

# BSS School Profile



# INSPIRE GIRLS TO BE FEARLESS EDUCATE GIRLS TO BE LEADERS

Founded in 1867, The Bishop Strachan School is Canada's oldest independent day and boarding school for girls. BSS is renowned for its expertise in the learning needs of girls, offering an enriched, inquiry-based curriculum. We develop lifelong learners and courageous leaders by nurturing attributes like curiosity, confidence, and creativity. Girls experience both academic rigour and a well-rounded education because of our balanced approach to learning and focus on student well-being. We foster a caring environment that strives for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in our classrooms and beyond.

## **Our Program**

The Senior School program is comprehensive, offering more than 100 Ontario credit courses. Electives are available in business, technology, and visual and media arts, among other areas. BSS goes beyond the Ontario curriculum, enhancing it through our *Culture of Powerful Learning*. Students are encouraged to ask big questions and answer them through inquiry and exploration. Meaningful assignments that tackle real-world problems inspire our students.

BSS offers 14 Advanced Placement (AP) courses and the AP Capstone Diploma program. The AP program focuses on building a solid foundation for university studies. Our students have strong critical thinking, communication, analytical, and research skills. They can motivate and advocate for themselves.

For the 2022–23 school year, BSS classes are in-person and most courses are 110 hours delivered within a semester.

## **COVID-19 Considerations**

It is important to note that Ontario experienced cumulatively the longest period of lockdown in North America between 2019–2022 which required extensive online learning. BSS students remain well positioned to handle the rigour of higher learning as the school ensured that all faculty engaged in intensive professional learning focused on online pedagogies and implementing this in their classes. Students therefore remained engaged in their learning in a fulsome way. In addition, co-curricular opportunities were limited until late Spring of 2022 when students were finally able to interact across cohorts.



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## Accreditation and Membership

BSS is accredited by the Ontario Ministry of Education and Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS). BSS is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS), the Global Education Benchmark Group (GEBG) and the Global Online Academy (GOA).

## Student Life

BSS offers a full co-curricular programme that includes student-led clubs, community groups, academic teams, the arts, athletics, student leadership, global learning, outdoor education and community service opportunities.

Students take an active role in school culture by seizing opportunities to explore the world and themselves. From the Model U.N. to the Duke of Edinburgh program, from volunteering in the community to serving on a school council, our students build confidence, teamwork, decision-making, leadership and communication skills.

## Our Students

With our *Culture of Powerful Learning*, students learn deeply. They get to know themselves. They become independent, lifelong learners, confident and self-assured. Students drive their own learning with curiosity and commitment. They are challenged and supported to excel every day. They develop strong academic, communication and collaboration skills. Just as importantly, they learn to overcome obstacles, appreciate each other's strengths and care about the world around them.

Our graduates go out into the world as capable, confident and compassionate women. All graduates are offered placement at top-tier universities and a third of our graduates go into science, technology, engineering, architecture, and math programs.

## Our Faculty

BSS has assembled an extraordinary faculty and state-of-the-art facilities to give each student the resources and atmosphere they need to succeed. Our faculty are demonstrated experts in girls' learning. With many holding post-graduate degrees, they have a deep and broad knowledge of their subject areas. They regularly upgrade their qualifications through rigorous professional development that is grounded in classroom practice and aligned with our *Culture of Powerful Learning*.

## Signature of a BSS Girl

The *Signature of a BSS Girl* – growth mindset, ethical citizenship, curiosity, self-awareness, grit, voice and leadership are attributes that are taught and nurtured throughout a student's time at BSS. Backed by intensive research on girls' psychology, well-being, character development, and leadership models, these attributes help each student realize their full potential.

## Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is a cornerstone of our commitment to providing inclusive and accessible education. Our goal is to ensure that cost is not a barrier for exceptional students who want to access a BSS education. We have over \$2.1 million in financial assistance available, the highest amount of any girl's school in Canada.

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

In 2012, BSS formally began to recognize the need for us to become a more diverse and equitable community, with opportunities for all. Our commitment to learning how to become an inclusive school continued and was formalized with a Diversity Statement and Roadmap adopted by the Board of Governors in 2016 and with the establishment of a DEIB Committee of the Board in 2022. This learning commitment continues and is evident in the resources, learning practices and expectations of our entire BSS community.

## SENIOR SCHOOL POPULATION 2022-23

**494** **118** **60**

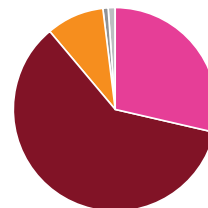
Students Grade 9-12 Graduates Faculty

433 Day Students

61 Boarding Students

## GRADE 11 FINAL MARK DISTRIBUTION, CLASS OF 2023

■ A+ (95%–100%)	28.81%
■ A (87%–94%)	60.17%
■ A- (80%–86%)	9.32%
■ B+ (77%–79%)	0.85%
■ <B (50%–76%)	0.85%



## ONTARIO CURRICULUM

BSS Students fall under the jurisdiction of Ontario Secondary Schools and will graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) in June 2023. One credit equals 110 hours of instruction.

### OSSD Requirement – 30 Credits (18 Compulsory)

4	English (2 Senior)	1	Canadian Geography
3	Mathematics	1	Physical & Health Education
2	Science	1	Arts
1	French	.5	Civics
1	Canadian History	.5	Career Studies
1	Additional credit in Senior Science, Technological Education, Computer Studies, French as a Second Language or Cooperative Education		
1	Additional credit in English, French as Second Language, Native Language, a Classical or International Language, Social Sciences and the Humanities, Canadian and World Studies, Guidance and Career Education or Cooperative Education		
1	Additional credit in Health and Physical Education, the Arts, Business Studies, French as a Second Language or Cooperative Education		
	40 hours community service		
	Successful completion of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test		

### BSS Requirement – 2 Additional Credits

1	Additional second language credit
1	Additional activity credit

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT

BSS offers AP level courses to students based on academic performance, input from counsellors, and feedback from previous subject teachers. Most of our students who take AP courses and exams do so in Grades 11 and 12, as they have not completed prerequisites until the end of Grade 10 and beyond.

Note that most AP courses are scheduled in the first semester, which limits the number of AP courses a student can take. AP Psychology, AP Seminar, and AP Research run across the full-year (110 hours over two semesters). Students who take AP Microeconomics and Macroeconomics, complete these together, delivered as a single-semestered 110 hour enriched course.

### Advanced Placement Courses

Biology	Calculus	Chemistry
English Language and Composition		
English Literature and Composition		
French Language and Culture		
Macroeconomics	Microeconomics	
Physics	Statistics	
AP Capstone Diploma (Seminar & Research)		

AP Psychology and AP Chinese Language and Culture courses are fully online, and only available to students through the e-Learning Consortium Canada, a Canadian independent school consortium.

**14**

AP courses offered

**118**

AP students wrote 225 AP exams

**10**

AP Capstone research papers submitted

**83%**

Scored 3 or higher on their AP exams

## CLASS OF 2022 – COLLEGES & UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS

### Canada (100 Students)

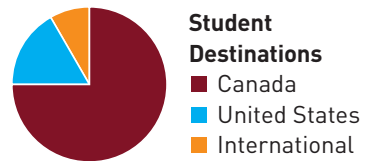
Concordia University  
 Dalhousie University  
 McGill University  
 McMaster University  
 Queen's University  
 Sheridan College  
 Trent University  
 University of British Columbia  
 University of Guelph  
 University of Toronto  
 University of Toronto Mississauga  
 University of Waterloo  
 Western University  
 Western University –  
 Huron University College  
 Western University Ivey AEO  
 Wilfrid Laurier University

### United States (22 Students)

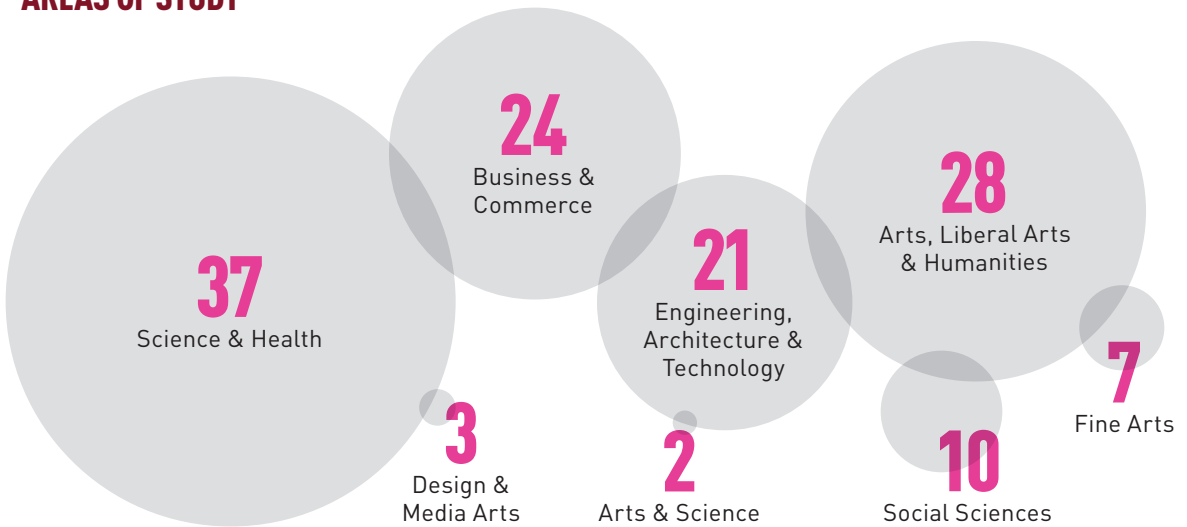
Adrian College  
 Boston University  
 Case Western Reserve University  
 Cornell University  
 Dartmouth College  
 Massachusetts College of  
 Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
 New York University  
 Northeastern University  
 Northwestern University  
 Santa Clara University  
 University of California,  
 Los Angeles  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 University of Southern California  
 Vanderbilt University  
 Wake Forest University

### International (11 Students)

SOAS, University of London  
 University of Edinburgh  
 King's College London  
 James Cook University  
 University of Nottingham  
 University of St Andrews  
 University College London  
 Imperial College London  
 Erasmus University  
 King Faisal University



## AREAS OF STUDY



**\$1.9M**

Scholarships offered to  
 BSS Grad Class

**100%**

BSS graduates who are  
 Ontario Scholars  
*80% average or above*

**72%**

BSS graduates on  
 the Head's List  
*90% average or above*



**The Bishop Strachan School**

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**Visit Us Online**

[bss.on.ca/apply](https://bss.on.ca/apply)

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