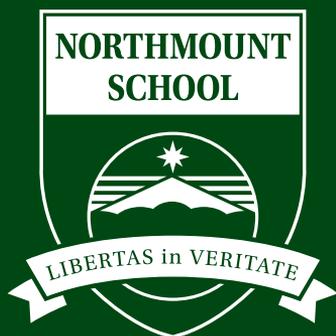


Northmount School's Primary Academy

THE FIRST STEP IN YOUR SON'S EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY



Inspire, Explore, Achieve

Toronto's only Independent Catholic Boys' Elementary School (JK-8)



WELCOME to Northmount's Primary Academy

At Northmount's Primary Academy, we believe that the transmission of knowledge, encouragement of curiosity, development of rational thought, and cultivation of responsible behavior are fundamental in instilling a lifelong love of learning in young boys.

To achieve this, we seek to create a nurturing, yet challenging, environment, where students gain the necessary skills for both creative and disciplined thought. As part of a well-rounded education, our Academy highlights opportunities to achieve in academic, athletic and artistic endeavors, as well as the ability to grow as responsible members of a community. All of this happens within an atmosphere of elevated expectations for personal, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual growth.

GRADE 1 READY: A HISTORY OF SUCCESS IN JK/SK

Junior and Senior Kindergarten are all about learning how to be a learner. Over the course of these two years, students grow and develop in countless ways. They discover the joy of exploring new ideas and begin to understand the world around them. Our faculty and staff love helping students learn to harness their innate passion and natural curiosity.

The building blocks of a successful educational journey begin with reading, writing, and arithmetic. By the end of the Kindergarten years, our students are fluent readers who display engagement with, and comprehension of, writing, numeracy (computational math), and learning in general - setting the stage for a successful transition into Grade 1 and the challenges to come.

Equally as important in the Kindergarten years is the development of lifelong study habits. Expectations in the Primary Academy provide the necessary boundaries for social development and age-appropriate maturity that extends beyond pure academic success. Our nurturing environment, balanced with rules and structure, provides guidance to students as they take their first steps towards independence.

We understand that a child's educational journey does not solely happen within the walls of a school. A partnership between the school and parents is fundamental to educational success. Reinforcing the learned skills at home, as well as ensuring homework completion, provides the necessary foundation to develop resiliency and spark a love of learning.

These are years of many firsts for students and parents. Our nurturing and knowledgeable teachers are always there to help our families navigate the exciting new world of "big kid" school. We are proud of our environment at Northmount's Primary Academy and its end result of developing confident young learners.

DIRECT INSTRUCTION: LEARN, PRACTICE, RETAIN

Direct instruction is an active, reflective approach to instruction that breaks learning into smaller steps through scaffolding. This results in greater student independence and mastery of concepts.

The following are the main pedagogical techniques of direct instruction:

- guided practice
- active student participation
- scaffolding
- gradual release of responsibility leading to student independence





FRENCH AND THE ARTS: SUBJECT SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Non-core subject areas are often overlooked as an important facet of primary education. This reality ignores research indicating that exposure to these subject areas are important for healthy brain development. As such, French, visual art, and music are an integral part of Northmount's Primary Academy curriculum. These subjects are taught by specialist teachers who are passionate and knowledgeable about their area of study.

FRENCH classes begin in Junior Kindergarten at Northmount's Primary Academy. This is a natural and ideal time for students to learn a new language, as their brains are rapidly developing. Beginning with books, songs and stories, students learn the basics of the French language and gradually develop proficiency in oratory, auditory, and written communication skills. Under the direction of our energetic French teachers, our students develop a sense of fluency while understanding that learning a second language can be fun.

ART class provides students with the opportunity to explore and experiment with a wealth of media, materials, processes, and ideas that emphasize self-expression and creativity. Most importantly, students gain confidence in their own artistic expression through practice and artistic direction. The emphasis of this program is on the process, not the product.

MUSIC permeates the entirety of Northmount's Primary Academy Program. In addition to regular music classes, the boys can often be found using song, rhythm, and movement to reinforce learned concepts and information in all areas of the curriculum. Specific to the music class, our young boys are immersed in this creative world and are taught age-appropriate theory and musicianship. This also extends to opportunities to participate in a variety of competitions, concerts, and school plays.

DAILY PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION

At Northmount's Primary Academy, we recognize that daily physical activity is crucial for young boys. In light of this, we offer daily opportunities for gross and fine motor development through both teacher-directed and student-led initiatives. This occurs in two ways: students have daily physical and health education which promotes planned development of dexterity, and three daily recesses. Together these provide ample opportunity to accommodate the high energy needs of boys.

Within the Health and Physical Education Program, individual differences and varying levels of physical maturity are addressed. The teacher promotes the development of fundamental movement abilities including locomotion, stability, gross and fine motor skills, spatial awareness, agility, coordination, and strength. This program is enhanced through both competitive and intramural competition. Our multi-faceted program emphasizes the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play, all of which are important to the growth of a young child.

THE WHOLE CHILD: CATHOLIC FAITH AND CHARACTER EDUCATION

Northmount School for Boys was founded by Catholic families and continues to embrace its heritage. Though we teach from this perspective, it is the ethos of the school that we respect universal values and welcome families of all faiths. Our school provides a distinctive faith-based educational experience; it is a model for Catholic character formation, where Gospel values are at the foundation of our religious and family life teachings.

As an integral part of the overall program, Northmount's Primary Academy plays a crucial role in this faith development. Focusing on the Catholic catechism, our teachers guide students as they embark on their personal spiritual journey. Our boys are taught to respect the dignity of each person and develop a strong sense of social responsibility as they mature into the moral and compassionate leaders of the future. These traits permeate the culture of our school and are the hallmarks of a Northmount education.

SMALL CLASS SIZES BY DESIGN

The benefits of smaller classes have been proven through study after study. Most teachers will tell you intuitively that working with fewer children improves the atmosphere and overall learning quality in the classroom - students are more confident and teachers more relaxed. This results in a less stressful environment.

In Northmount's Primary Academy, our maximum class size is 12 students for JK – Grade 1, and 15 students in Grades 2 - 3. This lower student to teacher ratio allows a tailored approach to attend to the needs of each student - we do not believe in a "one size fits all" approach. This small class size also provides an opportunity for our teachers to address individual questions and explain difficult concepts. Overall, having fewer students allows for the development of a more authentic relationship between our boys and teachers.





STUDENT ADVISORY PROGRAM: 1:1 MENTORSHIP

Even at such a young age, the Northmount Student Advisory Program is central to the development of our boys. Within this program, each student is assigned a mentor to assist him in achieving his academic and personal goals. This relationship also extends to parents as the advisor acts as a liaison, sharing information with them about their child's academic successes, areas for growth, and his understanding and practice of virtues.

As a core principle, advisory offers an emotional support for students during their development. We know that there is a direct link between a student's social and emotional well-being and his academic achievement. Therefore, the advisor is someone who the student knows well and with whom he can talk. The program promotes self-esteem and personal accountability, culminating in the development of resiliency in our boys.

BENEFITS OF A BOY-CENTRIC EDUCATION

Studies confirm that boys and girls learn differently. Here at Northmount, our program is guided by this research and utilizes best practices to optimize boys' learning.

CURRICULUM Boys often test significantly lower than girls in reading and writing. Northmount's Primary Academy tailors a vigorous curriculum to suit the needs of boys, including systemic phonics designed specially to teach young boys to read. A notable confirmation of our success can be found in standardized test results: our school consistently surpasses provincial and national averages.

MATURITY We understand that boys have a unique maturation process. Northmount's Primary Academy teachers recognize the high energy needs of boys; pedagogy and class expectations are established with these developmental stages in mind. Central to this process is our focus on the importance of a virtuous life, which regardless of age is essential for kindness, perseverance, and responsibility.

ACCEPTANCE Free from stigma and stereotypes, our boys are free to pursue all aspects of our academic and co-curricular programming. Within this environment, they are encouraged to cultivate their emotional intelligence, which is more difficult in co-ed situations.

BROTHERHOOD Our all-boys setting allows for the development of strong and healthy bonds of friendship and fellowship with peers and teachers. It is in this environment that friends are made for life and the impact of positive male role models can have its fullest effect.

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Knowing that a child is happy, safe, and well-cared for is the expectation of any parent. Our teachers ensure positive mental, physical, and emotional relationships that coincide with these beliefs and values – this we believe is priceless.

More than just an educational institution, Northmount's Primary Academy is a community. Teachers, parents, and students work together to create a warm and nurturing environment. In doing so, our boys are comfortable and confident: so much so that Northmount becomes their second home.

Ultimately, Northmount is a wonderful environment that succeeds in its goal of allowing our boys to play and learn while protecting the wonder and magic of childhood.



OUR HONOUR CODE

Integrity guides us in:

The words we use;

The actions we take;

The effort we give; and

The community we build.



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