

Kells Academy

Experience. Excellence. Extraordinary.



A personal experience. A private school history.



While working as an educator in the public sector, I found that devoting time to after-school tutorials was a most positive and enriching experience for my students. I was impressed at what students were able to accomplish in a few short sessions, in comparison to the hours spent trying to master the same material in the classroom. This led me to consider practical application of the tutorial model in a classroom setting, and resulted in the

1978 establishment of a unique tutorial service: the Westmount Learning Centre; and ultimately, to the foundation of Kells Academy.

To recreate the one-on-one tutorial experience, we committed to small classes, in a warm, friendly environment, and engaging the participation of supportive and enthusiastic teachers. Using this model, we were able to make learning more interesting and meaningful, while teaching at the individual pace of each student— attributes we maintain to this very day.

Exploring our extraordinary school, you'll discover a welcoming and encouraging environment, one committed to ensuring that every student enjoys a rich, rewarding learning experience in step with their individual abilities, realities, and needs... in short, attuned to their world.

Irene Woods,
Director, Kells Academy



One of the most important decisions you will ever make.

Since 1978, Kells Academy has led and accompanied students on the meaningful and rewarding journey that defines its most particular educational experience. A private, non-denominational English school, offering co-educational classes from Kindergarten through Grade 11, Kells Academy was founded on the understanding and appreciation of student individuality, and the complete rejection of the 'one-size-fits-all' approach to learning. Its future-minded model effectively embraces a child's uniqueness, attuned to their culture, lifestyle, interests and ability.

At the core of its winning formula, Kells' small class sizes, excellent programs, and dedicated, high-quality educators, provide an innovative and enriching learning environment, enhanced with many of today's most advanced learning tools. Using proven teaching approaches, Kells encourages and inspires students to achieve their personal best, empowering them with knowledge, self-esteem, and the capability of progressing confidently in pursuit of their dreams.



We have a vision for our students.

Beyond merely understanding individualism, Kells Academy celebrates it, responding to the unique 'DNA' of each student with its diversity of learning approaches. A deeper appreciation of a student's experience, interests, culture, and other realities, allows us to ensure them a learning experience that responds more precisely to their individual needs, and one that is considerably more rich and meaningful. While nurturing a student's natural curiosity and creativity, and fueling their inner drive to learn, our primary goal is to facilitate self-directed learning, with emphasis on critical thinking, and 'executive function' skills—organization, time management, etc.—so important to the timely completion of tasks and achievement of goals. In essence, our students "learn to learn".

Ensuring that each student ultimately possesses what he or she will need to succeed in life.



“FLEX” – recently introduced at Kells – is a great concept that allows students at all levels to pursue their individual interests outside of the regular school curriculum.



Twice a week, students are offered courses such as Dance, Yoga & Meditation, Robotics, Jiu Jitsu, Debating, Foreign Languages, Law, etc. Students have the option to choose one or more of these courses in any academic year.

Students and teachers alike find Flex to be a stimulating addition to the school curriculum. It's a wonderful opportunity for both to share their interests and passions. Alternatively, it gives them a chance to explore areas that may be new and challenging to them. Teachers say that the sense of achievement students experience at Flex spills out into all aspects of student learning.



Technology the great equalizer .

Kells Academy embraces technology as a powerful asset to making learning more interesting, fun and relevant. Through technology, we are able to better personalize and customize learning. We see our many technological aids as a most powerful and innovative tool for helping students prepare for the future.

With our well-equipped computer lab, as well as a host of laptop carts and SmartBoards, both students and teachers have immediate access to today's most powerful learning tools. A continuous technology-training program for teachers enhances their students' learning with the latest instructional techniques, as they integrate technology into every aspect of our curriculum.





The value of healthy participation, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

We encourage athletic participation throughout the student's education as a healthy contributor to the Kells mindset of dedication, sportsmanship, perseverance and teamwork. As well as its regular physical education classes, Kells offers students a variety of team and individual sports to participate in— soccer, rugby, badminton, cross-country running, rock-climbing, basketball, and more. We also organize several trips throughout the year to give students the opportunity to enjoy activities like skiing, winter tubing, even circus school!



The fine art of learning.

An enriching fine arts program is another important facet of a Kells Academy education. At every grade level, we provide exceptional, progressive instruction in the fine arts, from music to the visual arts.

Our music program introduces the novice to music appreciation while also providing talented musicians with a new performance venue. Several times throughout the year, students are given the opportunity to perform in events such as our winter festival, spring concert and graduation.



“Music at Kells Academy is about developing self confidence and lifelong skills. It is so rewarding to see students with raw talent evolve into fine musicians eager to contribute to our concerts and recording projects.”

Mark Kennedy

Music Teacher

Our visual arts program enables each student to pursue and have an opportunity to express his or her creative and technical ability through design and composition. In addition to providing a place where students can build art portfolios, our students’ works of art are showcased periodically throughout the school year.

In our drama program, students develop a deeper sense of themselves through performance and self-expression. more than acting alone, students develop poise and confidence and learn how to deal with life issues through role-playing and public speaking exercises.

Through participation and exposure to the arts, students build a lasting appreciation for a wide variety of artistic endeavors. With the credit courses offered in high school as well as extracurricular activities, students at Kells are given the opportunity to pursue any area of the arts in greater depth.





Supporting a smoother, more successful move up.

Kells recognizes just how daunting the transition from elementary to high school can be for many students, with more challenging coursework, increased homework, and new social dynamics. Sitting directly opposite the new levels of freedom they experience as high school students are the new expectations of meeting more rigid deadlines, and assuming even greater responsibility for their own learning. Kells' multi-level support eases the transition and lays groundwork for a positive and enriching high school experience.

For students making the move from Kells Elementary to High School, Transition Teams comprised of the school's director, principal, and faculty members, guide soon-to-be graduates through a smoother transition to high school by introducing them gradually to secondary education academic programs and the expectations therein, as well as to the social and cultural dynamics existing in Kells Academy High School.



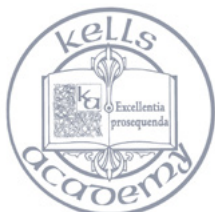
The path to higher education.

Our guidance program ensures that students make informed choices about their future. Throughout high school, students are presented with a range of career choices with an emphasis on helping students maximize and understand their particular interests and aptitudes. Assistance with the college applications is provided as well as letters of recommendation. To help students with personal concerns, the guidance counselor is available on a one-to-one basis.



Our graduates enroll in the faculties of Commerce, Business, Law, Medicine and Engineering at both McGill University and Concordia University, as well as American and European universities.

Our alumni, many of whom make Dean's Lists in Montreal colleges, tell us that being challenged in areas of strength while supported in areas that needed developing was not only motivational, but provided the preparation they needed for a lifetime of learning and achievement.



A vastly superior level of student support.

At Kells, we believe that each student has their own unique learning style and that we need to approach instruction, in a more personalized fashion . Our instructional goal aims at providing a comfortable environment which will accommodate a variety of individual needs. Due to the exceptionally small class sizes, we are able to track each student's progress through high school and have a much better chance of providing a progression of support based on individual learning needs.



Support is also given in our Resource room where students learn how to manage their time, how to best use the technology provided in the school, how to plan long range for examinations and how to improve on their reading and writing skills.

À l'académie Kells, le français est enseigné de manière interactive à travers des stratégies efficaces et ciblées. Le travail en petits groupes et la technologie rendent l'apprentissage agréable. En quittant Kells à la fin de la 5e année du secondaire, nos élèves sont capables de comprendre tous genres de textes et de s'exprimer aisément et correctement à l'oral comme à l'écrit.

Natacha Sikias,
Professeur de
Français



The next step.

Students considering a Kells Academy future, and their families, are invited to visit us. You may choose to take advantage of the open houses we host during the year, or make an appointment to visit the campuses during regular school sessions. You may even choose to be a “Kells Student for a Day”, and enjoy exploring the Kells experience in the company of an appointed partnering student. Whichever you choose, your visit will allow you to see firsthand how our school operates, as well as meet with current students for their views on Kells Academy.

STEP 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact Kells Academy by phone or email and ask to speak with a member of our Admissions Team.

STEP 2. VISITING OUR CAMPUSES

Choose one of our open house days, or call to confirm how and when, from our other offered options, you would like to visit Kells.

STEP 3. FORMAL APPLICATION

Once you’ve decided to apply to Kells Academy, you’ll need to complete our application papers (available online) and join us for an interview and our placement test, which can be conducted either in person, over the phone, or via Skype or Facetime.





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