

# CHOICE MIDDLE SCHOOL

FOR GRADES 7 THROUGH 9  
OPENING SEPTEMBER, 2017



# Shape of the Open House Events - February 22 – 3:30-5:00 and 6:30-8:00

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- Welcome and Introductions
- About Choice School for the Gifted
- Inspiration and Vision for a Choice Middle School
- An Integrated Curriculum : Humanities, Sciences, Applied Skills and Fine Arts
- Extended Explorations (six weeks each term)
- Experiential Learning Opportunities central to each term
- Mentorship, Career Education and Guided Independent Studies
- Application Process
- Tour and Meeting the Staff:
  - Mr. Thomas – Sciences- Science Room (top floor of school)
  - Mrs. Walli – Humanities (CMS main classroom)
  - Mrs. Kluthe- Art Room / Maker Space (ground floor of school building)
  - Mr. McLaren – Music Room (ground floor of school building)



Guests are invited to reconvene in Gym for questions and conversations

# Choice School for the Gifted:

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- Choice School was established in 1985 as a non-profit independent school for gifted students. In 2016, the BC Ministry of Education designated Choice as a *Special Education School* in recognition of the unique program we provide for gifted learners.
- Choice School inspires and nurtures the potential of its students with innovative curricula and a caring, supportive learning environment.
- We focus on expanding core competencies through inquiry, critical thinking and problem-based learning.
- Choice provides a dynamic environment in which individual abilities and differences are recognized, accepted and supported.



# Our Vision for the Choice Middle School

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*“To create an optimal learning environment for gifted students through programming that sets a high standard of performance in recognition of the diversity of gifted learners, exceeds the requirements of the BC curriculum and leads in best practices in responding to these learners.”*

(Choice School Mission Statement, 2015)

At Choice Middle School, the optimal learning environment will emphasize social-emotional growth, self-awareness, rigorous intellectual challenge, mentorship, experiential learning in the broader community, service opportunities and learning with motivated, like-minded peers.



# An Integrated Curriculum

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## Humanities

Literature

History

Philosophy

French

## Sciences

Math

Sciences

Technology

## Fine Arts

Visual Arts

Music and Band

Drama

## Applied Skills

Foods and Textiles

Maker Space

Coding

Woodworking

Robotics

# Extended Explorations (E2)

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## Debating

Oxford  
Debate  
Format

Public  
Speaking

Rhetorical  
Devices

Persuasive  
Speeches

## Latin

Intro to Latin

Basic Latin  
Grammar

Proverbs

Simple Stories

Everyday  
Vocabulary

## Robotics

ADDIE Design  
model

Building

Programming  
in 3 different  
coding  
languages

Testing

## Humanities 7, 8 & 9

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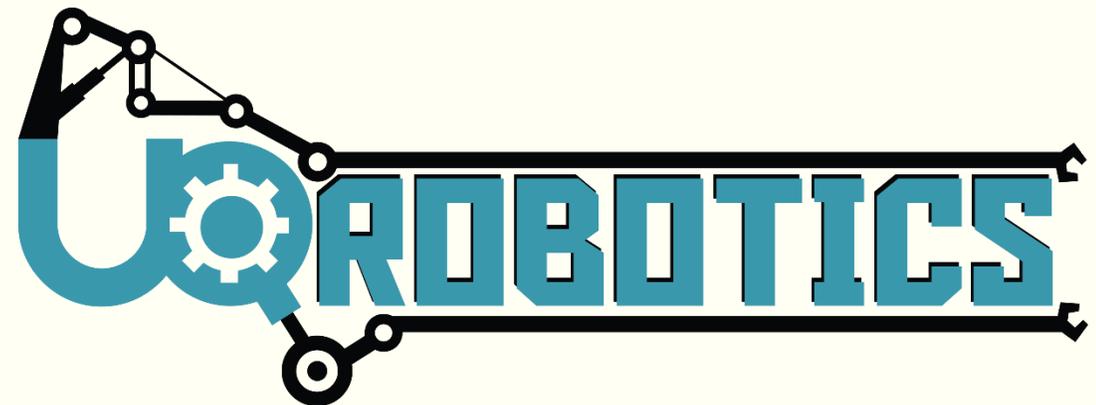
“Through classical literature, students can have intelligent experiences, develop educated vocabularies, develop critical thinking skills, develop values and a sense of humanity, and acquire knowledge of intellectual and cultural heritage” (Thompson, 1996)

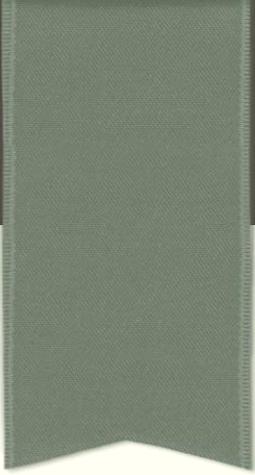
“The seminar... with open discussion about provocative, relevant high-quality literature is an effective mode of learning for gifted students....[and] is highly motivating.” (Dixon, 1993)

# Extended Explorations ( $E^2$ )

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- Schedule aligns with Choice Challenge (Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 – 3:00 PM) for six weeks each term
- Proposed topics for 2017-8:
  - Term One: Debating (Ms Chartres)
  - Term Two: Latin (Mrs. Malinowska)
  - Term Three: Robotics (Mr. Thomas)
- ☐ Philosophers' Café ongoing





# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

*[Experience] in nature appears to be especially important ... for developing capacities for creativity, problem solving, and emotional and intellectual development.*

-Kellert (2005)

# Term One Loon Lake Resort Wilderness Studies

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**Two Nights  
Oct. 2-4, 2017**



Fisheries study, Streamkeepers workshop, canoeing, high ropes, wall climbing, and much more!

# Term Two: Quebec City and Carnaval

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**WHO?** For CMS students in grades 7/8/9 (6 to 10 students) and 2 teachers.

**WHEN?** Students would leave on a Monday and return on the Thursday. Carnaval dates for 2018 are January 26 to February 11.

**WHY?** An opportunity to spend a few days in Quebec City during the Quebec Carnaval to experience the culture, the language, and travel.

## *Integrated Curriculum:*

*Grade 7, 8, 9 French: Acquiring a new language and learning about another culture deepen our understanding of our own language and culture.*

*Grade 7, 8, 9 Math: Number represents, describes, and compares the quantities of ratios, rates, and percent.*

*Grade 7, 8, 9 Language Arts: Developing our understanding of how language works allows us to use it purposefully.*

*Grade 7, 8, 9 Social Studies: Collective identity is constructed and can change over time.*





# Mentorship and Career Education

Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interview a professional</li><li>• Design a project around student learning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The school supports students to find a mentor</li><li>• Host a several meetings</li><li>• Student and mentor plan a Guided Independent Studies project</li><li>• Display project at Choice School Mentor Gala</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students find a mentor</li><li>• Student and mentor design and work together on a Guided Independent Studies project</li><li>• Projects will be presented at the Choice School Mentor Gala</li></ul>



# Guided Independent Study



LET'S DO IT. \_\_\_\_\_

GOAL	
DEADLINE	
STEPS TO TAKE	PROGRESS
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	_____
GOAL REACHED?	

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\_\_\_\_\_ WEEKLY GOALS.

GOAL	STEPS TO TAKE
	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
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DEADLINE	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
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GOAL	STEPS TO TAKE
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GOAL	STEPS TO TAKE
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Students will undertake a Guided Independent Study that will require students to create academic goals with their teacher and/or mentor. Independent studies may involve several areas of study and goal sheets will be placed into a portfolio for reflection and assessment.

# Application Process for Students New to Choice School

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Applicants must complete and submit the following:

1. An Applicant Information Form, and
2. The following documentation:
  - a. the final report from June of the previous school year plus all report cards from the current school year
  - b. a current Individual Educational Plan, if one is in place
  - c. a recent (within three years) psycho-educational assessment, if one is available. Students who have not have a psycho-educational assessment will be required to complete a cognitive assessment at the school on the day of their interview.

# Interviews:

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**Candidate screening interviews, assessments and student portfolio reviews** will be scheduled once the application and supporting documents have been received.

Student candidates must bring to the interview a **PORTFOLIO** include artifacts that reflect the student's:

- personal interests and accomplishments
- school assignments, constructions or projects that reflects the student's strengths and efforts
- community connections



Students should be prepared to speak to each of the items during the interview to address why each artifact was chosen, what the artifact reveals about them as learners, thinkers, innovators and /or how it represents aspirations for future study.





### **Tour and Meeting the Staff: (7:00 -7:40)**

Mr. Thomas – Sciences- Science Room (top floor of school)

Mrs. Walli – Humanities (CMS main classroom)

Mrs. Kluthe (Mr. Seargent) - Art Room / Maker Space (ground floor of school building)

Mr. McLaren – Music Room (ground floor of school building)

7:40 – adjourn in the gym for questions