

# YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE

DISCOVER YOUR POTENTIAL

613-722-0133

 [heritage-academy.com](http://heritage-academy.com)



## Our Academy

Established in 1989, Heritage Academy is an Ottawa not-for-profit private school specifically designed for students with Dyslexia and other language-based exceptionalities. Our specialized environments and smaller class sizes also prove effective for students with ADD/ADHD and similar attention-based exceptionalities. Heritage Academy accepts students from all provinces in Canada as well as International Students.

Our school's purpose is to provide an educational environment where students in Grades 1-12 are excited about learning and can discover and reach their full potential, while studying at their own pace on an enriched curriculum. We provide a safe and comfortable learning environment where students can develop good study skills, enhance their emotional intelligence, and build their self-confidence.

Our mission is to provide each student with the support they deserve, enabling them to reach their full academic potential. By promoting the values of honesty, perseverance, and respect, Heritage Academy fosters a culture of acceptance and growth among its students.

One of the most important aspects of our school is our student-to-teacher ratio, which is set at a maximum of 12:1 (Grades 1-5) and 14:1 (Grades 6-12). These small class sizes ensure that each student receives the necessary guidance to overcome challenges in the provincial curriculum.

Teachers at Heritage are able to customize their lesson plans to suit the individual needs of all students.

At this time, there are very few schools that offer educational services such as those at Heritage Academy. In addition, we are the only school in Ottawa that exclusively offers the Simultaneous Multisensory Teaching (S.M.T.) program and techniques to students who require assistance in both reading and writing.

Heritage Academy follows the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum and is an Ontario Inspected Private School #876500. All core teachers at Heritage Academy are certified and equipped with the pedagogical knowledge to make learning fun and exciting for young minds.

If you require further information or would like to arrange a tour, you can consult our website at [www.heritage-academy.com](http://www.heritage-academy.com), or you can contact us at 613-722-0133.

***When a flower doesn't bloom, you change the environment in which it grows, not the flower.***  
Alexander Den Heijer

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## School Philosophy

We value that every student ought to enjoy success as a learner and master the curriculum of the school.

We value that every student has unique and common learning needs, which require a variety of educational strategies and learning activities. Teaching programs and methodologies at the school reflect this value and are structured to acknowledge the learning needs and talents of individual students.

We value that each student should have his/her basic needs met to enhance their social, emotional, intellectual, and physical well-being. These basic needs comprise a sense of love and belonging, freedom to make choices, a feeling of importance or influence, and the opportunity to have fun.

We value that each student should feel worthy and competent to achieve positive self-esteem and a sense of physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual well-being. We believe that each student should take responsibility for their actions and, when necessary, develop and agree to a plan for managing behavior appropriately.

We value teaching each student to think divergently and creatively at complex levels, to problem solve, and to develop habits of mind that promote success. Our world is changing rapidly, and our students should develop tolerance, patience, courtesy, and understanding of individual differences.

Our school is a safe and nurturing environment where students can learn and develop socially and emotionally.

## School Hours

School Opening:	<b>7:30 am</b>
School Closing:	<b>5:30 pm</b>
Classes Begin:	<b>9:00 am</b>
Classes End:	<b>3:30 pm</b>



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## Academics and Curriculum

At Heritage Academy, academics are about more than meeting curriculum expectations; they are about unlocking the potential within every student. Serving students from **Grades 1 through 12**, we deliver the **Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum** in a way that is both rigorous and accessible, ensuring our graduates earn the **Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)** and are well-prepared for their next steps in life.

- **Primary & Junior (Grades 1–6):** Foundational skills in literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking are emphasized, with early instruction in cursive writing and structured reading programs to strengthen comprehension.
- **Intermediate (Grades 7–8):** Students continue to develop across all core subjects, Language, Mathematics, Sciences, Social Studies, Arts, and Health & Physical Education, while building study habits and self-advocacy skills.
- **Senior School (Grades 9–12):** Students work toward their OSSD through compulsory and elective courses in English, French, Mathematics, Sciences, Canadian and World Studies, Arts, and more. They are guided through **career and life planning**, choosing courses that align with their pathways to university, college, or workplace destinations.

At every stage, learning is active and engaging. Project-based work, field trips, and community involvement bring lessons to life, helping students connect classroom learning to the real world.

Heritage Academy's academic culture is best described as **friendly, inclusive, and engaging**. Students come from a diverse range of educational backgrounds. Many have felt overlooked in larger classrooms and enjoy an environment where they are truly seen. Teachers know every student as an individual and foster a safe, encouraging space for them to take risks, build confidence, and develop a genuine love of learning.

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## Simultaneous Multisensory Teaching (S.M.T. Program)

The **Simultaneous Multisensory Teaching method (S.M.T.)**, based on the Orton system, is a language re-education method developed to meet the needs of students of all ages, who need a more thorough knowledge of the structure of written language, and a solid understanding of the association of sounds and symbols before learning how to apply the concepts and rules of written language.

The objective of the S.M.T. method is to teach reading, writing, and spelling, with an emphasis on reading accuracy in the early stages, followed by thorough comprehension of written language and its structures. The material is presented in short sequential steps to help students develop self-confidence. Students progress at their own pace.

To be of practical use by most teachers and parents, this method entails detailed lesson plans that outline the pedagogical objectives and expected outcomes for each step. The manual includes explanatory notes on the causes and effects of dyslexia to give teachers insight into the dyslexic person's perspective.

S.M.T. differs from other multisensory teaching approaches. It incorporates the development of phonological and phonemic awareness in the following learning techniques and strategies:

- visual and auditory discrimination;
- bimanual reading in Braille dots to develop a “tactile vision”;
- direct teaching of non-image words;
- an emphasis on diction;
- the etymology of English words.

### Advantages of S.M.T

It can be taught to students of all ages and all grade levels.

It allows much earlier intervention for dyslexic children, even if they have not been formally diagnosed, because it can be taught as early as grade 1.

Although developed specifically for dyslexic students, this method can be used for all grade 1 children to prevent reading failure and to reduce the need for remedial help later on.

**All students in grades 1 through 8 receive their SMT throughout the school day (9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.). All students in grades 9 through 12 receive their SMT before school (8:15 am to 9:00 am) or after school (3:30 to 4:00 pm).**

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## Heggerty Phonemic Awareness

The **Heggerty Phonemic Awareness** Curriculum is a systematic program of daily lesson plans that provide a high level of explicit modelling and student engagement. Each level of the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum focuses on six to eight phonemic awareness skills, along with additional activities to develop letter and sound recognition, introduce the phoneme-grapheme connection and extended language awareness.

The Heggerty Curriculum includes explicit instruction in the following phonological and phonemic awareness skills:

- Rhyming
- Initial Phoneme Isolation
- Blending
- Isolating final and medial phonemes (sounds)
- Segmenting
- Adding Phonemes
- Deleting Phonemes
- Substituting Phonemes

All lessons are designed for a classroom setting, only take 8-12 minutes, and are very easy to implement.

The Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum is also designed to work alongside existing structured synthetic phonics programs. It is a great way to build up the phonological skills of our early readers.

This program is offered to students in **Grades 1 through 5** as part of their language program.

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## Before/After Care/Extra Curriculars

A set fee will be charged for students in all grades who require either before or extended care supervision.

### **Before School Care (7:30 am to 8:15 am)**

A set monthly fee of \$150 will be charged for students who require before school supervision during this time.

### **Extended Care (4:00 pm to 5:30 pm)**

A set monthly fee of \$270 will be charged for students who require extended care supervision during this time. Students who are enrolled in the after school Jiu Jitsu Program will receive a rebate of \$70/month from the set fee.

**PLEASE NOTE:** In respect to our teachers and their families, parents arriving after 5:30 pm will be charged \$1.00 per minute. The school should be notified prior to 3:15 pm if the parent/guardian will be late.

### **Tutoring Service (3:30 pm - 5:00 pm)**

A fee of **\$55/hr** will be charged for tutoring services offered before or after school.

Students are invited to dive into a variety of clubs and extra-curricular activities! These opportunities let them discover new interests, build skills, and connect with others. We encourage everyone to step outside their comfort zone, explore new ideas, and collaborate with peers in exciting and creative ways.

- Intramural Sports • Steam/Knex CLUB
- Space Club • Garden Club • Videos for Change
- Monster Club • Roots & Shoots Club • D & D CLUB
- Student Council • Model U.N. • Morning Announcements Crew
  - Jiu Jitsu Program • Study Hall • Running Club
  - Archeology Club • FRENCH Club
- SKI AND SNOWBOARD • Chess Club
  - Prom Committee • Crochet Club
  - Builders Club • Game Club

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## Uniforms

All students are required to wear a standard uniform top, with flexibility in their choice of bottoms.

On the final school day of each month, students may participate in **Dress-Down Day**, when uniforms are not required.

For **Grades 7-12**, students must change into a different Heritage Academy shirt for gym class. **Grades 1-6** students are not required to have a separate gym uniform.

Uniform items are available as T-shirts, long-sleeve shirts, and sweaters, in the following colors: **White, Grey, Maroon, and Black.**

Please note:

- **Fragrances:** Strong perfumes and body sprays are not permitted due to allergies and sensitivities.
- **Footwear:** Students in **Grades 1-8** are required to wear separate indoor and outdoor shoes.

## Tuition Fees

Tuition fees include all field trips, school textbooks, and supplies (except agenda, binders, and scientific calculators).

### Tuition Fees for the 2026-2027 School Year

Tuition Fees -Standard (Registration before February 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2026	\$19,000.00
Tuition Fees -Standard (Registration after February 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2026	\$19,600.00

Tuition Fees -Standard w/SMT (Registration before February 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2026	\$20,600.00
Tuition Fees -Standard w/SMT (Registration after to February 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2026	\$21,200.00

Tuition Fees - International (Registration before February 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2026	\$21,200.00
Tuition Fees - International (Registration after February 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2026	\$22,700.00



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## Communication and Information

At Heritage Academy, we believe that a strong partnership between school and home is essential to ensuring every student meets their academic and personal goals. When parents and educators work together, they create the foundation for student success.

To support this partnership, we are committed to open and consistent communication with our families.

The administration shares updates regularly through email, our social media platforms, and our monthly newsletter. These channels provide families with timely information about school events, student opportunities, and important reminders.

We encourage all families to stay connected:

- Visit our website: [\*\*www.heritage-academy.com\*\*](http://www.heritage-academy.com)
- “Follow-Us” us on **Facebook**
- Attend one of our **Open Houses**
- Schedule a personal **tour of the school** and meet with our Principal

Through these opportunities, families can explore our community firsthand, learn more about our programs, and gain a deeper understanding of how Heritage Academy can support their child’s success.

On our website, you’ll also find access to the **Parent Handbook and Course Calendars**, which outline expectations and commitments, as well as details about our educators, school year calendar, extracurricular activities, tutoring, admissions, and curriculum.

Together, by maintaining strong communication and collaboration, we can ensure that each child is supported, challenged, and empowered to achieve their goals.

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## Student Support and Success

- Beyond academics, our students benefit from a **range of social** and **extracurricular activities**.
- We emphasize **social-emotional learning**, helping students grow in **confidence, self-advocacy, resilience, and emotional intelligence**.
- Our teachers bring learning to life with **engaging strategies** that **build safe, supportive, and inclusive** environments where **every student feels valued**.
- **Wellness initiatives include smaller class sizes** so that students receive more individual attention and feel seen; plus ongoing collaboration among educators, access to mentoring, and encouragement for emotional health.
- Our commitment to inclusion is central: we support students with **dyslexia, language-based exceptionalities, ADD/ADHD, ASD Level 1, anxiety, and attention-based challenges**.
- Any student requiring an Educational Accommodation Plan will have one developed and put into place to support their success.
- Our academics are enhanced with **assistive technology** and **differentiated instruction**. Students who need it get tools that help with reading, writing, and learning.
- Technology is integrated into the curriculum: computer science, robotics, web design are offered; digital literacy is developed across grades.
- We ensure classwork and assignments leverage technology in meaningful ways (for example, technology supports individualized learning, research, and assessment).
- **Alumni** describe Heritage Academy as **transformative** and a place where they found **their voice, gained independence, and developed the resilience needed for university and college life**.
- Parents highlight that their children left Heritage with **renewed self-esteem, strong literacy skills, and a clear sense of direction**, enabling smooth transitions into post-secondary studies.