



Welcome to Heritage Academy

Established in 1989, Heritage Academy is an Ottawa not-for-profit private school specifically designed for students with Dyslexia and other language based exceptionalities. Our specialized environments and smaller class sizes also prove effective for students with ADD/ADHD and similar attention-based exceptionalities. Heritage Academy accepts students from all provinces in Canada as well as International Students.

Our school's purpose is to provide an educational environment where students in Grades 1 – 12 are excited about learning and can discover and meet their full potential, while studying at their own rate on an enriched curriculum. We provide a safe and comfortable learning environment where students can develop good study skills, enhance their emotional intelligence and build their self-confidence.

Our mission is to provide each student with the support they deserve to enable them to reach their full academic potential. By promoting the values of honesty, perseverance, and respect, Heritage Academy fosters acceptance and growth among our students.

One of the most important facets of our school is that our student to teacher ratio, which is set at a maximum of 12:1 (Grades 1 to 6) and 14:1 (Grades 7 to 12). These small class sizes ensure that each student receives the necessary guidance to overcome challenges in the provincial curriculum.

Teachers at Heritage are able to customize their lesson plans to suit the individual needs of all students.

At this time there are very few schools that offer educational services such as those at Heritage Academy. In addition, we are the only school in Ottawa that exclusively offers the Simultaneous Multisensory Teaching (S.M.T.) program and techniques to students who require assistance in both reading and writing.

Heritage Academy follows the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum and is an Ontario Inspected Private School #876500. All core teachers at Heritage Academy are certified and equipped with the pedagogical knowledge to make learning fun and exciting for young minds.

If you require further information or would like to arrange a tour, you can consult our website at www.heritage-academy.com or you can contact us at 613-722-0133.

***When a flower doesn't bloom, you change the environment in which it grows, not the flower.
Alexander Den Heijer.***

SCHOOL HOURS AND CLASS TIMES

School Opening: **7:30am**
School Closing: **5:30pm**
Classes Begin: **9:00am**
Classes End: **3:30pm**

GRADES 1-6			GRADES 7-8			GRADES 9-12		
PERIOD	START TIME	END TIME	PERIOD	START TIME	END TIME	PERIOD	START TIME	END TIME
PERIOD 1	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	PERIOD 1	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	PERIOD 1	9:00 AM	10:20 AM
PERIOD 2	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	PERIOD 2	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	BREAK	10:20 AM	10:25 AM
LUNCH	11:00 AM	11:40 AM	PERIOD 3	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	PERIOD 2	10:25 AM	11:45 AM
PERIOD 3	11:40 AM	12:40 PM	LUNCH	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	LUNCH	11:45 AM	12:35 PM
PERIOD 4	12:40 PM	1:40 PM	PERIOD 4	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	PERIOD 3	12:35 PM	1:55 PM
BREAK	1:40 PM	2:15 PM	BREAK	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	BREAK	1:55 PM	2:05 PM
PERIOD 5	2:15 PM	3:30 PM	PERIOD 5	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	PERIOD 4	2:05 PM	3:30 PM

PHILOSOPHY

We value that every student ought to enjoy success as a learner and master the curriculum of the school.

We value that every student has unique and common learning needs, which require a variety of educational strategies and learning activities. Teaching programs and methodologies at the school reflect this value and are structured to acknowledge the learning needs and talents of individual students.

We value that each student should have his/her basic needs met to enhance their social, emotional, intellectual, and physical well-being. These basic needs comprise a sense of love and belonging, freedom to make choices, a feeling of importance or influence, and the opportunity to have fun.

We value that each student should feel worthy and competent to achieve positive self-esteem and a sense of physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual well-being. We value that each student ought to take responsibility for their actions and, when necessary, ought to develop and agree to work out a plan for managing behavior appropriately.

We value teaching each student to think divergently and creatively at complex levels, to problem solve, and to develop habits of mind that promote success. Our world is changing rapidly, and our students should develop tolerance, patience, courtesy, and understanding of individual differences.

Our school is a safe place where students can learn and develop socially and emotionally in a warm, nurturing environment.

SIMULTANEOUS MULTISENSORY TEACHING (S.M.T.)

The *Simultaneous Multisensory Teaching method (S.M.T.)*, based on the Orton system, is a language re-education method developed to meet the needs of students of all ages, who need a more thorough knowledge of the structure of written language, and a solid understanding of the association of sounds and symbols, before learning how to apply the concepts and rules of written language.

The objective of the S.M.T. method is to teach reading, writing and spelling, with an emphasis on reading accuracy in the early stages, followed by thorough comprehension of written language and its structures. The material is presented in short sequential steps to help students develop self-confidence. Students progress at their own pace.

To be of practical use by most teachers and parents, this method entails detailed lesson plans that outline the pedagogical objectives and expected outcomes for each step. The manual includes explanatory notes on the causes and effects of dyslexia to give teachers insight into the dyslexic person's perspective.

S.M.T. differs from other multisensory teaching approaches. It incorporates the development of phonologic and phonemic awareness in the following learning techniques and strategies:

- visual and auditory discrimination;
- bimanual reading in Braille dots to develop a "tactile vision";
- direct teaching of non-image words;
- an emphasis on diction;
- the etymology of English words.

Advantages of S.M.T

It can be taught to students of all ages and all grade levels.

It allows much earlier intervention for dyslexic children, even if they have not been formally diagnosed because it can be taught as early as grade 1.

Although developed specifically for dyslexic students, this method can be used for all grade 1 children to prevent reading failure and to reduce the need for remedial help later on.

All students in grades 1 through 7 receive their SMT throughout the school day (9:00am to 3:30pm)

All students in grades 7 through 12 receive their SMT before school (8:15am to 9:00am) or after school (3:30 to 4:00pm)

HEGGERTY PHONEMIC AWARENESS – EARLY GRADES

The Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum is a systematic program of daily lesson plans that provide a high level of explicit modelling and student engagement. Each level of the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum focuses on six to eight phonemic awareness skills, along with additional activities to develop letter and sound recognition, introduce the phoneme-grapheme connection and extended language awareness.

The Heggerty Curriculum includes explicit instruction in the following phonological and phonemic awareness skills:

- Rhyming
- Initial Phoneme Isolation
- Blending
- Isolating final and medial phonemes (sounds)
- Segmenting
- Adding Phonemes
- Deleting Phonemes
- Substituting Phonemes

All lessons are designed for a classroom setting, only take 8-12 minutes, and are very easy to implement.

The Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum is also designed to work alongside existing structured synthetic phonics programs. It is a great way to build up the phonological skills of our early readers. This program is offered to students in Grades 1 through 5 as part of their language program.

TUITION FEES

Tuition fees include all field trips, school textbooks and supplies (except agenda, binders and scientific calculators).

Tuition Fees for the 2024-2025 School Year

Tuition Fees -Standard (Registration before February 1 st , 2024	\$17,000.00
Tuition Fees -Standard (Registration after February 1 st , 2024	\$17,200.00
Tuition Fees -Standard/SMT (Registration before February 1 st , 2024	\$18,600.00
Tuition Fees -Standard/SMT (Registration after to February 1 st , 2024	\$19,000.00
Tuition Fees - International (Registration before February 1 st , 2024	\$19,200.00
Tuition Fees - International (Registration after February 1 st , 2024	\$19,600.00

BEFORE/EXTENDED CARE FEES

A set fee will be charged for students in all grades who require either before or extended care supervision.

Before School Care (7:30am to 8:15am)

A set monthly fee of \$130 will be charged for students that require before school supervision during this time.

Extended Care (4:00pm to 5:30pm)

A set monthly fee of \$240 will be charged for students that require extended care supervision during this time. Students that are enrolled in the after school Jiu Jitsu Program will receive a rebate of \$60/month from the set fee.

** PLEASE NOTE: In respect to our teachers and their families, **parents arriving after 5:30 pm will be charged \$1.00 per minute.** The school should be notified prior to 3:15 pm if the parent/guardian will be late.*

Tutoring Service (3:30pm - 5:00pm)

A fee of **\$45/hr** will be charged for tutoring services offered before or after school.

BEFORE/AFTER PROGRAMS AND SCHOOL CLUBS

Students may choose to participate in the following school clubs or extra-curricular activities;

- Intramural Sports • Steam/Knex CLUB
- **Space Club** • *Garden Club* • *Videos for Change*
- **Monster Club** • Roots & Shoots Club • D & D CLUB
- **Student Council** • Model U.N.
- Jiu Jitsu Program • *Study Hall* • *Running Club*
- *Archeology Club* • FRENCH Club
- SKI AND SNOWBOARD • **Chess Club**
- Prom Committee • CRIBBAGE CLUB • **Crochet Club**
- Mindfulness Club* • Game Club

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is defined as learning activities that are assigned to students by teachers and completed during non-classroom hours.

At Heritage Academy, we believe that homework is instrumental in building lifelong learning skills. Unique to Heritage Academy is our guarantee that no new learning will ever be assigned as homework in an attempt to reduce the stress and anxiety that many students face when dealing with learning exceptionalities. For example, all text-book reading is done within the class orally, as well as all homework questions are read through, and explained, and expectations are laid out before students are sent home.

DRESS CODE

All students are required to wear a standard uniform for the top and have the choice of bottoms. However, on the last school day of each month, students are permitted to have a Dress-Down day, during which they do not need to wear the standard uniform.

For students in **Grades 7 to 12**, it is mandatory to change into a different Heritage Academy shirt for gym sessions. **Grades 1 to 6** students are not required to wear a separate gym uniform. If students do not have uniforms, one will be provided to them, and the parents will be invoiced.

- No strong perfumes or body sprays are permitted due to allergies and sensitivities. Students will be removed from class if necessary.
- Appropriate, separate outdoor and indoor shoes are required for students in Grades 1 to 8.

COMMUNICATION/SOCIAL MEDIA

We feel it is important to maintain a good line of communication between the school and our parents. The administration provides regular updates via email and our social media sites as well as our monthly newsletter.

Please visit the website, “friend” us on Facebook and/or add us to Twitter for more information about the school, administration, our educators, important events/dates, school year calendar, extracurriculars, tutoring, policies & procedures, admissions and curriculum information:

Website: <https://www.heritage-academy.com/>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ottawaprivateschooldyslexia/?ref=br_rs

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION CONTACTS

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION CONTACTS		
DEPARTMENT	NAME	EMAIL
PRINCIPAL	Cheryl Ward	info@heritage-academy.com
VICE-PRINCIPALS	Dylan Graves Morgan Mckendry	graves@heritage-academy.com mckendry@heritage-academy.com
ACADEMIC ADVISOR	Morgan MacInnis	macinnis@heritage-academy.com
SMT/EMS DIRECTOR	Michel Lance	lance@heritage-academy.com
FINANCE	Kate Jager	finance@heritage-academy.com
STUDENT RECORDS	Rachel Lee	records@heritage-academy.com
RECEPTION	Melanie Backman Morgan Sharpe	reception@heritage-academy.com