

June 2018

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

Grade 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

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Melissa was extremely excited to find a school here in Canada that has a very rich curriculum comparable to the schools she taught at in the U.S. Her teaching experiences range from Grades 1 to 4, in schools that implemented a methodology similar to the grammar stage of classical education's trivium. Melissa completed her teaching certification and Master's Degree in Elementary Education, and she currently serves as the Grade 7/8 teacher at Innova Academy. When she's not teaching, or involved with church, Melissa enjoys spending her free time with her husband and two boys. You can usually find them at a hockey rink, playing catch, or doing something active together.



Melissa Gazmin  
Teacher

Grade 7 and  
Grade 8

*Grade 8 students have opportunities to show marked maturity academically and spiritually as they learn to make meaningful connections and critically analyze ideas. Teachers continue to foster the love of learning, and lead students to deepen their understanding of God's purpose for His creation and their role in His redemptive plan.*

**Christian Education / Logic:** Through discussion, reading, and film, students will continue to examine the tenets of the Christian worldview and how they compare to the doctrines of the leading non-Christian worldviews of our day. Students will learn how to apply their Christian faith to every area of life. During the month of June, students will apply the knowledge gained this year in formal discussions and debates. Students will learn to argue both sides as they prepare to defend their Christian worldview to others. The following are possible topics for discussion/debate:

- Is there more than one truth? Is there more than one path to God?
- Creationism vs. natural selection
- Reliability of the Bible
- Does God's law change over time? In today's modern world, and in a culture that pushes acceptance, are some of God's laws outdated?

**Bible Memorization:** Throughout the year, Grade 8 students have been memorizing the Letter of James in its entirety. The more we commit God's Word to memory the better we are able to guard our hearts, pray to our Lord, and defend our faith. During the month of June, students will conclude their memorization of James with chapter 5. Key ideas in this chapter include:

- Warning to the rich
- Patience in suffering
- The prayer of faith

**Writing & Grammar:** Students will reflect on all they have learned in history and Christian education this year in our final writing assignment. Using rhetorical devices, students will write effective short speeches to argue an issue we discussed this year in history class, such as the holocaust, women in war, civil rights, or abortion. In this short speech, students will defend their view with historical facts as well as with their Christian worldview. Some objectives include:

- Ideas: sharing a viewpoint and attempting to convince your audience to agree
- Organization: position statement, supporting details & credible facts, and a conclusion that rephrases the position statement
- Voice: persuasive, confident, and credible
- Word Choice: establish mood, emotional and logical appeals

**Latin and Greek Vocabulary:** Students will continue to learn the following Latin and Greek words and their derivatives:

- Pais/Paidos (G): pediatrician, encyclopedia, pedagogue, pedagogy, paideia
- Schole (G): school, scholastic, scholar, scholarly, scholarship
- Ludo (L): allude, elude, delude, collude, illusion, illusory, ludicrous, interlude, prelude, postlude

**French:** This month in French, students will be reading stories and answering questions. Students will learn conjugation for past tense and practice applying different verb tenses in conversation. Students will:

- Answer questions aloud and in writing
- Apply grammar principles in speech and in writing
- Develop reading comprehension and write stories
- Continue to memorize Hebrews 4:16

## Grade 8 – The Logic Stage

The strong knowledge base established in the grammar school provides a solid foundation as students enter the logic school. As perspective widens, students start to make meaningful connections across the curriculum. Students show more independence in their learning and establish systems in self-regulation and personal study skills. Shaping students' habits of heart, mind, and soul is a key focus as students deepen their understanding of God's purpose for his creation and their role in his redemptive plan. Teachers continue to foster the love of learning, and students have opportunities to show marked maturity academically and spiritually as they learn to critically analyze ideas and speak to issues in light of God's purposes.

**History/Geography:** In history this month, students will complete our unit on "Wars of Modern Times and the Hope of Mankind, 1948 – Date Unknown". June's lessons will include the following titles:

- 9/11 and Osama bin Laden
- The Global War on Terror
- The Revelation of Jesus Christ and the Hope of Mankind

**Mathematics:** Students will prepare for their exams this month and review all the content covered this year including:

- Exponent laws
- Linear relations and graphs
- Pythagorean theorem
- Probability
- Transformations
- Polynomial expansion

**Science:** Students will prepare for their exams this month and review all the content covered this year including:

- Substances (elements and compounds)
- Properties of substances
- Electricity
- Conservation of energy
- Sources of energy
- Matter and atoms
- Ecology
- Earth and Space

**Visual Arts:** This month in visual arts, students will learn about optical illusions and the work of M.C. Escher. Students will create their own tessellations using value to convey depth. Students will:

- Learn about the work of M.C. Escher
- Design and complete a tessellation
- Learn about value and shape

**Music:** During the month of June, Grade 8 students will review musical concepts learned throughout the year. Topics include:

- Listening to music from around the world
- Composition and melody writing
- Theory review
- Continuing to expand ukulele repertoire

**Physical Education:** This month, students will learn to play ultimate. Ultimate is an engaging game utilizing skill and endurance. They will be taught the following:

- Rules
- Throwing techniques
- Guarding
- Strategies

*Please note that although students in different grades often study the same topic, curricular expectations are tailored to individual grade levels.*

## Upcoming Events

June 1 and 14 – Pizza Lunch

June 5-12 – Dominican Republic Mission Trip

June 8 – Battle of the Books (at Innova) AND Pasta Lunch

June 16 – Family Picnic – At the Makarenkos'

June 18 – Nobility Day

June 19 – Last Day of Class – Noon Dismissal – Term 3 Reports Go Home AND Grade 8 Graduation

June 20-22 – PA Days - ACCS Conference for Administration

Innova Academy aspires to graduate young men and women who will possess the virtues, wisdom, knowledge, and skills necessary for further academic study.