



OLIVET SCHOOL
A CARING APPROACH TO EDUCATION



Olivet School

Admissions Book



All teaching is simply an opening
of the way.

-Emanuel Swedenborg

WHY CHOOSE Olivet School

What will your child experience at Olivet School?



At Olivet School, we focus on creating a warm, caring environment for our students through small class sizes and integrating Christian values and character development into all that we do. Our teachers build a solid character education by cultivating each student's gifts and talents, encouraging them to work to the best of their potential, and inspiring them to be caring, honest, and considerate individuals.

Founded in 1893, Olivet School is a private elementary school located in central Etobicoke, in Toronto's west end. Our rich history has provided young minds with the opportunity to grow academically and spiritually, while preparing them for future success.

If personalized attention, a safe and supportive learning environment, and the development of strong character are priorities for your child's education, then Olivet School is the answer. **Book a tour** today to learn more about our unique caring approach to education.

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



I believe in the true value of our school, and am thrilled to be Olivet School's Principal. Olivet School provides students with unparalleled one-on-one instruction, with the ever-present goal of producing outstanding citizens who strive to engage wholeheartedly in life, and in their communities. Basing learning goals on the Ontario Curriculum, and infusing it with the teachings from the Bible, our teachers build the foundations for students' learning in academic subjects, as well as in their development as compassionate individuals. We excel at character education, continuously striving to cultivate each student's gifts and talents, encouraging them to work to the best of their potential, and inspiring them to be caring, honest, and considerate of those around them.

Olivet School is a joyful place to work, play and learn, but don't take our word for it. Have a look at our brochure, and then contact us to see for yourself!

Laura Braam, Principal

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Founded in 1893, Olivet School is a private elementary school located in central Etobicoke, in Toronto's west end. Our rich history has provided young minds the opportunity to grow academically and spiritually, while preparing them for future success.

Parents, students and Olivet School teachers love the community for its caring, home-like atmosphere, small class sizes, and its rich academic program taught alongside New Church Christian values. Together, these factors create the caring approach to education on which we pride ourselves.

Olivet School's programming is based on today's Ontario Curriculum combined with enlightened Christian values. With small classes, we often go beyond the Curriculum and challenge students to apply things they've learned and follow up on the questions and subjects that intrigue them. Our students also write the Canadian Achievement Test yearly, so teachers can ensure that students are reaching their full potential.

If a strong academic program combined with valuable life lessons is the education you want for your child, Olivet School is for you.



I love this school for its small class sizes and nurturing, family-oriented environment, which encourages a level of self confidence and social awareness in the students that is very difficult to foster in a larger school setting. This, in combination with a healthy blend of spirituality and academics, provides an excellent foundation for students, both from an educational and broader social perspective. It's a setting that's hard to beat!

-Grade 1 Parent

OUR HISTORY

Olivet School was founded in 1893 to serve the academic needs of children from the Olivet New Church. Over 125 years later, our school has expanded to welcome the broader community and all parents seeking a rigorous academic program taught alongside caring Christian values.

While our teaching methods have changed with the times, our core philosophy remains the same. Many of our teaching staff have been involved with the Olivet School community for years, and they remain committed to fostering a school atmosphere that supports learning, character development, and overall growth.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Since its founding in 1893, three elements have remained key to Olivet School's philosophical approach to elementary school education.

3
C's

Caring: A caring educational atmosphere is a vital part of learning in the primary grades. We teach and nurture qualities of safety, gentleness, innocence, kindness, and gratitude. Our hope is to give children the experience of school as a gentle extension of the home. This is achieved through loving, attentive teaching, intimate class sizes, and firm standards of behaviour. This atmosphere provides students with the stability and support they need to develop a core of confidence, honesty, and considerate behaviour as they row into adulthood.

Community: Olivet School is a community of families and educators. We place great value on the role of parents in their own children's education and we support this through frequent and open lines of communication between the home and the school. Though volunteering at the school is not a requirement, we find that many of our parents like to get involved. Parents and families attend picnics, concerts and plays. They help out with field trips. They visit the classrooms for story time, baking or art, and they contribute to the life of the school by sharing from their own professional backgrounds and favourite hobbies. Olivet School's rich community means that students form lifetime friendships. Parents and teachers at Olivet School share a love for raising principled children in an atmosphere of love and thoughtfulness.

Christian Values: Values like kindness to others and responsibility are woven into everything we do at Olivet School. Based on the Ontario Curriculum and a Christianity that makes sense, our students pursue their studies within the context of how to use this knowledge to live a purposeful life. How does one truly care for one's neighbour with integrity? What is hidden within the wonder of the created universe? These questions and others like them take the curricular knowledge and bring it alive as we explore questions of meaning and purpose at age-appropriate levels. Through this enriched approach to curriculum, Olivet School has remained a leader in character development, the compass which guides a student throughout their life and beyond.

OUR TEAM

Here at Olivet School, we're privileged to have a team of staff members who are dedicated to fostering educational, personal and spiritual growth in our students. Our teachers, administration, and executive team remain loyal to us, and while our staff remain deeply rooted in the original vision, they are always bringing fresh and contemporary ideas to the school atmosphere.

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Laura Braam, Principal: In addition to an Ontario Teaching Certificate, Laura has Montessori training which she skillfully incorporated into her classrooms over the years. She loves all things teaching from pedagogy, methodology, strategies and best practices.

Laura brings a deep love of children, a passionate commitment to Olivet School and an incredible spirit of helping others. She has great communication skills and is known for her exuberance and joy. Her fresh perspective and authenticity is a huge contribution to the success of Olivet School. In her spare time, she loves spending time with her family outdoors, or enjoying a good book.



Michael Cowley, M. Div., MAPC, Pastor: Michael combines over 35 years of pastoral, administrative, educational and counselling experience with his love for the students and parents at Olivet School.

Along with his daily activities in the school, he offers parenting and marriage workshops. Michael has taken training at the Gottman Institute to be recognized as a Certified Educator both in the Emotion Coaching: The Heart of Parenting program as well as the Seven Principles for Making Marriages Work program. Michael has been married for 37 years and raised six (now adult) children.



Jon Lee, Assistant Pastor: For the past 23 years, Jon Lee has served several congregations in the US, Canada, and South Korea and has enjoyed the opportunity to meet many individuals and experience diverse cultures. Besides an M. Div. degree from Bryn Athyn College of the New Church, he holds a Doctorate in Philosophy. He is interested in Kant's moral theory, Confucianism, and Daoism.

In his personal life, Jon is the proud father of four grown-up children.

PROGRAMS



Olivet School offers kindergarten, primary, junior, and senior programs. Our programs are built around our commitment and caring approach to education:

- Small class sizes
- Individual attention focusing on each child's unique needs, learning style, and strengths
- Building trust relationships

Because of our approach to learning, Olivet School has been able to achieve academic excellence without overburdening students. What does this mean for your child? A more well-rounded student experience including enrichment activities, field trips, and various other out-of-classroom opportunities.



CURRICULUM - KINDERGARTEN



At Olivet School, our Kindergarten classes are where we really shine! We provide a safe, welcoming environment for your little ones to learn, build character and grow.

The classes are led by our teachers who have decades of experience in childhood education and are personally committed to the development of each child.

Let us share with your child the wonders of education in an environment that lets them be uniquely them.

We offer both junior and senior kindergarten, full-day or half-day. Kindergarten is the first year some children are in a school environment, and we treat it as a transition year to the formal education process.

The children work on number, colour, shape, and language skills, but these are balanced with lots of attention on social development among peers and with teachers. We also use this time to teach basic skills that lead to success in reading and mathematics. In kindergarten, we introduce foundational ethical ideas: helpfulness, teamwork, caring for the environment, respectfulness, and safety. Children of this age are also delighted by conversations about heaven, the presence of a loving Creator, and the constant care He provides through parents and angels.

This is a time to lay academic foundations in language and mathematics, but even more it is a time to instill a delight in learning. Making school fun is achieved through tons of movement, excursions to the creek and beyond, building and creating, telling stories, reciting poetry, and singing. We work hard to help students experience success and master the process of working toward success, rather than only the results. We do this by pacing work to the individual student's interests and abilities.



I love my school because I trust that our son is deeply cared for in a personal way by his teacher and he will be paid close attention to in all aspects of his development; intellectual, emotional, social, physical. Also, I trust that she will be in close communication with us about how our son is doing in these areas throughout the year.

- Kindergarten Parent



CURRICULUM - PRIMARY



The primary classroom is an active environment that promotes questions, inquiry, and learning activities! Learning is still closely tied with the student's home life so we cultivate a team approach between parents and teacher through regular communication and dialogue about student progress. As pivotal math and language concepts are learned, these are matched with further development of fine and gross motor skills. Young students still tend to be very literal thinkers so their academic learning is purposefully grounded in tangible examples and experiences, which support brain development and a thorough understanding of Ontario Curriculum concepts.

In the classroom, the scope of the subject matter broadens to match the growth in the minds of the children, but the approach to education continues to be holistic. With such an excellent teacher-student ratio, each child receives regular individual attention and is thus supported in achieving his or her potential for academic excellence. When the excitement, questions, and interests of students are allowed to influence the schedule, academic learning happens almost effortlessly. Frequent physical activity keeps children engaged and increases retention of material at hand. In order to support emotional development, the teacher models appropriate emotional identification and sharing, and coaches the students to find language for and effective responses to their emotional states.

CURRICULUM - JUNIOR

In our junior classroom, our approach to education continues to be holistic. The holistic classroom approach, which brings together academic, social, emotional, and physical development, is all set within the concept of spiritual education. A spiritual focus teaches students:

- To see themselves and others as having intrinsic, God-given value which transcends any flaws, differences and limits
- To pursue purposeful contributions in life which go beyond the pursuit of personal gratification
- To recognize their connection and accountability to a higher being

With excellent teacher-student ratios, each child receives regular individual attention and is supported in achieving his or her potential for academic excellence. Since intellectual mastery at the junior room level relies on the adaptability of our teachers to meet student interests, the teacher actively engages with the students to learn their interests to help deliver the curriculum.



CURRICULUM - SENIOR



We challenge our students to move beyond a mere knowledge into understanding where the students are looking for useful applications for what they are learning. For example, we had students work with an electrical engineer to build a working transistor radio as part of their electricity unit.

In addition to frequent excursions and opportunities to test new skills and knowledge, the students work hard on presenting material confidently and articulately. This is one of the many advantages of our small classrooms which allow each student opportunities to present material and practice leadership in the classroom.



The holistic classroom approach, which brings together academic, social, emotional, and physical development, is all set within the concept of spiritual education. A spiritual focus teaches students:

- ✓ To see themselves and others as having intrinsic, God-given value which transcends any flaws, differences and limits
- ✓ To pursue purposeful contributions in life which go beyond the pursuit of personal gratification
- ✓ To recognize their connection and accountability to a higher being

In our senior classroom, we continue to build a solid, in-depth foundation of knowledge through individualized attention. The teachers provide detailed answers and encourage discussion as questions arise. Students at this age are becoming more aware and are excited about learning about the world around them. We teach an enriched Ontario Curriculum in science, history, geography, literature, grammar, math, art, and writing, as well as Christian teachings that make sense and focus learning on the application of all knowledge.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At Olivet School, we are able to enrich our curriculum with outings and experiences to enhance students' understanding of their subjects in the context of the world around them. This enrichment includes field trips to a wide range of places, and opportunities for students to experience music and theatre both as audience members and as performers. Our facilities and access to green space allow us to spend time in nature and offer a range of activities to enhance learning.



FIELD TRIPS

Field trips have included: museums and galleries, visiting the Mayor's office, meeting with Canadian authors, The Royal Winter Fair, theatre visits, visiting professionals at their place of business, Phys. Ed. trips to Centennial Hill, explorations of the local creek and wooded area, bicycle tours of Toronto Island, and much more.



PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

A wide variety of performance opportunities are offered throughout the school year, including an annual French play, annual end-of-year music production, a Christmas concert, and classroom skits.



FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Our facilities and equipment include laptops, video and still photography equipment, a commercial kitchen for occasional cooking, math manipulatives, science equipment, a performance stage, a gymnasium, a sports field, and immediate access to large green space with trails and a creek. We also have a public skating rink and pool nearby that we use occasionally for athletics.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Athletics

Movement is incorporated into all our programs, but we also have a physical education program, which introduces students to a wide range of games and sports. Our focus is on developing coordination, ball skills and fitness, in addition to qualities of teamwork, good sportsmanship, and perseverance. We emphasize participation, skill development, and fun rather than competition. This means that no student is left sitting on the bench and every student graduates with the abilities and experience needed to flourish in a wide range of sports.

Music

Olivet School's music program starts in kindergarten and lays a solid foundation of delight as well as competency in music. Starting from basic songs, rhymes, movement and games along with percussion instruments at the younger levels, we work towards reading and performing music on a range of Orff instruments, recorders and ukuleles. Students receive an inspiring, creative and thorough background in music. Three times per year the children perform as a choir at a Sunday service and twice a year we put on school concerts — a highlight for all parents and extended families.



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

French

French is introduced from kindergarten onward. Our French program is built around the acclaimed AIM method, which moves students rapidly into conversational French rather than just having them fill out worksheets and conjugate verbs. Students learn gestures to reinforce new vocabulary and build towards performing a French play for parents at the end of the year. Our French program produces amazing results, one of the most important being that students enjoy using French, rather than dread their language classes. Enjoyment means that students not only learn French, but also actually want to speak French!

Drama and Dance

At Olivet School, we have at least 5 musical and theatrical events each year, including our annual Christmas concert. We also regularly attend musicals and play productions to expand students' understanding of dramatic arts. Every year, the French department produces a French play for parents. The music program also has a cumulative musical production at the end of the year, which highlights the acting and musical talents of the students in the older grades.



Technology

In addition to a strong academic and character foundation, students will need a solid understanding of technology in order to succeed in the future.

We use technology to build self-motivated learners. Laptops are available for specific tasks such as learning keyboarding or working in a specific subject area. For learning coding and robotics, we bring in outside experts to use their knowledge to teach our students about these subjects.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Visual Arts

In addition to academics, we believe in the value of art. Art enriches our lives and has been proven to positively stimulate the brain.

The children from kindergarten to the senior grades are encouraged to explore their creativity through the use of a variety of mediums. For example, painting with tempera, gouache, water colour, and acrylics, and sculpting with different types of modelling clay or even recycled materials not only develop excellent eye-hand coordination, but also teach an appreciation for the creation of something of beauty. The concepts of colour, value, line, shape, texture, and space are taught at age-appropriate levels. Art appreciation is addressed through the study of artists like the Group of Seven and visits to art galleries.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community Outreach and Events

Olivet School is proud to be an involved member of the greater Etobicoke community. Through extra-curricular activities and community outreach initiatives, our goal is to provide our students with exposure to a wide range of programs and events that complement our academic program and caring Christian values.

We are happy to take part in community events such as the annual Terry Fox Run and the Etobicoke Lakeshore Santa Claus Parade. As a proud member of our community, we have also hosted on-site fun fairs to collect donations for local charities.

ADMISSIONS

Olivet School has a long tradition of providing an affordable, top quality education. We believe that a great private school experience should be accessible to everyone.



What can you expect from Olivet School?

- ✓ A small and caring classroom environment
- ✓ Countless opportunities to be active partners in your child's learning
- ✓ High standards of behaviour, work ethic, and respect
- ✓ A quality education fused with Christian principles
- ✓ A community that includes families from a range of ethnic, national, and socioeconomic backgrounds with one shared quality: a belief in the importance of a caring education

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Interested in enrolling your child at Olivet School?
Simply complete the admissions process below:

1. Meet Olivet School's principal for a preliminary interview.
2. Provide records with copies of your child's two most recent report cards and assessment materials (if applicable).
3. Book a student-teacher meeting for your child to meet their prospective teacher and/or join a class for the morning.
4. Complete the registration form and pay a \$500 fee upon receipt of acceptance letter.



I love this school for teaching my son to be not only an excellent student but also a good person. Thank you for your love, care, appreciation, compassion, understanding, help and encouragement on every level.

-Grade 1 Parent



I love my school because we get to learn recorder in music, we do fun experiments in science and we learn calligraphy.

-Grade 4 Student



Every piece of knowledge must exist for the sake of a use.

-Emanuel Swedenborg



**VISIT US AND DISCOVER THE
OLIVET SCHOOL DIFFERENCE!**



**The things that people love they
freely take in, retain, and treasure.**

-Emanuel Swedenborg



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Olivet School

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