

October 2018

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

Grade 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

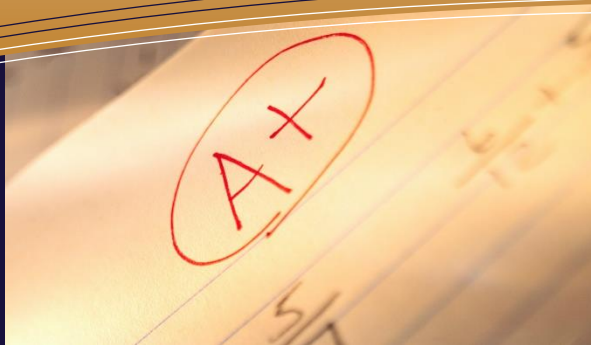
mgazmin@innovaacademy.ca

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:** This year, students will discuss and memorize Romans 8. They will also consider the importance of spending time daily in God's Word and growing in spiritual disciplines. This month, students will:

- Discuss the spiritual discipline of meditation and how to apply this in their walk with Christ
- Continue to study the attributes of God, looking closely at His holiness and grace

**Logic:** Students will continue to learn how to identify logical fallacies using The Fallacy Detective curriculum. This month, they will focus on a category of fallacies called "Avoiding the Question", which include:

- Red Herring Fallacy
- *Ad Hominem* Attack
- Genetic Fallacy

**Writing & Rhetoric:** In *Writing and Rhetoric*, students will continue to learn the concepts of encomium and vituperation and how they can be used in a persuasive essay. Specific skills this month include:

- Oral narration
- Annotation
- Writing from first-person and third-person point of view
- Outlining
- Recognizing and writing hyperbole
- Distinguishing between fact and opinion
- Defining and identifying thesis statements
- Writing thesis statements
- Incorporating supporting ideas into thesis statements

**Grammar:** Grammar study develops students' awareness and understanding of how the English language is structured. As students work through the grammar program, they apply their knowledge to writing in all subject areas. This month's unit will focus on direct and indirect speech. Specific concepts include:

- Defining direct and indirect speech
- Correctly punctuating direct speech
- Changing pronouns and tense when writing indirect speech
- Introducing a reported statement or question with the appropriate word

**Latin and Greek Vocabulary:** Students develop the ability to analyze unfamiliar English words based on Latin and Greek prefixes, suffixes, and roots. This month's study focuses on the following:

- Greek and Latin words related to "family" (specifically: mother, father, birth, race, kind)
- English derivatives related to "family"

**French:** In French this month, students will learn and review gestured vocabulary, learn songs in French, and read the play *Un frère pénible*. Students will:

- Become accustomed to speaking exclusively in French, with fewer teacher prompts
- Begin practicing and memorizing the play *Un frère pénible*
- Complete comprehension activities to better understand the play
- Read short French texts as a class and answer comprehension questions
- Memorize the second of 10 statements explaining the gospel

## 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:** During the month of October, Grade 8 students will continue to study the struggles of mankind through wars of independence. Topics include:

- The French Revolution
- The rise of Napoleon Bonaparte
- The Louisiana Purchase and the expeditions of Lewis and Clark
- The Mexican War of Independence
- The War of 1812
- The fall of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo

**Mathematics:** In mathematics, students will study the use of algebraic linear equations. Students will:

- Solve equations with two variables
- Graph relationships
- Identify and solve their systems

**Science:** This month, students will focus on the study of rocks and minerals. They will explore the following topics:

- Types of atomic bonds
- Mineral identification
- Crystal and mineral formations
- Rock types and formations

**Visual Arts:** In visual arts this month, students will examine the use of line in paintings by Degas and Van Gogh. Students will learn about printmaking techniques and create a mono-print that uses line to communicate movement. Students will:

- Complete a fall still life in an interesting colour scheme
- Examine the use of line in famous paintings
- Learn about printmaking techniques

**Music:** In music, the Grade 8 class will continue to develop their skills playing the handchimes as well as refine their choral skills. Topics for this month include:

- 2-part singing in solfege
- Singing in canon
- Terms: dolce, grazioso, maestoso, vivace
- Musical staff: bass clef notes C3 to G3
- Symbols: fermata, accent, breath mark
- Remembrance Day and Christmas choral repertoire

**Physical Education:** This month, students will continue training for the upcoming cross-country meet, then they will begin volleyball. They will focus on improving their overall performance in the following areas:

- Stance and form
- Bumping
- Setting
- Serving

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

## Upcoming Events

- October 4 – Exordium AND Curriculum Night – At Innova
- October 5 – PA Day – No School for Students
- October 8 – Thanksgiving Day – No School
- October 10 – Parent Volunteer Information Session – South Sanctuary at 9:15 a.m.
- October 12 & 26 – Pizza Lunch
- October 15 – Fair Glen Overnight Retreat (Gr. 5-9)
- October 16 – Fair Glen Field Trip (Gr. 3-9)
- October 18 – Cross Country Meet – Dagmar Ski Resort
- October 31 – Walk Through History Day

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