



The R. H. King Difference

Gr 9 Courses at R.H. King



Mathematics

- **Grade 9 Mathematics runs all year.** This provides students with year-round practice in skills and concepts and a strong foundation for future mathematics.
- The **EQAO Provincial Mathematics Assessment** occurs in June and serves as the final exam in Grade 9 Mathematics. Our mathematics scores are consistently amongst the highest in the board and the province.
- **Frequent assessments: Quizzes** are provided often in order to find and resolve problems as soon as possible. A **unit test** will occur approximately every 3-4 weeks.
- **Teachers work closely together to offer a unified program.** This means that coursework proceeds at the same pace and all students benefit from consistent programming.
- **Clinic** is a designated half hour time period each and every day for students to meet with teachers to get special help in any subject. This is a perfect time to get extra help in Mathematics. **Extra help** is offered by all teachers at lunch or before/after school, as well as during Clinic.
- **After-school Peer Tutoring** is available to all students four days a week.

Science

- R. H. King Academy has been identified as a **S.T.E.M. School**. Our Science courses focus on integrating **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics** and developing the skills that students need to be successful in the S.T.E.M. fields, preparing them for the future workforce.
- Like math, our grade 9 Science courses are **non-semestered** so students will have Science class every other day for the entire year, providing them with year-long practice in science skills and concepts, as well as a strong foundation for future study.
- R. H. King offers all core science programming at the College and University levels allowing students to pursue any post-secondary science-related pathway.
- The units of study in grade 9 Science are Ecology, Chemistry, Electricity and Space.

Physical Education

King's Health and Physical Education program promotes regular participation in a variety of enjoyable activities that promote lifelong healthy active living. Students will learn movement skills and principles, methods to improve personal fitness and physical competence, and safety and injury prevention. They will investigate issues related to healthy living and have the opportunity to earn their CPR certification. All students will participate in a variety of activities that are designed to develop goal setting, communication and living skills.

After grade 9, students have the opportunity to enroll in:

- Early morning physical education classes
- Basketball/Volleyball team focused classes
- All girls fitness classes

English

R. H. King Academy's English department is committed to consistency across all levels, all grades and all classes. Starting from grade 9, our students are taught a specific method of structuring and developing ideas in writing that has proven to help our students become stronger writers. Regardless of teacher or course level, the same writing process is taught, ensuring consistency for all students. As English is a skill based curriculum, this process is reinforced each year, allowing students to master the form. Many of our past graduates have returned to King to tell us how confident they feel in their university courses and how they are actually helping other students in their classes learn how to write a properly constructed argument.

In addition to preparing students to be clear communicators, our department has always valued the explicit teaching of critical thinking. We believe that all students must have the ability to critically analyze what they see, hear and read. From grade 9 onwards, we emphasize how to deconstruct ideas within spoken, visual and written texts. Our reading strategies help students find meaning in texts, but they also encourage them to actively question the information presented. Past graduates have informed us that learning how to think and how to critically examine what others think have prepared them for courses of study outside the English curriculum.

Finally, our English department values inclusiveness. Our texts of study represent a broad range of perspectives and backgrounds. Our students learn about the world in which they live through current fiction and non-fiction texts. Our belief is that literature reflects society, and course texts must *reflect* the diverse society in which we live. Most importantly, we recognize that students learn best through a holistic approach that draws on both their creative and the intellectual strengths and interests.

Geography

What makes geography great at R. H. King Academy: We teach about the world *in* the world.

- **Field Trips** in every course: Field study is an incredibly important part of our curricular focus on inquiry and independent research. Students travel to Regent Park, Cabbagetown, St. Jamestown, Don Valley Brickworks, Don River Valley, Kensington Market, and more.
- **Friends of the Rouge Watershed** is working with King to develop our naturalized zone at the north end of the school. Students work outside, learning about native and invasive species and nature appreciation.
- **Hot Docs Festival** is run every spring giving students the chance to watch new and important documentaries on issues that concern their future and then critically engage with these issues in discussion with their teachers and peers.
- **The Canadian Geographic Big Map Program** visits the school each year giving students a spatial experience like no other. The 30 ft. x 30 ft. map offers a unique look at Canada and its resources.
- **World Press Photo** - The best of the year's press photography allows students to revisit the issues of the previous year in a visually inviting and challenging manner.

Visual Arts

The Gr. 9 Visual Arts program at King is an overall encompassing study of the **Native Arts and Culture** of Canada's indigenous people. Students will practise their traditional techniques in arts and crafts whilst also learning about their history and culture. Guest artists and field trips will also enrich their learning.

Drama

Grade 9 Drama looks at the origins of theatre, as well as teaching the fundamental conventions of theatre, which are used by amateurs and professionals alike, to stage performances. This program is also thematically aligned with other Gr. 9 courses to enhance the learning experience. The course intersects with Science curriculum, as well as Gr. 9 English, Geography and Gr. 10 Dance. Students work collaboratively and have the opportunity to develop leadership skills and confident presentation qualities."

Music



Grade 9 King students can select to take voice, band or strings class. In subsequent years, students can also choose guitar or musical theatre. In these classes, students will continue to develop skills on their

instrument while learning about, and performing, the great works from music history, including the popular music of today. Students will learn the language of music through reading and writing music, beginner keyboard skills, conducting, and listening analysis. Practical studio experience learning Finale™ will allow students to write and arrange music using the software used by professional musicians everywhere. Students will also develop skills in leadership, negotiation, communication and self-expression through student-directed small ensemble rehearsals and performances.

Business

The Grade 9 Business course focus is to help students prepare proper reports/presentations using computer technology. A student will then be better prepared to do an oral presentation using multimedia presentation software and a written report using Microsoft Office applications. The course also has a focus on social media and how it should be used safely and properly. In Grade 10 to 12 students can then take additional Business courses in Accounting, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Business leadership, Organizational Studies, and International business. These courses will help your child prepare for entry into University or the workplace.

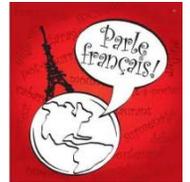
Exploring Technology

This course will amaze and delight students with engaging hands on projects. Students will learn Photoshop, take part in Film Studies, and compete in an auto design & construction competition...best car wins! From Wood Shop to Digital Audio Editing, this course is perfect for those with a creative and technological intuition. Students will use the technological design process and a variety of tools and software to solve problems, complete projects, and strengthen their communication skills.

French as a Second Language

1) *What is different about learning French at R. H. King Academy?*

R. H. King Academy has a very strong French program attracting more students from the Immersion and Extended programs as they continue to be engaged and challenged in the academic level courses. Instructional focus is placed on authentic spontaneous communication exposing students to everyday situations developing speaking and listening skills as they function in their daily activities. The continual exposure to a French learning environment leads students to interact only in the language of study, thus building their confidence in their communication skills. Along with oral communication, the writing and reading strands are equally sustained through activities developing authentic written communication at the grade 9 level. French instruction integrates the use of *Rosetta Stone*, a tailored electronic language learning tool, for student enrichment and further exposure to French outside the classroom encouraging ongoing personal advancement.



2) *What are the course options for grade 9 French students?*

R.H. King offers three levels of French language learning at the grade 9 level: academic, applied and open. At the academic level, students have the opportunity to complete four years of French Studies culminating in the grade 12 pre-university course. At the end of the program, students will receive a certificate of completion from the Toronto District School Board for Core French.



3) *What other languages are taught at King?*

The Modern Languages Department also offers Spanish starting in grade 10. Students need no prior knowledge to study Spanish; and those who complete three years of Spanish studies will also receive a certificate of completion from the Toronto District School Board. More French students are deciding to become multilingual as they continue with both French and Spanish studies at R.H. King Academy understanding the demand for global citizens in a competitive job market.