

# Ursula Franklin Academy

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**WEBSITE:** <http://www.ufacademy.org>

**GRADE RANGE:** 9 to 12

## Interesting Feature

### Enriched Wednesday Program

This multi-grade,  
multi-discipline, full-day

#### Enriched Wednesday Program

is unique to  
UFA. **Social Justice**  
informs our curriculum  
and community. This  
'out of the box,' non  
traditional program is  
aligned with three  
categories: Connected  
Knowledge, Health and  
Well-Being, Community  
Building.

**Compulsory Course  
Integration** allows  
students to prepare  
real-world projects and  
to benefit from rich  
interdisciplinary studies.

### Integrated Technology and Academics for the Real World

Ursula Franklin Academy students and staff are passionate about our five core values: Spirit of Inquiry, Democracy, Social Justice, Community of Learners, and Connected Knowledge. We creatively incorporate various technological resources and software across academic disciplines and offer integrated liberal arts and sciences courses at the advanced level, preparing students for post-secondary academic programs. Course content and the Enriched Wednesday Program direct learning at a faster pace. Students assume a central role over their education.

We are a small school by design, and we welcome students from across Toronto.

### Innovation at UFA

One innovative course titled, 'The Real World of Technology,' focuses on a creative, critical examination of technology and its powerful role in our lives. For example, consequences of 24/7 connectivity; meanings of virtual social networking sites; critical views of technology's impact in the learning environment. The philosophy of technology, its educational application and use to advance social justice is explored. This inquiry-based course includes integrated projects to weave together the major course themes of technology and the relationship between ourselves and the world.





## Dr. Ursula Franklin on Social Justice

“Peace is not the absence of war but the absence of fear, which is the presence of justice.” Dr. Ursula Franklin continues to champion peace, social justice and human rights in the world. She assumes an influential role in our students' education in reference to her books, The Ursula Franklin Reader: Pacifism as a Map, and The Real World of Technology.



## Integrated Learning at UFA

Grades 9 and 10 complete integrated culminating projects based on compulsory cored courses. Senior students explore 'Praxis of Change' and the individual's role in change. Exploration of cultural, technological, social and global change from a Canadian perspective integrates Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, Politics, Business, Family and Native Studies.



## Mentoring Partnerships at UFA

During the Enriched Wednesday Program, UFA students in grades 9-12 participate in ongoing, year-long partnerships with elementary students from kindergarten to grade 8 at Queen Victoria PS and Carleton Village Jr & Sr PS. UFA students mentor elementary students in science and mathematics and act as reading and classroom buddies.



## Student Leadership at UFA

Student Council, including an ombudsman, meet to discuss issues. The Franklin Athletic Association oversees intramural sports and Athletic Banquet. Student leaders facilitate the grade 9 retreat. Other examples of student-run clubs include the Environmental Alliance, whose work gained Gold Eco School status for UFA.



## Additional Features

- Array of Athletic Activities
- Film Festivals, Guest Speakers
- Co-operative Education
- Safe and Caring Small School
- Grade 9 Retreat
- Young Men's/Women's Discussions
- Student Uniform Association
- VirtualUFA Electronic Communication

## Student Life - Where You Belong

To quote one of our Graduates: "You are about to begin a new phase of your life. Your high school experience will be filled with new firsts, new friendships and new ways of thinking. UFA will test you in all the ways you would expect one of the top ranked Canadian high schools to do, but also in other ways that might surprise you. Along with furthering your knowledge we will help you discover who you are and who you are becoming, teach you how to become a leader and encourage you to make your own unique difference in the community. Here at UFA, our students are defined by their passion for excellence, their impulse to excel and their excitement and readiness to make change. Our staff members are more than just educators; to many students they are mentors, academic catalysts, even members of your dodge ball team. What makes UFA distinct from other institutions is that we do not pride ourselves solely on our students or staff, but on our sense of community. We not only share the responsibility of learning with one another, but also our vision of connected knowledge, our spirit of inquiry, and our foundation of democracy and social justice."



## What Sets Us Apart

Ursula Franklin Academy was founded in 1995 after a year-long study of aspects that contribute to an ideal 21st century model school. Several aspects include: strong school values; active student involvement in academic, extra-curricular activities and volunteer work; a student uniform that promotes equality among students; enthusiastic and committed staff; enriched curriculum and a student admission process. UFA's excellence continues today through that active leadership of students, with tremendous parental and staff support. UFA is an exciting place of learning, where students have opportunities to discover the joys and challenges of gaining knowledge and understanding. They seriously review their educational goals and take part in something to make them "privately happy and publicly useful." Endeavours and partnerships are constantly being made to build knowledge and understanding that extends out into the broader community and in turn, the community responds by enriching and supporting the goals and dreams of the school.







## Parent and Community Engagement

In 2009, UFA was recognized as a Gold Eco School based on the work of our Environmental Alliance. The Alliance implements programs to promote environmentally sound practices for a sustainable future. In 2007, our Landscaping Initiative was started with strong support from the School Advisory Council. Our students and staff extend classroom learning with trips. Our staff partner with Faculties of Education to provide practicums for pre-service teachers and to participate in professional research. We received the "Cool Schools" award from Toronto Atmospheric Foundation for an initiative in reducing global warming through the use of solar panels. In 2006, UFA won the Learning Partnership National Technology Innovation Award; York University Faculty of Education Award and the Anne Hope Award for Human Rights.



## 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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