

October 2020

The Month Ahead

At Innova

Grade 7

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.



Mrs. Melissa Gazmin
Teacher

Grade 7 and
Grade 8



Grade 7 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: In September, students began an in-depth study on the book of James. Students will:

- Use journals, personal times of reflection, and class discussions, to grow in their understanding of the context of James
- Discuss how to apply the truths of this rich and practical book to their lives
- Begin to memorize James 1

Logic: Our study of logic began last month with a focus on the heart, since "it is out of the overflow of the heart that the mouth speaks". Logic is like a tool that, when used properly, can be used for much good. But when it is abused or mishandled, it can cause terrible destruction. In October, we will begin studying logical fallacies by using the book *The Fallacy Detective*. Students will learn how to detect the following fallacies:

- Red Herrings
- Special Pleading
- Ad Hominem and Genetic Fallacies
- Tu Quoque
- Faulty Appeal to Authority and Appeal to the People
- Strawman

Writing & Rhetoric: Last month, students were introduced to the concepts of encomium and vituperation and how they can be effectively used in a persuasive essay. In October, lessons focus on:

- Why and how writers use ethos to persuade their audience
- Hyperbole as an effective rhetorical device
- The importance of a good thesis statement
- Incorporating supporting ideas into thesis statements
- Oral narration
- Annotation
- Outlining
- Distinguishing between fact and opinion
- Writing from first-person and third-person points of view

Grammar: Students will use the IEW grammar program titled *Fix It! Grammar*, focusing on:

- Sentence openers: subject, prepositional phrase, -ing, -ly, and clausal
- Very short sentences
- Mid-sentence adverb clauses
- "Be" verbs
- Run-on sentences
- Transitional expressions and interjections
- Proper use of commas

Latin and Greek Vocabulary: Students will continue learning both Latin and Greek root words with our *English from the Roots Up* curriculum. Students will learn words derived from the following five roots:

- Holos (G) - whole
- Rhinos (G) - nose

Grade 7 – 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.

- Cornu (L) - horn
- Derma (G) - skin
- Cutis (L) – skin

French: In French this month, students will continue to review basic vocabulary, begin to memorize Scripture in French, and study the play *Un frère pénible*. Students will:

- Continue to work toward speaking exclusively in French with teacher prompts
- Review vocabulary and expressions related to daily activities
- Begin to practice and memorize the play *Un frère pénible*
- Complete comprehension activities to better understand the play
- Begin memorizing selected verses from the book of James in French

History/Geography: During the month of October, grade 7 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: This month, students will complete a unit on rational number operations before beginning a new unit on algebraic expressions. Specific lessons include:

- Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing integers
- Operations with integers, rational numbers, and decimals
- Adding and subtracting algebraic terms
- Simplifying, expanding, factoring, and writing algebraic expressions
- Real-world problems: involving algebraic reasoning

Visual Arts: Throughout this year, students will learn about the elements and principles of design. They will learn about artists from neo-classicism to post-impressionism. They will also study drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. This month, students will learn about printmaking and sculpture. Areas of study include:

- Qualities of line found in making relief prints
- Shape and form including geometric and organic shapes in sculpture

Music: Students will continue to refine their skills on the hand chimes as well as study music theory and history.

- Terms: dolce, grazioso, maestoso, vivace
- Musical staff: Bass clef notes C3 to G3
- Symbols: fermata, accent, breath mark
- Hand chime repertoire

Physical Education: This month, students will begin their unit on ultimate frisbee. Students will begin each class with a run to improve endurance as well as utilize proper technique and timing for stretching. Students will also:

- Understand the history of the sport and its benefits
- Learn how to properly hold and throw a frisbee
- Grow in encouragement and working together as a team

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

Upcoming Events

October 8 – Curriculum Night – Via Zoom
October 9 – PD Day – No school for students
October 12 – Thanksgiving Day – No School
October 30 – Walk Through History Day AND
October 30 – Interim Reports Go Home

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