

YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE



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613-722-0133

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 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, 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

Before School Care: **7:30 am to 8:15 am** (Students must be registered for this option)

Classes Begin: **9:00 am** (Students may arrive as of 8:15 am)

Classes End: **3:30 pm** (Students can remain at school until 4:00 pm)

After School Care: **4:00 pm to 5:30 pm** (Students must be registered for this option)

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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 focused literacy to strengthen comprehension.
- **Intermediate (Grades 7–8):** Students continue to develop across all core subjects, Language, Mathematics, Sciences, History, Geography, 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-Gillingham approach, 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 Students in Grade 1 children to prevent reading failure and to reduce the need for remedial help later on.

Students enrolled in SMT:

Grades 1 through 8 receive their SMT throughout the school day (9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.).

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 that provides a high level of explicit modeling 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 extend 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 • Paper Crafts Club**
- **Space/Science Club • Dungeons and Dragons Club**
- **Monster Club • Roots & Shoots Club**
- **Student Council • Model U.N. • Morning Announcements Crew**
- **Jiu Jitsu Program • Study Hall • Running Club**
- **Archeology Club • French Club • Mindfulness Club**
- **Ski and Snowboard • Chess Club**
- **Crochet Club • Newspaper Team**
- **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 (no sleepwear). 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. Students in **Grades 1–6** 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 for agenda, binders, scientific calculators, and a device, such as a Chromebook/Laptop.

Tuition Fees for the 2026-2027 School Year

Tuition Fees -Standard (Registration before February 1 st , 2026	\$19,000.00
Tuition Fees -Standard (Registration after February 1 st , 2026	\$19,600.00
Tuition Fees -Standard w/SMT (Registration before February 1 st , 2026	\$20,600.00
Tuition Fees -Standard w/SMT (Registration after to February 1 st , 2026	\$21,200.00
Tuition Fees - International (Registration before February 1 st , 2026	\$21,200.00
Tuition Fees - International (Registration after February 1 st , 2026	\$22,700.00



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
- “Follow-Us” us on **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/ottawaprivateschooldyslexia)
- 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; ongoing collaboration among educators; and encouragement of emotional health.
- Our commitment to inclusion is central: we support students with **Dyslexia, Language-Based Exceptionalities, Attention-Based challenges, ADHD, ASD Level 1, and Anxiety**
- Any student requiring an Educational Accommodation Plan will have one developed and implemented 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 and web design are offered; media 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.

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Admission Criteria

Heritage Academy strives to create an environment that accommodates learning differences, fosters academic excellence, personal growth, and a sense of community among students. We are committed to ensuring that our school is the right fit for your child, and we aim to provide a seamless and thorough admissions process to achieve this goal.

Should you have any questions or require further information during the application process, please do not hesitate to contact our admissions office. We are here to assist you throughout the process and provide any necessary support or referrals.

When evaluating students for admission to Heritage, we diligently consider the following criteria:

Special Needs or Accommodations: We evaluate whether students require special accommodations to thrive in our educational environment. We determine if additional support is needed to guide and assist the student throughout the day.

Behavioral and Character Evaluation: We evaluate students' behavior, conduct, and character using various methods, including report cards, assessments, and evaluations.

Self-Regulation and Emotional Intelligence: We evaluate the student's ability to manage emotions, handle stress, and collaborate effectively with others.

Communication Skills: We evaluate the student's proficiency in verbal and nonverbal communication.

Personal Skills: We evaluate how well the student interacts with peers and faculty, as well as their ability to perform essential tasks independently, such as dressing, using the restroom, and navigating the school.

Academic Proficiency: We assess the student's current grade level and whether they have received accommodations or curriculum modifications.

To qualify for admission, students must have the ability to self-regulate their behaviour in and out of class, work well with their peers, work independently when required, and be able to follow along with the curriculum without the need for significant additional support from an assistant. Most of our students require accommodations regarding assessments and instructional and learning procedures but do not require modified grade material.

Heritage Academy of Learning Excellence welcomes students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), including students with lower support needs or Level 1 ASD, who can benefit from our structured learning environment. Our environment, with smaller class sizes and less stimuli, is often advantageous to students with ASD.



Submission of documents to the Administration Team:

The first step in the enrollment process is to submit the necessary documentation for your child's application.

Families can submit their child's documents for review to the following email address: admission@heritage-academy.com

These documents typically include the following:

- Academic transcripts, progress reports, and/or report cards from the last 2 years.
- The most recent educational, neurological or psychological assessments.
- The most recent Individual Educational Plan (I.E.P.)

Review by the Administration Team:

Once we receive your child's documents, our administration team will carefully review the information provided. This review allows us to gain a better understanding of your child's educational background and needs. Administration will review the documents within 2-4 business days.

Follow-Up by the Administration Team:

We will invite you and your child to visit for a school tour after we determine that the student meets the admission requirements. During the school tour, you will have the opportunity to explore our facilities and learn more about our educational approach.

Student Trial Day:

If prospective families express continued interest after a tour, the student will be invited for a trial day at school. The trial day will provide your child with an opportunity to experience our classes, meet potential peers, and interact with our educators.

The school day runs from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.

- Please arrive by 8:45 a.m. through the front door and proceed to the office.
- Students can be picked up as of 3:30pm.
- Your student will receive a locker, meet their teacher and be welcomed to class.
- Our school is a nut, soy and sesame free facility.
- Please send your child with lunch/water bottle, appropriate clothing for the weather and indoor shoes to participate in gym activities.

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Teacher Feedback and Evaluation:

Following the trial day, our dedicated educators will promptly provide feedback to the administration, typically within 24 hours, regarding your child's performance and their insightful observations. This invaluable feedback plays a vital role in our comprehensive assessment of your child's readiness and suitability within our nurturing educational environment. Occasionally, we ask students to attend additional try-out day(s) to help us to determine if our school is a good fit.

We want to emphasize that Heritage Academy is a small school community, and as such, we have limited resources to accommodate significant curriculum modifications or address extensive behavioral issues. Our size allows us to provide a personalized, close-knit educational experience, but it also means we may not have the capacity to implement substantial changes to our established Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum or to provide extensive support for behavioral/emotional needs. We are committed to offering a supportive and inclusive environment for all students, but it's important to consider our size and its impact on the scope of services we can provide.

Final Assessment and Decision:

The administration team will carefully consider all information gathered throughout the process. Our decision will be based on our ability to provide the necessary support for your child's educational and personal growth, as well as your child's compatibility with our school community.

We understand that choosing the right school is a significant decision, and we aim to make this process as informative and personalized as possible. Our goal is to ensure that Heritage Academy of Learning Excellence is the best fit for your child's educational needs.

Upon Acceptance

Submission of Enrollment Forms and Registration Fee:

In order to secure your child's enrollment, the following forms must be submitted;

Admission Application

or

Admission Application (International)

Enrollment Registration Form (Full Time)

or

Enrollment Registration Form (Part Time)

Payment Plan Agreement

If families have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Principal, Cheryl Ward, at info@heritage-academy.com