



VINCENT
MASSEY
ACADEMY

2024/2025 Day School Admissions

A Balanced & Individualized Educational Experience



Seek more than an education.

K-6

Welcome!

Experience the VMA Difference

Vincent Massey Academy (VMA) helps your child develop vital life skills in an environment where they are seen, their voice is heard and their ideas are valued.



Contact Us

Contact@vincentmassey.com
(416) 252-3304 x225

To the VMA community,

We are grateful for your consideration of Vincent Massey Academy (VMA) and understand that families do not take this decision-making process lightly. It is truly a foundational stage in your child's development. Through this process we want to ensure you have a complete understanding of who we are as a school and the educational experience you can expect for your child.

Our classrooms are structured for young learners to have a deep understanding of themselves and the world around them. Through a Reggio-inspired learning environment, our program empowers each child with an individualized educational experience in a safe, collaborative environment. We take pride in this child-centred approach which rewards curiosity and will help shape your child into a confident, capable learner who loves coming to school everyday.

We look forward to answering any questions you may have about our school as you take this important next step in your child's life.

Sincerely,
The VMA Family

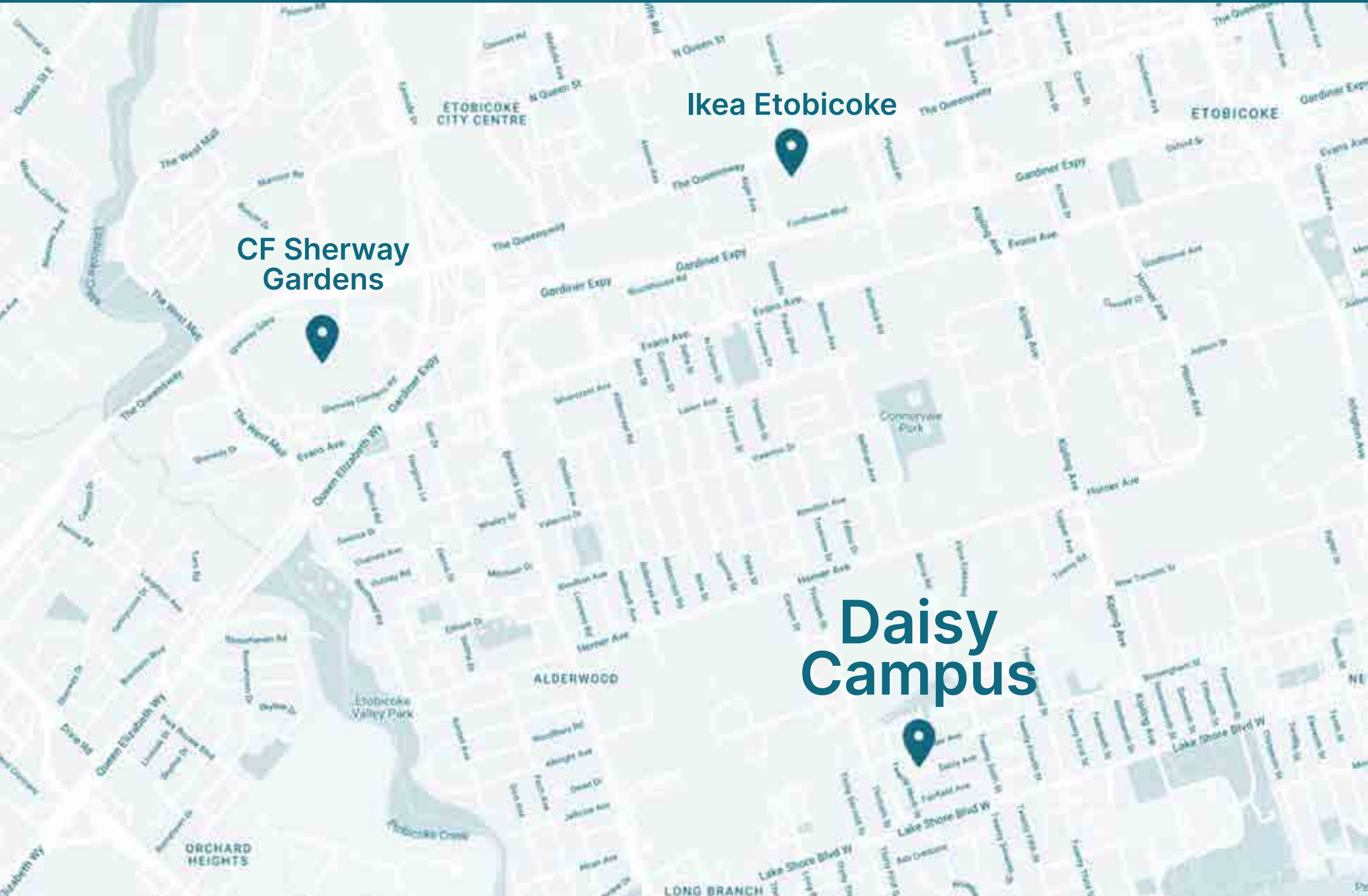


For Kindergarten to Grade 6

VMA Daisy Campus

The VMA Daisy Campus is located in a quiet, residential Etobicoke neighbourhood in the west end of Toronto, minutes away from the Gardiner Expressway and Lakeshore Boulevard.

68 Daisy Ave, Etobicoke, ON M8W 1S1





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"Our child loves going to school. It has been amazing watching the intellectual development over this past year."



VMA Parent
From VMA Day School
Parent Survey

Our Mission

To give your child the support and balance needed to discover their individual potential.

At Vincent Massey Academy, we believe young minds deserve a balanced education that reflects our changing world, where they can develop, achieve, learn, and explore fearlessly.



Our Values

Vincent Massey Academy is a Community-Oriented School Led by Shared Values.

Interconnectedness and collaboration

An understanding that systems work best when they operate together

Individualized approach

A value to honour and celebrate each individual's unique differences

Strength in our environment

A shared belief in the powerful impact environment can have on development

Pursue passion, curiosity, and innovation

A commitment to pursue the driving forces of learning and exploration

Courage for change and growth through challenges

A willingness to take risks and challenge ourselves without fear of failure

"A school needs to be a place for all children, not based on the idea that they are the same, but that they are all different."



Loris Malaguzzi
Psychologist, Educator and Founder
of the Reggio Emilia Approach

Reggio-inspired Education

The Reggio Emilia Approach: An Innovative and Inspiring Philosophy

The Reggio Emilia Approach is an innovative and inspiring philosophy that guides VMA's approach to education. It encourages our teachers to view all our students as strong, capable, resilient, and rich with wonder and knowledge. Through this lens, we understand that students enter the learning environment with a wide range of experiences and ideas that makes each child unique.

The uniqueness of each child is celebrated and highlighted in our programs where their interests and inquiries help shape our projects and learning journeys in science and social studies.

When you walk into the classrooms of VMA, the first thing you will notice is our unique learning spaces. Our classrooms are filled with student work that helps demonstrate our student's interests, inquiries, and explorations. Our students are encouraged to share their thinking and ideas in ways that are meaningful to each of them, allowing all our classrooms to look and feel unique to the children in the room.

What makes Vincent Massey Academy different?

We offer an academically stimulating and individualized curriculum, delivered in a collaborative, child-centred environment.



The VMA Difference

Small Class Sizes



In a class size of 13 students for Kindergarten and 15 students in our Grade 1-6 classrooms, our students are provided with a space that allows for individualized learning and strong relationships between teachers and students and their peers.

Learning is built around the needs and interests of the students in our classes. Our intimate classroom sizes celebrate diversity and individuality; ensuring each child is seen, heard, and understood. They are nurtured to be their authentic selves, in a space that respects and appreciates diverse backgrounds and personalities.



Kindergarten:

Grades 1-6:

13 Students

15 Students

The VMA Difference

Dedicated Educators

This unique learning environment is fostered and nurtured by teachers who are passionately dedicated to implementing the Reggio Emilia philosophy.

Our educators view their students as strong, capable, and resilient. They view each student as rich with wonder and knowledge allowing them to build meaningful learning that places the interests and individual needs at the heart of the classroom's learning.

Within our small class settings, our students develop, achieve, and explore fearlessly while they engage in a learning experience that reflects our evolving world.



“I think the overall experience of our student is excellent. She develops life skills, soft skills while learning her Grade 1 curriculum in a warm, inclusive environment. We couldn't hope for better education methodology and environment.”



VMA Parent
From VMA Day School
Parent Survey



The VMA Difference

VMA practices whole child development, shaping each child through a balanced approach to education.

Individualized Learning

Each student's educational direction is unique based on their interests and strengths to ensure students are challenged daily

Social Emotional Learning

VMA develops social emotional learning to support emotional regulation and personal wellbeing

Subject Mastery

A mastery approach is used in core subjects to ensure students fully understand a concept before advancing

Leadership Development

VMA provides leadership and mentoring opportunities starting in Grade 2

Soft Skills Development

VMA focuses on building soft skills such as teamwork and collaboration, social-emotional learning, growth mindsets, and self-image

Knowledge-building Practice

VMA focuses on collaboration and problem-solving skills, idea diversity, and real and authentic problems

Project-Based Learning

VMA practices project-based learning to enforce real-world application of skills and knowledge, and cross-curricular learning

Interest and Inquiry-based Learning

Each school day includes an Investigative Research learning block featuring interest and inquiry-based learning which promotes critical thinking

The VMA Difference

Our learning environment extends beyond the classroom into the community, delivering an unparalleled holistic educational experience.



Large, Open Classrooms

VMA's classrooms are designed to bring our student's learning to life and share our student's self-expression and creative processes

Justice and Civics

Social Justice and Global Citizenship exploration through community involvement and engagement, age-appropriate discussions and explorations, and safe and accepting space practices

The VMA Community

Parents, students and teachers enjoy school community development through school-wide events, assemblies, and family involvement

Specialized Physical Education

VMA's physical education program is enriched with specialized coaches in various sports programs throughout the year

Going Beyond the Classroom

An integrated approach to learning including monthly field trips and guest presenters

Exploring the Natural World

Student's experience regular connections with nature to deepen sustainability practices, environmental stewardship and connections with Indigenous teachings

VMA Program Offerings

From Early Childhood to the end of Junior School

Your child can enjoy the benefits of our curiosity-driven learning environment for their earliest ages right up to the moment they are ready for middle school.



Early Years Program

Toddler to Preschool
(starting at 18 months old)

The first years of life are a wonderful time for your child, filled with discovery, and growth. It's an exciting time where language and self-awareness blossom, mobility vastly improves, curiosity compels children to investigate new concepts, and children begin to develop meaningful relationships. Our earliest programs are designed to support these developments in your child by creating a warm, nurturing, and safe environment where every child is encouraged to learn, grow, and explore the world around them.

Our programs focus on supporting and continuing to build on the development of the whole child through a structured and engaging early years program. By providing a social atmosphere, children are able to learn how to navigate their future interpersonal relationships by developing social skills such as sharing, working with others, socialization, and self-help skills. The program aims to enhance and expand language and numeracy skills through a play-based setting that encourages problem solving and inquiry. Our weekly programs are created to support children's interests and promote skill development.

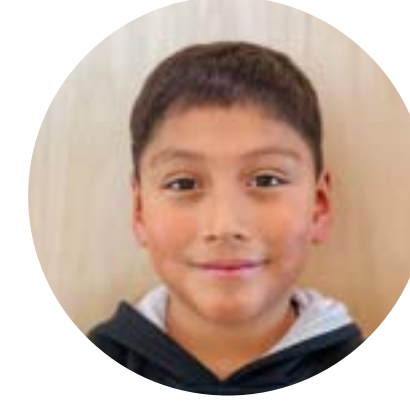


Kindergarten

Junior and Senior

Our Kindergarten classrooms are purposefully designed spaces with exploration, creativity, and inquiry at the heart of our designs. Our goal in creating these spaces was to allow children's expressions, ideas, and inquiries to bring the room to life, allowing the space that feels like their own. In seeing themselves and their ideas represented in their spaces, students build a sense of belonging and acceptance in their new community.

These spaces allow our Kindergarten programs to be rich with deep and meaningful learning. These critical years of education build a love for learning and curiosity providing a solid foundation for the rest of their educational journey.



Junior Years

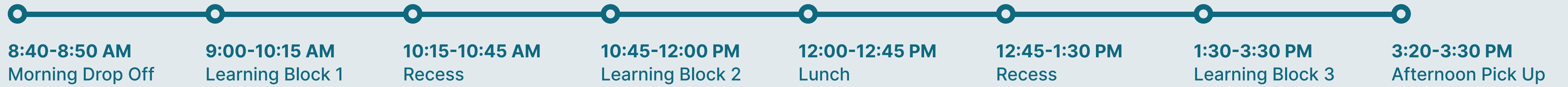
Grades 1-6

Our Junior classrooms continue to place our students' inquiries and interests at the heart of their learning. By allowing our students to be the leaders in their explorations, we see unique learning journeys come to life in meaningful ways. Our students show just how competent and capable they truly are when they are tasked with being the researcher of topics they are interested in.

By continuing to place importance on all facets of a balanced education, our primary students are able to make big connections about their world and where they fit into it. Our program aims to help students understand that learning spans well beyond the classroom walls. We take pride in our students seeing themselves as change makers and inspire youth to be a part of the changing world around them.

VMA Daily Schedule

Program Hours 8:50-3:30 PM



VMA Academics

**VMA's curiosity-driven
learning environment
develops lifelong learners
empowered to reach
their full potential.**

VMA Academics

Meeting and Exceeding Provincial Standards

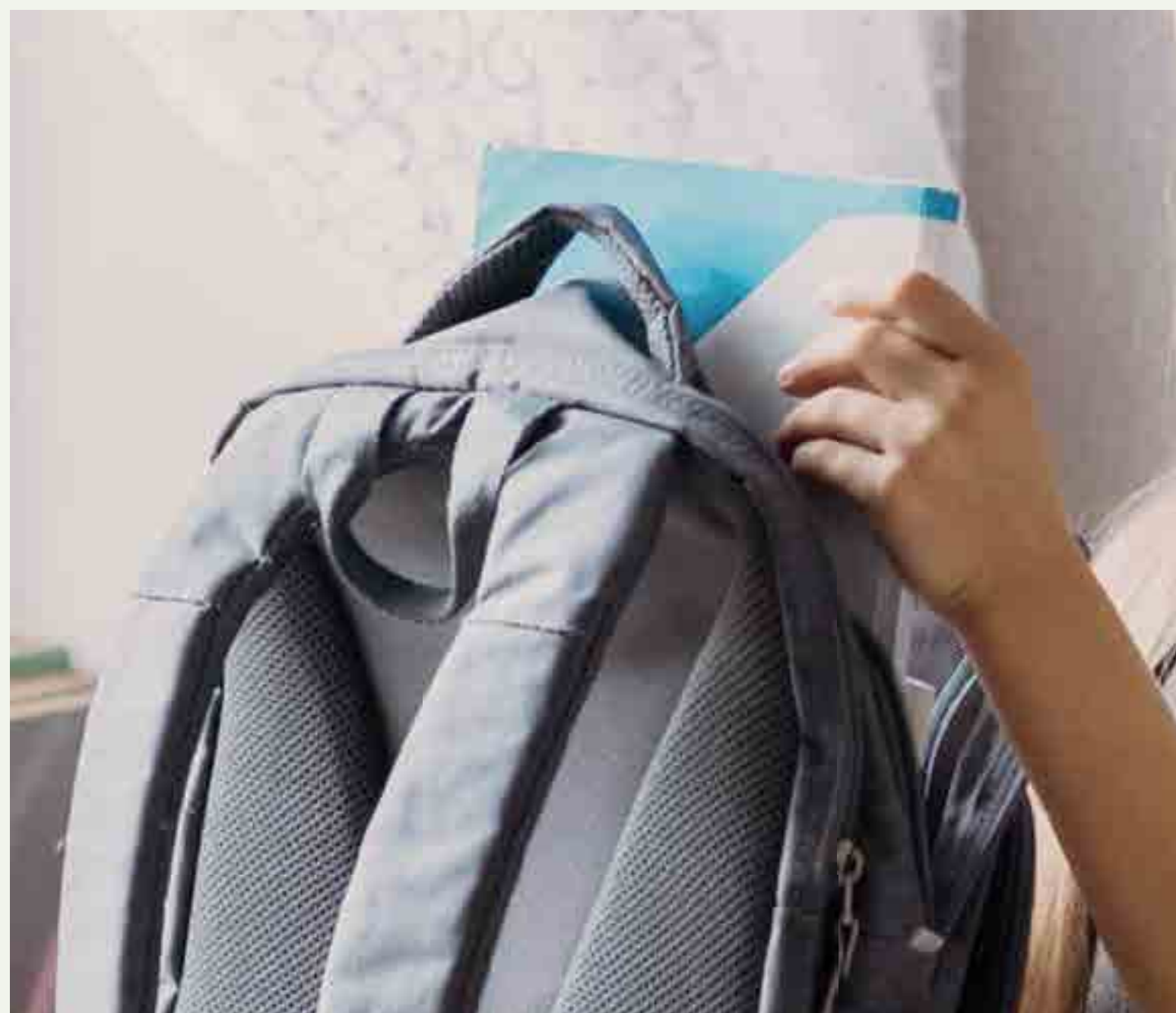
Creating and facilitating an environment that is academically stimulating, integrated, and balanced is our priority.

These are the most crucial years to build a solid foundation for learning. Through an academically stimulating and individualized child-centred curriculum, VMA students build a solid academic foundation and consistently meet and exceed the academic standards defined by the Province of Ontario.



VMA Academics

Homework and Assessment



Kindergarten

In our Kindergarten classrooms, there is no formal testing or regular home work. Our educators observe, listen, and ask probing questions to build meaningful programs for our students.

Junior Years

Once our students reach Grade 1 and older, they participate in spelling tests and Unit Wrap-Ups in Math. Students will also participate in project-based assessments to demonstrate their understanding of topics in Science and Social Studies.

Projects may include speeches, reading and writing projects, book reports, diagrams, and design projects. Teachers will also obtain assessment information through a variety of means, which may include formal and informal observations, discussions, learning conversations, questioning, conferences, homework, tasks done in groups, demonstrations, projects, portfolios, performances, peer and self-assessments, self-reflections, and essays. Students starting in Grade 1 will participate in regular homework throughout the week. Expectations for homework varies by grade.

Beginning in Grade 4 there will be an increased focus on developing skills required in testing scenarios. This may include exposure to testing styles regularly used in a traditional school setting (multiple choice, true and false, etc).

VMA Academics

Progress Reports

Kindergarten and Junior Years

All students will be provided with three progress reports throughout the school year.

Progress reports help families better understand the experience of their child in our classrooms and how families can support their child's learning home. All progress reports are paired with a parent-teacher interview.



"My son has been nurtured, cared for and built up from the moment he walked through VMAs doors. As a parent, I couldn't ask for anything more. This is a school that cares, and it shows. We're extremely grateful to have our son in this supportive school system."



VMA Parent
From VMA Day School
Parent Survey

Areas of Study

Language Arts

Each student's language programming—including reading, writing, spelling, grammar, oral communication, and media literacy—is tailored to the individual student.

In small groups and/or individually, teachers are able to work alongside students to reach their individual potential and are never capped at grade-level expectations. As language skills span across all subjects, students participate in language programming for 100 minutes daily, practicing these skills consistently throughout the day and are assessed on a regular basis. Students will participate in projects requiring them to practice their writing and communication skills in a variety of subjects and explorations throughout the year. VMA uses the Science of Reading approach to teach reading skills.

Beginning in Grade 1:

On a weekly basis, students in Grade 1 and older, will participate in spelling tests. Students in Grade 3 and older will be required to participate in book studies and book reports.

Beginning in Grade 3:

Students will participate in writing a speech to share their interest in a topic of their choice and present it to their peers.





Areas of Study

Mathematics

We believe in a mastery approach to Math concepts as the skills in Math are foundational to years of learning.

While our program uses the Ontario Curriculum to guide its learning, we never cap students' daily learning with grade-level expectations. Our students participate in math on a daily basis for a minimum of 60 minutes a day.

Throughout the year, our Math concepts will also be represented and practiced in class projects to allow our students to make real-life connections on where Math can be used.

Beginning in Grade 2:

Students will be presented with unit wrap-ups that require them to demonstrate their understanding of a concept. These Wrap-Ups will be used to assess our student's understanding of the topic and will be used to demonstrate a student's understanding of grade-level expectations.

Areas of Study

Investigative Research (IR)

IR puts the interests and inquiries of the children at the heart of the learning that takes place in our classrooms.

While our classrooms frame their learning based on the students, wonders, questions, and ideas, our teachers will help guide the learning based on the curricular expectations listed in the Social Studies and Science Curriculum document.

The goal of our IR learning blocks is to build knowledge as a class in real, authentic problems from the world around them. The learning block is designed to be collaborative, exploratory, and integrated with all subjects. The process of this exploration allows VMA students to guide their learning, deepen their thinking, take risks, and allows every student to be a valued contributor to the knowledge we build as a classroom.

Beginning in Grade 1:

Students begin to focus on higher-order thinking to improve their critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills. They will be supported in transition from remembering, understanding and applying knowledge to analyzing, evaluating, and creating knowledge.

IR Assessment

Assessment in our older grades comes in the form of large cross-curricular projects, exit tickets, knowledge-building circles, self-reflections and self-assessments, and picture learning logs. Assessment focuses on:

Knowledge and Understanding:

Subject-specific content acquired in each grade/course (knowledge), and the comprehension of its meaning and significance (understanding)

Thinking:

The use of critical and creative thinking skills and/or processes

Communication:

The conveying of meaning through various forms

Application:

The use of knowledge and skills to make connections within and between various contexts

Areas of Study

Core French

Our French program begins in our kindergarten program and continues throughout to Grade 6.

Our program is designed to dynamically teach and develop student's skills in reading, writing, and oral communication in the French language. We follow the Action in Motion (AIM) curriculum. Through this program, authentic learning is achieved by using scaffolding techniques which use story-telling, gestures, active collaboration, and repetition. The use of high-frequency vocabulary, introduced with gestures and contextualized in stories, drama, songs and dance, allows students to rapidly achieve levels of oral and written proficiency.

The Arts

VMA students participate in dance, drama, and artistic expression as critical vehicles for learning in a Reggio-inspired classroom.

VMA students use the arts to interpret experiences on their own and express their understanding in a personal manner. The arts are integrated into many of our Investigative Research projects and explorations.

Throughout the school year, VMA highlights different communities of artists through various school-wide artist study. Artists from all different backgrounds are further explored as student's learn about the artist's history, their techniques and dive into cultural explorations.

VMA's art program is also extended with programs throughout the year with specialized learning experiences, such as improv classes, specialized dance programs, and theatre production visits.



Areas of Study

Music

Students are taught basic musical theory in all grades.

Students will participate in music classes starting in our Kindergarten classes. Musical theory will be taught in our music classes in preparation for two annual performances.

Our music program includes music education, playing instruments, learning theory, and music history.

Beginning in Kindergarten

Students explore and experience different handheld instruments, introducing them to the basics of musical theory including rhythm and melody. They participate in vocal classes, learn about the history of music, and study featured artists of the month.

Beginning in Grade 1:

Students begin to learn to play the ukulele which helps children develop a strong musical foundation. They learn about basic music theory including rhythm, melody, and harmony, which can be applied to other instruments in the future.

Areas of Study

Health & Physical Education

As part of our whole child development approach, VMA students take time to care for their minds and bodies throughout each day.

On a daily basis, students are provided with time for meditation and participate in gym classes twice a week. They are supported with ongoing conversations about taking care of our mental, emotional, and physical health.

As a part of our physical education curriculum, VMA offers a minimum of 3 specialized sports programs for 4-8 week sessions each school year. Specialized coaches from outside of VMA teach these programs either on our campus or through visits to their facilities in the local community. Sports may include but are not limited to karate, jujitsu, skating, swimming, soccer, basketball, baseball, hip hop, golf, tennis, and gymnastics.

Technology

All classrooms are equipped with tablets and keyboards to develop contemporary communication skills in an age-appropriate manner.

VMA students use technology to explore new subjects and deepen their understanding of difficult concepts. We differentiate our teaching to support different learning styles and abilities, and develop many practical skills including: creating presentations, learning to differentiate reliable from unreliable sources on the Internet, maintaining proper online etiquette, and writing skills and formatting.



Beyond Academics

The VMA Experience is More than an Education



Beyond Academics

Field Trips

Each month, VMA plans at least one field trip and/or outside guest visitor.

Field trips are selected to extend the learning in the classroom and help students draw real-life connections to their explorations. Field trips change from year-to-year and from grade-to-grade. Overnight camps will be introduced for Grade 4 and older. Team building experiences, and outdoor activities such as canoeing, archery, swimming, campfires, and many other exciting outdoor activities.

Guest Presenters

VMA welcomes people from our community into our classrooms, enriching our program with the voices that impact the world and community around us.

VMA has brought in workshops and speakers for Indigenous drumming, leadership, anti-bullying, charity initiatives, anti-Black Racism, the Humane Society, and Mad Scientists to name a few.

VMA is fortunate to be in the hub of our community with access to our local street car and many community resources. We plan classroom outings to community staples such as Lakeshore Lodge Retirement Home, High Park, the neighbourhood fire station, local restaurants for cooking classes, and frequent trips to the Public Library for book exchanges.

Beyond Academics

Justice-oriented Education

Our justice programs take time to discuss social justice issues in age-appropriate settings.

The topics covered include FNMI education and reconciliation, feminism, anti-racism, and supporting our 2SLGBT2S+ community. We explore each of these issues, allowing children to engage in reflections and conversations in a safe place, while also encouraging them to speak out about how the issues resonate with them. In facilitating explicit conversations around injustice, we hope our students build social awareness and the courage to speak up when they feel their voices—and the voices of others—need to be heard.

Community and Global Citizenship

Students build a sense of self and are able to nurture their respect for others by understanding where they fit in the greater community.

Even from a young age, our goal is to help children feel a connection to their community both locally and globally. Through conversations, exploration, and real-life experiences within their community, students are able to work on their problem-solving, decision-making, critical thinking, and communication skills as they work towards becoming global citizens with a voice.

We encourage our students to reach out to communities they feel passionate about supporting. Our students have adopted endangered pets and worked with companies such as Socks for Souls, Salvation Army, and Daily Bread, to help those in need.





Beyond Academics

Outdoor and Land-based Education

Students' fundamental understanding of the world is developed by connecting with the outdoors and appreciating our interdependence with nature.

Our regular connections with nature also help our students deepen our sustainability practices, and environmental stewardship, and allow us to make connections with Indigenous teachings. Students are encouraged to bring their inquiries and ideas from outside into our classrooms to explore in more detail. Often our Investigative Research topics stem from the conversations and questions that are ignited from our outdoor education days.

All programs participate in a monthly outdoor education day in the local community in addition to regularly scheduled field trips. Frequent destinations include Humber Bay, High Park, and Lakeshore waterfront.

Social Emotional Learning

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is a key component in the development of the whole child.

A student's social-emotional competencies underscore their ability to learn and interact with their environment positively. The skills developed through SEL span well beyond the classroom and are continuously developed throughout one's life. Our program aims to help students in their journey of social-emotional regulation and introduce them to strategies supporting the emotions that come with being social-beings.

"Overall I have seen progress in my child's education and am very happy with Vincent Massey! I feel that my child knowing that taking time in life to do anything is one of the most important things to remember."



VMA Parent
From VMA Day School
Parent Survey

School Life

Bringing Our School Together to Shape the World Around Us

Activities

On a monthly basis, we incorporate a wide variety of activities celebrating cultural events, pursuing achievement and exploring civic engagement. Activities are broad and varied and include Pumpkin Fest, Halloween parades, holiday performances, Spirit Week, school-wide artist studies, reading buddies, and Pride Parades. These events are in addition to our school-wide seasonal focuses such as Truth and Reconciliation Week, explorations of holidays around the world, Pride Month, Black History Month, International Women's Day, and Canadian History Week.

Students also have the opportunity to attend assemblies and participate in various showcases such as the public speaking contest, talent shows, school dances, school-wide House Teams and competition days.

Student council participation

Students council leadership opportunities begin Grade 2. Our student council is an organization of students who play a crucial role in promoting student spirit, and engagement, voice student concerns, and ideas and help to build a sense of community within VMA. Our student council takes on the responsibility of supporting our school-wide events and school life initiatives. They support fundraising events and participate in helping our younger students with school-wide events.





School Life

Extra Curricular and Clubs

Throughout the school year, VMA offers a variety of opportunities for students to participate in clubs and sports of their choice. Clubs offered change from year-to-year, but may include:

Photography Club

Nature Club

Pottery Club

Chess Club

Cartooning Club

Arts and Crafts

Choir/Glee Club

Cooking Club

Creative Writing Club

Maker Robotics Club

Private Music Lessons

Cross Country

Soccer

Various After-school Clubs

Community Building

Communication with Families

It is important for VMA families to feel part of their child's learning journey.

The closeness of the VMA community is one of the most rewarding parts of the VMA experience and it begins with our weekly and monthly communication commitments. Our programs also offer monthly family involvement opportunities such as back to school events, holiday concerts, Grandparents' Day, family skate days, spring concert, Inventors Museum viewings, and end of year events. Families are invited into the classroom to share cultural celebrations, traditions, book readings, and are offered opportunities for volunteering on field trips.

Weekly Communication

Teachers share learning from the classroom with our families through an application called Seesaw. Teachers will overview the highlights of what's been occurring in Language Arts, Math, Investigative Research, and special events throughout the year.

Monthly Communication

Families are provided a detailed calendar of what is happening throughout the school. Events including outdoor education days, library visits, and family events are all included on your child's monthly calendar. Our teachers are also always available to set up meetings with families.





Community Building

Parent Association

Parents are invited to get further involved by joining the VMA Parent Association.

VMA has a vibrant and active school community. Our Parent Association (PA), is made up of a group of current families who are looking to be actively involved in enhancing the school experience for our students. There are many opportunities for our PA to volunteer and support events, as well as lead fundraising initiatives, that are taking place throughout the school year. Our PA also organizes family social events where families in the VMA community can connect outside of a school setting.

Optional Programs

Before and After School Care

VMA offers a Before and After School Program as well as full day care on all PA Days, Winter, and March Break

The Before and After School Program includes two snacks a day and a hot lunch on PA days, Winter and March Break. There is no option for just before or after school care.

Hours of operation:

Before School 7:30-8:40 AM

After School 3:30-6:00 PM



Optional Programs

VMA Summer Camp (Ages 4+)

For the months of July and August, VMA offers a fun-filled Summer Camp Program for children between the ages of 4 to 12 years old. Our Summer Camp is an extension of VMA's signature Reggio-inspired curriculum that focuses on the development of the whole child and is interest and inquiry-based in experience.

A key component of our Summer Camp program is our access to our amazing community. Much of our programs take place off-site to allow campers to enjoy local parks, splash pads, local trails, and more. While much of our program is off-site, on a weekly basis we bring in entertainers and presenters for our students to continue expanding the learning throughout the summer months. While many of our students attend VMA Summer Camp, we do have a limited number of placements for children who do not attend VMA.



Contact Us

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you have about Vincent Massey Academy and our community:

Contact@vincentmassey.com
(416) 252-3304 x225



Visit the K-6 Day School

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