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# Junior Academy

## Committed to Individual Excellence.

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children friendship fun growth understanding  
wisdom knowledge play learning drama leadership creative  
cherished educate Innovative life create believe love family movement  
insight fun friends strong teamwork devoted excellence explore  
art sport love welcome music play Community

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# Junior Academy's Educational Philosophy

Established in 1988, Junior Academy is a distinguished educational institution dedicated to providing specialized education for all types of learners. Located in a welcoming and supportive environment, our neurodiverse school offers comprehensive programs tailored to meet the unique needs of students with diverse neurological profiles, including Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), ADHD, Dyslexia, and other learning and developmental differences. Our team of educators bring specialized training and extensive experience in special education, ensuring that each student receives personalized attention and support.

*Junior Academy is more than just a school; it's a community dedicated to unlocking the potential of every student, celebrating their uniqueness, and preparing them for a bright and successful future.*



“Words simply can’t express my gratitude for all you’ve meant to us. You and your amazing teachers have built up the confidence of my child and given him the inner strength to move on to his next phase. Celebrating all children, making them feel good and nurturing them to become as good as they can be is what you do best-and that is pretty incredible!”

— Parent of 3 boys

## Our Mission:

At Junior Academy, we strive to empower each learner to achieve their full potential academically, socially, and emotionally through student success plans, innovative teaching methods, and a strong community of care.

## Our Goal:

Junior Academy is designed to accommodate and celebrate the unique strengths and needs of each student, fostering a community where everyone is valued and supported.

### Key Features of Junior Academy



#### • Supportive Environment

Small class sizes allow for personalized attention and support from our highly trained educators.



#### • Inclusive Culture

Promotion of acceptance and understanding of neurodiversity within the school community.



#### • Specialized Teaching Methods

Our curriculum follows provincial guidelines and incorporates multisensory teaching techniques, technology integration, and hands-on learning activities to engage all types of learners.



#### • Student Success Plans (SSPs)

Customized learning plans tailored to the strengths and needs of each student by outlining specific goals and strategies to meet their unique learning needs.



#### • Physical and Outdoor Education

Daily physical education class and bi-weekly outdoor inquiry-based learning



#### • Comprehensive Social and Emotional Learning Program

Uniquely designed programs to teach and practice social skills and emotional regulation.



#### • Strength-Based Learning

We emphasize strength-based learning, focusing on each student's unique strengths and interests. By leveraging these strengths, we build confidence and motivation, enabling students to overcome challenges and achieve their personal best.



#### • Professional and Caring Staff

Our teachers are specialized and highly trained professionals who are equipped with the skills and empathy to support each student's learning journey.



#### • Family Involvement

We believe in a strong partnership between the school and families. Regular communication, parent workshops, and support groups are integral parts of our community.

# Academic Programs



## Toddler and Preschool

As students and families begin their education journey, Junior Academy is proud to offer a warm and inviting environment where students can grow into lifelong learners. Our daycare program has one Toddler class and one Preschool class, both with low ratios. Students engage in child-initiated, play-based learning with support from our experienced educators. As students progress into preschool, there is more of a focus on building skills for a successful transition to Kindergarten.

## Kindergarten

Students are introduced to reading, writing, and mathematics as they are ready. A whole language approach in conjunction with a foundation in phonics is used to introduce themes and topics of interest to young children. Classroom toys are selected that will encourage socialization, the development of fine motor skills, spatial awareness and problem solving.

## Grades 1-6

Through the Primary and Junior grades, our students become well-rounded and prepared for the demands of higher grade levels. Students are challenged academically in a supportive environment that takes into consideration the learning style of the individual child and provides remediation and enrichment as required. Junior Academy builds a strong foundation for future academic success by actively engaging its students in the life of the school and providing a positive learning experience.

## Grades 7-8

Junior Academy's middle school program provides a challenging curriculum with an emphasis on individual academic achievement. The structure of the Grade 7 and 8 program prepares our students with the independent work and study skills required for high school. Leadership opportunities enable our students to realize the importance of their roles and responsibilities within the school community.

# Progressive Programming



“Junior Academy is a caring community of teachers and students. The sense of pride and belonging the students feel about their school is remarkable - and reflects highly on the quality and professionalism of the staff. We cannot think of a better place for our daughter to develop both her academic and her interpersonal skills. We are lucky to have found Junior Academy.”

— Parent



## **STRIDE PROGRAM**

The STRIDE program (Small Teaching Remedial Intervention Development Education) is a small group learning environment dedicated to bridging the gap to grade-level skills in core academics, which can include language, math, science, and/or social studies, using a dynamic approach based on student needs. By focusing on where students currently are in their educational journey, STRIDE tailors its approach to nurture and develop essential skills, empowering each student to achieve their full potential. While the program emphasizes targeted intervention and growth in core subjects, students remain integrated with their peers in homeroom classes for enriching subjects like music, art, and physical education. STRIDE provides the personalized support and attention necessary to help every child succeed academically and socially.

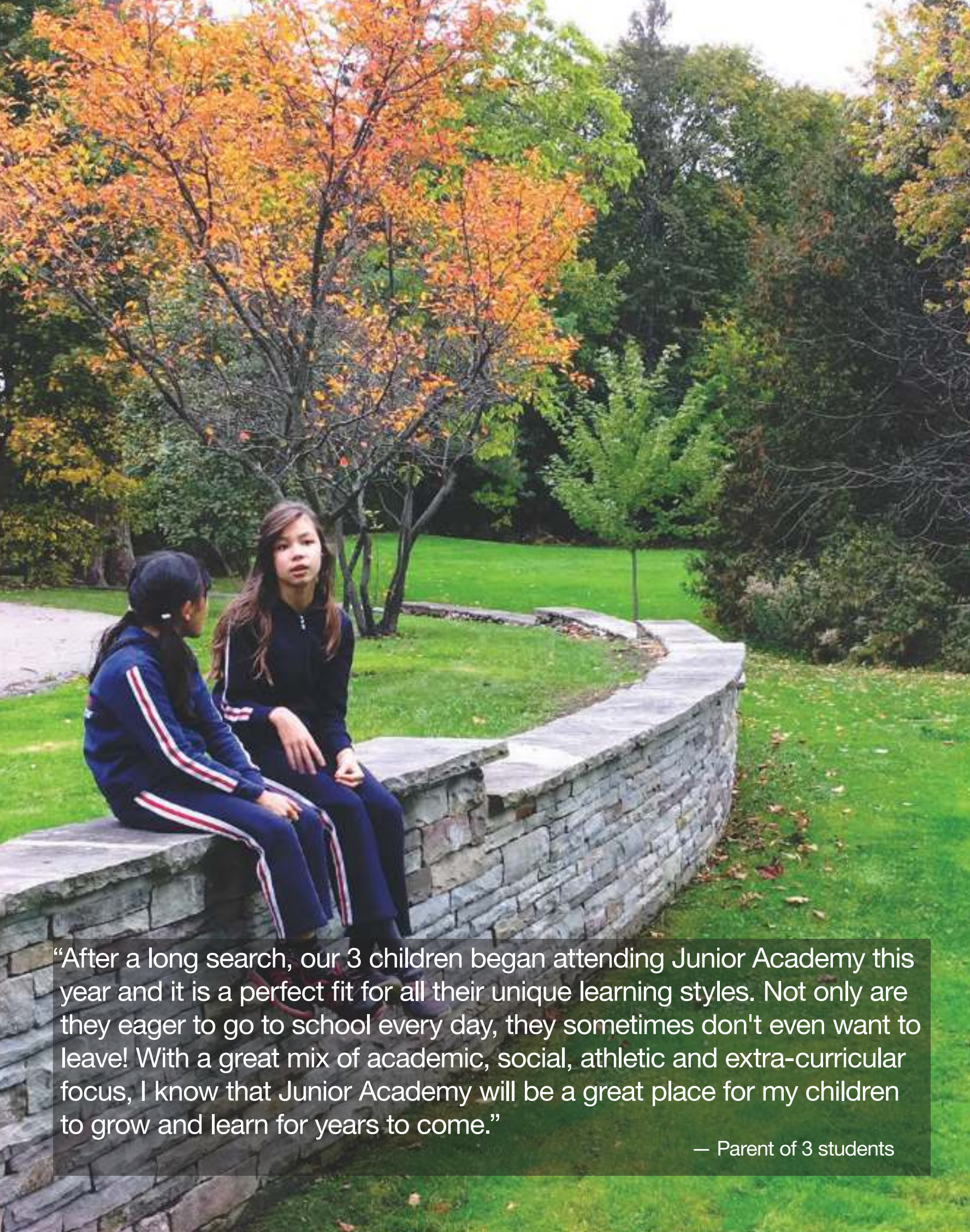
## **STEPS PROGRAM**

Every student needs to have their own path towards success. Our STEPS program is designed to enable students to scaffold gaps, realize their potential and truly feel successful.

In a group of up to five students, our Full Day STEPS class is a skills-based program designed to support learners whose focus is on pre-academic and academic skills, school readiness, social, communication and daily living skills. Students in this classroom are taught by highly specialized staff in a therapeutic environment. This program includes partnerships with additional therapists to support individual goals.

## **COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES**

Academic tutoring, specialized counseling (CBT, DBT, ABA), Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy services not only address academic needs but also support social and emotional development.



“After a long search, our 3 children began attending Junior Academy this year and it is a perfect fit for all their unique learning styles. Not only are they eager to go to school every day, they sometimes don't even want to leave! With a great mix of academic, social, athletic and extra-curricular focus, I know that Junior Academy will be a great place for my children to grow and learn for years to come.”

— Parent of 3 students

## L.E.A.P. – Learners Engaged Actively in Play/ Projects

Project -based, inquiry-led learning is the foundation for our LEAP program. This program challenges students to reflect on their interests and their questions, share those wonders with those around them and have an opportunity to gain knowledge through guidance in the classroom and play-based learning approaches. In the older grades, students move from simpler, surface level questions, to deeper, more complex questions that will open the door to independent investigation.

Learning is student driven, and engagement remains high as student interests are used to develop an inquiry for the entire class to engage in. For grades 4-8, students delve into the topic of their choice, inspiring a deeper and more meaningful understanding of the material.

The teacher takes on the role of facilitator, scaffolding learning opportunities to increase the understanding of the topic, develop peer engagement skills and sustain their learning. Students will also conduct their research and present their findings using the media of their choice.

## FLEX - Friendship and Social Skills, Learning Skills, Executive Functioning

FLEX is a weekly class for students in grades 1 through 8, conducted in their homeroom classrooms. The FLEX program is designed to help students develop key competencies in regulating emotions, building healthy relationships, making responsible decisions, and navigating social complexities. More specifically, this program aims to teach essential skills such as initiating play, navigating changes in social settings, conversation skills, how to win/lose games, and flexible thinking.

The Intensive FLEX program builds on these principles, providing more explicit and in-depth instruction. In small groups of about four students, a specialist teacher conducts a 40-minute session each afternoon. This program uses evidence-based approaches such as Zones of Regulation and Social Thinking. It aims to develop social skills, play skills, emotional regulation, cooperation, responsibility, and positive friendships. The 5 key pillars of this program are self-awareness, self-regulation, social awareness, friendship skills, and responsible problem-solving.



# Co-Curricular Activities



“Junior Academy turned me into the disciplined and ambitious person I am today. There was no shortage for us in terms of sports teams, community involvement and academics. With all the opportunities given to me, I was able to thrive in Junior Academy environment and ultimately gain acceptance into every High School I applied to.”

— Junior Academy Graduate

## Athletics, Teams and Clubs

Junior Academy is a private school that has an active sports schedule for all ages. Outside of daily physical education classes, there are both intramural and competitive leagues available to students. Junior Academy is a member of the Small Schools Athletic Federation, (SSAF) which includes 64 schools from the Toronto Area.

In addition, skating lessons are offered during the fall term for a six-week period and during the winter term, family ski/snowboard days are arranged for all members of our community.

There is a club for every student to enjoy at Junior Academy! Clubs run at morning and lunch recesses and are based on student interest. Non-competitive sports, music, chess and dance crew are just a few examples.

## Leadership

**Leadership Crew** - Leadership Crew is an extensive program for grades 5-8. Students may sign up to take one or more responsibilities around the school. Crews include; Morning Duty, Milk Delivery, Kindergarten Helpers, Junior Playground Duty and daycare lunch helpers.

**House Team Captains** - Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 are eligible to apply to be a House Captain. Interviews take place in September and Captains are responsible for leading their house for the entire year. Some responsibilities include assembly announcements, planning and leading weekly intramural games, planning and leading sports day activities, charity drives and keeping up the house spirit for duration of the year!

## The Arts

Arts are an integral part of the academic and co-curricular program at Junior Academy. Students attend a formal music class twice per week and participate in drama and visual arts programs.

We showcase our arts curriculum during our winter and spring productions. Arts based clubs are available to all students every term which include dance, drama, music and fine art.







**Junior Academy**

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