

Humberwood Downs Junior Middle Academy

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GRADE RANGE: JK to 8

Interesting Feature

School on the Move

In June 2008, the Ministry of Education accorded Humberwood Downs the recognition of being a SCHOOL ON THE MOVE, one of 40 schools chosen in the Province of Ontario. This was a result of incremental improvement in testing scores, teacher growth, distributed leadership, and engaged staff, parents and students.

Humberwood Downs Junior Middle Academy is located at the edge of the Humber Arboretum on the east side of Humberwood Boulevard in north Etobicoke. The school was opened in partnership with the Toronto Catholic District School Board, the Toronto Public Library and Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation in 1996.

- The school serves approximately 1100 students representing almost 50 different language groups.
- Humberwood Downs shares a school yard, gymnasiums, resource centre, unified arts, music, science lab with our site partner, Holy Child Catholic School.
- The school grounds are designed and operated as an extension of the Humber Arboretum and on-site activities respect and preserve the natural balance of this environment.

The Humberwood Centre

Humberwood Downs is one partner of the unique Humberwood Centre. Other partners include Holy Child Catholic School, Etobicoke Public Library, and Toronto Parks, Forestry, and Recreation. Facilities include the Macaulay Child Development Centre, Music rooms, an Art studio, Design and Technology room and Family studies rooms for grades 6-8 students. The centre is 292,000 square feet of learning for students, staff, and parents!





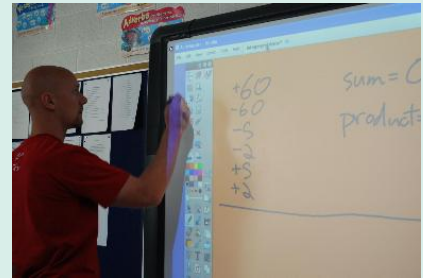
Speech Competition - Listen to the Children

Humberwood Downs is one of 23 schools in the North West 1 Family of Schools. Teachers from different grades taught their students the elements of a public speech. Schools held division finals and school finals. The Family of Schools Finals were held at Humberwood. The winner of the primary division was a grade 3 young man from Humberwood who gave a great speech on Canada.



Promethean Comes to Humberwood!

In the spring of 2010, we learned of a new technology called Promethean boards and their many interactive features. August 2010 saw 8 teachers receiving 3 full days of professional development on our 5 newly-purchased Promethean boards. Teachers are growing in their use of the boards and student engagement in learning is very high.



Girl's Respect Program

The Girl's Respect Program is in its 2nd year. Grade 7 and 8 girls meet each Friday after school to study a book on self-respect and discuss real-life situations that they face. Last year they had an overnight conference featuring dinner, workshops, and team building exercises. This year the program has added a mentoring component for girls in grades 3-5.



Chess - Getting Better One Move at a Time

Humberwood Downs boasts 2 chess teams. The Juniors are led by Mr. Ennis and the Intermediates by Mr. Bakker. At the Spring 2010 Finals, the Juniors won the Family of Schools trophy. The Intermediates challenged a secondary school and won! Now two trophies grace our showcase! This year our plan includes professional chess instruction for our Chess Club members.



Additional Features

- Single Gender Classes in Grades 5-8
- 4 Demonstration Classrooms
- Community Cricket Matches in Spring
- Student Council with Mentorship
- Intermediate Art Club Annual Show
- 5 Promethean Boards in the school



Student Life - Where You Belong

Students who return to Humberwood Downs from a variety of high schools tell us often -

"Humberwood is a great school. We are really prepared for high school"

This gives us great encouragement as we see our grads being responsible and productive. Current students have voice through the Boys 2 Men Club, Girl's Respect Program, Debating, the Student Council, Student-led Reporting Conferences, and numerous extra-curricular offerings. The intersection of school extra-curricular offerings and those of the Community Centre and the Public Library provide a gold mine of choices for over 1,000 students.



What Sets Us Apart

We have a fabulous state-of-the-art facility, and four partners with whom we work. The Humberwood Staff sets us apart.

We have:

- Staff representing our dominant cultures.
- Staff who give their students the gift of honesty and encouragement.
- Staff who enjoy the students and want them to learn.
- Staff who are sensitive to the whole child and stand with students in times of crisis or life surprise.
- Staff who honour the cultures, faiths, and sexual orientation of students.
- Staff who are continually taking courses to improve themselves.
- Staff who are committed to professional growth.
- Staff who are energetic.
- Staff who choose to involve themselves in extra-curricular offerings with students.
- Staff who tutor after school.
- Staff who call home regularly. Staff who look for new ways to reach students.
- Staff who use a variety of teaching strategies.





Parent and Community Engagement

Many of our parents and caregivers are new to Canada. We as a staff want to give "meaning" to what school looks like in Canada, what parents can expect, and what the school expects from parents. We have English as a Second Language Evenings, Family Literacy Day, EQAO preparation, and Reading in your first language to your children. These initiatives build the relationship between the school and parents. Not only do we invite parents into the school, we also go out to our community centres such as the local mosque and Hindu temple. Parents volunteer on school excursions and at school events.



TDSB - Better Schools. Brighter Futures

Imagine a TDSB where all schools share a common core set of characteristics. They are community-driven and focused on teaching and learning. Students and parents have a wide variety of opportunities and there are enough students in every school to increase program choices.

Imagine there is a clear focus on achieving student success and every student is engaged, has a voice, access to a caring adult and the opportunity to develop their full potential.

Here at the TDSB our focus is on student achievement, parent and community engagement and financial stability.



Contact Information

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