



HUDSON
COLLEGE

be **yourself**
be **anything**



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Hudson College Lower School (JK–Grade 8)

be an individual



Your child is **unique**—with their **own** identity, ideas, interests, strengths, dreams and ambitions.

At Hudson College, we're deeply committed to helping each **individual** student fulfill their true potential. We encourage students to be **intellectually curious** and **express who they are**.

From our **integrated, balanced curriculum** and engaging, **supportive environment** to our **inspiring teachers**—we offer students enriching opportunities to discover, collaborate, and grow at every grade level. We guide students through each stage of their journey—from Kindergarten through Grade 8.

Hudson students learn to **be confident** in their abilities and knowledge, **becoming exceptional individuals** as they realize their path and achieve their goals and dreams.

A Hudson education is more than simply teaching core academics and basic proficiencies—we provide a **solid foundation** that will make a **lasting impact** in a child's life **for years to come**.

be informed

Why Hudson?

We're dedicated to developing the **whole child**—intellectually, emotionally, socially—so that they become a **caring, responsible, and confident member** of our community.

Our Lower School offers a **balanced-yet-rigorous** learning environment where, early on, students develop **critical thinking skills**, engage in **creative thought**, and acquire **good, lasting habits** for ideal learning—setting the stage for their success throughout their school years and beyond.

Hudson's consistent curricular approach combines the strength of a **stimulating foundational academic program** in math, science, language, the arts, and health/fitness with **positive learning experiences**, including character education and community service.



Reggio Emilia Approach

Hudson's early years program uses a **Reggio Emilia-inspired teaching pedagogy** which encourages children to **explore, investigate, and grow**. Originally instituted in Northern Italy, the Reggio Emilia method is founded on the belief that children's curiosity about their world—as well as their innate sense of **creativity**—should **guide their learning**.

Students are given long-term collaborative projects that purposefully connect core academic areas of language, mathematics, science, and the arts. This creates an **experiential, collaborative learning environment**.

Lower School students learn to think **rationally and independently, to understand the connection between ideas** in order to see them from **different perspectives**. Teachers present units of study in language, media, science, and social studies that incorporate critical thinking, often beginning with **challenging questions** that ignite an interest in a topic being studied.

Novel studies begin in Grade 3 for the purpose of engaging and teaching students **how to relate stories to broader, historical and social contexts**. As students progress through their study, teachers encourage students to **reflect upon their own understandings** and ideas critically, so that they may **make connections** and relate them to class discussions. Such reflective processes help to develop **the whole child** and **create more active learners** capable of independent thought.



Saxon Math

Hudson teaches **Saxon mathematics**, a highly regarded, rigorous program that spirals the instruction of each concept and continues to review information introduced earlier. This allows students the time to **practice** and **retain math concepts** to the level of mastery.



Critical Thinking

In the global knowledge economy that increasingly demands us to analyze information and integrate different sources of data to problem-solve, it is vital for young students to **learn critical thinking skills**. Students who can think critically do better academically, as well as in life.



Caring Teachers

Hudson's teachers go above and beyond. They're mentors, coaches, and leaders—some of the best in their fields of study. Students receive individual attention that is truly beneficial and constructive, with class sizes ranging from 13 to a maximum of 20 students.



True Diversity

Hudson is an **inclusive, safe, vibrant, and welcoming** place. We recognize that a **diverse, multicultural learning experience** broadens students' intellectual and social horizons and promotes appreciation, tolerance, and an understanding of other cultures. Hudson's diverse environment encourages all students to be themselves, which fosters mutual respect of the uniqueness of others.



Clubs & Activities

Hudson offers a **wide range of clubs** and activities, with **three seasons of sports** and opportunities, including seasonal **co-curriculars** such as skating and swimming.* Students compete against other private schools in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) within the Small Schools Athletic Federation (SSAF), which has more than 65 member schools.

Sports & Clubs

SPORTS

- BADMINTON
- BALL HOCKEY
- BASKETBALL
- CROSS COUNTRY
- DODGEBALL
- FLAG FOOTBALL
- GOLF
- SOCCER (INDOOR & OUTDOOR)
- SOFTBALL
- TRACK & FIELD
- ULTIMATE FRISBEE
- VOLLEYBALL

CLUBS

- ARTS & CRAFTS
- BAND
- CHESS
- CHOIR
- COOKING
- CREATIVE WRITING
- DANCE
- DRAMA
- ORIGAMI
- ROBOTICS
- SCIENCE



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One of the main reasons we chose Hudson was the diversity that we saw; it was apparent that it was a group of families that truly just wanted to give their children the best opportunity they could from a school perspective. Hudson truly defines community: from the students, to the wonderful teachers to all the staff – everyone is aligned and truly just wants to make this the best place for students to learn, grow and truly allow them to be themselves!

—Seema, Grade 6 parent

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Junior & Senior KINDERGARTEN

be inquisitive

Exploring, investigating, **growing**

The **first years of school** should **inspire a love of learning**, and **Hudson's Kindergarten Program** is an exceptional start to your child's educational journey.

We see our **youngest learners** as **intellectually powerful, naturally inquisitive**, and **innately creative**, so our Junior- and Senior-level Kindergarten classes keep pace with their energy and curiosity. We promote **experiential learning** as well as establishing a **solid foundation** for students' future academic success.

Hudson values the enthusiasm of our youngest students and **every child** is encouraged to **share their thoughts and ideas** while engaging in **collaborative activities and problem-solving**.



Collaboration



Reggio teaching practices are most successful when there is a **collaborative learning partnership** between parents, teachers, and students. Therefore, you, **our Hudson parents, are our partners** in your child's education. Feedback from parents and teachers is crucial to supporting a student's current learning path and future growth.

Environment



A Reggio-inspired school sees the **space in which children learn as a third teacher**, which is why Hudson's classrooms are designed for collaborative, inquiry-based learning. Our classrooms provide access to materials that promote hands-on learning and the application of essential academic skills and knowledge.

Teachers as Guides



Our Kindergarten teachers are **co-constructors of knowledge, researchers, documentarians, and advocates**. They provide resources for children to engage in inquiry, with appropriate guidance to ensure that learning experiences support mastery of the curriculum.

Projects



Projects are central to both the children's and teacher's learning experience. **Hands-on projects** inspire **creativity, critical thinking skills, and discussion**. Project ideas are determined by the children's interests and tied to Ontario curricular guidelines.



JUNIOR YEARS
Grade 1-5

be confident

Solid **grounding** for
foundational years

The elementary years are a critical time for a **child's personal** and **academic development**. It's during these years that students develop resilience, self-regulation, and increasing independence across their academic and social lives.

Hudson's Junior Years Program is founded on the idea that every student possesses the capacity to succeed. We foster students' **self-confidence**, help them acquire **critical thinking** skills, and continue to nurture their **love of learning**. Our program establishes a **solid foundation** for future academic achievement by offering **rigorous-yet-balanced** coursework in **mathematics, literacy, life and physical sciences, French, technology and media studies, visual art, drama, and music**. Students' skills are also **continuously assessed** to ensure they are equipped with the core knowledge needed for Middle School years and beyond.





The Junior years also greatly depend upon **experiential learning**, so Hudson students get hands-on opportunities to **learn beyond the classroom**. We partner with significant cultural venues and recreational centers to offer off-campus field work, and **technology** plays a more prominent role in learning.

In addition, **co-curricular activities** are introduced into students' schedules to help them identify interests and develop their **social** and **leadership skills**. A few examples include:

- University of Waterloo Math competition
- Writing Club
- Science Fair
- Hands-on lab work, including science experiments

Hudson Parents are Partners

We encourage an active partnership with Hudson families, and our teachers share daily or weekly updates **with parents**. We're committed to open communication, and work with parents to problem-solve and make decisions in support of your child's personal and academic growth.

Experiential Learning: Grade 4–6 Outdoor Adventure Trip

Around the end of October each year, students and teachers attend an **overnight camp** in the **Muskoka area**. Outdoor activities such as **hiking, canoeing, swimming, cooking, arts,** and **outdoor adventure-based activities** are offered. **Team-building** exercises, games, movies, campfires, and many other exciting activities are planned.

MIDDLE YEARS

Grade 6-8

be independent

Preparing for the next big steps

The **Middle School years** are a time when students **hone essential academic habits** while continuing to **develop confidence** and **positive relationships** across the Hudson community and beyond.

Students build on the skills they've learned in their junior years and **prepare for their transition to Upper School** by engaging in **challenging academic** and **co-curricular activities** that enable them to become **more independent**.

Hudson's **Middle School Program** encourages students to achieve academic excellence and reach their full potential. Smaller class sizes lend themselves to more concentrated, differentiated instruction, so that **teachers can truly engage** and **meet the individual, educational needs of each student**.

In Middle School, **Learner Profiles** are developed and leveraged by Hudson teachers to determine **where students are in their learning, what interests their group of students**, and how their students best demonstrate **new skills and knowledge**.



As students enter the next phase of their education, we emphasize **academic enrichment** in English, mathematics, science, the arts (including music and drama), health/fitness, as well as critical thinking and skills across the core curricula. Students' academic and social-emotional skills are further refined with **intentional mentorship and guidance from teachers** in:

Academic Strategies

- Effective note-taking
- Proper citation use
- Test-taking strategies

Executive Functioning Skills

- Planning and organizing work
- Developing better focus and emotional self-regulation
- Revising approaches to achieve results

Effective Communication

- Using technology responsibly
- Practicing advocacy through peer mediation
- Writing and presenting skills, essays, research, lab reports, and speeches

Community Service

- Grade 6 students assist lower grades at recess and lunch as part of our **Helping Hands Program**
- Grade 7 students train in **peer mediation** to **prevent and resolve conflicts** between younger students on the playground or in the hallways
- Grade 8 students design and implement their own **service program**, with a monthly commitment to volunteering at Hudson and in the greater community



Homework and Testing

Students receive daily homework, with 10 minutes of assigned work for each grade level – a Grade 6 student, for example, can count on around an hour of homework each day.

Testing provides teachers with regular indicators to inform their instruction and students with frequent feedback and exposure to different formats. Routine quizzes, one-off tests like UWaterloo Math contests, and end-of-year exams in Grade 7 and 8 help students to build and refine good study habits.



French

Hudson offers core French from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 8.

Students learn to speak, read, and write in dynamic classes that follow the Action in Motion (AIM) program, which culls important vocabulary and grammar to be learned in each unit and incorporates them into a play.

be outside

Each year, Hudson offers extended trips to give students the **opportunity to grow** through challenges away from home and school.

Camp Week

Every fall, students in Grades 4 and above attend overnight excursions to **camps in the Muskoka area**. Over several days, students enjoy classic camp activities and fun physical challenges while expanding their outdoor and teambuilding skills. This is a wonderful tradition that encourages students to form a deep appreciation for Ontario's natural beauty, get to know their teachers outside of school, and form new or deeper friendships.

Field Trips

From apple picking at Chudleigh's farm to habitat exploration at Tommy Thompson Park, there's always an exciting field trip around the corner.

Grade 8 students enjoy a special end-of-year overnight trip to a **destination in Ontario** to cap off their final year in the Lower School.





Hudson has proved that being academic doesn't need to include hours of homework each night, or the competitive stress of "being the best." The school performs extremely well at many competitions, and students celebrate those successes with each other. My older son was doing novel studies on books generally saved for high school...in Grade 6. He loved the books so much he is re-reading them. The math curriculum is fantastic and really prepares my kids for the future; they are capable of doing so much, and I'm glad Hudson is challenging them.

—Nikki, Grade 3 & 7 parent

The value you get from a happy, relaxed child at the end of a busy school day who comes home full of wonder and excitement will radiate through your entire life. I love hearing about all the things my son is excited about when he gets home from school, and how proud he is when he does well.

—Estelle, Grade 3 parent



be successful

Hudson by the numbers

2003	Hudson College founded
240	Lower School students
202	Upper School students
754	Hudson graduates to date
10:1	Lower school student-to-teacher ratio
52%	Acceptance rate (JK-Grade 8)

★ 13 students in Junior Kindergarten

★ 16 students in Senior Kindergarten

be here

Hudson is situated on a quiet, accessible midtown 4.5-acre campus, which features modern school buildings with **spacious classrooms**, a large gymnasium, state-of-the-art technology hubs, a playground, and **an artificial turf field**.

Your child will have plenty of spaces to **enjoy outdoor** and indoor activities!



Parents choose Hudson for a **dynamic education that sparks a lifelong enthusiasm for learning.**

Co-founder and Lower School Director Jeff Bavington is committed to making Hudson “a place where students with all different interests can feel as if they’re part of a unified, larger community — where the students themselves can help create the school environment they wish to be a part of.”

We consider the needs and goals of each **individual** student and **support your child every step of the way.** Their Lower School **journey and the path** they take is very important to us. We want them to be fully prepared and successful in Upper School and **in life.**

Choosing the right school is important, but choosing the **right path** is life-changing. Are you ready to give your child an inspiring opportunity to **be themselves?**

Take the next steps today at hudsoncollege.ca/apply



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