

April 2021

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: Students will complete their study of spiritual disciplines and begin reading the book, *A Tale of Three Kings* by Gene Edwards. Students will:

- Complete a spiritual disciplines project
- Explore characteristics of a godly leader
- Begin to study the leadership of David, Saul, and Absalom
- Memorize James 2:14-19

Logic: Students will continue their study of logical fallacies using the book *The Fallacy Detective*. This month, students will:

- Review the test on statistical fallacies from March
- Begin a study of propaganda

Writing & Rhetoric: This month, students will write either an encomium or a vituperative essay about Carry A. Nation, a leader in the temperance movement who was famous for destroying saloons with a hatchet. In this unit, students will practice:

- Weighing the strengths and weaknesses of a historical figure and making a judgement about that historical figure
- Using prepositional phrases to add sentence variety
- Employing parallelism to grab audience attention
- Organizing ideas around a thesis and using textual evidence to support a thesis
- Comparing and contrasting images and biographical figures
- Impromptu speaking using rhetorical devices and formal discussion
- Proofreading and revision

Grammar: This year, students are 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:

- Commas with -ing participial phrases
- Correcting run-on sentences without overusing coordinating conjunctions
- Review of comma and semi-colon rules

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 continue to learn words derived from the following roots:

- Hyper (G): above, overly, beyond
- Hypo (G): under, below
- Super (L): on top, above, over
- Sub (L): under, below, beneath

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.

French: During the month of April, students will review everyday vocabulary, memorize Scripture in French, and study and apply grammar rules to their spoken and written French. Students will:

- Work toward speaking exclusively in French
- Use vocabulary and gestures from the AIM program in new contexts
- Review and practice present tense verb conjugation and using infinitives
- Answer yes/no questions and open-ended questions using double verb constructions including infinitives
- Complete reading comprehension activities based on descriptions of short video clips
- Memorize verses from the book of James (*Jacques*) selected by students

Mathematics: This month in mathematics, students will complete the cumulative review for Chapters 7-9 before moving on to the final two chapters of the course. Review will include the following topics:

- Pythagorean theorem
- Geometric transformations (translations, rotations, reflections, dilations)
- Congruent and similar figures

Science: This month, students will learn about rocks and the rock cycle. They will identify thirty different types of rocks and categorize them into the three major rock groups. Students will learn:

- The process of rock formation
- To classify types of rocks
- How deposits of coal petroleum and natural gas form

Visual Arts: This month, students will begin a group project to reproduce "Starry Night" by Vincent van Gogh. Each student will be given a piece of the reproduction to enlarge using a grid. The pieces will be assembled and exhibited in our virtual art exhibition. Students will also create a low relief sculpture using aluminum based on "The Bronze Gates" by Pierre Auguste Rodin. Skills include:

- Enlarging a picture using the grid method
- Using the elements of line and texture to create a design on metal

Music: During the month of April, the grade 8 class will continue to expand their hand chime repertoire, work on ear training, and learn about the Romantic period of music. Specifically, they will cover:

- Spring concert repertoire
- Berlioz, Chopin, and Schubert
- Scale, intervals, chord identification
- Score reading

Physical Education: Through exposure to a variety of activities, students improve their physical fitness and understand the importance of achieving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle while developing good sportsmanship. This month, students will participate in skill-building drills and play outdoor games. Activities and sports include:

- Soccer
- Ultimate frisbee
- Capture the flag

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

Upcoming Events

- April 1 – High School Parent Teacher Interviews
- April 2 – Good Friday – No school
- April 5-16 – Spring Break – No school
- April 7 – Blakey Art Competition Deadline – Gr. 9-11
- April 19 – Students Return to School from Spring Break
- April 19 – Apologetic Series for Parents
- April 28 – CLT10 (Classic Learning Test) – Gr. 9/10

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