

Discover who
you are and
who you can be.



I am a BSS girl. I know what matters to me. I am fearless. Endlessly curious. Not afraid to take risks. I never give up. I speak my mind. I'm passionate about building a better world.



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Visit us online at bss.on.ca

Powerful Learning

At BSS, we do things differently. Our challenging program is based on advanced educational research. And it produces outstanding results.

With our approach, students learn deeply. They get to know themselves. They become independent, lifelong learners, confident and self-assured. They learn to speak for themselves and to lead others. They grow into compassionate and ethical citizens. They develop grit.

We call this the *Signature of a BSS Girl*.



I ask questions. I help to shape my own learning. I learn by doing, seeing, experiencing. I grow through discussion, inquiry, solving problems. My teachers challenge and support me. I love discovering the world.

“You’re never going to be interested in hydraulics by reading about it. You’re going to be interested when you see it, touch it, work with it, have debates about it and realize that there are issues in society that connect to it. Learning material this way helps you get better, because you care.”

—Rachel, Grade 11 student

Learning that starts with big questions

The BSS approach engages students, challenging them to forge their own path to knowledge through experience. They take on real-world problems and then work toward solutions, patiently and methodically. It’s rigorous and demanding. It’s also exciting and energizing.

With this approach, students learn to collaborate, to give constructive feedback and to recognize each other’s strengths. They take risks and sometimes fail – the most powerful learning of all. Working in groups, they look at problems from many different perspectives, building a three-dimensional understanding. Self-directed learning sticks.

Our students master and go beyond the Ontario Curriculum. We encourage them to take their learning to a deeper level. They thrive on the challenge. Driven by curiosity, they motivate themselves to excel.

Partners in learning

It takes a special kind of teacher to use this approach effectively. BSS teachers are highly qualified and always learning. They are adept at problem solving and can improvise quickly. They give regular and relevant feedback so students know where they are on their learning journey. They design, implement and evaluate new educational practices, constantly making our programs better.

Rigour and relationship

We have high expectations of our students. Whether in individual or collaborative work, we expect disciplined thinking, respectful critique and excellent writing. Students push themselves and each other. But nobody faces a challenge alone. We give our students the tools to express and deal with their feelings, and encourage them to take a balanced approach to school.

“All children want to be taken seriously. We know each student is intellectually capable, and we meet her where she is. That’s what builds self-confidence.”

—Dr. Angela Terpstra, Head of School



The Journey Begins

Junior School—JK to Grade 6

The Junior School program is inquiry-based, inspired by the Reggio Emilia Approach.™ We see young students as individuals who are curious about their world and have powerful potential to learn. The girls engage in investigations and projects, building a strong academic foundation in mathematics, literacy and research. Students, teachers and parents are all part of the learning community.

Students work in groups to explore, discover and solve problems. They test new ideas and approaches using different materials and tools, both digital and physical. For example, one group of students designed and built chairs for the community to use. They sketched their ideas, created plasticine and digital prototypes, and finally constructed life-sized chairs.

Students dive deep into their projects, working collaboratively with one another and with teachers. Master teachers are invited into the classroom to enrich the learning experience. For instance, the school hosted a documentary filmmaker to work with a Grade 6 class, and an urban planner to talk to Senior Kindergarten students about what makes a community.

When a project is complete, students present what they’ve learned and get comments from their peers, deepening learning and building self-confidence. At the same time, the inquiry process develops essential academic skills that set the stage for higher grades. It’s all about exploration and discovery – the first steps in an exciting learning journey.

Growing and Learning

Middle School—Grades 7 to 8

In the Middle School, students hone core academic skills through inquiry-based learning. BSS helps them think critically, ask good questions, and solve challenging problems. They tackle long-term collaborative projects that combine several subject areas. Recently, our Sustainable Cities unit saw students explore problems of resource allocation, social justice and international development, and then present solutions to city councillors. We're always developing new themes to ignite learning.

By puzzling things out and taking risks, students gain knowledge and understanding that goes deep. By working together in groups, they learn to recognize and build on each other's strengths. When they're not working on projects, students explore real-world issues through lively discussion and debate.

Making students feel comfortable and confident is especially important at this time of transition. Teachers find creative ways to engage students in relevant topics. For example, in a project on cell biology, each student picks a human cell, researches its function, and models it in three dimensions. Innovative curriculum design enables girls to follow their own interests while exceeding grade level expectations.

Ready for the Next Step

Senior School—Grades 9 to 12

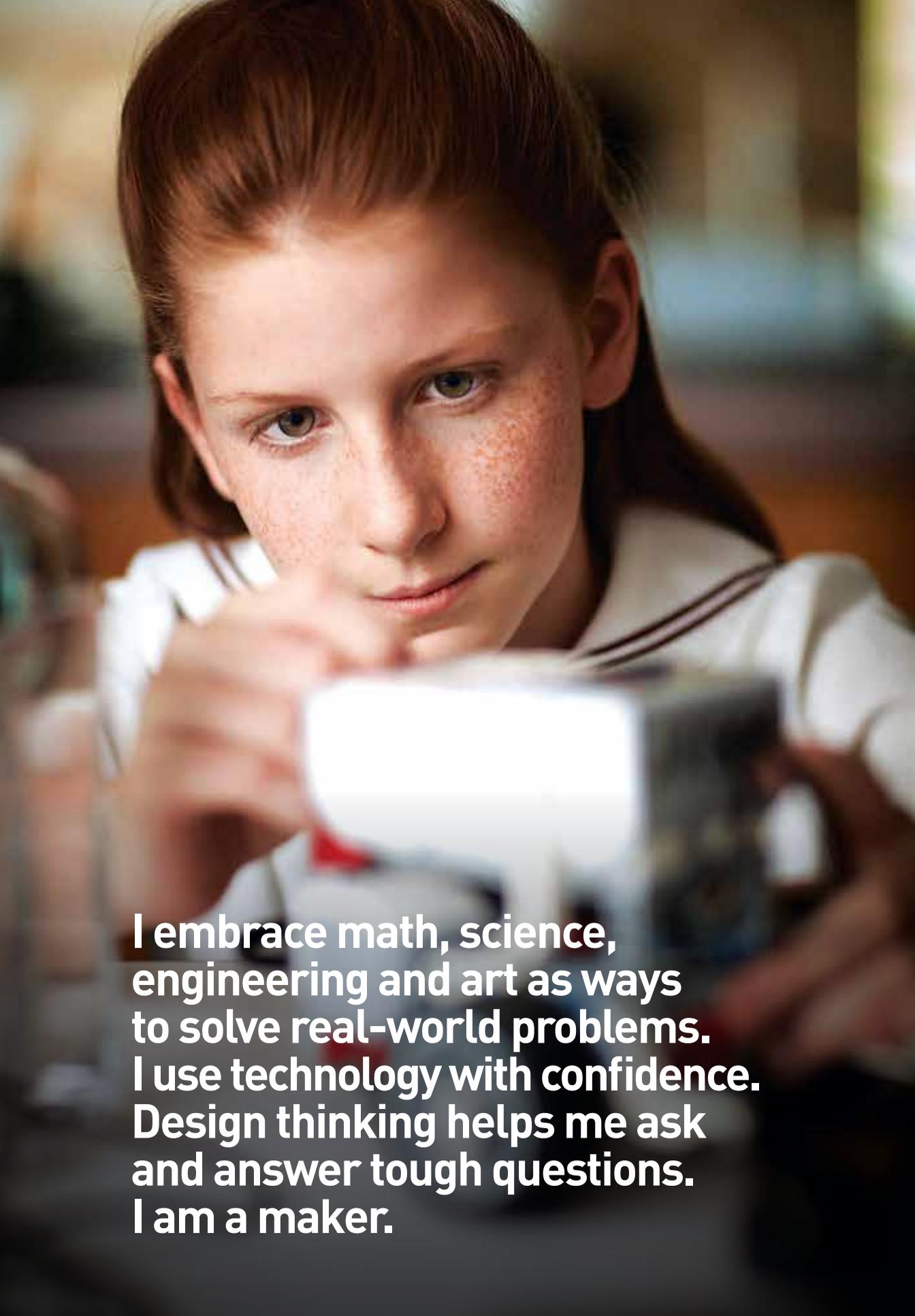
The breadth of the Senior School enables students to drive their own learning, combine interests and discover their passions. By making choices now, they learn about themselves and their capabilities.

The Senior School offers more than 100 credit courses. Students can choose between numerous options to complete required credits, ensuring a school experience that matches their interests. BSS also offers a wide range of electives, including 11 business courses, eight specialist technology courses and eight visual and media arts courses.

Our 14 Advanced Placement (AP) courses provide a challenging, externally-assessed learning experience and are valued in university admission decisions. The AP Capstone Diploma further challenges students to complete at least four AP courses, then present and defend a 5,000-word research paper.

Our faculty is always available for support and advice as students transition to post-secondary education. BSS students are well prepared for university studies, with strong critical thinking, communication, analytical and research skills, and the ability to motivate and advocate for themselves. They embody the *Signature of a BSS Girl*.



A close-up photograph of a young girl with brown hair tied back and freckles on her face. She is looking intently through the eyepiece of a microscope. The background is blurred, suggesting a classroom or laboratory setting. The lighting is soft and focused on her face.

**I embrace math, science,
engineering and art as ways
to solve real-world problems.
I use technology with confidence.
Design thinking helps me ask
and answer tough questions.
I am a maker.**

“In science we built Rube Goldberg machines together. We learned what strengths we each had and built off each other. I really like doing group work because I can learn from my friends.”

—Noa, Grade 9 student

12

design technology labs and idea labs

40

STEAM class projects completed in 2018–19

35%

of 2019 BSS grads pursued degrees in STEM

144

expert speakers, mentors and leaders shared their knowledge with students in 2018–19

Where learning comes together

The most exciting discoveries happen when the perspectives of natural science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics (STEAM) come together. That’s why we have developed an innovative STEAM program with inquiry and problem-based learning at its heart. From JK to Grade 12, students are given opportunities to create, solve and design using technology. They are introduced to the design thinking process – empathize, define, ideate, prototype and test. Every day, interdisciplinary design projects are underway in classrooms, labs and clubs.

This approach motivates students to tackle challenging projects from different viewpoints. Research shows that bringing design, business and the humanities into STEM fosters the empathy, planning and communication skills students will rely on long after they graduate from BSS.

Our design technology labs constantly evolve to give students the tools they need to create, design and build. Artists-in-residence, consultants and speakers support and inspire them.

At BSS, technology is not an end in itself. We help students develop the ability to use technology in a safe and purposeful way.

More than one third of our graduates go into science, technology, engineering, architecture and math programs in university – and they thrive on the challenges.





I love trying new things, testing my limits and having fun with my friends. Am I an athlete? A performer? An artist? A leader? An adventurer? Or maybe all of them! At BSS I get to know myself by trying different things.

“When we did high ropes, my group all cheered me on and I made it all the way up. It felt good to have them on my side.”

—Keira, Grade 6 student

At BSS some of the most important growth happens outside the classroom in activities driven by students and supported by faculty. Through these activities, students strengthen communication, collaboration, and leadership skills, and grow in confidence. They make lifelong friends. They develop a sense of themselves in the context of the school, their community and the broader world.

Expressing yourself through creativity

Students experience the arts through school plays, bands, choirs and dance groups. Participating in major theatrical productions (in partnership with neighbouring boys’ schools), students experience the joy of performance and develop a lifelong love of theatre.

Exploring the natural world

Nature is a powerful teacher. Whether it’s an exploration in our local ravine, a team-building camp, or an overnight expedition in the wilderness, our Outdoor and Environmental Education program introduces students to the wonders of the natural world around them and to the responsibility to protect it. The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award (Duke of Ed) has a strong presence at BSS, encouraging students to challenge themselves through physical activities, skills, outdoor expeditions and service to their community.

366

Middle & Senior School students participated in arts co-curriculars in 2018–19

32

Middle School students completed Statten-Northway Outdoor Education awards in 2018–19

37

Senior School students completed Bronze and Silver Duke of Ed Awards in 2018–19



“Whether you’re learning new languages in polyglot club, or building community as a School Life Prefect, there are so many opportunities to lead in something that you care about.”

—Essie, Grade 12 student

Pursuing interests and building community

BSS students have many opportunities to explore the world and hone skills in ways that are meaningful to them.

Academic teams like Model UN, the Math Society, the Robotics Club, DECA (a business-oriented club) and HOSA (focused on careers in the health sector) deepen and broaden learning. Getting involved in the Speakers’ Unions is an opportunity to develop critical thinking, argument-construction skills, and confidence in public speaking and debate.

Students have the opportunity to start a club in any area of interest they choose. Student-led clubs vary from year to year, and can include anything from coding and photography to fencing and knitting. Community groups like the Gay Straight Alliance, the Jewish Student Union and the Black Student Union bring students together.

Girls also practise leadership through participation in formal school councils and house activities. They strengthen the school culture by organizing events and activities that build a sense of pride and belonging.





68

students exceeded
60 hours of
community service
in 2018-19

51

students exceeded
100 hours of
community service
in 2018-19

18

students exceeded
250 hours of
community service
in 2018-19

275

Senior School
students took on
formal leadership
positions in 2018-19

Learning to serve and lead

Learning through service is a powerful, often life-changing, experience. BSS girls have many opportunities to give back to their communities, finding purpose in something larger than themselves. It's not about completing a volunteer requirement; it's about reaching out to make the world a better place.

Just as important as direct volunteering, students discuss, explore and take action on social and environmental issues. The Community Voices program helps student groups investigate issues, engage in civic life, and advocate for change both in and beyond the school.

Through our unique Initiatives process, girls who feel passionate about a cause can apply to run their own project or event. For example, in 2019 three students launched BSS Walks for Water to raise funds and awareness for communities without access to clean water.

Through trips to other parts of Canada and around the world, students see the world through the eyes of others, glimpse new paths, and learn to embrace and value diversity.

“The coaches at BSS really care about improving you as a player and developing your skills. I’m really proud of how we’ve all rallied together to just keep pushing ourselves.”

—Dayton, Grade 9 student

Athletics

At BSS, athletics is a vital part of the student experience. It provides a chance for girls to develop new skills, pride in self and school, respect for others, and grit. At BSS, an athlete is more than just someone who competes on a team. It can be anybody who likes to challenge herself physically, whether the activity is dance, rock climbing or snowboarding. Our focus is on helping students to develop new skills and a lifelong enjoyment of sport and physical activity.

Junior and Middle Schools

Every student is encouraged to join a team or athletic club. With this inclusive model, our goal is for all girls to develop fundamental movement skills and strategies that can be used in any sport. Sports include hockey, basketball, volleyball, cross country, soccer, tennis, field hockey, track and field, and swimming. The Middle School adds more sports, such as golf, rugby and archery.

Senior School

Athletics becomes more competitive in the Senior School, with tryouts for most teams. Sports include basketball, cross country, field hockey, soccer, swimming, archery, badminton, volleyball, hockey, alpine skiing, track and field, squash, golf, rugby, softball and ultimate frisbee.

There are many opportunities for students to explore a new sport or physical activity. Our outstanding facilities include four gyms, a pool, sports fields, dance studios and a fitness centre.

19

sports available schoolwide

45

teams in the Middle & Junior Schools

30

teams in the Senior School

76%

of students participate in at least one sport





C.I.S.A.A.

168

BSG



I belong to a warm and caring community. I work hard, but I know there's space and time to reflect too. The support I need to be okay is always there.

“My guidance counsellor and I have a great relationship – I feel like she really listens to me.”

—Lucie, Grade 12 student

We do everything we can to promote balance and to accommodate students’ lives outside of school. One thing is certain – if a BSS student needs support, a listening ear and a caring heart are always at hand.

Guiding hands

All BSS students participate in advisory programs, small groups of students who meet regularly with a faculty member. In the Senior School, each student is part of a Teacher Advisory Group (TAG) with the same advisor from Grade 9 to Grade 12. It’s an opportunity to talk about personal and academic challenges, or just to reflect on the world around them.

In addition, the Student Services Team is there to support everything from course planning to university and career decisions. Experienced counsellors help students to assess their abilities and develop a plan for success. The Learning Resource Centre is a quiet space where students can work on learning strategies, time management, and organization. Grade 11s and 12s also mentor younger students, sharing their experiences.

Supporting well-being

With nurses on site, the Wellness Centre supports the physical and mental health of students and delivers health and wellness initiatives. In a time of life marked by constant change, our school psychologist is available to talk about the complexities of school and personal life.

Spiritual guidance

BSS honours the whole person, nurturing academic, athletic, artistic, social and spiritual growth. Students gather weekly in our historic Chapel in a spirit of inclusivity that affirms our multifaith and multicultural community. Our Chaplain helps students explore their spirituality, fosters a community of ethical responsibility, and provides spiritual support through individual counselling.

Traditions like the annual Opening and Closing Chapels, the Remembrance Day Service and the Nativity Play bring many generations of the BSS community together and remind students of the value of ritual and tradition.



9%

of eligible students
(Middle School &
Senior School)
receive some form of
financial assistance

\$1.6M+

in financial
assistance available

At BSS we believe that an outstanding education should be accessible to all, and we do everything we can to remove financial barriers.

Our financial assistance program is supported by generous donations from our school community, because faculty, parents and alumnae know the value of a BSS education. More than \$1.6 million is available to students in Grades 7 to 12 for assistance with tuition and other expenses.

Entrance scholarships celebrate exceptional academic achievement. They are available at the Grade 3, Grade 7 and Grade 9 levels.

To learn more about our financial assistance and scholarships, contact Student Recruiting at bss.on.ca.









I am a BSS girl. Are you?

Are you ready to drive your own learning? To take risks. To go deep. To discover who you are and who you can be. To find your voice. To keep going, no matter what the challenges. To lead. To succeed.

Are you ready to see BSS for yourself? Let's do this!



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