mixed media

Grade 7 and 8:

Students will explore the following Elements of Design:

- Line
- Shape and Form
- Space
- Colour
- Texture

And use a variety of techniques:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Printmaking
- Mixed media

Music

The music curriculum is intended to help students develop an understanding and appreciation of music. Qualified instruction also ensures students acquire the ability to play several different instruments.

The Braemar Choir offers valuable performance opportunities for students, and all students perform as part of our annual Braemar Music Recital.

Pre Montessori- Specialized Music Program

Junior Montessori: Specialized early music program.

Prep One: Choral singing, clap patterns, rhythm sticks

Grade 1 and 2:

Melody: Echo singing, hand signs of the solfa scale, scale patterns

Rhythm: Clap patterns, ear training, time signatures

Vocal: Vocal range, posture and breathing, choral singing

Grade 3: Introduction to Orff Instruments

Grade 4: Rhythm Sticks

Grade 5: Keyboarding

Grade 6: Ukuleles

Grade 7: Introduction to Guitar

Grade 8: Ukuleles

Drama

Drama classes are intended to develop self confidence, communication and theatrical skills. Individual and group activities provide an opportunity for students to express themselves orally and creatively. Each year students in all grades participate in the culminating enriched experience of our annual Spring Musical.

Activities explored:

Storytelling Grade 1 -3

Skit development

Script Writing

Movie Creation

Role playing

Tableaux

Mime

Creative movement

Dance

Warm-up exercises

Information Technology

Information Technology is taught in a way that ensures children become "21st century learners" while at the same time protecting them from technology overuse.

Our Montessori and Prep One students are not formally introduced to technology, favouring instead practical concrete materials and equipment.

Computer basics are introduced in Grade 1, with applications in Language and Math in Grade 2. Braemar believes that our teachers (not computers) remain the most effective instructors of children.

The Braemar Broadcast, the school's Blog page, will be used to highlight our student and school activities throughout the year. Families will have access to Google Classrooms, which will be managed by each classroom teacher and are meant to keep parents and students in the loop with classroom programming, pictures, calendar etc.

Through a variety of cross curricular activities students acquire the following skills:

Grade One, Two, Grade Three, Grade Four, Grade Five, Grade 6

- Chromebooks are introduced and provided into the Grade 1 classroom
- Utilize Google Chromebooks on daily basis to produce work, navigate websites (Mathletics, Coding.org)
- Use keyboards and other common input and output devices efficiently and effectively.
- Be exposed to the Internet and search engines to locate relevant, reliable information (including text, images, streaming audio and video) on a specified topic.
- Publish work using Google Docs, Google Slides, or other similar word processing application;
- Demonstrate responsible use of technology and information; describe personal consequences of inappropriate use.

Grade Seven, Grade Eight

Students in Grade 7 and 8 are required to have their own Digital Device (Laptop or Chromebook in class to support their learning. Digital textbooks are utilized for certain subjects.

- Apply strategies for identifying and solving routine hardware and software problems that occur during everyday use.
- Exhibit legal and ethical behaviors when using information and technology, and discuss consequences of misuse.
- Use content-specific tools, software, and simulations
- Design, develop, publish, and present using technology resources that demonstrate and communicate curriculum concepts to audiences inside and outside the classroom.
- Select and use appropriate tools and technology resources to accomplish a variety of tasks and solve problems.
- Demonstrate an understanding of concepts underlying hardware, software, and connectivity, and of practical applications to learning and problem solving.
- Research and evaluate the accuracy, relevance, appropriateness, comprehensiveness, and bias of electronic information sources concerning real-world problems.
- Use telecommunications and online resources (e.g., e-mail, online discussions, Web environments) to participate in collaborative problem-solving activities for the purpose of developing solutions or products for audiences inside and outside the classroom.
- Learn proper email etiquette

S.T.E.A.M.
Science. Technology. Engineering .Art. Math

Braemar's. S.T.E.A.M. Program was implemented in 2022. Students from Grade 1 through Grade 8 receive weekly classes with a S.T.E.A.M. specialist teacher.

Grade 1-2

Students learn:

- The various parts of a computer and identify components that provide input and output.
- Explore the relationship between hardware and software and learn that binary is the language that computers use to understand and communicate information.
- Block coding using Scratch
- Develop simple animation projects

Grade 3 - 8

Students learn:

- The relationship between hardware and software and learn that binary is the language that computers use to understand and communicate information.
- How to read and write numeric values in binary and represent letters using ASCII.
- Advanced Block coding skills using Scratch
- Text Based Coding
- Create final projects, involving a controller that connects to their computer code using physical computing devices
- Circuitry, conductivity and insulation. Students research and engage their engineering skills.
- Troubleshooting of various scenarios in order to develop a desired end result.
- To explore beyond the core curriculum, applying foundational knowledge and research strategies to develop skills in areas not explicitly taught (ie. Hydraulics)

Physical Education

Physical Education starts with our youngest children and encourages active participation with skill development. As students mature they are introduced to both individual activities and team sports in class and through extracurricular involvement. New sports or activities are introduced in each grade, followed up in subsequent years with further skill development through drill work and game play. There is a strong focus on teamwork, sportsmanship and cooperation.

Pre Montessori

- Fine & Gross motor skill development,
- Running, Jumping, Throwing, Climbing
- cooperative /coordination games

Montessori and Prep One:

- Fine & Gross motor skill development
- Running, Jumping, Throwing, Climbing
- cooperative games, taking turns

Grade 1

- Practice hopping, skipping, galloping skills
- Develop throwing, catching kicking skills
- Balance and Coordination
- Simple Games
- Cooperative games
- Basic sport related skills using a variety of equipment

Grade 2

- Refine basic movement skills and combine them in sequences
- Use equipment safely in activities
- Teamwork and Fair Play
- Simple and cooperative Games
- Develop spatial awareness and body control
- Basic sport related skills using a variety of equipment

Grade 3:

- Improve consistency in locomotor and manipulative skills
- Apply movement skills in modified games and activities
- Learn to identify components in Fitness (strength, endurance)
- Understand how effort affects the body
- Emphasize cooperation, communication and inclusion

Grade 4:

- Apply a variety of movement strategies in game situations
- Develop stamina, strength and

flexibility

- Demonstrate understanding of fair play and rules
- Refine sport skills and use them in small games that encourage teamwork and spatial awareness

Grade 5:

Students in Grade 5 participate in the Stay Safe Program

- Combine movement skills in more complex activities and sports
- Refine strategies and decision making
- Explore how physical activity impacts health and well being.
- Develop stamina, strength and flexibility

Grade 6:

Students in Grade 6 participate in the Babysitting Course.

- Participate in more structured games and specific sport specific skills
- Use tactics and strategies in game play
- Focus on self assessment for personal physical fitness
- Explore how physical activity impacts health and well being.

Grade 7 and 8:

Students in Grade 7 and 8 participate in a six week Personal Wellness Series (Spin Cycling and Physical Conditioning)

- Set personal fitness goals
- Refine sport skills and strategies through competitive game playing
- Focus on self assessment for personal physical fitness
- Explore how physical activity impacts health and well being.

Intramurals : Will happen for most grades alongside the current caristy sport focus.

For example: 21 Basketball Tournament, Badminton Tournament, soccer baseball.

Athletics : Varsity teams play in a sports league competing against other Independent schools. Students in Grades 7 & 8 are able to play on Varsity Teams.

The school fields Varsity teams for interschool competition in:

Basketball, Volleyball, Cross-Country, Soccer, Track and Field , Ball Hockey

Homework

Work at home is an important extension of the learning experience in school. Students benefit from some homework each week that is age and ability appropriate.

It is important for the development of time management and organizational skills that the final responsibility for homework completion rests with each student. Students should enter assignments in their Agenda Books, on their personal device or on their cell phones.

Teachers and Parents should check to see that project work is ongoing so that students are not rushing at the last minute to complete the work. Students should understand how to do the work so that it is not a homework assignment for parents; a request for re-teaching made by the parent in the agenda the next day is entirely appropriate.

Parents are encouraged to check their child's Agenda each evening and ask to see completed homework assignments when the child is finished. Purpose of the homework: • To reinforce skills to a competency level • To develop time management skills • To develop organizational skills • To share knowledge with family • To complete work student did not complete in class time when necessary Guidelines for amount of time spent on homework: •

***Note - not for the Pre Montessori students**

- Junior Montessori (JK) and Prep One - "show and share" •
- Grade One and Two - Weekly Take Home Folders- average of 15 minutes per night
- Grade Three and Four - average of mandatory 30 minutes per night
- Grade Five and Six - average of mandatory 30- 45 minutes night
- Grade Seven and Eight - up to an average of 60-75 minutes per night

Examples of Homework:

- Completing an assignment not completed in class. Students should understand the concepts involved so that they can complete this work with minimal assistance
- Studying a spelling list
- Doing a title page rather than using class time
- Reading a chapter of a novel and answering the questions assigned
- Working on an assigned project
- Practicing math facts
- Checking notebooks for completeness and organization
- Catching up on work missed due to an absence
- Colouring maps, science diagrams, etc.
- Making corrections or redoing a test that was not done well
- Extensions of something studied in class



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