

# **Braemar House School**

## **Curriculum Guide**

Striving for  
**Striving for  
Excellence**

**September 2019**

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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.**

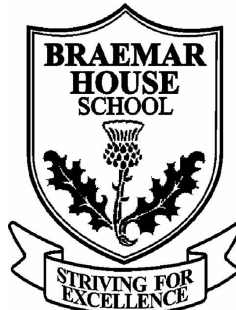
Braemar House School is more than a house, it's a home.

**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 and,
- 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. Careful consideration is given with regards to field trips, special guests, school-wide events and extra-curricular teams and activities.

Braemar's Montessori and Elementary School 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 Native 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. Montessori is its own Snipe 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 and 4 - 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 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. It serves the expectation of our History and Geography curriculum to "relate and apply the knowledge acquired to the world outside the classroom".

## Montessori Casa and Prep One

Our youngest Braemar students are enrolled in our Montessori program for 3 and 4 years olds and our "Prep One" Program for 5 year olds.

Taking full advantage of the hands-on inspired learning, concept building and critical thinking skills that come with a Montessori introduction to school, the Montessori program is followed by our unique and innovative Prep One program. 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.

### Montessori Casa

Maria Montessori believed that 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** - 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 develop printing skills with a wide variety of activities, including our highly-effective Handwriting Without Tears Program. Gradually, each child is assigned a workbook which has subsequent 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, 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 different countries, climates and cultures, including celebrations and traditions, and will have the opportunity to sample authentic foods, 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, as well as the symbolic and historical significance behind each provincial flag.

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 (DRA)

Grade 4 to 8 - Oral Fluency Testing

(Reading aloud, number of words per minute)

## ***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, journals, creative writing, story writing, editing

Oral Language - Reader's Theatre, puppet play

Spelling - High frequency Word Wall

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

## ***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 - High frequency Word Wall

Penmanship - Proper printing formation (Handwriting Without Tears)

## ***Grade 3:***

Reading - Novel studies, short stories, poetry, home reading program (RAZ Kids)

Writing - Friendly letters, research reports, editing, publishing

Oral Language - Storytelling

Spelling and Grammar - High frequency Word Wall, 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 - Dictionary work, punctuation, sentences, parts of speech  
Oral Language - Book talks, speeches, Literature Circles  
Spelling - Canadian Spelling Program 2.1 (Gr.4), 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  
Oral Language - Speeches  
Spelling - Canadian Spelling Program 2.1 (Gr. 5), individual enrichment,  
Creative Writing - Autobiographies, narrative writing, poetry, descriptive compositions, journals  
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  
Spelling - Canadian Spelling Program 2.1 (Gr. 6), individual enrichment, novel study vocabulary,  
Creative Writing - Persuasive and informative writing, poetry, novel responses, revising and editing skills, use of story planners, scripting, quick writes, time capsules

**Grade 7:**

Literature - Novel studies, articles, reports, poetry, essays  
Grammar - Sentence structures, editing, parts of speech  
Oral Language - Speeches  
Spelling- Canadian Spelling Program 2.1 (Gr. 7), individual enrichment, literature vocabulary  
Creative Writing - Multi-media text, narratives, poetry, journals

**Grade 8:**

Literature - Novel studies, short stories, media study, essays, reports, editorials  
Grammar- Editing, proofreading and application of grammar  
Oral Language- Speeches  
Spelling - Canadian Spelling Program 2.1 (Gr.8), individual enrichment, Literature vocabulary  
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 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 Sense and Numeration
- Measurement
- Geometry and Spatial Sense
- Patterning and Algebra
- Data Management and Probability.

In addition, Braemar integrates the Ministry's directive to present Financial Literacy across the five math strands and within other Subjects as appropriate. Teachers will, whenever possible, apply mathematics to real-life situations.

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

## *Grade 1:*

Number Sense - number arrangements, estimation, skip counting, addition and subtraction

Patterning and Algebra - sorting, make and extend patterns

Measurement - cooking, time to the hour and half hour, naming coins, thermometer

Geometry - 2 and 3D shapes, symmetry

Data Management - bar and pictographs

## *Grade 2:*

Number Sense - money, skip counting, fractions, addition, subtraction

Patterning and Algebra - patterns, equality

Measurement - mm to km, time, temperature, days, weeks, perimeter

Geometry - geometric properties, 2D 3D symmetry, composing shapes

Data Management - categorize, graphs, probability

## *Grade 3:*

Number Sense - Fractions, decimals, properties of multiplication/division

Patterning and Algebra - Number Patterns

Measurement - Linear, mass, volume

Geometry - Polygons, quadrilaterals, translations, reflections, rotation

Data Management - bar graphs, line graphs, pictographs

## *Grade 4:*

Number Sense - Fractions, decimals, addition and subtraction 2 digit numbers, multiplication/ division of 2 digit by 1 digit numbers.

Patterning and Algebra - Creating and extending numeric/ geometric patterns

Measurement - Units of measurement, time, money, perimeter and area.

Geometry - Benchmark angles, measuring with protractor, attributes of 2 and 3 dimensional figures

Data Management - Graphs, surveys

*Grade 5:*

Number Sense - Add/subtract decimals, problem solving, long division, whole numbers to 100,000

Patterning and Algebra - Number patterns for working with data, multiplication and estimating. Algebra in geometric calculations.

Measurement - Formulas for area, perimeter, volume, circumference, capacity, measuring time, mass

Geometry - S.I. notation for dates, circles, calculating angles, in circles, constructing triangles, transformations

Data Management - median, mode, mean, choosing a reasonable scale, probability, tree diagrams

*Grade 6:*

Number Sense - Order of operations, exponents, percentages, integers, Decimals, fractions

Patterning and Algebra - relating variables, whole numbers, problem solving

Measurement - Relating and changing metric units, elapsed time, perimeter, volume, area

Geometry - Triangles, parallel and congruent lines, variables, symbols

Data Management - Coordinate graphing, statistics, predictions, sampling, measures of central tendency, explore bias in data

*Grade 7:*

Number Sense - Decimals, fractions, integers, squares, square roots, division, order of operations, percentages, problem solving

Patterning and Algebra - linear relationships, algebraic expressions, substitutions, solving linear problems algebraically and graphically

Measurement - conversions, area relationships, volume, surface area

Geometry - parallel, perpendicular and intersecting lines; classifying triangles and quadrilaterals; bisectors; congruency; enlarging and reducing shapes; graphing

Data Management - collect and organize data, represent in tables and graphs, identify bias, inferencing, probability

*Grade 8:*

Number Sense - Fractions operations, integers, ratios, rates, percents, exponents, order of operations, probability,

Patterning and Algebra - identifying patterns, solving equations, and problem solving

Measurement - estimation, conversion, measure and create

Geometry - Pythagorean relationship, angle properties, 2 dimensional, 3 dimensional, (area, volume, perimeter)

Data Management - collection and display, analysis and interpretation

# 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** (following newly revised Social Studies Curriculum 2018)

### *Grade 1:*

- Our Changing Roles and Responsibilities
- The Local Community
- Mapping skills

### *Grade 2:*

- Changing Family and Community
- Global Communities
- Mapping skills

### *Grade 3:*

- Communities in Canada; 1780-1850
- 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:*

- Communities in Canada Past, Present.
- Canada's interactions with the Global Community

## **HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY**

(following newly revised Social Studies Curriculum 2018)

### *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

## **LIFE SKILLS**

### *Grade 7 and 8*

#### *Grade 7 and 8 Home -Tech Program*

Over the course of the school year students participate in a variety of Home-Tech sessions: construction design, a building project, culinary arts, gardening and etiquette.

## **PERSONAL WELLNESS**

All students from Prep One to Grade 8 participate in a weekly Yoga class , led by a trained Yoga Instructor in one of the three terms (13 classes).

Resources support from the Mind Up Wellness Curriculum

Student Services Support for all students

# French

All Braemar students, from Montessori 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.

## *Montessori and Prep One:*

- Greetings
- Seasons
- Numbers
- Colours

## *Grade 1:*

- Parts of the body
- Seasons/Calendar
- Classroom objects
- Family members
- Farm animals

## *Grade 2:*

- The Calendar
- Food
- Community
- Transportation
- Continents

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

## *Grade 6:*

- Family and community
- Clothing and physical descriptions
- Ordering in a restaurant
- Trades and professions
- Outdoor activities

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

# Science

Braemar's Science program involves exploration, experimentation, observation, measurement, and analysis - specific skills necessary to effective learning.

The program is organized into four areas of knowledge and skills:

- Understanding Life Systems
- Understanding Structures and Mechanisms
- Understanding Matter and Energy
- Understanding Earth and Space Systems

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:*

Life Systems - Living things

Structures and Mechanisms- Materials, objects and everyday structures

Matter and Energy - Energy in our lives

Earth and Space- Daily / seasonal cycles

Matter and Energy - Properties of and changes in matter

Earth and Space - Conservation of Energy and Resources

## *Grade 2*

Life Systems - Growth and change in animals

Structures and Mechanisms- Movement

Matter and Energy - Liquids and solids

Earth and Space - Air and water

## *Grade 6*

Life Systems - Biodiversity

Structures and Mechanisms- Electricity

Matter and Energy - Air and flight

Earth and Space - Space

## *Grade 3*

Life Systems - Growth/change in plants

Structures and Mechanisms- Stability

Matter and Energy - Forces / Movement

Earth and Space - Soils

## *Grade 7*

Life Systems - Ecosystems

Structures and Mechanisms- Structure

Matter and Energy - Pure substances and mixtures

Earth and Space - Heat

## *Grade 4*

Life Systems - Habitats / Communities

Structures and Mechanisms-

Pulleys and Gears

Matter and Energy - Light and Sound

Earth and Space - Rocks and Minerals

## *Grade 8*

Life Systems - Cells and organisms

Structures and Mechanisms- Systems

Matter and Energy - Fluids

Earth and Space - Water

## *Grade 5*

Life Systems - Human Organ Systems

Structures and Mechanisms- Forces

acting on structures

# 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.

### *Montessori and Prep One:*

The Garden provides opportunities for learning in Practical Life and Science through Care of the Outdoor Environment in watering plants, and weeding and cultivating beds, as well as learning parts of a plant, flower and leaf, all while developing appropriate language.

### *Grade 1:*

Students meet Science and Social Studies curriculum expectations as they plant, grow and compost a pumpkin, harvest vegetables and discuss how the sun's energy works to grow food. Daily and seasonal changes are observed while math skills are developed in weighing, measuring and graphing. The Grade 1 Cooking program will benefit immensely by the addition of student grown produce.

### *Grade 2:*

Students will discuss what animals you might find in a garden, and the things needed to sustain plant life. Math skills will be enriched as students estimate how many seeds one pumpkin produces and measurement in circumference. Art classes are enriched as students explore texture.

### *Grade 3:*

Students will study the Life cycle of the plant, and the parts of the flower and plant. As part of their Social studies program they will plant the "three sisters" (corn, squash, beans), and replicate a Pioneer garden, planting vegetables to preserve as well as herbs, tomatoes, cucumbers, corn, beans, peas, watermelon, pumpkin and squash.

### *Grade 4:*

Social Studies discussion will focus on how people from Early Societies harvested crops and cooked with food that is harvested. Math may involve following recipes using fractions while Science explores Animal Habitats and the erosion of soil.



*Grade 5:*

Health and Science learning will focus on Canada's Food Guide (Human Body) and in finding the nutrients in different vegetables and how our bodies use the nutrients. Social Studies will involve mapping the gardens using scales and symbols, and in finding the perimeter and area of the garden. Art classes will focus on series sketching and the growth of the plant.

*Grade 6:*

Language and Grammar skills are strengthened, particularly in verbs and adjectives for Poetry and Creative Writing. Nutrition remains a focus with balanced meals and Canada's Food Guide, while Math skills in measurement, graphing, symmetry, and the "Golden Ratio" (Fibonacci) are explored.

*Grade 7:*

Design and construction of garden projects as part of the Life Skills program. Data Management for Mathematics in the collection and organization of data about plant growth in the garden.

*Grade 8:*

Cells and Life Systems are investigated through the function and processes of plant cells, Patterns in Human Geography might be discussed in the identification and description of types of land use, notably agriculture. Water systems and the sustainability of agricultural practices and impact on water resources are explored. Students will apply and relate geometric properties to garden design.



# 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.

## *Grade 1:*

- Lines
- Colour mixing
- Texture
- Mixed media
- Art appreciation
- Clay and sculpture
- Mixed media
- Paper techniques

## *Grade 2:*

- Watercolours
- Pastels
- Mixed media
- Plastercine sculpture

## *Grade 3:*

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

## *Grade 4:*

- Decoupage
- Oil pastel prints
- Landscape painting
- Watercolour
- Mosaics
- Printmaking

## *Grade 5:*

- Pottery
- Shading, drawing, painting
- Mixed media, sculpture
- Art Show critique
- Print making
- Design

## *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
- Value

And use a variety of techniques:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Printmaking
- Sculpture
- Mixed media
- Stop Motion Animation

# 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.

*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: Recorders*

*Grade 5: Keyboarding*

*Grade 6: Ukuleles*

*Grade 7: Introduction to Guitar*

*Grade 8: Percussion*

# 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

Interactive white boards, interactive voting hubs, integrated computer instruction, a laptop program, internet communication (blogging especially), and focused staff professional development contribute to an effective and dynamic IT program. 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. The interactive white board is introduced in Grades 1 and 2 for some lessons, while the majority of lessons are taught with hands-on demonstration. While technology usage, with the interactive white board and in front of a screen, increases with each grade (culminating in the one-to-one laptop program in Grades 7 and 8), teachers judiciously balance "screen time" with more traditional learning activities. Braemar believes that our teachers (not computers) remain the most effective instructors of children.

Braemar consistently looks to the guidelines set out by ISTE (International Standards for Technology in Education) in their NETS program (National Education Teaching Standards for Students).

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

## *Grade One, Grade Two*

- Learn to use input devices (e.g., mouse, keyboard) and output devices (e.g., monitor, printer) to successfully operate computers.
- Use interactive board tools including ActivExpression Voting Hubs
- Be introduced to applications that enable them to communicate ideas for specific purposes (e.g. KidPix to type sentences, create a pattern or a map of their classroom, draw geometric shapes; Word to publish a poem, descriptive paragraph, etc. )
- Learn positive social and ethical behaviors when using technology.
- Practice responsible use of technology systems and software.
- Use technology resources (e.g., puzzles, logical thinking programs, writing tools, digital cameras, drawing tools) for problem solving, communication, and illustration of thoughts, ideas, and stories.

## *Grade Three, Grade Four, Grade Five*

- Use keyboards and other common input and output devices efficiently and effectively. Practice keyboarding skills with online Keyboarding Program.
- Be exposed to the Internet and search engines to locate relevant, reliable information (including text, images, streaming audio and video) on a specified topic.
- Consolidate use of interactive board tools,
- Publish work using Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher, or other similar word processing application;
- Discuss basic issues related to responsible use of technology and information; describe personal consequences of inappropriate use.
- Use technology tools (e.g., multimedia authoring, presentation, digital

cameras, scanners) for individual and collaborative writing, communication, and publishing activities.

- Use technology resources (e.g., calculators, data collection probes, videos, educational software) for problem solving, self-directed learning, and extended learning activities.
- Chromebooks are introduced into the Grade 5 classroom

### *Grade Six, Grade Seven, Grade Eight*

- Apply strategies for identifying and solving routine hardware and software problems that occur during everyday use.
- Actively and confidently use interactive board tools
- 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
- Students in Grade 6 use Google Chromebooks as an introduction to the One to One Laptop Program.
- Students in Grade 7 and 8 are required to have a laptop in class to support their learning. Digital textbooks are utilized for certain subjects.

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 classroom blogs, which will be managed by each classroom teacher and are meant to enhance student learning experiences as well as improve parent-teacher-student communication. Students will be given significant opportunity to be authors on their classroom blog pages.

### **Coding**

All classes from Grade 1-8 work through a series of applications as they learn the fundamentals to computer coding using a variety of programs/platforms.

**Grades 1 & 2** 1 term program

**Grade 3** 2 term program

**Grades 4-8** 3 term program

The **First Lego League** runs as a varsity club, but is also integrated into the coding programming in Grades 6-8

# 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. Active recesses are encouraged with the provision of equipment for play, the use of wide open spaces, and mentoring by our older students.

All students from Montessori through Grade 4 take part in an eight week swimming lesson program each year.

## *Montessori and Prep One:*

- Fine motor skill development,
- gross motor skill development,
- cooperative games,
- coordination activities

## *Grade 1 and 2:*

Students explore individual movement and cooperative activities.

Skill focus:

- Balance and coordination
- Stretching and flexibility
- Relay races
- Small equipment (bean bags, balls, ropes etc.)
- Cooperative games
- Endurance activities

## *Grade 3:*

Students are introduced to more skill specific sports and organized team activities, including:

- Cross country running, track and field
- Soccer
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cooperative games

## *Grade 4:*

Students continue to focus on sport specific skills and positive team play.

- Volleyball
- Floor hockey
- Handball
- Exercise and fitness
- Creative movement

## *Grade 5:*

Students in Grade 5 participate in the Stay Safe-Red Cross Program. Team and individual sports at a more competitive level are introduced,

## *Grade 6:*

Students in Grade 6 participate in the Red Cross Babysitting Course. Personal fitness is a focus, with reinforcement of team sports.

## *Grade 7 and 8:*

Students in Grade 7 and 8 participate in a six week Personal Wellness Series which includes Physical Fitness Conditioning.

Students are encouraged to take an active leadership role with Braemar Bonanza.

All students from Grade 2-8 participate in Fitness Testing.

# Athletics

The school fields teams for interschool competition in:

Basketball	Volleyball	Cross-country running
Softball	Soccer	Track and Field (Indoor and Outdoor)
Ball Hockey		

Intramurals are offered in Ball Hockey, Badminton, Soccer, Baseball, and Curling.

# Homework

The purpose of homework is to reinforce skills to a competency level. It helps the student develop time management and organizational skills. It allows families to see the knowledge gained by the student. It also allows the student an opportunity to complete work that they did not complete in class time when necessary.

Montessori To help further student knowledge in sounds and numbers  
Sound Booklets, Sound Games, Number Flash Cards

Prep One Show and Share Preparation (once a month), Reading Program (5 minutes nightly)  
Mathletics (January to June)

Grade One Every Monday a Homework Folder is given to each student with 4 worksheets  
Math (1 sheet)  
Language (reading a short story reader)  
Science (1 sheet)  
Social Studies ( 1 sheet)

Grade Two Every Monday Take Home Folder is given to each student)  
Language (short story with comprehension questions)  
Math (Two worksheets on current unit being studied)  
Social Studies/French (1 worksheet)  
On classroom blog students can access online Mathletics /RAZ Kids websites

Grade Three Home Reading (15 minutes)  
Problem of the Week on classroom blog  
Studying for quizzes/tests ( Math, spelling, Science)  
Extra support for reading with flash cards, levelled readers

Grade Four Completion of any classroom work not done in class  
Classroom Blog homework  
Studying for quizzes/tests ( Math, spelling, Science)  
Average of 30 minutes daily

Grade Five Completion of any classroom work not done in class  
Classroom Blog homework 2-3 times weekly  
Studying for quizzes/tests ( Math, spelling, Science)

Grade Six Completion of any classroom work not done in class  
Research/Organizational aspects of projects  
Spelling  
Mathletics and Quizlet for Math and French review  
Studying for quizzes/tests ( Math, spelling, Science)

## Grade Seven

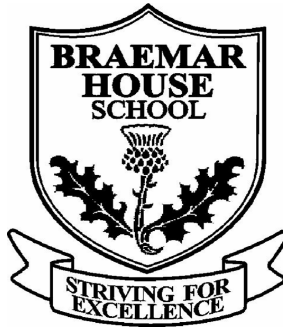
Completion of any classroom work not done in class  
Research/Organizational aspects of projects  
Spelling  
Mathletics and Quizlet for Math and French review  
Studying for quizzes/tests ( Math, spelling, Science)  
Reading Novel to be discussed in class on next day  
30-45 minutes daily

## Grade Eight

Completion of any classroom work not done in class  
Research/Organizational aspects of projects/Thesis Paper  
Spelling  
Mathletics and Quizlet for Math and French review  
Studying for quizzes/tests ( Math, spelling, Science)  
45 minutes- 1 hour daily

## Grade 4-8 French

Quizlet for 10-15 minutes daily for every new French unit being introduced



[www.braemarhouseschool.ca](http://www.braemarhouseschool.ca)

## Braemar House School

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