



ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE ROBERT A. McMATH SECONDARY
4251 Garry Street, Richmond, B.C. V7E 2T9
phone: (604) 718-4050 fax: (604) 718-4051

The *EXPLORATIONS* PROGRAM ... a Program of Enriched Studies

PROGRAM OVERVIEW January 2017

General Overview

The McMath *Explorations* Program is designed to meet the needs of potentially high ability and well-motivated learners. Throughout this program, students will be exposed to an interdisciplinary curriculum that makes learning both relevant and meaningful. In past years, a key focus of the program has been environmental sustainability, a concept that is reinforced through community-based experiences as well as academics. Another program objective is to offer an enriched learning environment for students where ideas can be freely shared and explored. Students will refine such skills as critical thinking, creative problem solving, divergent reasoning, evaluative thinking, and decision making through activities that expand basic skills and augment the curriculum.

Explorations is a three-year program, beginning in Grade 8 and culminating in Grade 10. For three years, the students in each grade will move through the three core subject areas of Science, English and Social Studies as a group. They will have the opportunity to work with peers in their own grade, as well as Explorations students in other grades. It is recommended, though not essential, for students to take Junior Leadership 11 as a complementary course in Grade 10.

Upon completion of this program, it is our hope that students will have an appreciation for lifelong learning and will have developed a strong sense of environmental stewardship. It is anticipated that they will have emerged as students who both care about the environment and will take action in the school and in the greater community beyond high school.

Criteria for selection

This is **not** a purely academic program; it is a life and community building program that integrates many disciplines and branches beyond the classroom and into the school community. It is a program designed for students who:

1. Have received B or better in academic achievement in main subjects
2. Have good work habits and time management skills
3. Work well in groups and are positive role models
4. Are creative, independent thinkers (do not only seek "right" answers)
5. Are academic risk takers
6. Can represent their ideas clearly, both verbally and in written form
7. Have interests/abilities other than academics that they balance well with school commitments
8. Are committed to learning and are eager for new challenges

EXPLORATIONS PROGRAM OVERVIEW (continued)

January 2017

Academics

Students in each grade will move as a group through the core subject areas as follows:

Grade 8: Humanities (Eng./SS), Science

Grade 9: Humanities (Eng./SS), Science

Grade 10: English, Social Studies, Science, Junior Leadership 11 (*recommended*)

Students will need to work hard and manage their time effectively in order to be successful. Families will need to consider whether student has adequate time for a program that has additional time commitments such as field trips and after school activities. Curricula will conform to the Ministry of Education guidelines, but will aim to enrich the learning experience. A key aspect of curricula adaptation and enhancement is to make connections between disciplines and make connections to the real world.

Sustainability Leadership / Active Citizenship

In this program, the students will have the opportunity to be leaders through class and extracurricular opportunities such as the BC Green Games. In grade 10, students are highly encouraged to take Junior Leadership 11 to supplement their growth. Our program also promotes social responsibility, humanitarianism, and the importance of voluntary service in our society through District sustainability programs and activities such as shoreline cleanups and invasive plant pulls.

Outdoor Education

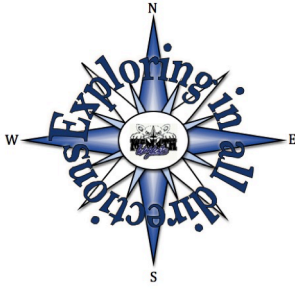
Outdoor Education allows students to explore skills in an outdoor setting while at the same time learning about the relationship between humans and their natural environment. In early spring, a trip to **Strathcona Park Lodge** on Vancouver Island is planned. This unique opportunity not only allows students to learn about nature and its fragility, but it also permits them to develop their independence away from home. Other activities may include shoreline cleanups, overnight camping trips, and snowshoeing at Grouse Mountain.

Parental involvement

Because of the intense nature of this learning experience, parents are encouraged to participate in many aspects of the program. Parents are invited to participate in student evenings, fund raising activities, orientation meetings, and information sessions. As well, they may serve as mentors or community resources, help plan activities that contribute to the program, participate in field trips and support their children in their learning.

School Contact

For questions regarding our exciting *Explorations* Program, please contact Ms. A. Phillpotts, Mr. B. Scarr, or Mr. N. Kamide at 604.718.4050. You can also e-mail us using the e-address at the top of the page overleaf.



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The *EXPLORATIONS* PROGRAM ... a Program of Enriched Studies

January - April 2017

Dear Students & Parents interested in the **McMath Explorations Program**:

Attached please find an application package related to the Explorations Program. This package contains a series of application forms that you will need to complete and submit to McMath Secondary School **before 4:00 pm on February 17th, 2017**. Please complete the forms accurately as the information requested here is an important part of the process of selecting successful candidates for this exciting learning opportunity. Please review this package carefully and make note of the due dates for each phase of the application process. Do not forget to give the Confidential Teacher Referral Form **to your teacher by February 9th** (at the latest).

Explorations Application Timeline

	<u>Date Due</u>
Parent and Student Information Session	February 2 nd
Student Application Form	February 17 th by 4pm
Parent Response Sheet	February 17 th by 4pm
Confidential Teacher Referral Form..... (submitted directly by nominating teachers)	February 24th
Scientific/Mathematical Reasoning & Eng. Proficiency Test	February 22nd (3:30@ McMath)
Candidate Interviews.....	March 31st (8 am to 3 pm)
Student Portfolios (see note #3 below)	March 31 st at interview
Acknowledgment Of Placement.....	April 28th

Notes:

1. The Explorations Program is available to students who live in the McMath catchment area **and** students **who are successful** with a “transfer student” application. The **separate** TRANSFER application must be in to McMath by February 10th at 4:00pm.
2. It is assumed that **students who do not attend the test or interview** are no longer interested in continuing with the application process. Please contact Mr. Scarr or Ms. Phillpotts on or before these dates to arrange alternative times in case of scheduling conflicts.
3. The **portfolio** is a collection of student achievement. Please include the following:
 - 3 samples of school work that you are extremely proud of - projects, assignments, tests, etc.;
 - 2 examples of your accomplishments outside of school - sports, music, dance, hobbies, etc.Please accompany each sample with a brief explanation of why it is significant. Students may bring in electronic work (projects, videos, etc.) but need to bring the technology necessary to show these during their interview (i.e. their own laptop).
4. In the interest of maintaining the integrity of the referral process, please be advised that all assessment results are kept confidential and will not be discussed with applicants or parents.

Questions related to these forms should be directed to Ms. A. Phillpotts (aphillpotts@sd38.bc.ca) or Mr. B. Scarr (bscarr@sd38.bc.ca) or at 604-718-4050.

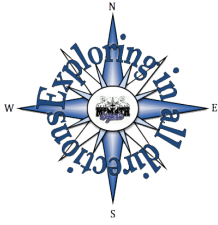
Sincerely,
Neil Kamide
Principal

Note: tear off this page and retain for your reference.

- Submit the attached two pages with the attachments as indicated

ÉCOLE ROBERT A. McMATH SECONDARY

“Together We Learn”



APPLICATION FORM

TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT APPLICANT (please print)

EXPLORATIONS: 2016-2017

A PROGRAM OF ENRICHED STUDIES

Name of Student: _____
(Last Name) (First Name)

Birthdate _____ Gender: _____ RSD Student (if known): _____
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Parent(s) Name (with whom child is residing): _____

Phone Number(s): _____ (Home) _____ (Cell/Other)

Email Addresses: _____ (Parent(s) Email) _____ (Student's Email)

Present School: _____ Grade 7 Teacher: _____

Please list your most recent report card marks for the following courses:

Mathematics _____

Science _____

Social Studies _____

English _____

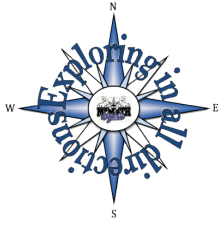
Please list areas of interest, hobbies, and extra-curricular activities with approximate time commitment in hours per week. If necessary, you may attach another sheet:

Please share with us how you found out about the McMATH Explorations Program.

Counselor Teacher Friend Other: _____

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“Together We Learn”



Explorations 2017-2018

Dear Applicant:

We would like to know a little bit about you and your reasons for expressing an interest in the *Explorations* Program. Please take a few minutes to read and reflect upon the questions listed below and write your responses on a **separate sheet of paper**. All responses should be in sentence form and should be **handwritten** by the student applicant.

Please attach this question sheet and your responses to the completed application form and submit it to McMath Secondary School, with your application package, no later than **4:00 pm on February 17th, 2017**.

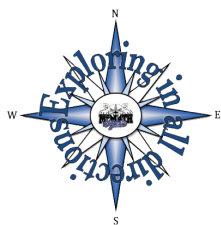
On a separate sheet of paper and in your own handwriting, please answer the following questions:

1. Provide evidence that you have done the following this year:
 - a. Provided community service
 - b. Engaged in positive risk-taking
 - c. Leadership and empathy
 - d. Worked effectively in groups

2. What strengths would you bring to the *Explorations* Program?

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____



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Together We Learn

Parent Nomination Form (Page 1 of 2)
Explorations - 2017/18

Applicant Name: _____ **Date:** _____

As part of your child's application for the Explorations Program, we would like to ask that you assist us by providing a profile of your child. In an effort to standardize and simplify this task we would like to ask that you respond to the statements listed below. Please attach this sheet to the application form before submission.

Please comment by ranking your child on a scale of one to five for each item listed below:

General Profile

1 = Do Not Agree 2 = Somewhat Agree 3 = Agree 4 = Strongly Agree 5 = Very Strongly Agree

Ranking (1 - 5)					Statement
1	2	3	4	5	Learns rapidly and easily
1	2	3	4	5	Thinks clearly: recognizes implied relationships
1	2	3	4	5	Reads a wide range of literature
1	2	3	4	5	Retains what she/he has heard or read without memorizing
1	2	3	4	5	Has advanced vocabulary; expresses herself/himself well
1	2	3	4	5	Is independent, individualistic, self-sufficient
1	2	3	4	5	Is curious and investigative
1	2	3	4	5	Is mature for his/her age
1	2	3	4	5	Is kind to others and has good interpersonal skills
1	2	3	4	5	Concentrates for long periods; persistent
1	2	3	4	5	Produces original products or thoughts
1	2	3	4	5	Enjoys investigating complex ideas
1	2	3	4	5	Uses unique and unusual ways of solving problems
1	2	3	4	5	Has the ability to evaluate his/her own productivity
1	2	3	4	5	Gets along with older persons other than her/his own age
1	2	3	4	5	Displays a good memory and a large fund of information
1	2	3	4	5	Makes abstractions and is adept at generalizing
1	2	3	4	5	Comprehends new ideas in conversation and sees similarities
1	2	3	4	5	Understands cause and effect situations
1	2	3	4	5	Has strong personal outside interests

Parent Nomination Form (Page 2 of 2)
Explorations - 2016/17

1 = Do Not Agree 2 = Somewhat Agree 3 = Agree 4 = Strongly Agree 5 = Very Strongly Agree

<u>Ranking (1 - 5)</u>					<u>Statement</u>
1	2	3	4	5	Is a self starter and maintains focus
1	2	3	4	5	Demonstrates perseverance
1	2	3	4	5	Has high energy level
1	2	3	4	5	Seeks out new projects and challenges
1	2	3	4	5	Collects things & likes to share her/his collection with others
1	2	3	4	5	Assumes responsibility

In the space provided below, please describe the specific behaviours and attributes that you feel make your son/daughter a prime candidate for the McMath Explorations Program.

I have read through this application with my child and support him/her in applying to the Explorations Program.

Signature: (Parent/Guardian) _____ Date: _____

NOTE: This form should be attached to the student response sheet and application form.



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J:

Confidential Teacher Referral Form
Explorations Program 2017-2018

I recommend that _____ in grade _____ at _____
 (Student Name) (Grade)
 _____ be considered for the Explorations Program.
 (School Name)

My referral is based upon my observation of the characteristics and behaviours reflected in my responses shown below and on the back of this form.

Referring Teacher:

The input you provide is very important in the placement decision for this student. This information should be kept confidential and be returned directly to McMath. Do not return this form to the student or parents.

There are other pieces of evidence we use to decide on acceptance for a student into the Explorations Program including entrance tests, an interview and a portfolio.

Below, please share any information that would assist us in making the best decision for this student. Please note that an electronic version of this form that can be emailed back to McMath is available upon request. Please contact Andrea Phillipotts at aphillpotts@sd38.bc.ca to obtain the electronic version, and email completed electronic forms to her.

Please do not return this form to the student or parents.

Please assess the applicant on the following characteristics:

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Rating from 1-5 (from low to high)</u>				
(Please circle a number for each)	1 is not meeting expectations/not passing 5 is exceeding / "A" letter grade				
Creative Thinking (across curricula)	1	2	3	4	5
Critical Thinking (ability to analyze)	1	2	3	4	5
Organization	1	2	3	4	5
Social Responsibility	1	2	3	4	5
Time Management	1	2	3	4	5
Reliability	1	2	3	4	5

Science Ability	1	2	3	4	5
Math Ability	1	2	3	4	5
Reading Ability	1	2	3	4	5
Writing Ability (clarity)	1	2	3	4	5
Creative Writing	1	2	3	4	5
Positive Participation	1	2	3	4	5
Willingness to try new things	1	2	3	4	5
School Attitude (positive even when challenged)	1	2	3	4	5
Good Interpersonal skills	1	2	3	4	5
Positive leadership skills	1	2	3	4	5
Focus/Stays on task	1	2	3	4	5
Curiosity	1	2	3	4	5
Has high standards for all he/she does	1	2	3	4	5
School work habits	N	*	S	*	G

Please comment on this student's abilities.

Exceptional Abilities (please give at least 2 examples)

Areas for Continued Growth (please give at least 2 examples)

Please write your overall opinion of the student and his or her suitability for Explorations at McMath. This program is enriched and involves extra-curricular events. It is time intensive, requires good organization and solid academic skills.

Thank you for your time. Please sign below.

Send the completed form via District mail or electronically to **Ms. A. Phillpotts** at McMath School. An electronic version of this form is available upon request. Contact aphillpotts@sd38.bc.ca
DEADLINE: February 24th, 2017. Thank you.

Signature: _____ (Referring Teacher) _____ (Date)

_____ Teacher Signature
(Referring Teacher) (Date)