

# Programs of Choice

*Programs of Choice are unique opportunities for students to attend programs across the district with no boundaries on where they can go. Programs of Choice are open to all students inside and outside the Surrey School District, with preference given to students within the district. These programs are district run and they operate during regular school hours (as opposed to academies which are extra-curricular programs). Programs of Choice are named as such because it is the student's choice to register in them. This document will briefly outline each of the eight district and four community Programs of Choice offered in the Surrey School District.*

# 1 DISTRICT PROGRAMS

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## 1.1 DISCOVERY PROGRAM

The Discovery Program was initially based out of Discovery Elementary when it started in 1973 until 2010, when it moved to Royal Heights Elementary. Classes are multi-aged cluster classes that encourage social responsibility, peer-mentoring and community leadership. Students are encouraged to become a “family of learners” who support each other. Different types of learning are promoted such as project work, peer-mentorship, community leadership and inquiry-based learning to help students develop essential inquiry and research skills, as well as foster their own personal passions and interests.

## 1.2 INTENSIVE FINE ARTS

The Intensive Fine Arts program integrates the four areas of the fine arts - visual, music, drama, and dance - into all curriculum areas. The program strives to create a stimulating and culturally enriched learning environment where the fine arts are equal partners with what have traditionally been referred to as the "academic subjects" - mathematics, language arts, social studies and science. Within the context of brain research and multiple intelligences learning theories, the goals are to develop students' abilities and enhance learning through the arts, creating a learning environment in which in-depth experience with the arts becomes a fundamental way of knowing.

The Intensive Fine Arts program is available at White Rock Elementary and David Brankin Elementary.

## 1.3 INTER-A

This program provides a context for consistent academics, the development of leadership and personal achievement skills and work in cross-graded group environments. It is a unique secondary program that builds leadership, teamwork and interpersonal skills, very important in today's workplace. Inter-A is open to students from Grades 7 to 12 wanting to work in a student-centered environment that stresses academic excellence. Students work cooperatively to develop their communication, inquiry, reasoning, research and presentation skills in the areas of Humanities, Sciences, Fine Arts, PE and foreign languages. Students are able to complete senior course work with the inclusion of work experience and cooperative education. Field trips, both local and international, are an integral part of the program.

The Inter-A program is available at Kwantlen Park Secondary.

## 1.4 INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

The two-year International Baccalaureate (IB) program provides an enriched and accelerated program of studies. Students have the opportunity to earn university course credits leading to preferred admission to university programs. The program is designed by scholars from the international academic community for the intellectually talented and academically motivated high school student. The goal of the International Baccalaureate program is to educate an international community of skilled, thoughtful, compassionate, and responsible citizens. The IB process of learning includes internally assessed work and externally marked papers and examinations administered by the IB Examination Branch in Cardiff, Wales.

The IB program is available at Semiahmoo Secondary.

## 1.5 LANGUAGES

French language instruction is at the heart of the Immersion Program. It enables the non-Francophone students to acquire a working knowledge of one of Canada's official languages as well as an appreciation of the riches and diversity of French culture. Participation in the program not only provides personal enrichment through another language but also offers benefits in the areas of travel and employment.

The British Columbia Ministry of Education recognizes that French Immersion programs benefits the cognitive and social development of students, as well as their opportunities for career advancement. Research demonstrates that students who successfully complete a French Immersion program attain functional bilingualism while doing as well as, or better than, their unilingual peers in the content areas of curriculum, including English Language Arts.

### 1.5.1 Early French:

- Laronde Elementary
- Martha Currie Elementary
- Peace Arch Elementary
- Riverdale Elementary
- Simon Cunningham Elementary
- Woodward Hill Elementary

### 1.5.2 Late French:

- Crescent Park Elementary
- Henry Bose Elementary
- Jessie Lee Elementary
- K.B. Woodward Elementary
- Sunrise Ridge Elementary

### 1.5.3 Secondary Immersion:

- Earl Marriott Secondary
- Kwantlen Park Secondary
- Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary
- Panorama Ridge Secondary

## 1.6 MONTESSORI

The Montessori program is intended to develop self-directed students with a global vision. In the Montessori classroom. The Montessori program in the Surrey School District was founded in 1981 and has grown from one class to include nearly 400 students and two school sites. There is a multi-age group in each class, ideally a three-year age span, with six- to nine-year-olds grouped together and nine- to 12-year-olds in another grouping. Wherever possible, students stay with the same teacher for three years. An emphasis is placed on students progressing at their own rate. At the Primary level, the method is based on the use of self-correcting, concrete materials, which are devised to be used in a sequence matched to the student's level. There is an emphasis on the development of the student as a contributing member of the society, including a multicultural focus.

The Montessori program is available at Latimer Road Elementary, Mountainview Elementary and Sunnyside Elementary.

## 1.7 TRADITIONAL

The Traditional program emphasizes a structured approach to learning whereby students acquire skills and knowledge in a systematic and sequential manner through teacher-directed instruction. Students achieve their full potential in a structured environment where skills and concepts, in distinct disciplines, are presented in a sequential manner, consistently applied throughout the school. Students will strive for individual excellence and maximize their individual achievement when high standards and expectations are reinforced both at home and at school. Behavioural expectations, clearly defined and communicated in a school code of conduct, create an environment in which students act in a respectful and responsible manner. The goals of the school community are best met when parental involvement is welcomed and the PAC and school work together.

The Traditional program is available at Cloverdale Traditional Elementary, McLeod Road Elementary and Surrey Traditional Elementary.

## 1.8 GIFTED

The gifted program is for students who excel in an area of intelligence. This does not only include a high academic standing as the term gifted encompasses all forms of intelligence such as artistically, socially, mathematically, in literacy and/or scientifically.

### 1.8.1 Challenge Program

The purpose of this program is to engage groups of similarly able students in intense academic, intellectual and creative challenges. The program is for Grades 3-7. All elementary schools in the district refer students to four challenge sites. Selected students participate in half day, per week, modules during a nine week program.

The Challenge program is available at Berkshire Park Elementary, Hyland Elementary, Jessie Lee Elementary and Prince Charles Elementary.

### **1.8.2 Multi-age Cluster Classes**

The purpose of this program is to provide academic challenge and social-emotional support for highly gifted students through an intellectual peer group, and conceptually advanced curriculum. There are three full time classes for gifted students in grades 5, 6 and 7. Referrals for multi-age cluster classes may be completed by the classroom teacher or parent. Students who are referred will be screened before being placed in this program.

The Multi-age Cluster Class program is available at Bayridge Elementary, Berkshire Park Elementary, Crescent Park Elementary and Hyland Elementary.

### **1.8.3 Secondary Gifted**

1.8.3.1 **Gifted Facilitators** - Due to the diversity of timetables and programs at the secondary level, each school has developed a program that best meets the needs of their gifted students. Each secondary school has a gifted facilitator to assist in programming and advocacy roles.

1.8.3.2 **Gifted/Locally Developed Program** - The purpose of this program is to provide an environment where each student's gift is nurtured, while also providing supports for each students' learning disability. Students who qualify for this program must be identified as being both learning disabled and gifted according to the Surrey School District criteria. This program is currently held at Johnston Heights Secondary for Grades 8-10

The Secondary Gifted program is available at Johnston Heights Secondary.

## 2 COMMUNITY-INITIATED PROGRAMS

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### 2.1 HERITAGE SCHOOL

East Kensington Heritage School is a small school featuring a family atmosphere in a rural setting. This heritage school has long standing traditions. Instruction includes traditional approaches and cooperative learning. There is a strong focus on social responsibility and academic achievement.

### 2.2 INTEGRATED STUDIES

This program involves the same teachers for English and Social Studies 8 and 9. It incorporates linear scheduling, interdisciplinary, multiple intelligence curriculum and an enhanced sense of community amongst students and teachers. The goal of the program is to offer the above features while maintaining access to a full range of high school opportunities and electives.

The educational philosophy of the program focuses on developing the creative artistic ability of students while enhancing academic excellence. The principles of student choice, self-directed learning and a holistic perspective guide program development. Multiple age groups are an organizational feature when appropriate and/or feasible. Co-curricular and community involvement are a natural extension of the program.

The Integrated Studies program is available at Elgin Park Secondary.

### 2.3 INTENSIVE FRENCH

Intensive French (IF) is a second language program in which French is taught intensively for the first five months of Grade 6, with a continuation of one hour of French per day in the second five months, as well as throughout the Grade 7 year. There is a follow up Enhanced French class available at the secondary level. This is a neighbourhood program, giving priority enrolment to students living in the catchment of the schools offering the program. Out of catchment enrolment may be considered if space is available.

#### 2.3.1 Intensive French Schools:

- Coast Meridian Elementary
- Erma Stephenson Elementary
- Fraser Wood Elementary
- Frost Road Elementary
- Ocean Cliff Elementary

#### 2.3.2 Enhanced French Schools:

- Elgin Park Secondary
- Fraser Heights Secondary
- North Surry Secondary

## 2.4 PUNJABI 5-8

Punjabi as a second language is a four-year program offered as an alternative to French to meet the Ministry requirements for second language study. Students begin their study of Punjabi in Grade 5 and remain together in the program for Grades 6 and 7. In order to meet curriculum requirements, students are expected to stay in the Punjabi Language Program from Grade 5 through Grade 8.

### 2.4.1 Punjabi 5-7 Schools:

- Beaver Creek Elementary
- Newton Elementary
- Strawberry Hill Elementary

### 2.4.2 Punjabi 8 Schools:

- Princess Margaret Secondary
- Tamanawis Secondary