



*Girl-Centred
Enrichment*

Our mission

The Linden School is a socially progressive community where innovative best practices in girls' education promote and strengthen student voice, well-being, academic excellence, and global engagement.

Our values

Inclusivity

We support a genuinely student-driven culture; students are empowered to actively seize leadership opportunities and confidently contribute to the making of our academic and social community.

Diversity

We work within an anti-oppression framework by approaching the curriculum from multiple perspectives; our academic inquiry includes equity and social justice issues from feminist and anti-racist viewpoints.

Intellectual Risk

We support respectful dissent and encourage enthusiasm for inquiry and interdisciplinary exploration; we challenge ourselves and others through independent thinking, well-informed opinions, and critical debate.



5:1

Students to
faculty ratio

12

Average
class size



Small classes: Big impact

91%

Sports participation
rate

100%

High school students
take extra math &
science courses

Full-time

Guidance &
Learning Counsellor

100%

University
placement

What happens when you put a girl in a story?

Girl-Centred Thinking

Founded in 1993, The Linden School is an independent day school for girls in JK–Grade 12. We are the only school in Canada specifically created to incorporate innovative research on girls’ educational needs. Our speciality is applying feminist pedagogy through a social justice and interdisciplinary lens to inspire and engage girls.

Best Practices

We balance the Ontario Ministry of Education requirements with best practices in girls’ education. Research supports what we know from experience—that girls thrive academically and socially in single-sex environments.

Girls are more engaged in their studies when they are empowered to ask questions, debate with each other and their teachers, collaborate in groups, and analyze their course material with a critical lens.

This is why we supplement the Ontario Ministry of Education’s curriculum by enriching our courses with relevant and interdisciplinary topics that girls find more meaningful and engaging.



Outstanding Faculty

Our high-calibre teaching specialists know how girls think, feel, and learn during each stage of their development through their junior, middle, and high school years. Professional growth is a priority at Linden, and we encourage and support ongoing professional development for all faculty and staff.

Small Classes: Big Impact

Our inclusive learning environment and small classes allow teachers to get to know each girl and guide her academic, social, and emotional development. Girls are comfortable just being themselves in our welcoming space. New students feel at home right away, making friends from day one. Students try new things without the fear of failure. At Linden, they know that perfectionism is not the goal, and that they can learn just as much from a project’s journey as its outcome.



Linden Changemakers

It's no secret that every Linden girl wants to change the world for the better. We nurture our future changemakers by encouraging them to think critically and creatively, to understand multilayered concepts, and to examine course material from diverse viewpoints.

Critical Thinking with Social Justice

We know that critical thinking skills are essential to achieving success in a wide range of disciplines. Using social justice topics to spark student inquiry enriches and supplements our course material, allowing girls to acquire a deeper understanding of the curriculum. This is why Linden girls love asking thought-provoking questions. Whether studying a novel, a historical event, a business case, or a scientific discovery, they will ask, "Where is the girl or woman in this story?" and "Who is speaking and whose voices are we missing?"

Inquiry and Project-Based Learning

Our students love to tackle real-world problems, which they find more meaningful because they inspire their creativity and intellectual curiosity. The big questions students ask when analyzing their course material often become the foundation of classroom projects, scientific research, art, and drama productions.

Student work is showcased at various community events throughout the year including our highly regarded STEM for a Better World: Linden's Inquiry Fair, where students confidently present their projects and discuss their research process with event visitors.

This is why Linden graduates have a competitive edge over their peers at university. Having studied, questioned, researched, and debated throughout their years at Linden, they are ready to take on the world as changemakers.

Engaging girls in STEM

Innovative Makerspace

STEM teacher and curriculum leader Beth Alexander, recipient of the 2017 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence and 2019 Lowell Milken Centre Fellow, designed Linden's Coding, Electronics, Robotics, Engineering and Science (CERES) Lab and founded the program.

The CERES Lab makerspace invites students to innovate. It offers an array of tools and technology to allow girls to head in any direction their creative minds lead them—from traditional tools like hammers, saws, and screwdrivers, to power tools for everything from wood to fabric, to digital tools like robotics, Arduino microcontrollers, Makey Makey, and 3D printers. Each day, a world of possibilities awaits our girls, who can use their imaginations to prototype and problem-solve their way through any challenge.

"Linden's girl-centred philosophy inspires girls to be active creators of technology, not just consumers," says CERES Lab designer Beth.

By seeing themselves as engineers and scientists in their own right, Linden girls confidently make and share discoveries, with some going on to win medals at city-wide science fairs.

Our engaging approach to STEM has inspired every Linden high school student to choose more than the required number of courses in math and science.



Technological Literacy

Digital and technological literacy is embedded throughout our classes from JK–Grade 12. Linden classrooms are equipped with high speed Internet and wifi, allowing students to use Google Classroom to collaborate and engage with their teachers, classmates, and course material. Google Classroom provides a safe space and students use the latest software, laptops, and tablets to develop their skills.

Starting STEM Early

Women remain underrepresented in STEM fields where they can easily take the lead in solving the world's most pressing challenges. Research tells us that engaging girls in STEM from an early age directly influences their choice of post-secondary education and career paths. Even our youngest students conduct experiments in our science lab and learn coding from the get-go.



Specialized Computer Studies Curriculum

We know that girls who feel more confident about their abilities in math and science are more likely to perform well in STEM fields. Improving girls' belief in their abilities is essential as they move from elementary to middle and high school.

To better support students in this area, and in the absence of a mandatory JK–Grade 8 computer studies curriculum in Ontario, our faculty have designed their very own enriched computer studies curriculum, with the following four goals:

1. Encourage girls to see themselves as creators rather than just consumers of digital technology. Students engage in the real work of discovery and creation, gaining hands-on experiences in our lab instead of memorizing knowledge.

2. Emphasize programming skills at every grade level. Coding skills are not just useful in their own right, but also allow girls to strengthen their logical and critical thinking skills. The youngest students use games to build logical and sequencing skills. By Grade 8, girls generate code in the Python language.

3. Encourage girls to consider future STEM careers with a reach-ahead credit. We accelerate learning in every grade so that Grade 8 students can take a high school credit course, TIJ10 (Exploring Technology). Girls who have taken our JK–Grade 8 program are ready to take Grade 11 computer studies courses by Grade 9 and consider a post-secondary computer studies path.

4. Enable girls to live online lives that are healthy, safe, ethical, enriched, and that lead to future opportunities. Through an ongoing process of discussion and discovery, we're engaged in the task of helping girls navigate their place in an online world.



Early Learning Program Junior and Senior Kindergarten

Linden's Early Learning Program will give your daughter the best possible start in developing herself academically, socially, and physically. We offer a nurturing environment where high-calibre teachers who specialize in early childhood education will guide your daughter as she develops the independence and confidence to explore, try new things, and construct her understanding of the world around her.

Linden's stimulating Early Learning Program establishes a strong foundation for the future. Our academic environment balances inquiry and play-based learning to promote problem-solving, language acquisition, literacy, numeracy, and physical, social, and emotional development. Our early learners conduct scientific experiments, present projects at STEM fairs, and learn computer programming from the get-go.

Junior School Grades 1–6

Linden exceeds Ministry expectations by offering an academically advanced framework that challenges students to think critically, to examine, to build, to take apart, and to discover. Students are taught English, math, science, and social studies by their core homeroom teachers, while specialists typically teach art, drama, STEM, French, music, and physical education.

Our classrooms are happy, busy spaces where girls work collaboratively to ideate, problem-solve, and create. Students develop confidence by tackling interdisciplinary projects to draw connections, solidify concepts, and expand their knowledge through research and experimentation. Field trips, hands-on workshops, guest speakers, and experiential learning opportunities inspire a love for learning at this stage in their educational journey.



Middle School Grades 7–8

Linden offers a safe and supportive environment for girls as they navigate this exciting time of change and growth. Our teachers, who specialize in feminist pedagogy, encourage girls to develop their voice and sense of self while guiding their academic, social, and emotional development.

Students build upon the knowledge and skills acquired in elementary school to prepare for high school. Classroom discussions invite girls to think independently by questioning accepted norms and stereotypes. By now, students are proficient in using technology in the classroom and have acquired advanced digital literacy skills. In Grade 8, students have the opportunity to obtain reach-ahead Grade 9 credits in French and in ExploringTechnology. They also learn how to study for and write exams in a low-risk, supportive environment.

Inter- disciplinary academics

High School Grades 9–12

Our high school students gain confidence, knowledge and work habits, and the research, writing, and critical-thinking skills they need to thrive at university. Our course offerings allow students to follow any path at university. We offer a range of courses including AP subjects, STEM, social sciences, languages (Latin, Spanish, and French), business studies, and visual arts. Laptops are mandatory in our high school, and students work at an advanced level to explore interdisciplinary topics and develop intersectional thinking which is considered to be an essential skill for post-secondary success.

University Counselling

Starting in Grade 9, students receive guidance in goal-setting and selecting courses. High school students are invited to attend informational presentations on university admissions, and Grade 11 and 12 students visit university fairs and campus informational sessions. Grade 12 students meet with our Guidance and Learning Counsellor on a weekly basis to select their universities and complete their applications.

100% University Acceptance

Our graduates thrive at top universities across Canada, often with generous scholarships. They achieve success in a wide range of careers spanning the performing arts, global advocacy, business, science, technology, and engineering.

Giving every girl a platform

Leadership Without Hierarchy

Instead of promoting a head girl or some students on student council, Linden goes beyond traditional school models to enable every girl to be a leader. Even our youngest students know that they have the power to be heard, and can speak confidently at school-wide gatherings. From our STEM for a Better World: Linden's Inquiry Fair in which all girls share their findings with the community, to senior leadership initiatives such as peer mentoring, coaching, organizing spirit week, and facilitating co-curricular activities, every student has the opportunity to develop her voice at any grade level.

Clubs

Linden girls love sharing their interests, and our inclusive environment encourages them to advocate for their own ideas. Often, students will initiate their own clubs and activities. A particular favourite amongst the junior students was the whimsical Mythical Creatures Club. Senior girls look forward to the Classics Club each year, as it allows them to join the Ontario Student Classics Conference. A variety of sports and wellness-related clubs are also offered to our students.

Community Projects

Leadership in social justice and community-building is an inherent part of our school culture, and Linden faculty and students actively initiate and organize community service projects on an ongoing basis.



Drama

Once a girl becomes comfortable on stage, she is more confident using her voice in all aspects of her life. Girls perform and write a wide variety of pieces, including monologues and plays, culminating in highly successful public performances. Girls also work with production elements such as set, costume, lighting, and sound design to create complex performances that challenge our audiences to engage with the topics and themes present in our scripts. Peer direction and feedback is a crucial part of our program that encourages our students to become dynamic collaborators and leaders.

Some of our recent senior drama productions have included works by Canadian playwrights, such as *Unity (1918)* by Kevin Kerr, and *Jitters* by David French. We sometimes collaborate with other schools and organizations on joint productions, leading to more fun and friendships amongst our students.



Music

Our budding musicians are introduced to a variety of genres and instruments including violin, viola, and cello. Small classes allow teachers to coach students one-on-one, helping them improve their singing and playing. It is a joy to watch a new student pick up an instrument for the first time and quickly become a proficient player.

Faculty emphasize theory, listening skills, and positive musicianship, as well as performance, to give students a well-rounded musical education. The ability to collaborate with their peers through music, and the endless possibilities of what they can create, leave Linden students feeling empowered.

Students showcase their wonderful talents at our annual Festival of Lights, Music Night, and Celebration to Greet the Summer.

Visual Art

Students become art appreciators and critics through an introduction to major periods in art history. They hone their critical assessment skills by studying contemporary art influencers, the intersection of art, society, and popular culture, as well as global trends.

Girls develop their skills in a variety of media, including drawing, painting, calligraphy, printmaking, sculpture, photography, installation art, digital media, and much more.

High school students develop advanced skills by working on independent projects. They also learn how to curate and showcase their creative explorations in their digital portfolios. Student work is exhibited and celebrated throughout the year, and our annual Art Show always draws a large number of community members and garners rave reviews.

One-on-one support

Guidance and Counselling

At Linden, we pay a great deal of attention to academic advising. Students benefit from our 100% university acceptance rate and thrive at university once they get there. We believe that there is a direct correlation between our strong program, effective teaching and academic advising, and the fact that Linden students excel at university with a 0% dropout rate. Instead of a “one-size-fits-all” approach, Linden students have the advantage of receiving individualized academic planning and advice from our full-time Guidance and Learning Counsellor. The counsellor focuses on student well-being, interpersonal skills, and academic planning to facilitate student transition from junior to middle school, and from high school to university.

Study Hall

Middle and high school girls can join a supervised study period offered Monday–Friday from 8:00 AM–8:45 AM. Girls are able to complete their homework under the guidance of a skilled Linden educator, work independently, or collaborate with each other on a special project.

Extra Academic Coaching

Quite often, Linden faculty will be available for extra coaching sessions and to help answer student questions and concerns about projects and homework. Our students are encouraged to advocate for themselves and seek out faculty for help whenever it's needed.



Student Wellness

Girls thrive in an environment where relationships are healthy and authentic, and where inclusiveness, acceptance, and diversity are celebrated. We welcome students from every cultural background. Linden does not discriminate in any of its policies on the basis of race, creed, colour, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or sexual orientation. We have a strong student-led culture and our girls, as well as their families, make lifelong friends at Linden. Our program balances mental health, social skills, and life skills. Our new Growing Minds and Growing Bodies course takes a holistic approach towards strengthening our students' body, mind, and soul. We work proactively to build a sense of community, emotional well-being, and healthy conflict resolution. We also examine body image, eating issues, stress management, friendships, and how to navigate social media and digital communication to foster sound judgment and healthy decision-making.



Health Education

Our health education program is based on the most recent and credible research about what is best for girls and young women, and takes a holistic approach towards strengthening student body, mind, and soul. Linden's progressive health classes have always exceeded curriculum expectations. We believe that girls should be equipped with accurate and current information about all aspects of health—mental, social, emotional, physical, and sexual—in order to make the best choices for their own personal situations.

We offer a safe and supportive environment where girls feel comfortable discussing diverse topics such as sexual orientation and gender identity, consent, and positive elements of healthy relationships and behaviours.

Linden's emphasis on inclusivity means that we always welcome diverse perspectives within the classroom.

Winning Athletics

The Linden Physical Education Program feeds directly into Linden's robust Athletics Program. Our program is unique because *all* girls are welcome to participate in a variety of teams—there are no tryouts or “cuts” made since we believe that every girl can be an athlete.

We offer a variety of team and individual sports ranging from Ultimate Frisbee to basketball, ball hockey, soccer, and track and field. Our sports teams are very competitive and make it to the playoff rounds in almost every tournament/league sport, often winning medals and banners!

Thanks to our 91% participation rate in sports, students learn all the skills that come from being part of a team: cooperation, goal setting, risk-taking, positive communication, processing emotions in public, resiliency, and celebrating themselves and others.

Signature events

Week Without Walls: Students enjoy experiential learning through carefully selected field trips.

Weekly All-School Gathering: This hour-long activity includes workshops with a social justice focus.

Student/Teacher Athletic Competitions: Several action-packed, fun-filled competitions take place throughout the year.

Festival of Lights: This festival marks the end of the first term and includes drama and music performances.

STEM for a Better World, Linden's Inquiry Fair: Student presentations showcase the breadth and depth of our STEM program.

Spirit Week: Students celebrate Linden by participating in various activities and contests.

Art Show: A spectacular evening showcasing the work of our talented young women.

Model UN in Denmark: Grade 11 students participate in global diplomacy and enjoy a great adventure in Copenhagen each year.

Junior and Senior Drama Nights: Students showcase their dramatic skills by performing a variety of plays.

Graduates' Service Trip: Senior students fundraise and organize a trip with their teachers.

Celebration to Greet the Summer: This event marks the end of the school year and includes Grade 8 and 12 graduations and award presentations.

Summer Day Camp: Senior Linden students organize and run Linden's Summer Day Camp Program.



Admissions

We welcome girls from diverse backgrounds who demonstrate intellectual curiosity as well as academic and personal potential. Girls who are excited to learn, to share their ideas, and be active participants in our community thrive at Linden.

We invite you to:

1. Explore our website:

www.lindenschool.ca

2. Attend an open house or book a school tour:

www.lindenschool.ca/visit

3. Email or call us to learn more:

admissions@lindenschool.ca

416-966-4406 x 204



Application Process

Linden's admissions team is here to help you with our application process and answer your questions.

1. Application: Please visit our website to download an application and teacher referral form. Required supporting documentation is listed on the website and our application form. The due date is usually in January; please consult our website for details.

2. Interview: Once we receive your application, you and your daughter will be invited to participate in an informal, conversational interview that will help us get to know you better.

3. Academic Assessment: Applicants to Grades 1–12 are required to complete our academic assessment in mathematics, English and problem-solving. Applicants to Grades 7–12 are also assessed in French.

4. Offer of Admission: Applicants will receive offers on the common offer day for independent schools which typically occurs in late February. Responses are due one week later. Those who apply after the deadline are considered on a rolling basis as space permits.

5. Experience Linden: Once you have accepted your offer of admission, you and your daughter will have a number of interesting and enjoyable ways to experience Linden. We want you to feel like you are part of the Linden family well before the first day of school!

Dates and details about the application process can be found on our website:

www.lindenschool.ca/application_process

If space permits, requests for mid-year admissions can be considered on a case-by-case basis.



Founded in 1993, The Linden School is an independent day school for girls from JK–Grade 12. We offer an average class size of 12 students. We are conveniently located midtown, at the Yonge and St. Clair subway station. Applications are invited for JK–Grade 12.

admissions@lindenschool.ca

416-966-4406 | 10 Rosehill Avenue, Toronto, Ontario | www.lindenschool.ca

