
Junior Academy

Committed to Individual Excellence.

children friendship fun growth understanding
wisdom knowledge play learning drama leadership creative
cherished educate Innovative life create believe love family movement
insight fun friends strong teamwork devoted excellence explore
art sport love welcome music play Community

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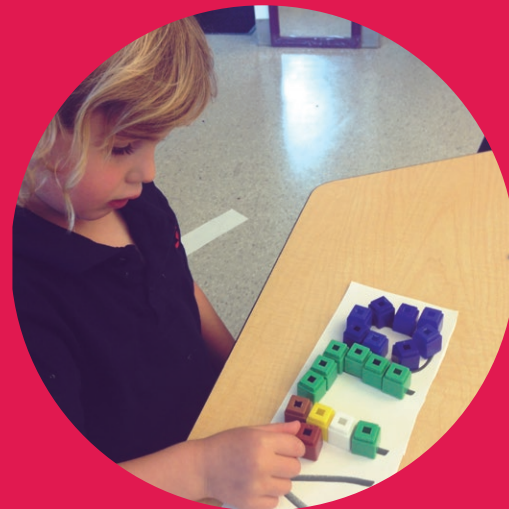


Junior Academy's Educational Philosophy

Established in 1988

Junior Academy has built a community around the families whose children attend our school. This community spirit is vital to ensuring all students feel they can achieve academic success.

Junior Academy has intentionally remained a small school. An inclusive atmosphere creates a sense of belonging that streams through our hallways nurturing students and faculty alike. As a result, Junior Academy excels at building self-esteem and confidence in all of their students.



“Words simply can’t express my gratitude for all you’ve meant to us. You and your amazing teachers have built up the confidence of my child and given him the inner strength to move on to his next phase. Celebrating all children, making them feel good and nurturing them to become as good as they can be is what you do best-and that is pretty incredible!”

— Parent of 3 boys

Our Mission

At Junior Academy, we strive to put children’s strengths at the forefront of their education. We believe that students do well if they can, therefore we provide a supportive environment where students are accepted, appreciated, encouraged and challenged according to their individual strengths.

Our Goal

Our goal is to provide our students with the means to realize their full potential and celebrate the contributions of each student as they achieve individual success.

We will achieve our goal through:

- Small class sizes (average 12 students).
- Progressive education model that incorporates strength and project based programming.
- Social and emotional development which includes collaborative and proactive solutions.
- Acknowledgement and accommodation of different learning styles
- Extended Co-Curricular program that encourages socialization, team building, and leadership.
- Providing a qualified, diverse range of experienced teachers who receive ongoing Professional Development in a variety of areas to enhance Best Practices.
- Encouraging healthy living through daily Health and Physical Education classes, Sports clubs and Teams.
- Providing opportunities to help others through school-wide character development initiatives and community involvement.

Strength Based Education

Junior Academy’s strength-based approach aligns a student’s preferred cognitive style, learning profile, interests and abilities with the curriculum to ensure that they are being taught and assessed according to their individual strengths. Our strength-based approach enables students to feel successful and encouraged.

Academic Programs



Kindergarten

Students are introduced to reading, writing, and mathematics as they are ready. A whole language approach in conjunction with a foundation in phonics is used to introduce themes and topics of interest to young children. Classroom toys are selected that will encourage socialization, the development of fine motor skills, spatial awareness and problem solving.

Grades 1-6

Through the Primary and Junior grades, our students become well-rounded and prepared for the demands of higher grade levels. Students are challenged academically in a supportive environment that takes into consideration the learning style of the individual child and provides remediation and enrichment as required. Junior Academy builds a strong foundation for future academic success by actively engaging its students in the life of the school and providing a positive learning experience.

Grades 7-8

Junior Academy's middle school program provides a challenging curriculum with an emphasis on individual academic achievement. The structure of the Grade 7 and 8 program prepares our students with the independent work and study skills required for high school. Leadership opportunities enable our students to realize the importance of their roles and responsibilities within the school community.

Additional Education Resources

There are several resource teachers on staff at Junior Academy who are available to assist students on an individual basis. Resource teachers include qualified Reading Specialists, Special Education Teachers, Speech Language Pathologists and Occupational Therapists. Individual Education Plans (I.E.P.'s) are provided if a student requires specific accommodations or modifications to his or her academic program.

STEPS Program – A Differentiated Learning Class

A small class with a pupil teacher ratio of 6 to 1 is available for students who require a special education setting. Students begin every day in their small group to study Math and Language, then are integrated into the regular classroom setting in the afternoons as well as for Music, Art and Physical Education.

Progressive Programming



“Junior Academy is a caring community of teachers and students. The sense of pride and belonging the students feel about their school is remarkable - and reflects highly on the quality and professionalism of the staff. We cannot think of a better place for our daughter to develop both her academic and her interpersonal skills. We are lucky to have found Junior Academy.”

— Parent

L.E.A.P. **Learners Actively Engaged in Projects**

Project-based, inquiry learning is the foundation for our LEAP program. This program challenges students to move from simpler, surface level questions, to deeper, more complex questions that will open the door to independent investigation.

Learning is student driven, and engagement remains high as students delve into the topic of their choice, inspiring a deeper and more meaningful understanding of the material.

The teacher takes on the role of facilitator, providing a framework in which the students can conduct their research and present their findings – whether it be through song, poster board, video, or diorama. In the end, one question is answered, but many more have arisen, and a spark has been ignited.

F.L.E.X. **Friendships, Learning Skills & Executive Functioning**

Our FLEX program combines explicit instruction and situational discovery to help students develop some of the most important skills needed in our rapidly changing 21st century.

FLEX utilizes the Tribes Learning Program to promote social and emotional growth, while incorporating the six key learning skills outlined by the Ontario Curriculum – Responsibility, Organization, Independent Work, Collaboration, Initiative and Self-Regulation.

Through discussion, role-play, team-building exercises, cooperative games, organizational tasks and many other varied activities, students learn how to be respectful of differences, flexible in unforeseen circumstances, and resilient in the face of adversity.

The FLEX program at Junior Academy is reflective of our mission as an institution, where we strive to instill in students a growth mindset and a desire to become lifelong learners.

Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education takes place all year long, across the street from Junior Academy at the Canadian Film Centre. Every 2 weeks, students venture into the park lands for an extended class. The river, fields and forest provide the opportunity to spend time in a green space whilst learning curriculum related topics. Students emerge from classes with a better understanding, appreciation and respect for nature.

Technology


In the primary years, Junior Academy introduces age appropriate technology skills to the students. Using a class set of iPads, students are taught to use reading and math programs to supplement their learning. Word processing and responsible internet awareness are added to the technology classes as the student approaches grades 3 and 4.

In grades 5-8, students work on their own laptops and have technology classes in partnership with STEM Village. STEM Village develops an advanced curriculum with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Topics include coding, robotics and web design.

Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Art

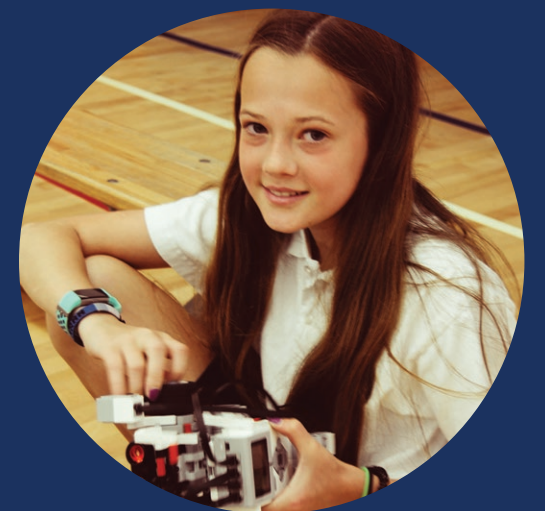
Arts are an integral part of the academic and co-curricular program at Junior Academy. Students attend a formal music class twice per week and participate in drama and visual arts programs.

We showcase our arts curriculum during our winter and spring productions. Arts based clubs are available to all students every term which include dance, drama, music and fine art.



“After a long search, our 3 children began attending Junior Academy this year and it is a perfect fit for all their unique learning styles. Not only are they eager to go to school every day, they sometimes don't even want to leave! With a great mix of academic, social, athletic and extra-curricular focus, I know that Junior Academy will be a great place for my children to grow and learn for years to come.”

— Parent of 3 students



Co-Curricular Activities



“Junior Academy turned me into the disciplined and ambitious person I am today. There was no shortage for us in terms of sports teams, community involvement and academics. With all the opportunities given to me, I was able to thrive in Junior Academy environment and ultimately gain acceptance into every High School I applied to.”

— Junior Academy Graduate

Athletics, Teams and Clubs

Junior Academy is a private school that has an active sports schedule for all ages. Outside of **daily** physical education classes, there are both intramural and competitive leagues available to students. Junior Academy is a member of the Small Schools Athletic Federation, (SSAF) which includes 64 schools from the Toronto Area.

In addition, skating lessons are offered during the fall term for a six-week period and during the winter term, ski/snowboard days are arranged for Grades 2-8. There is a club for every student to enjoy at Junior Academy. Clubs run at morning and lunch recesses and are based on student interest. Non-competitive sports, music, chess and dance crew are just a few examples.

Leadership

Leadership Crew - Leadership Crew is an extensive program for grades 5-8. Students may sign up to take one or more responsibilities around the school. Crews include; Morning Duty, Milk Delivery, Kindergarten Helpers, Junior Playground Duty and AV Crew.

House Team Captains - Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 are eligible to apply to be a House Captain. Interviews take place in September and Captains are responsible for leading their house for the entire year. Some responsibilities include assembly announcements, planning and leading weekly intramural games, planning and leading sports day activities, organizing charity drives and keeping up house spirit for the duration of the year.

Big Buddies -Big Buddies become mentors to one, or several, younger students in the school. They meet, eat lunch or spend recess time together. The Big Buddies program not only provides opportunities for leadership, it fosters social cohesion and a strong sense of belonging.

Community Outreach

Community service is an important part of being a student at Junior Academy. We participate in several initiatives annually. (Terry Fox Run, Toy Drive, Food Drive), and other community based events to help provide our students with a broader sense of purpose, responsibility and charity.





Junior Academy

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