Dr Norman Bethune Collegiate Institute

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GRADE RANGE: 9 to 12

Bethune has a reputation for academic excellence. Students are offered the opportunity to excel in Math, Science, the Arts, Business, Computer Science and Technology. Courses in the Social Sciences and English give students a solid background in the liberal arts and prepare them for post-secondary education. Newcomers are supported in ESL classes and in programs outside the classroom that ensure they are involved in the school community. Bethune maintains close relationships with elementary schools through mentoring programs in Music, Robotics, Drama, Visual Art, Technology and Bethune's Eco-club. Bethune also offers a Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) in Business.

ESL
Bethune’s ESL program features field trips that promote Canadian culture and experiential learning. The semestered program has 5 levels in addition to ESL sensitive courses in Geography and History. Bilingual classroom helpers, settlement workers, peer mentor programs, the Chinese Association, and the Newcomer Orientation Week in August help to ease the transition to Canada and to Bethune. In addition to after-school and week-end support classes, OSSLT preparation classes and a peer-tutoring program help to support ESL students throughout the year. Bethune also offers our ESL learners a wide variety of cultural field trips.

Interesting Feature
Taking Care of the Environment
Bethune is committed to protecting the environment both locally and globally. As one of the TDSB’s first platinum certified Ecoschool, Bethune is a leader in reducing waste and energy usage, naturalizing the grounds and promoting a passion for the environment.

Be Excited About Reading (B.E.A.R.)
The school-wide reading program promotes the love of reading in every classroom, every Friday, with every member of the Bethune community enjoying 20 minutes of reading.
Modern Languages
Students taking Modern Language classes are offered many enrichment opportunities, including outings to French and Spanish movies, theatre productions and restaurants. Senior students may travel abroad to France and Spain. Bethune students receive excellent results in French and Spanish Contests as well as as the Concours D'Art Oratiore (French Public Speaking).

The Arts
Students have many opportunities to explore their love of the arts. Students can choose from visual art, photography, computer art, dramatic arts, vocal music, and repertoire instrumental music. Outside the classroom, students can enrich their experience by joining the art club, the drama club, or the music council.

Student Leadership
Students can be elected as a member of the SAC, Music Council, Athletic Council, or 'Reps', or volunteer to be a leader through the Peer Mentors, the ESL Mentors, the Environmental Action Team (BEAT), GSA, DECA, Debating, Blaze, and many more clubs.

Technology Across the Curriculum
Bethune has 9 refurbished computer labs including a technology lab, a MAC lab, and 3 business and computer science labs. In addition, Bethune has several Smartboards, and 4 mobile computer carts. Students have Wifi access throughout the entire building and are encouraged to use their personal devices for educational purposes.

For a list of all programs that are also offered visit http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Findyour/Schools.aspx?schno=4116&schoolId=1145
In addition to various leadership groups, students may participate in the Yearbook Club, the Bethune Journal (the newspaper), the Chinese Association, the Chess Club, Christian Fellowship, Healthy Schools, the Dance Club, Library Club, Robotics, Drama Club, Design at Bethune, Gym Night, Badminton, and many more clubs and activities.

Bethune offers students opportunities to compete in most sports, including Cross-Country, Field Hockey, Rugby, Tennis, Volleyball, Basketball, Hockey, Slo-Pitch, Track and Field, and even Ultimate Frisbee, Archery, Wrestling, and Cheerleading.

Finally, Bethune students may choose to compete in subject-related competitions including The American Math Competition, Canadian National Math League, Cayley, Euclid, Fermat, Pascal, Fryer, Hypatia, Galois, the Canadian Open Math Challenge, the Great Canadian Geography Challenge, and Physics competitions.

Bethune students consistently rank as one of the top school teams nationally in mathematics, science and physics competitions. The DECA team is consistently one of the top teams in international competitions. Bethune’s band is well-known in the TDSB and is among the best in the Province! Bethune students stand out as athletes as well. Every year several Bethune students stand out as champions at OFSAA for badminton, track and field, volleyball and wrestling. Bethune’s environmental club (BEAT) has over 150 members and 4 executives. This group was instrumental in Bethune being awarded Platinum status by Eco-schools and being chosen as one of only a few school to receive solar panels. The City of Toronto also awarded Bethune with the Green Toronto Award of Excellence.
Parent and Community Engagement

Bethune is a school that continues to support other causes. Students participate in the Run for the Cure, the CN Tower Climb and We Day. Every year a number of students participate in the 30 Hour Famine as well as clothing and food drives. Our clubs often work with our local elementary schools and students regularly work with our community partners (Across U-Hub and TCCC). Bethune's School Council is a vibrant group of parents, students, teachers and administration who meet on the first Monday of each month to dialogue and discuss school policies and current educational issues.

Imagine a TDSB where all schools share a common core set of characteristics. They are community-driven and focused on teaching and learning. Students and parents have a wide variety of opportunities and there are enough students in every school to increase program choices.

Imagine there is a clear focus on achieving student success and every student is engaged, has a voice, access to a caring adult and the opportunity to develop their full potential.

Here at the TDSB our focus is on student achievement, parent and community engagement and financial stability.

Contact Information

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