

**LANGUAGES****English**

Spelling emphasizes learning a fixed list of words, rules of correct spelling and the meanings and usage of words. Composition involves production of written work which is neat, correctly spelled, and grammatically accurate and which is also esthetically pleasing. Students will improve the quality of their writing as they write creatively in various forms. Essay writing is also stressed to help prepare for high school. Grammar involves the study of capitalization, punctuation, the parts of speech and proper sentence structure. Literature units involve the study of two allegories. Students are taught to understand the specific works along with related literary concepts. Reading for enjoyment is also stressed. Students are expected to read for fifteen minutes each class and write a number of book reports on these readings throughout the year. Public Speaking emphasizes the proper methods for formulating and presenting speeches. Developing confidence and being able “to think on one’s feet” are also emphasized.

Texts: *Grammar & Composition I* (ABeka)  
*Bible* (NIV)  
*The Shining Sword* (Loizeaux)  
*The Magician’s Nephew* (Harper Collins)

**French**

This course reinforces and extends the grammar and vocabulary learned in grade 6. Students will learn new verbs and their conjugations and adjectives. By the end of grade 7 students should be able to understand spoken French in the classroom, and be able to express their own thoughts in French. Oral skills are developed through classroom discussions, real life situations, and skits. Upon completion of the course, the student’s knowledge of written and spoken French covers a wide variety of topics.

Texts: *Horizons 2* (Addison Wesley)

**MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY****Mathematics**

During this course students begin the transition from arithmetic to algebra, geometry and other higher level branches of mathematics. Subjects like algebra can be very challenging to students, so it is imperative that they have mastered basic math skills before starting. Therefore, a significant part of the course involves mastering the use of basic number theory, fractions, decimals, ratios and rates, percent and integers. These subjects are interspersed with geometry topics such as perimeter, area, volume, and constructions. Throughout the year, we spend time in class developing problem solving skills. Finally, the students begin their study of algebra.

Text: *Mathematics 7* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson)

**Science**

Science requires using the five senses to make qualitative and quantitative observations. Laboratory observations seek to explain why phenomena occur, their sequence of events and where else their principles apply. In addition to the textbook material, the students will visit the Metro Toronto Zoo and the Ontario Science Centre.

Text: *Sciencepower 7* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson)

**Keyboarding**

This is an introductory course (one period in every four days in a cycle) in basic typing skills using MSWord, Expert Typing, and other online typing programs. The goal is keyboard familiarity and speed over 30 wpm. Once the basic keyboard is mastered, students advance to introductory word processing skills. Some small, personal, Internet and Word Processing school-related assignments are done to illustrate a major application of skills learned.



## **SELF AND SOCIETY**

### **Geography**

This course involves the study of North America. Students will study the continent's landform, climate and vegetation. A study of the environment and use of natural resources brings the importance of stewardship to the student's attention.

Text: *Physical Geography* (Gage/Nelson)

### **History**

In Grade 7, the study of history focuses on the development of Canada from the seventeenth to the early nineteenth century. Students investigate the contributions of significant groups and individuals and develop an understanding of Canada's European roots. They study the early settlements of North America and their impact on the First Nation peoples and on English- French relations. They examine the economic, social, and political challenges facing New France and British North America, as well as the course of conflict and change in the two colonies that culminated in the rebellions of 1837-38. Emphasis is placed on the development of critical thinking skills, including the ability to examine issues from more than one point of view.

Text: *Canada Revisited 7* (Arnold)

### **Physical and Health Education**

Development of physical fitness is encouraged through personalized training programs as well as through a variety of indoor and outdoor sports. Some of these include squash, tennis, diving, water polo, soccer, volleyball, basketball and table tennis. Swimming has a special focus. Downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, canoeing and outdoor education are also included through the Chandos program and various field trips. The health portion of this course deals with such topics as physical fitness, principles of training, nutrition, friendship, self-esteem and conflict resolution.

Text: *Total Health* (River's Edge)

### **Bible**

This course (two periods every four days in a cycle) focuses on Bible knowledge and its use with an emphasis on practical application. Our hope is that students will see how the Bible relates to everyday living and not just on Sundays. This is done through thematic studies, such as the book of Judges, and other texts throughout the year.

Text: *Dynamic Christian Living* (Positive Action)

## **THE ARTS**

At The Yorkland School Grade 7 students are instructed ½ year in Band and ½ year in Visual Arts.

### **Instrumental Music**

Band members need not have had any prior musical background. They will be instructed in the rudiments of music theory as well as proper technique in the playing of their instrument. Normally, students may not choose their instrument - a band requires more than just drummers! The teacher will assign instruments although every effort is made to accommodate student's choices. The school rents the instruments to the students for a rental fee of \$75.00.

### **Visual Arts**

The Visual Arts course in Grade 7 is a challenging and fast-paced program based on the curriculum prescribed by the Ontario Ministry of Education. The course touches many media as it leads the students through projects that introduce the elements and principles of design. The foundations of drawing, painting, print making, calligraphy, sculpture, and design are taught using a variety of materials and techniques. Colour theory and perspective is also studied. Art History is begun informally. The Grade 7 course is the beginning of a sequential continuum of study that culminates with the senior secondary school year. There is no formal textbook.

The Yorkland School reserves the right to alter at any time the courses and textbooks described herein to meet changing circumstances.