

Dr Norman Bethune Collegiate Institute

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GRADE RANGE: 9 to 12

Interesting Feature

Taking Care of the Environment

Bethune is committed to protecting the environment both locally and globally. As one of the TDSB's first platinum certified Ecoschool, Bethune is a leader in reducing waste and energy usage, naturalizing the grounds and promoting a passion for the environment.

Stellar Program

The Stellar Program is an enrichment program for grade 9 and 10 in Math and Science.

Be Excited About Reading (B.E.A.R.)

The school-wide reading program promotes the love of reading in every classroom, every Friday, with every member of the Bethune community enjoying 20 minutes of reading.

Bethune has a reputation for academic excellence. Students are offered the opportunity to excel in Math, Science, the Arts, Business, Computer Science and Technology. Courses in the Social Sciences and English give students a solid background in the liberal arts and prepare them for post-secondary education. Newcomers are supported in ESL classes and in programs outside the classroom that ensure they are involved in the school community. Bethune maintains close relationships with elementary schools through mentoring programs in Music, Robotics, Drama, Visual Art, Technology and Bethune's Eco-club. Bethune is also partners with the neighbouring senior's homes: Mon Sheong and Tendercare, and with School #15 in Beijing, China.

ESL

Bethune's ESL program features field trips that promote Canadian culture and experiential learning. The semestered program has 5 levels in addition to ESL sensitive courses in Geography and History. Bilingual classroom helpers, full-time settlement workers, peer mentor programs, the Chinese Association, and the Newcomer Orientation Week in August help to ease the transition to Canada and to Bethune. In addition to after-school and week-end support classes, OSSLT preparation classes and a peer-tutoring program help to support ESL students throughout the year. Bethune also offers our ESL learners a wide variety of cultural field trips.



Modern Languages

Students taking Modern Language classes are offered many enrichment opportunities, including outings to French and Spanish movies, theatre productions and restaurants. Senior students may travel abroad to France and Spain. Bethune students receive excellent results in French and Spanish Contests as well as as the Concours D'Art Oratoire (French Public Speaking).

The Arts

Students have many opportunities to explore their love of the arts. Students can choose from visual art, photography, computer art, dramatic arts, vocal music, and repertoire instrumental music. Outside the classroom, students can enrich their experience by joining the art club, the drama club, or the music council.

Student Leadership

Students can be elected as a member of the SAC, Music Council, Athletic Council, or 'Reps', or volunteer to be a leader through the Peer Mentors, the ESL Mentors, the Environmental Action Team (BEAT), the Personal and Social Responsibility club (PSR), Equity Alliance, GSA, DECA, Debating, Blaze, and many more clubs. Bethune also offers leadership camp to all grade 9's.

Technology Across the Curriculum

Bethune has 9 refurbished computer labs, including a social science lab, a technology lab, a computer art lab, and 3 business and computer science labs. Computer skills are incorporated across the curriculum, including the use of GIS, GPS in Geography classes, various media technology, and Smartboards throughout the school. Many classrooms are equipped with a computer.

Additional Features



Student Life - Where You Belong

In addition to various leadership groups, students may participate in the Yearbook Club, the Bethune Journal (the newspaper), the Chinese Association, the Chess Club, Christian Fellowship, Healthy Schools, the Japanese Cultural Association, the Dance Club, Library Club, Robotics, Formula 1, Drama Club, Design at Bethune, Gym Night, Badminton Night, and many more clubs and activities.

Bethune offers students opportunities to compete in most sports, including Cross-Country, Field Hockey, Rugby, Tennis, Volleyball, Basketball, Hockey, Slo-Pitch, Track and Field, and even Ultimate Frisbee, Archery, Wrestling, and Cheerleading.

Finally, Bethune students may choose to compete in subject-related competitions including The American Math Competition, Canadian National Math League, Cayley, Euclid, Fermat, Pascal, Fryer, Hypatia, Galois, the Canadian Open Math Challenge, the Great Canadian Geography Challenge, and Physics competitions.



What Sets Us Apart

Bethune students consistently rank as one of the top school teams nationally in mathematics, science and physics competitions. In 2010, the "Design at Bethune" team won 2nd place at the Formula 1 Challenge and the DECA team was one of the top teams in the international competition. Bethune's band is well-known in the TDSB and is among the best in the Province! Bethune students stand out as athletes as well. Every year several Bethune students stand out as champions at OFSAA for badminton, track and field, volleyball and wrestling. Bethune's environmental club (BEAT) has over 150 members and 4 executives. This group was instrumental in Bethune being awarded Platinum status by Eco-schools and being chosen as one of only a few schools to receive solar panels. The City of Toronto also awarded Bethune with the Green Toronto Award of Excellence.



Parent and Community Engagement

Bethune is a school that continues to support other causes. Youth Assisting Youth has students becoming mentors for younger children. Students in the Cancer Society organize an annual fun fair to raise money, and many students participate in the Run for the Cure and the CN Tower Climb. Every year a number of students participate in the 30 Hour Famine as well as clothing and food drives. Our clubs often work with our local elementary schools and students regularly work with our neighbouring senior's home: Mon Sheong and Tendercare.

Bethune's School Council is a vibrant group of parents, students, teachers and administration who meet on the first Monday of each month to dialogue and discuss school policies and current educational issues.



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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