

Welcome to École Sir William Osler

GRADE 6-8 INFORMATION



Mission Statement, Motto & Vision

Mission statement:

At École Sir William Osler, we are dedicated to working in partnership with our students and families to nurture an enriching French learning community, in a caring and safe environment, to ensure the success of all students.

By creating a positive atmosphere and working collaboratively, we will guide and challenge **all** students to develop to their full academic, artistic, physical, social and emotional potential and inspire a passion for learning French.

Motto:

Inspiring a passion for learning in French!

Vision:

To create a thoughtful, gradual approach to building a middle school program.

Enrollment and Catchment


- Confirm your designated catchment school using the divisional Find A School app on the WSD website.
- Families will have the choice of the milieu setting at École Sir William Osler or the dual track option at École River Heights School.
- Current students in grade 6 will have the option to:
 - continue in French Immersion and attend their designated catchment area school
 - switch to a different French Immersion program at another school within their catchment area
 - transition to an English program in their designated catchment area school

Programming

For the 2026–2027 and 2027-2028 school years, Grade 7 & 8 students will have:

- One core classroom teacher for all subjects
- A consistent daily structure
- Close monitoring of academic and social growth
- Gradual increase in independence
- Introduction to middle school routines

This allows students to:

- Feel secure during the transition
 - Strengthen organization and study skills
 - Adjust gradually to increased expectations
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Programming

- Committed to providing a rich and engaging program for all students
- Careful planning for timetabling and staffing needs
- We are starting band in grade 6

Various club possibilities (beading, music, concours, drama, art, film & media, radio scolaire, photography, yearbook, green club)

Programming - Sports



Physical Education Program: Students in Grades 7 and 8 will have the opportunity to participate in different competitive and developmental sports teams throughout the year including: cross-country, volleyball, basketball, fit run, speed skating, and track and field.

Intramurals for grades 6-8: To complement the Physical Education Program, students will be given the opportunity to participate in less competitive noon hour activities. Some of the sports include:

- volleyball
- basketball
- badminton
- soccer

Other clubs: run club, skating club

Our goal is simple:

Increase independence and academic challenge while maintaining the strong relationships and support our school is known for. We are building Grade 7 & 8 carefully and intentionally with your children at the center of every decision.

Long Term Goal:

Middle school model designed specifically for students in early adolescence (Grades 6–8). It recognizes that students at this age are:

- Becoming more independent
- Developing stronger peer relationships
- Capable of deeper academic thinking
- Still needing structure and support

It bridges the gap between elementary and high school in a developmentally appropriate way.

How will grade 7 differ from grade 6?


Even with one main teacher, students will begin experiencing elements of a middle school model:

- Increased academic rigor
- Greater emphasis on independent work
- Longer-term projects
- Explicit instruction in organization and time management
- Leadership opportunities as the oldest students in the school

We will intentionally teach skills, such as:

- Managing multiple assignments
- Note-taking and study strategies
- Goal setting and self-advocacy

By keeping one teacher initially, we preserve:

- Consistency
 - Strong communication with families
 - A supportive classroom community
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Milieu vs Dual Track French Immersion

Feature	Milieu (Single-Track) School	Dual-Track School
Social Language	Hallways, lunch, and gym are naturally French-speaking.	English is almost always the default "social" language.
School Culture	100% focus on Francophone culture and identity.	Cultural focus is split between English and French.
Staff Engagement	Almost every adult speaks French.	Language use is often limited to the immersion teachers.
Student Retention	Students are less likely to "opt out" when French is the school's total identity.	The English stream acts as a nearby "safety net," making it easier to drop the program.
Student Identity	Students see themselves as "bilingual speakers."	Students often see themselves as "students taking French."

Why “Milieu” Matters (The Research)

Studies in Canadian second-language acquisition (such as those by *Lapkin, Swain, and Cummins*) suggest that students in single-track environments often achieve higher levels of **spontaneous oral fluency**.



- **The "Default" Language:** In dual-track schools, the "linguistic gravity" pulls toward English the moment the classroom door opens. In a Milieu school, the administrative and social infrastructure supports French, which reduces "language loss" during social hours.
- **Cultural Normalization:** Research shows that when French is the only language used for morning announcements, assemblies, and posters, students internalize the language as a tool for living, not just a tool for testing.

Small School, Big Advantages

Being part of a single Grade 7 class in a growing school might feel "small," but for a middle-schooler, this is a strategic advantage:

- **Tailored Learning:** With one class, teachers can provide a unique education. Instruction is highly personalized, and no student "disappears" in the back of a large crowd.
- **Mental Health & Transition:** The jump to middle school can be jarring. A smaller, tighter-knit community provides a "soft landing," reducing the social anxiety often found in massive, dual-track institutions.

Small School, Big Advantages

Did you know? Students in smaller learning communities often report higher levels of engagement and a stronger sense of safety and peer support during the transition to adolescence.

Early adolescence is a unique developmental stage.

Students need:

- Strong adult relationships
- Clear expectations
- Structured independence
- Social-emotional guidance
- Gradual increase in independence:
 - Students manage a schedule.
 - They use lockers.
 - They track assignments across subjects.
 - Homework expectations increase gradually.

In a small school we can support the students changing needs and teach organization, time management, and responsibility; skills needed for high school.

More Small School, Big Advantages

- Strong relationships
- Small community feel
- Values-based environment
- High parent engagement
- Principal greets students daily
- Staff know students by name
- Celebration of effort (not just achievement)
- Personal check-ins for Grade 7–8
- Cross-grade connections (learning buddies, assemblies, joint art projects, joint STEM projects):
 - Older students feel responsible
 - Younger students feel safe
 - Culture feels unified



If you have any questions,
please don't hesitate to
call

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