

November 2020

# 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.



Mrs. 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 month, students will continue to study the book of James, examining James 3-4:12. Students will discuss:

- Taming the tongue
- False/true wisdom
- Friendship with the world
- Memorize James 1:12-18

**Logic:** On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, students will be tested on the first eight logical fallacies we have learned so far (red herrings, special pleadings, *ad hominem*s, genetic fallacies, *tu quoque*, faulty appeal to authority, appeal to the people, and straw man). This will be followed by lessons on a new category of fallacies that all involve making assumptions, including:

- Circular reasoning
- Equivocations
- Loaded questions

**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:

- Annotating a text for thematic material
- Selecting quotations from a text to support a point of view
- Finding rhetorical devices in acclaimed speeches
- Creating sentence variety with simple and compound sentences
- Essay writing: introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion
- Organizing ideas around a thesis
- Comparing and contrasting biographical figures
- Proofreading and revision

**Grammar:** This year, students will be using the IEW grammar program titled *Fix It! Grammar*. In this program, students will hunt for and correct errors in daily passages that cumulatively tell a story. *Fix It! Grammar* encourages students to apply new grammar knowledge in context, aiding in the transfer of grammar skills to their own writing. This month, focus will be placed on:

- Using commas with nouns of direct address
- Correct usage of hyphens
- *Affect* versus *effect*
- Different ways to correct run-on sentences
- Question openers

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

- Cor (L) – heart
- Dorsum (L) – back
- Athlon (G) – prize, award
- Agon (G) – contest, struggle, trial
- Dromos (G) – racecourse, runway, running

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

- Work toward speaking exclusively in French
- Continue to practice and memorize the play *Un frère pénible*

## 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.

- Complete comprehension activities to better understand the play
- Answer questions about the play orally and in writing
- Memorize selected verses from the first chapter of the book of James in French

**History/Geography:** Students will continue to broaden their knowledge of how both Canada and America became the great nations they are today. Focus for the month of November will include the following lessons:

- Canadian History – The Rebellions of 1837-1838
  - Long-term causes
  - Key figures and their roles
  - Major events and the aftermath
- American History – The Civil War
  - Abraham Lincoln and secession
  - The Rebels and the Yanks
  - Battles of 1861: Fort Sumter and Bull Run
  - Battles of 1862: The Ironclads and Shiloh
  - The Emancipation Proclamation
  - Battles of 1863: Chancellorsville and Gettysburg
  - The Battles of 1864-1865 and Sherman's March
  - The Surrender of Robert E. Lee

**Mathematics:** This month in Mathematics, we will be completing a unit called "Lines & Linear Equations". Topics this month include:

- Finding and Interpreting Slopes of Lines
- Understanding Slope-Intercept Form
- Writing Linear Equations
- Sketching Graphs of Linear Equations

**Visual Arts:** This month, students will design Remembrance Day posters and begin a drawing unit. Areas of study include:

- Poster design: the theme of Remembrance Day
- The message through images - Canadian Symbols and words
- Drawing basics focusing on the following elements of design: line, shape, space, colour, value, and texture.

**Music:** In the grade 8 music class, students will focus on refining their skills on hand chimes for the Christmas concert. Other elements covered in class will include:

- Define terms: mano destra, mano sinistra, poco
- Bass clef notation
- Hand chimes
- Bach

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

- Compete in 5 versus 5 ultimate frisbee games
- Continue to discuss the 'spirit of the game' practicing encouragement, honesty, and teamwork
- Participate in group games to encourage endurance, teamwork, and sportsmanship

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

## Upcoming Events

- November 2 – Picture Day Retakes – Both campuses
- November 5 – Interim Parent/Teacher Check-in via Zoom
- November 6 – Biblical Parenting Book Study via Zoom
- November 11 – Remembrance Day Chapel
- November 13 – High School Semester 1 Midterms Go Home
- November 20 – Biblical Parenting Book Study via Zoom

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