



St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School

The Educational Journey of a Lifetime



A Snapshot of SMLS



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A Message from the Head of School

Welcome to our school! I would like to take a minute to tell you about *the educational journey of a lifetime* that your daughter will experience at St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School (SMLS).

For more than 120 years, SMLS has provided outstanding single-gender education for girls and young women. We are recognized for our caring environment, our outstanding faculty, our innovative programs, and our beautiful facilities. Our graduates go on to post-secondary study locally and around the world. During their journeys they thrive and make a difference. How is this possible? The answer is simple: it's because they are confident young women who believe that they can do anything.

In a recent study, Myra and David Sadker stated: "girls in single-sex schools have higher self-esteem, are more interested in non-traditional subjects such as science and math, and are less likely to stereotype jobs and careers. They are intellectually curious, serious about their studies and achieve more." Girls' unique learning needs, as delineated by numerous studies and current brain research, also informs the programming at our school. *The Harvard Study on Single-Sex Schools* outlines girl-specific learning needs: the development of relationships and connectedness; collaboration; focused conversations; cooperation and competition, and creative problem solving. This information grounds our program with the result of an exceptional learning experience - the educational journey of a lifetime!

Thank you for your interest in St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School. Please take a moment to explore our wonderful school through this *Snapshot of SMLS* and our website, www.smls.on.ca. We also welcome you to our school to meet with our staff and students.

Warm regards,



Dorothy Byers
Head of School



Why St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School?

St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School provides a focused and innovative female-centric approach to learning, as well as an internationally-acclaimed Global Studies program. With a proud history of educational excellence, our faculty know and understand the key role they play in your daughter's development as a girl and young woman. Our focus on developmentally appropriate education, both in and out of the classroom, will challenge her at all stages of her educational journey. She will probe concepts and ideas, and her learning will encourage her to take risks and be proud of her successes. She will develop a set of transferable skills that will enable her to take on the challenges of post-secondary programs. She will learn about herself and develop an understanding of her place in the world. Her confidence will enable her take her next steps.

Girls thrive in a single-gender environment and learn they can do anything they want to – and they do! Whether in the classroom, on the stage, in the gym or in the local or global community, our girls are encouraged to step outside their comfort zone.

It is our goal to ensure that your daughter will be ready for whatever her future holds. We look forward to meeting you and discussing your daughter's future at SMLS.

The SMLS Checklist:

- All girls are actively involved, called on and encouraged to participate
- Teachers understand and respond to the way girls learn
- Girls are on the front lines of leadership
- There are many female role models in leadership positions on staff
- Our girls meet the challenges of higher level Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- We listen to parents and encourage meaningful partnerships





ST. MILDRED'S-LIGHTBOURN SCHOOL

The Educational Journey of a Lifetime

The Journey Continues...



Strategic Plan 2009 - 2014

Vision

Our vision is to be respected in local and global communities for our insights and expertise in educating young women, and for the exceptional qualities of our students and faculty.

Mission

At St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School our mission is to:

- Inspire, challenge and support girls to achieve their personal best
- Develop exceptional young women who have the resilience and character to excel and contribute to society throughout their lives

Values

- Respect
- Integrity
- Innovation
- Commitment
- Excellence

Objectives and High Level Strategies

A. Provide an exceptional academic experience

1. Explore and implement **innovative academic programs** which will prepare girls for life in a fast-changing global environment
2. Enhance **support for the individual learning needs of our girls**
3. Explore ways to ensure **successful transitions** for girls through various stages of their academic journey
4. Support, develop and celebrate **teaching excellence and leadership**
5. Enhance our **teaching and learning strategies** (including the use of technology)

B. Prepare our girls for citizenship and leadership in a global society

1. Strengthen our **co-curricular program** (e.g. enhanced emphasis on health and wellness, more interaction with other schools)
2. Enhance and support **diversity** in the school population
3. Enhance relevant learning experiences outside the classroom through a **broad range of meaningful connections with local communities**
4. Establish and leverage **connections with post-secondary institutions** nationally and internationally to support program enrichment, research and future opportunities for our students
5. Explore ways by which the School can strengthen its role as a **centre for innovation and leadership** in young women's education

C. Strengthen and engage the SMLS community

1. **Reach out to more alumnae** and involve them in the life of the School
2. Enhance opportunities for **parents, past-parents and grandparents** to be engaged in the life of the School
3. Develop a full **continuum of mentoring opportunities** to support our students and graduates throughout their lifelong journey (while at school and after graduation)
4. Further utilize **the power of technology to build, support and link the SMLS community**

D. Ensure future sustainability and accountability

1. Implement strategies to ensure the School's ongoing **fiscal responsibility, long-term strength and fiscal viability**
2. Increase the **awareness** of the School and its unique strengths
3. Build a **stronger culture of philanthropy** to support strategic initiatives
4. Become a **greener and more sustainable school** through facility and operational improvements
5. Ensure **effective, forward-looking leadership and governance** of the School including ongoing accountability and reporting to the SMLS community

The Junior School Experience

In the Junior School, we ensure our girls have a strong and comprehensive academic program – one that is engaging, fun and nurtures their intellectual curiosity. We value, understand and support their personal, social and emotional journey which is so important as they travel toward becoming:

- critical thinkers
- creative problem-solvers
- confident, competent and compassionate young women
- poised, tolerant and self-disciplined learners



Mathematics

Our students are encouraged to explore, take risks, innovate and design creative ways to solve mathematical problems.

The “Math Makes Sense” program forms the basis of our mathematics learning experience. The program is based on connecting mathematical concepts and operations to help students develop a mathematical way of thinking.

We infuse the latest research on how girls learn and develop into every aspect of school life in the Junior School. We enrich the Ontario Provincial Curriculum in breadth, depth and delivery. It works – our girls achieve exceptional results in provincial and standardized testing.

By the time your daughter is ready to move on to Senior School, she will be confident in her abilities and have the knowledge and skills to reach her academic and personal potential.

Literacy

We believe that a strong foundation in literacy is the backbone of every student’s educational journey.

Our innovative and integrated approach provides girls with a full range of activities, from teacher-supported guided reading to independent work at a literacy learning centre. Our students become enthusiastic and poised readers, writers, listeners and speakers.

Technology

Technology is a part of daily classroom life, beginning in Junior Kindergarten. Laptops are available to enrich our academic programs, and our students start using iPads in Junior Kindergarten. All students from Grades 1 through 6 participate in Information Technology classes.

Each classroom is equipped with a SMART Board to support innovative teaching and active learning.

Science and Social Studies

Students discover our wondrous world through investigation, exploration, observation and experimentation. They are encouraged to apply these concepts to the social, environmental and economic issues of the world they live in.

French

Unique to SMLS, French education starts in Junior Kindergarten. The Accelerative Integrated Method (AIM) is a systematic approach to the teaching of core French. Its goal is to help students develop levels of confidence and fluency when speaking.

Music

The music program is based on the Kodaly and Orff methods where students are immersed in experiences that reinforce the basic building blocks of music literacy: beat, rhythm, pitch, dynamics, tempo, form and texture.

Large-scale musical productions are performed in December and in the spring.

Visual Arts

Students are engaged in meaningful art activities that enable them to develop the skills to use art tools, materials and techniques in a sequential and cumulative manner. There is an emphasis placed on individual creativity and personal accomplishment.

Physical Activity

Students are encouraged to achieve personal health and fitness and find activities they can enjoy throughout life. They also have the opportunity to play on an intramural sport or try out for a spot on competitive hockey, soccer, swimming, Frisbee, basketball, cross-country and track and field teams.

FIRST LEGO® League

FIRST LEGO® League is offered to our students in Grades 4, 5 and 6. These “hands-on” experiences support the girls’ learning in science, as they challenge critical and creative solutions-based thinking.



The Senior School Experience – The Journey Continues

Building on the strong skills developed in the Junior School program, the Senior School's unique curriculum helps students achieve their full potential.

Classes are small and our faculty challenges, engages and supports our students, and one-on-one help is always available. The Senior School program is structured with meaningful cross-disciplinary integration of core subjects and innovative use of technology.

SMLS promotes higher-level learning skills, critical and creative thinking, the application of knowledge and the use of problem-solving.

Our Senior School Academic program follows the Ontario Provincial High School Program, but is enriched at all levels.

Unique Structure

The Senior School program spans the traditional levels of Grade 7 to Grade 12. During Senior 1 and 2 (S1 and S2) students complete the equivalent of Grades 7, 8 and 9 in two years.

As a result, students are able to take full advantage of our Advanced Placement program and complete more university admission credits in their final two years. They also have more time to participate in our outstanding Global Studies program which provides opportunities to learn beyond classroom walls.

Innovative Use of Technology

Technology is recognized as an important tool, rather than an end in itself. Each senior student has a laptop to support her academic progress, and all classrooms are equipped with SMART Boards.



Co-curricular Opportunities

At SMLS we know that some of the most important learning opportunities happen outside the classroom. In addition to our remarkable Global Studies program, we provide our students with many opportunities to serve and lead, including, but not limited to:

- Yearbook, through Communications Technology
- Roots & Shoots and Guts & Gore, clubs that support and enhance the science curriculum
- Debating Club
- Red Maple Reading Program
- *FIRST* Robotics
- Mosaic Multicultural Festival



Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement (AP) courses provide a challenging enriched program. Students pursue study in university credit courses that are recognized by universities around the world.

SMLS offers a wide array of AP courses which include:

- Art History
- Biology
- Calculus
- Chemistry
- French
- Language and Composition
- Literature and Composition
- Mandarin
- Physics
- Psychology (online through eLearning Consortium)
- Studio Art

The House System

The House System is an opportunity to connect girls across all grade levels and develop a special sense of school spirit. Each student and staff member belongs to one of three houses: Brant-Massey, Cartier-Vanier or Grenfell-Alexander.

Throughout the year, each House earns points for academic effort, participation in athletics and clubs, school and community service, participation in fundraising, the House Challenge, and other events.

Leadership Opportunities

Each spring, elections are held for student leadership positions on our Prefect body, including Head Girl, Games Captain and House Heads. Every student in her final year at the school has the opportunity to hold a leadership position and assist in running an event. The Athletics Council, Arts Council and House Council provide further opportunities to lead.

Global Studies Program

Connecting Students to the World and Our Local Community

The Global Studies program at St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School integrates academic studies with experiential learning, locally and internationally. This program is integral to the development of our graduates.



Learning Happens Everywhere

This unique program enriches the standard curriculum with lessons learned outside the classroom. Students develop leadership skills and gain confidence while experiencing international cultures and learning about diversity in its broadest sense.

Round Square Program

The School's regional membership in the international Round Square Association has also been integrated into Global Studies. We offer two levels of age appropriate involvement: Young Round Square (S1 and S2) and Round Square (S3-S6). As a Round Square school, we foster and develop the IDEALS (internationalism, democracy, environmental awareness and action, adventure, leadership, service). To find out more about this unique program, visit www.roundsquare.org.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program is an essential feature of Global Studies. SMLS students must complete the requirements for the Bronze level, and are encouraged to continue on to the Silver and Gold levels.

The award program engages young people between the ages of 14 and 25 in a variety of personal development activities including community service, physical recreation, skill and adventurous journeying. We also offer a Junior Duke program for students in Grade 6, S1 and S2. Visit www.dukeofed.org for more information.



A History of Excellence

St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School has a proud history of educational excellence for girls and young women.



The Sisters of the Church, an Anglican community of women, was founded by Emily Ayckbown in 1872. In 1891, the Sisters opened a day school in Toronto. It became St. Mildred's College in September 1908. In 1923, Miss Ruth Lightbourn began teaching the daughters of Oakville residents in the sitting room of her parents' home. Her enterprise grew into The Lightbourn School. In 1964, the Sisters of the Church were asked to take over administration of The Lightbourn School. The two schools became one in 1969. In 1986 the Sisters turned the school over to a permanent Board of Governors.



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Charitable Registration # 11919 1963 RR0001

Printed on FSC certified paper.