

# **Macdonald High School**

Lester B. Pearson School Board



## **Over One Hundred Years of Academic Excellence**

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Website: <http://macdonald.lbpsb.qc.ca/>

# Macdonald High



*Vires Acquirit Eundo*

## **MAC High, the School with the BIG Heart!**

**This is what a few of our students, in Secondary 1, have to say...**

“All the teachers here are super nice and everyone is very welcoming.  
The teachers take care of us like we’re their own kids.”  
– Christmas Park graduate

“I like everything about MAC! I especially like Robotics. It’s a lot of fun.”  
– Edgewater graduate

“I like MAC because the older kids are actually really nice  
and because there’s lots of new people to meet.”  
– Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary graduate

“There’s a really good Resource department here if you need help.”  
– Birchwood graduate

“I like the caf food and I like all the school sports.”  
– St. Patrick graduate

“I like that there’s a lot of after school programs and I really like the teachers at  
MAC.

My English teacher is the funniest person in the world.”  
– Dorset graduate

# Welcome to Macdonald High School

A school with over 110 years of  
academic excellence, tradition and pride!

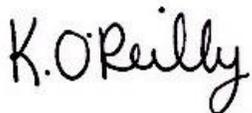
*Macdonald High School strives for excellence in all areas of school life. Whether students are enrolled in our enriched, immersion, or regular program, they are challenged academically in a safe and nurturing environment. We believe that every child should have the opportunity to reach his or her personal, academic, and physical potential. Our goal is for all students to learn and to develop into contributing members of society, and to also enjoy memorable moments that a caring high school like MAC offers.*

*At the “**School with the Big Heart**” many exciting activities and pedagogical projects are happening year-round. Along with new technology initiatives such as Google-Certified Teacher- Training and on-line teacher-student collaborative pedagogy, we are moving forward with the “Bring your own device (B.Y.O.D.)/Mobile Labs” Program. These initiatives are methods which help personalize the educational experience and to engage all students, regardless of their academic level or learning style. We were the first public high school in Quebec to implement a B.Y.O.D/Mobile Labs Program, which allows students to use, when needed, their personal devices, while providing access to over 350 school-owned devices.*

*Besides being at the forefront of educational technology, Macdonald High School has put into effect different curriculum models that have resulted in over a 95% graduation rate. In addition, Macdonald High School has been the recipient of multiple awards in academics, sports, robotics, community involvement, and humanitarian endeavors.*

*Accomplishments, however, are not only measured in numbers. The undeniable strength of this school is our students and our teachers. Their talent, intelligence, kindness and combined individual achievements are what has built our reputation and established MAC as the place to be.*

**-- It's all about the kids --**



Ms. Kathleen O'Reilly  
Principal



Ms. Nancy Potvin  
Vice-Principal



Ms. Cindy Di Gregorio  
Vice-Principal

## Our Building

Macdonald High School brings together a pleasant blend of the past, present and future. The original building is over 110 years old, as Macdonald High School first opened its doors in 1907. Over the years there have been two large additions, combining old historical charm with modern conveniences. Our facilities include a media lab, a recently renovated library and a variety of active learning classrooms. Our bright classrooms are equipped with Smart TV's and Smart Boards, as our teachers enjoy utilizing technology in the classroom. The progressive Science labs allow students to experience, not just learn, science. The Arts (music, drama, dance and visual art) are promoted in some of the most engaging and inspiring spaces in our school. Physical Education programs excel with the opportunities made possible by two gyms, a large outdoor field and the benefit of being able to use some of John Abbott College and McGill's training facilities.



## Fun MAC Facts

Did you know that...?

- More staff members and Administrators have their children attending Macdonald High School than any other high school in our school board.
- We are proud to have as staff members, many high caliber athletes, including a former Olympian and a former University football coach.
- The namesake of our school is not the First Prime Minister of Canada, but was Sir William Christopher Macdonald. He was the founder of Macdonald College and Macdonald High School. He funded the entire construction of both schools from the profits of his company, Macdonald Tobacco Company.
- Classrooms at Macdonald High were originally conceived as a training ground for future educators enrolled in the college's School of Teachers.
- During the Second World War, Macdonald High School was used as a Military training facility.
- Famous Canadian figure skater Toller Cranston is a Macdonald High School graduate.
- Montreal's own renowned CFCF/CTV Newscaster Bill Haugland also graduated from MAC.
- All you ever wanted to know about this fine institution is available online at <http://machigh.org/> (Macdonald High School Alumni Association)

# SUBJECT AREAS

## English

The Secondary English Language Arts program presented at Macdonald High school is first and foremost a literacy program that prepares your child to make intellectual judgments, raise



questions, articulate his/her thoughts and respect the ideas of his/her peers. Courses are offered at both the regular and enriched levels. Students at each level experience “real life” curriculum, Shakespeare, learning to write clearly and creatively, varied reading materials and the opportunity to participate in our school’s renowned public speaking and storytelling programs. Our teachers successfully foster students’ ability to balance speaking, textual analysis, response to literature and writing through individual student skills and group interactions.

## French

Nous offrons deux programmes de français à l’école: langue de base et enrichi. Le programme de base vise une connaissance fonctionnelle de la langue, c’est à dire la capacité d’interagir en français à l’oral et à l’écrit dans différentes situations. Le programme enrichi vise le développement d’habilités plus complexes en matière d’interaction, tant à l’oral qu’à l’écrit. De fait, l’élève est appelé à atteindre un niveau d’autonomie et d’aisance linguistique et culturelle suffisant pour faciliter son intégration à la communauté francophone. De plus, les élèves dans le programme enrichi renforcent l’apprentissage de la langue en prenant d’autres classes en français, en dehors du curriculum de français. Les deux programmes de français préparent votre jeune pour un meilleur avenir.



## Mathematics



Here at MAC, we understand that mathematics is a science, as well as a universal language, that plays a vital role in a person’s intellectual, social, and cultural development. Your child will develop the skills he/she needs to be able to attune to a changing world, including creativity and critical judgment which are both essential to decision making. The Mathematics department is committed to reaching students at their respective stages of learning through various content delivery methods. Students have access to teacher curated and customized videos, websites, and materials. These tools may be used for study and remediation –

when and where they need it – whether in or out of class or school. In Secondary 1 to 3, we offer regular and enriched mathematics. In Secondary 4 and 5, we offer two math options: Cultural, Social and Technical Math (CST) and Science Math (SN).

## Sciences and Technology



Students are introduced to the processes of science such as observation, investigation, experimentation, verification, model making, analysis, and critical thinking. In addition, students study many aspects of technology and the design process. In the labs at MAC, students collaborate and work with a “hands-on” approach to explore ideas in practical and theoretical applications of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In the junior years, Science is offered in

French as an option to the Cycle 1 students. In Cycle 2, the senior years, a variety of options are offered including Physics and Chemistry, which are necessary for those wishing to pursue Science at the CEGEP level. Our students also have many enriching opportunities like participating in the annual science fair, field trips, research projects, guest presentations, and special projects at John Abbott College. Our goal is to get students interested and excited about Science and Technology, and to use their knowledge and skills to solve authentic problems.

## Social Sciences

Together, History, Geography, Financial Literacy, Contemporary Studies and Citizenship Education, make up the Social Sciences Department at Macdonald High School. Through written documents, maps, images, film, guest speakers and computer technologies, we bring the past to life and explore what makes us the nation we are today. Students practice traditional academic skills as well as interpersonal, technological, and communication skills such as debates, simulations, video creations and team building activities that will help them in all areas of their future academic and professional lives. Students can take part in field trips to places such as Spain, Quebec City, Ottawa, Old Montreal, Upper Canada Village, Boston, Toronto and New York City. Social Science also offers opportunities for French language instruction as courses are offered in French from Secondary 1 to Secondary 5.

## Physical Education



Bulldog pride! This department prides itself on being on the forefront of physical and health education which lies in the realm of personal development. Macdonald High school students will increase their chances of keeping fit throughout their lives if they integrate personal hygiene, sports, knowledge of human physiology, healthy eating habits and a balance between work and leisure into their daily living. Our students are given the opportunity to develop tools necessary to feel well, be physically and mentally healthy, have a positive self-image, and to live in harmony with others. MAC’s program is composed of a wide variety of team activities including hockey, soccer, basketball, volleyball, football, and cross-country running, are just a few examples of where our students shine.

## Dance

This art is often referred to as the prose of human movement, using and organizing movements to express, create and communicate. The dance program at Macdonald High School encourages individuals to explore reality through their senses and self-expression. Dance students are taught to understand this art form by providing opportunities to visit cultural venues and meet with various guest artists. Jazz, lyrical, hip hop and ballet techniques are part of this spectacular program, which culminates in a huge end of year dance production.



## Visual Arts



Art education plays a role in the development of each student's cultural and social education. The Visual Art program gives students the opportunity to explore the world of artistic expression through exposure to works of visual art in many of its different forms. Our students are introduced to skills such as: drawing, painting, sculpture, and printmaking as well as to Visual Art theories and language. These opportunities help the students acquire and develop the skill base and knowledge they need to apply to their personal artistic creations. Macdonald High School is emerging as a school known for its creative accomplishments.

## Music

Music plays an essential role in our lives. MAC is one of the few high schools to offer a Jazz Band program to all students from Secondary 1 to 5. Your child will learn to appreciate, play and even improvise over Funk, Latin, Soul, Rock, and of course jazz music. Students learn to play and care for instruments used in a standard Jazz Band formation such as trumpet, trombone, and saxophone as well as rhythm section instruments like bass and drums. Each and every class becomes a band with its own sound and personality.



## Drama

Our Drama program is designed to engage students on psychomotor, affective, social, cognitive and cultural levels. All areas of stage life are explored, from the creation and performance of action, to using elements of stage. Once the building blocks of dramatic performance are established, students explore style and genre, culminating in the writing and production of their own plays. Students will study different styles of literature, the elements that make up these, how to create their own stories and then present those stories in a dramatic fashion. Students may also choose a role in the annual school production. Combining study with fun is what Drama at MAC is all about.



## **Ethics and Religious Culture**

This required government program guides your child in learning and experiencing ethics, cultures and world religions from a neutral standpoint. Extensive methods through which this course is taught compliments how the students understand and fully take part in the multi-ethnic world that surrounds them. Value-related issues are covered as the students explore the major aspects of human civilization, all of which contributes to the personal development of each Macdonald High School student.

## **Multi-Media**

Lights! Cameras! Action! Macdonald students experience using video software, digital cameras, and a variety of studio lighting equipment while producing, directing and implementing a live morning news broadcast daily. This is all done from a modern day broadcast station situated within the school, complete with green screen. The live broadcast is fed into each of the homeroom classrooms each morning. Vital school information regarding events and general school information is shared daily to the student body through this medium. Each production is a student-led and student-run initiative.

## **Leadership and Student Life**

The Leadership program at MAC provides experiences that nurtures and develops the qualities we want individuals to acquire to become independent, responsible and respectful individuals. Students who are part of the Leadership program become intricately involved in the planning and implementation of many activities in student life and the student community. The many roles our students leaders take on include: coaches, event planners, mentors, camp organizers, producers, fundraising gurus, and community volunteers.

## **Student Services**

Students can take advantage of the variety of services that include a Guidance Counselor, CLSC Nurse, Community and Spiritual Animator and School Psychologist. All matters discussed remain confidential and students may receive support regarding personal, academic and/or vocational issues. The Student Services office is always open and students are invited to drop by to say “hello” and make an appointment for one of the great support services offered.

### **Guidance**

The MAC Guidance office is responsible for the registration and orientation of new students and offers counselling services and academic and vocational guidance to the student community. The Guidance Counselors work as part of the multi-disciplinary school team to help facilitate the academic success and social development of the students. Liaison services between the school and community based partners from the health and social service sectors are provided.

The MAC Guidance office strives to create a safe and caring environment where students can receive timely intervention in a period of crisis as well as ongoing support and academic guidance throughout their time at Macdonald High School. The Guidance Counsellor is available for consultation by students, staff, and parents on a daily basis.

More information can be found on the following site: <https://macguidanceservices.weebly.com/>

### **Planning Room**

Macdonald High school is pleased to offer this support service, where an experienced Technician is available to support students with interventions and planning. Decisions of students who will benefit from these services are made in collaboration with the Administrative team on an as needed basis.

### **Library**

Our fully automated library reflects the best of MAC tradition blended with new technology. From the beautiful stained glass windows crafted by a former teacher and students to the computers with Internet access, the library provides an inviting place for research or browsing. A full-time school librarian is always available to help individuals or classes with assignments or recreational reading choices. In fact our record of loans is second to none in the high schools of Lester B. Pearson. Our library is another source of MAC pride!

### **Community Service**

Our Community Service Program at MAC promotes and encourages an attitude of kindness and acceptance. Through the involvement in events such as Terry Fox Runs, lunches for senior citizens, our Remembrance Day tributes, Food Drives, Royal Legion visits, and, of course, our annual Multi-cultural food court, MAC students quickly learn that helping others not only feels good, but that getting involved is often the key to success!

## **Cross-Curricular Collaboration & Digital Learning (Pedagogy)**

MAC is in the process of reinventing the classroom by integrating a digital environment into our pedagogical practices. We envision a future classroom where teachers can differentiate more easily to meet student needs. MAC has been the recipient of grant money to pursue cross-curricular resource development in Cycle 1. Teachers are piloting various tools including Google Apps for Education (GAFE) and our teachers collaborate to develop cross-curricular activities across subject areas for deeper understanding.

## **Resource Department**

The extensive Resource Department at Macdonald provides direct intervention and academic support to all students requiring additional support to succeed to their fullest potential. This department oversees secondary leveled resources and individualized programs while providing a balance of in-class support and small group instruction. Within the two large classrooms dedicated to serving the needs of the students, there is an opportunity to access additional resources and expertise that complement in-class learning. Within this department is an entire team consisting of two Resource teachers, Special Education Technicians, Integration Aides, Administration and a variety of Community and School Board Professionals who plan specific supports to students identified with particular and/or special needs.

## **Work Orientation Program – A Path to Success**



For some students, Cycle One can be challenging. This alternative program provides the opportunity with practical training for the workplace while they pursue a general education adapted to their needs. The goal is to adequately prepare students for the demands of life in society and the world of work. Students successfully completing the program obtain an official certificate from the Ministry of Education. A workplace stage is a required part of this pathway.

## **Robotics**

We are very proud of this extra-curricular Robotics program that runs all year long. Students are given the opportunity for hands-on, practical learning and team building in a fun and professional environment. The opportunity to interact with and create the elements of robotics provides students with different learning modalities and a chance to excel in knowledge and problem-solving skills. Many have appreciated the quality of our Robotics program and over past years our club has presented to other schools and competed in the CRC competitions, where MAC has been highly successful.



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The School with the Big Heart**

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