

October 2020

# The Month Ahead

## At Innova

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 8

Mrs. Melissa Gazmin

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*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:** In September, students began a study on the book of James. Students will:

- Use journals, personal times of reflection, and class discussions, to continue 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 will 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 be using the IEW grammar program titled *Fix It! Grammar*. Students will focus 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:** Grade 8 students will continue learning Latin and Greek root words with our *English from the Roots Up* curriculum. This month, students will learn words from the following roots:

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

## 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.

- 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 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:** This month in mathematics, students will complete a unit on scientific notation and begin to look at algebraic linear equations. Topics covered include:

- Adding, Subtracting, Multiplying and Dividing values in Scientific Notation
- Finding and Interpreting Slopes of Lines
- Understanding Slope-Intercept Form
- Writing Linear Equations; Sketching Graphs of Linear Equations

**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 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.