

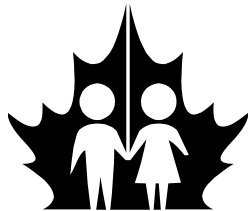
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# Curriculum Overview

## Grade 8

The Grade 8 program is designed to prepare the students for their entry into high school. This includes academic and social responsibilities, organizational strategies, study techniques, long-term and short-term planning. This document is an overview of curriculum objectives. The Maples Curriculum is designed to enhance the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum objectives.



# The Maples

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## Visual Arts

### Knowledge of Elements

- describe how the elements of design are used to create the area of emphasis (focal point) in a work of art
- explain how the size, scope, and intent of a work determine which tools, materials, and techniques the artist will use

### Creative Work

- produce two- and three-dimensional works of art
- organize their art works to create a specific effect, using at least one of the principles of design specified for this grade

### Critical Thinking

- describe how artists representing various periods, styles, and cultures have used similar materials, tools, and the principles of design for a variety of purposes
- explain their preference for specific art works, with reference to the artist's use of the principles of design

## Drama and Dance

The drama and dance curriculum is intended to help students to develop an understanding and appreciation of drama and dance, as well as the ability to create works using the forms, elements, and techniques of these two disciplines.

- appropriate use of voice and gestures
- write in role in various forms
- organize and carry out improvisation
- produce work as a member of an ensemble
- describe and critique theatrical performance

## Values

The Values curriculum is a school-wide program with the following components:

### Social Skills

The *Working It Out* program is designed to help students develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to address everyday conflicts constructively and peacefully.

### Character Education

*"Friends: Improving Peer Relationships"*

The goal of this program is to give students tools and techniques to improve peer relationships and to discuss strategies to deal with negative peer pressure.

### Service Project

Through a *Legacy* project students will reflect on the past and look forward to creating a future legacy that they will leave for the world.

### World Religion

In their final year at The Maples students will study the fundamentals of the Sikh faith

## Geography

### Patterns in Human Geography

- population distribution, density and patterns
- birth, death and literacy rates
- factors affecting urbanization and industrialization

### Economic Systems

- fundamental elements of an economic system
- types of economic systems
  - subsistence, traditional, command, market

### Migration

- factors that effect migration and mobility
- push and pull factors
- barriers to migration

## Physical and Health Education

The students will participate in individual and team sports and games designed to promote good sportsmanship, leadership, respect for rules and cooperation with others. The program is intended to provide activities that will develop flexibility, agility, coordination, balance, strength and endurance. The students are encouraged to participate in intramural sports programs. Skills are developed in touch football, volleyball, floor hockey, basketball, downhill skiing, soccer, three pitch softball, track and field and cooperative games.

Health topics include

### • *Healthy Eating*

- identify ways to maintain a healthy body weight

### *Personal Safety and Injury Prevention*

- analyse situations (e.g., hitchhiking, gang violence, violence in relationships) that are potentially dangerous to personal safety

### • *Growth and Development*

- explain the importance of abstinence as a positive choice for adolescents

### • *Substance Use and Abuse*

- outline the possible negative consequences of substance use and abuse

## Music

The instrumental music program is designed with the following student learning objectives:

### Technique

- progressively more difficult band pieces of classical, jazz, ethnic and popular natures

### Rhythmic Elements

- sixteenth notes and syncopated rhythms

### Melodic Elements


- moving to selections with an ambitus of greater than an octave in several parts

### Content

- professional arrangements of material

Students are expected to show responsibility in setting up and implementing a regular home practice routine.

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## English

The grade 8 program is designed to develop a range of essential skills in reading, writing and oral and visual communication. A solid foundation in language skills and an appreciation of literature and skills in using oral language accurately and effectively are developed through

- a variety of reading experiences including, but not limited to: novels, short stories, plays, poetry and newspapers
- response to literature through discussion
- response to literature through writing
- writing for a variety of purposes (short stories, poetry, letters, persuasive writing, essays etc. using the writing process)
- spelling and grammar lessons; conventions of writing
- oral presentations including a formal speech

Novels studied in grade 8 are selected from, but not limited to, the list below. An evaluation of both the readers' interests and comprehension skills are considered when novels are chosen.

<i>A Question of Loyalty</i>	<i>Tom Sawyer</i>
<i>The Westing Game</i>	<i>Maniac Magee</i>
<i>Old Yeller</i>	<i>Shane</i>
<i>Treasure Island</i>	<i>The Hobbit</i>
<i>The Outsiders</i>	<i>Call of the Wild</i>
<i>The Giver</i>	<i>The King's Daughter</i>
<i>Jeremy's War</i>	

In addition to the formal novel studies, the students are expected to read and present reports on several supplementary novels throughout the year.

## French

### Oral Communication, Reading and Writing

- read a variety of simple materials, 400 to 600 words long, and demonstrate understanding
- respond to oral texts
- use simple and compound sentences in paragraphs
- proofread and correct final drafts, focusing on grammar, punctuation and spelling
- write in a variety of forms, adjusting language to suit the audience
- identify and use the vocabulary and the grammar and language conventions appropriate for this grade level

### Grammar, Language Conventions and Vocabulary

- object pronouns *y* and *en*
- pronoun *on*
- subject and auxiliary verbs in *le passé composé*
- *le passé composé* of regular *er*, *ir* and *re* verbs
- partitive articles with negation (e.g. *Je n'air pas de...*)
- formation of adverbs and adjectives (e.g. *naturelle/naturellement; heureux/heureusement*)
- use of basic sounds and their related spelling patterns (e.g. *adore/adorer; nutrion/nutritif; universel/universelle*)

## Mathematics

The mathematics curriculum is organized into five major areas of knowledge and skills.

### Number Sense and Numeration

- represent, compare, and order equivalent representations of numbers, including those involving positive exponents
- solve problems involving whole numbers, decimal numbers, fractions, and integers, using a variety of computational strategies
- solve problems by using proportional reasoning in a variety of meaningful contexts

### Measurement

- perimeter and circumference
- area and surface area
- volume
- capacity
- mass
- irregular shapes

### Geometry and Spatial Sense

- identify, describe, compare and classify geometric figures
- angle properties and relationships
- recognize three-dimensional figures
- Pythagorean relationship

### Patterning and Algebra

- relationships between whole numbers and variables
- write statements to interpret formulae
- identify and evaluate expressions
- solve equations
- inequalities

### Data Management and Probability

- collect, organize and analyse data
- tally charts, stem and leaf plots, frequency tables
- mean, median and mode
- present data using spreadsheets
- bar graphs, circle graphs, pictographs, histograms
- construct graphic organizers using computers

## Computer Education

The use of computers is encouraged and implemented in all subject areas. Computer instruction includes

- **Keyboarding** - use and refine keyboarding skills established in earlier grades
- **Word Processing** - use a header and footer
- **Graphics** - import and modify a graphic image
- **Databases** - copy information from a database to another application
- **Spreadsheets** - use spreadsheets for a real-life application (i.e., Excel)
- **Multimedia** - use an interactive program to present information through text, pictures and sound (i.e. PowerPoint)
- **Electronic Communications** - create a basic web page

## Science and Technology

Students are given opportunities to "experience" and learn about the wonders of science and the world around them.

### Life Systems

#### **Cells, Tissues, Organs and Systems**

- structure and function of plant and animal cells
- basic cellular processes
- human organ systems

### Matter and Materials

#### **Fluids**

- buoyancy, viscosity and density of liquids
- hydraulic and pneumatic systems
- Archimedes' Principle

### Energy and Control

#### **Optics**

- properties of visible and invisible light
- mirrors, convex and concave lenses
- additive and subtractive theory of light

### Structures and Mechanisms

#### **Mechanical Efficiency**

- Pascal's Law
- factors that contribute to the efficient operation of mechanisms and systems

### Earth and Space Systems

#### **Water Systems**

- major features of the Earth's water resources
- effects of large bodies of water on global climate and ecosystems

### Science Week

- design an investigation using the Scientific Method

## History

Students will study the history of Canada from Confederation to the end of World War One. They will complete a research project designed to incorporate the skills of the historian's craft. Topics of study include

### Confederation

- external and internal factors leading to Confederation
- key figures such as Sir John A. MacDonald and Sir George Etienne Cartier.
- dates of entry of colonies that joined Confederation

### Development of Western Canada

- Red River and North West Rebellions
- Canadian Pacific Railway
- gold rush
- North West Mounted Police

### Canada: A Changing Society

- industrial revolution
- Winnipeg General Strike
- World War One
- role of women