



Small Class Program



MONTCREST

Welcome to Montcrest

This is our shared approach for the Small Class Program at Montcrest. It has been developed by listening, watching and understanding what makes Montcrest a unique place to learn and grow from the perspective of learners, teachers, and leaders.

The World Needs Different Thinkers

At Montcrest, we celebrate the unique gifts of every child. We aim to meet students where they are by providing personalized and specialized support. Montcrest teachers are dedicated to ensuring the success of each student and have the expertise to work with neurodiverse students.

Small Class, Big Ideas

We understand that not everyone learns in the same way. That's why our Small Class Program (typically 8:1; maximum of 10:1 student: teacher ratio) aims to teach those with specific learning profiles “how to do school” by discovering how they learn best. This setting creates opportunities for:

- Multiple check-ins throughout the day
- Systematic review of material
- Development of personalized learning strategies
- Increased participation in each class
- Explicit Executive Function support

As a student moves through our Small Class Program, these supports gradually fade away to foster growing independence with each transition, especially from Grade 7 to 8 and beyond.



What's our approach?

A commitment to these four areas:

- Experienced and Practised Special Education Teachers
- Unlocking Grade-Level Curriculum
- Structured, Evidence-Based Programming & Approaches
- A Safe Space to Grow and Learn Self-Advocacy



Experienced and Practised Special Education Teachers

All of our Small Class teachers have special education training and experience. Each of our teachers has a passion for problem-solving when it comes to supporting unique learners. We also have the know-how. Our years of training and experience give us a rich toolbox of learning strategies. We systematically help students try out these tools until they find the ones that best fit their way of learning.



Unlocking Grade-Level Curriculum

The Small Class Program balances support with independence and prioritizes core subject content to allow students to access their own conceptual understanding of grade-level topics. With the right learning tools in hand, students learn to equip themselves to access grade-level content. Small Class teachers and students work together to minimize the brain power consumed by learning challenges in order to maximize thinking and expression of studied concepts. Along the way, teachers strategically adjust pacing and output expectations to ensure each student is working at their just-right level of challenge.



Structured, Evidence-Based Programming & Approaches

Our Small Class Program supports students still working towards mastery of core skills in Math, Reading and Writing. Along with equipping students with learning strategies, the Small Class strategically implements evidence-based learning programs that get results. Our team includes teachers trained in specific programs like Empower™ Reading (from Grades 2 to 6)—developed by SickKids right here in Toronto. Programs like these systematically teach students in ways that decades of research show to be effective. These programs help us create and assess each student's Individual Education Plan and inform our programming each step of the way. Teachers and students work together to reinforce those skills and strategies in class.



A Safe Space to Grow and Learn Self-Advocacy

The Small Class offers a setting of just the right size where students can feel seen and heard. From that feeling grows confidence and the courage to take creative risks. Students actively learn self-advocacy skills to implement or ask for what they need to do their best learning. These skills can help them succeed in any classroom and out in the world.

2023-24 Small Class Team



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Grade 3 Student Success
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Grade 3 Small Class
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Grade 4 & 5 Student Success
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Grade 4 Small Class
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Grade 7 & 8 Small Math
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Grade 6 Small Class
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