

## Authentic Individuals. Inspired Futures.

Elementary School Viewbook





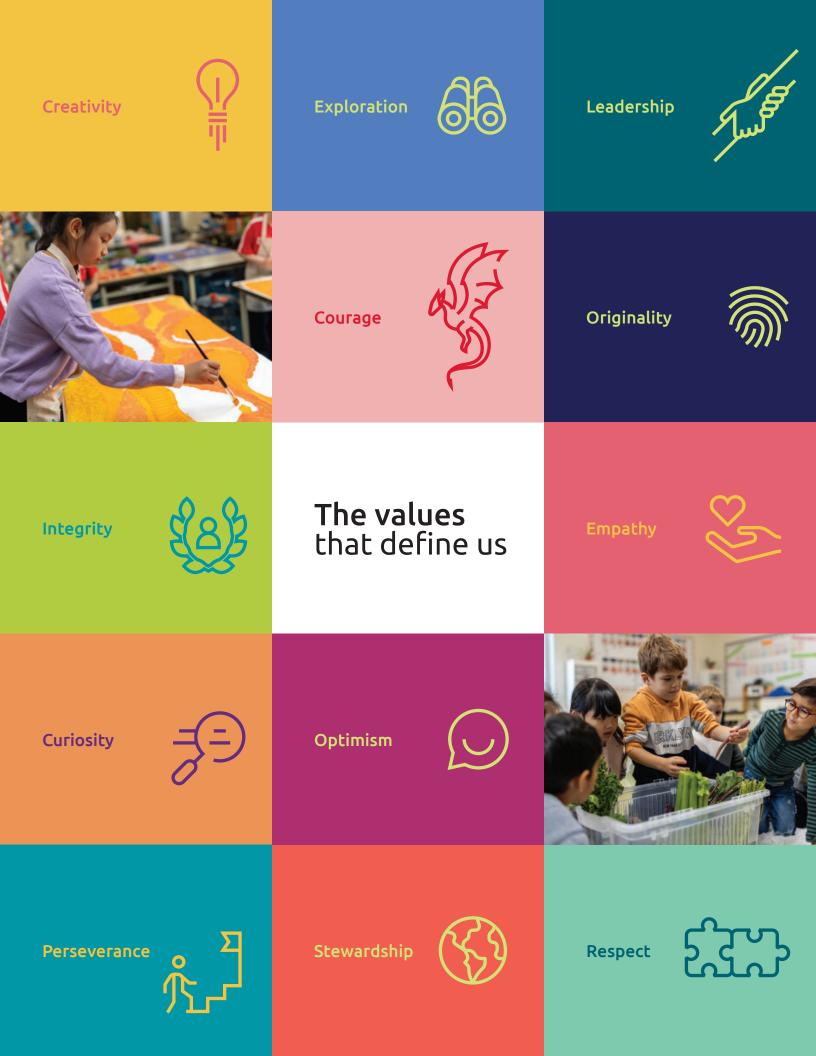
## The mission that guides us

Our community inspires students to discover joy and passion in their learning, purpose in their lives, and the confidence to express their unique selves in a nurturing, inclusive, and collaborative environment.

## The vision that drives us

Authentic Individuals. Inspired Futures.





## Leading progressive education since 1930

Founded over 90 years ago by a group of dedicated parents, St. George's School of Montreal offers a child-centred, progressive educational approach that cultivates intellectually curious, passionate, lifelong learners. Our collaborative and experiential learning community fosters the development of complex thinking skills and empowers students to grapple with real-world challenges while demonstrating empathy and social responsibility.

Inspired by innovative researchers in education, our school is an extension of the world, where each student feels empowered and confident to create, explore, and contribute as their authentic selves. A vibrant learning community, where every child is known, respected, engaged, challenged, and inspired.

### A word from our Head of School

*Here Be Dragons* is the phrase that medieval scholars wrote on their maps to mark uncharted territories they had yet to explore: places they believed held mythical creatures, obstacles to overcome, and wonders to behold. In addition to the dragon being a symbolic part of our school's identity, we have adopted this as our icon to illustrate the boundless learning and growth opportunities that our students experience on their educational journey.

St. George's Elementary School students learn the foundational skills needed for academic success, and how to use their heads, hands, and hearts to make learning—and ideas—matter. Problem-solving, critical thinking, teamwork, and learning to write and speak confidently in English and in French are part of every St. George's student's daily experience. St. George's classrooms are all about communicating, thinking, and doing—that's how children learn best.

In addition to small class sizes of 12 to 16 students, our dedication to responsive teaching enables us to offer a rich and stimulating experience to every student. They learn how to grapple with new concepts, supported by expert teachers who love their craft as much as they care for their students.

Active learning is at the core of everything we do because we believe it fosters engagement, promotes leadership, and nurtures the unique aptitudes of each learner. What's more, this foundational teaching philosophy is not limited by age or stage of development. Applied accordingly at both the Elementary and High School levels, St. George's method reinforces our reality: One school, two campuses.

A St. George's Elementary School education is excellent preparation for life in an ever-changing world—not just in preparation for High School and post-secondary, but for living a life of meaning with integrity. Students move on as budding global citizens, with a healthy appreciation for diversity. They understand the importance of expressing their unique selves and respecting the same in others.

These formative elementary school years are some of the most influential moments of a student's life. At St. George's they will be acknowledged, supported and encouraged every step of the way.

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Michael O'Connor Head of School



## **Our 6 Founding Principles**

St. George's has been at the forefront of progressive educational research and practice since 1930. While our Founding Principles continue to guide us, their meanings and application are always evolving, particularly as we gain a deeper understanding of child development and the neuroscience of learning.

1

## The child should have abundant opportunity for creative expression

The ability to think and act creatively is our most precious resource. At St. George's, we have always recognized this. We ask students to apply creativity in teamwork, in re-approaching and improving work, in solving complex problems, and in understanding and appreciating diverse viewpoints and experiences.





## 2

## Adapt education to the differences of the individual child

The sciences of learning and child development have come a long way since 1930. Our work to understand and apply new research findings and concepts has continued apace. This inspires and enables us to build learning experiences suited to every child as they grow, develop, discover, and pursue their own passions.

#### Health must come first

Our programs are designed to accompany children from Kindergarten onward, providing physical activities, and social emotional learning opportunities for constructive, age-appropriate play.

## 5

#### Learning comes from doing

St. George's has always supported learning by doing as a fundamental principle of our school. Here, hands-on, project-led classroom experiences engage students in real-world exploration that turns theory not just into practice, but also lifelong interests.



Group-consciousness and socialmindedness should be developed

More than ever, today's world needs people

who understand and care for one another, and

who are devoted caretakers of our most essential resources. Active learning, engagement outside the classroom, and an emphasis on the development of character—from the classroom to the community imbue a capacity for social engagement and global



## 6

## The classroom should be freed from unnatural restraints

In St. George's classrooms you will find students working individually and in groups, on questions and projects that draw them into their own learning process. We value productivity, and treasure the relationships and empathy that develop between students, teachers and each other.



# Lifelong learning starts here

#### **Bilingual Program**

We offer a bilingual environment where students live and learn in both English and French, immersing themselves equally in both languages. Our English and French teachers collaborate closely, aligning the curriculum to teach similar oral, reading, and writing strategies, ensuring that our elementary students gain confidence in expressing themselves in both languages. With a focus on language development, cognitive flexibility, and cultural understanding, we provide a solid foundation for academic and personal success where students are prepared for a future where bilingualism is not only an asset but a way of life.

#### English

We foster a love of reading and writing through a mosaic of engaging activities, from literary circles and read-aloud sessions to animated discussions and creative writing exercises. These activities not only enhance students' language skills, but also encourage critical thinking and effective communication. With a strong emphasis on grammatical concepts, we provide students with a solid foundation for narrative and formal writing. As they progress, students further refine their writing skills through thoughtful responses to literature, exploration of writing techniques, and regular practice with descriptive language.

By nurturing their competency in reading, thinking, speaking, and writing, our students develop a well-rounded set of language skills that empower them for future academic and personal success.

#### French

Our French language program offers an authentic and immersive atmosphere, encouraging students to actively participate in francophone culture through field trips, specialist visits, and events. These experiences provide real-life contexts for language practice and foster an appreciation of francophone heritage.

We invite experts in various fields into the classroom to further enrich students' language skills and cultural understanding, while subjects such as Social Sciences, Ethics, and Religious Cultures are taught in French, promoting bilingualism within relevant contexts. What makes our school great? Ask a St. George's parent.

"The flexibility and care that is provided for each child. The individualized support they receive is amazing."

"A genuinely child-centred approach. It is a place where children feel safe, happy, and encouraged."

"The teachers' commitment to the students and the wonderful atmosphere they create."





St. George's offers interdisciplinary STEAM learning that brings Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics together.

#### Science and Technology

We equip students with critical thinking and problemsolving skills to understand the natural world. Students engage in hands-on activities that foster their understanding of scientific principles, delving into meaningful experiences that impart a deep appreciation for the interconnectedness of our world.

#### Art

Throughout their educational journey with us, students learn to think as artists, developing a spirit of play, discovery, and creation. Art also encourages selfreflection, empathy, and an appreciation for different perspectives, promoting emotional intelligence and cultural understanding.

#### **Mathematics**

Students explore mathematics through the lens of applied problem-solving, with an emphasis on authentic situations. Understanding the roots of mathematical concepts enables a greater depth of understanding of how math applies to everyday life. Students engage in hands-on activities, puzzles, and real-world scenarios that require them to think critically, analyze data, and employ mathematical reasoning.

## Integrated learning



#### **Sustainability**

Our overarching commitment to sustainability permeates every aspect of our educational approach, equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities required to make a positive impact on our planet. We inspire students to become active agents of change, addressing environmental challenges with creativity, empathy, and scientific knowledge.

#### Music

Students learn music fundamentals, both practical and theoretical. They learn to play in an ensemble with different instruments and explore the possibilities of music through various activities: creative movement, singing, listening, dancing, and more. Throughout their musical journey, our students also gain exposure to different cultures, languages, and historical periods.

#### **Digital Literacy**

This program equips students with the essential skills to navigate technology effectively. It emphasizes communication, efficient information gathering, and responsible technology use. We teach our students to harness these innovations and their potential, ensuring they are adept in a digital world.

#### **Physical Education**

Healthy bodies are intrinsically tied to healthy minds. That's why we impart the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle through physical education. This program creates opportunities for our students to learn through movement and challenge themselves to develop a lifelong appreciation for sports and physical activity.

## Skills for life



Starting in Kindergarten, students engage in community learning and leadership initiatives that extend their education beyond the classroom.

#### **Community Learning**

Throughout the year, our students actively engage in initiatives aimed at supporting local organizations. With the integration of volunteer work, students can lend a helping hand, make a positive impact on the world around them, and gain valuable experience with empathy, compassion, and community engagement.

#### Everyday Leadership

We believe in leadership through action and treat it as a skill we should be building every day. It's about helping others do things they otherwise didn't think possible.

#### **Outings and Field Trips**

We organize day and overnight field trips for students in all grade levels, encouraging them to nurture their sense of adventure and engage with the world around them. To better understand themselves and what it means to be a leader, our overnight trips focus on social emotional learning, teamwork, and community building.

"At St. George's, leadership isn't a position; it's about positive influence and supportive action."

Michael O'Connor | Head of School



#### **High School Transition Program**

Our foundational teaching philosophy implemented in both our Elementary and High Schools, enables a seamless transition from Grade 6 to Grade 7.

By the time our students reach Grade 6, they are emotionally and socially prepared for the transition to High School. To facilitate this process, students spend one day per week at the High School, where they have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the campus and become accustomed to their soon-to-be daily routine.

## Fostering future success



#### Math, Science, Media and Technology

Robotics Minecraft Leadership Engineering: Design Create Build Intro to Coding Chess Club Industrial Design Mad Science Bricks 4 Kidz



We offer students every opportunity to explore their unique interests and incorporate play into their learning process. Whether it's sports, arts, science, social justice, or another area of interest, we encourage students to dig into their passions, develop their talents, and foster authentic relationships with peers and mentors in a non-classroom setting.

#### Leadership and Social Sciences

Student Leadership Team Green Team World Scholar's Cup Babysitting





#### **Athletics**

#### Interscholastic Teams

Soccer Basketball Flag Football Cross Country Running

#### **Recreational Sports**

Soccer Development Hockey Development Basketball Development Flag Football Rugby Dance Mega Ball Capoeira Yoga

#### Arts

- Art Detectives Bollywood Dancing Funky Feet Artsparx Master Chef Photography Knitting Club
- Puppet Making Club de Cinema Comedy Theatre Glee Music Club Choir

#### **Additional Services Offered**

Afterschool Program Study Hall for Grades 3-6 PED Day Programs

#### Intramurals

Q-Tip Hockey Matball

# We're unique in all the right ways.

We are a warm and welcoming learning community.

We are **collaborative**.

Our approach is child-centred, with respect for different learning styles.

We deeply and authentically accept what makes everyone original.



# Great teachers. Great teaching.

Teaching at St. George's is both an art and a science, which is why our teachers work to cultivate a love of learning—meeting individual needs while challenging students to construct their understanding of the world.

Our teachers continually enhance their skills through professional development, implementing research-based pedagogy and best practices for future-focused programs. An outstanding education is foundational.

A sense of belonging is indispensable.

Give your child both at St. George's.



Authentic Individuals. Inspired Futures.

Elementary School Campus

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