

Lower School Learning Support: *'Building Skills through a team approach'*

Philosophy

The lower school learning support team strives to enable each student to access the curriculum to the best of his/her ability. The program aims to maximise each child's potential through teaching the skills and strategies required of life-long learners and contributing members of society.

Service Provision

In first and second grades, a pullout program is used to target reading, spelling and writing for students struggling in these areas. In-class and small group support is offered for students in 3rd and 4th Grade. In addition, resource teachers meet regularly with class teachers to discuss students and to plan for differentiation. Additional literacy support is offered through the use of the computerised program Lexia.

People Skills

The lower school department focuses on a team approach to problem solving. The Student Support Team (SST) works together to support children with academic, social, emotional and transitional needs. A structured process has been developed to help teachers and parents find strategies to assist students. This SST process begins with a concern about a student either from the classroom teacher or a parent. Once the parent and the teacher have discussed options, a referral is submitted to the lower school counsellor. The counsellor subsequently schedules a meeting with the parents, an administrator, the child's classroom teacher, a resource team member, and any other relevant professional who works with the child.

At the SST meeting, we discuss and agree upon a plan of action to benefit the student. This plan may include any of the following:

- Additional classroom options for accommodations and modifications
- Individual tutoring
- In-class or pullout resource lessons
- Outside referrals, such as for medical examinations, an educational psychological assessment, occupational assessment/therapy, speech-language assessment/therapy, and/or counselling.

Once a decision has been made, the team monitors the student's progress. A follow-up SST meeting may be scheduled to review and modify goals as necessary. If the learning support program cannot meet a student's needs, information on finding alternative school settings may be provided.