

D.S. MacKenzie
Challenge Program
Application

2017-2018



Meeting the Needs of Every Learner

Challenge Program

D.S. MacKenzie

The Challenge Program is intended for students who are coded Gifted and Talented and those who have demonstrated academic excellence, superior attitude and effort, outstanding attendance and behaviour. These students must also be willing and able to commit to a high level of performance in junior high programming, and obtain the support of their parents.

At the end of each reporting period, the performance of students who are not maintaining an acceptable standard will be reviewed by teachers. After consultation with the parent, such a student may be transferred to another class. Participation in school and community leadership activities is also expected.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Students and parents may express interest in this program by completing the attached application form.

The application will be complete when:

- **the next school indicator on SchoolZone is set to D.S. MacKenzie School (indicate in the comments section that the student is applying for the Challenge Program),**
- **the application form (Parts A-C) is returned to D.S. MacKenzie School, along with the student's most current report card,**
- **the teacher recommendation form (Part D) is returned to D.S. MacKenzie School (remitted independently to D.S. MacKenzie).**

All completed applications for the Challenge Program must be received at the school on or before: **April 18, 2017**. Late applications will be considered subject to available space; however, please be advised you may be waitlisted.

Challenge Program Description

	Key Elements	Student Goals
Environment	<p>Students with similar educational needs are grouped together.</p> <p>A classroom climate is purposefully cultivated to foster social/emotional and academic growth of bright, high achieving students.</p> <p>Students work within an environment where respect, tolerance, safety, responsibility and contribution are valued and expected.</p> <p>A stimulating, open environment encourages risk taking, exploration, diversity and creativity.</p>	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow in awareness and ability to understand self and others, recognizing and appreciating human differences • Explore their own expectations and those of others • Become aware of and practice coping strategies that assist in their growth and development • Show a willingness to challenge and extend learning • Take risks and see mistakes as learning opportunities • Have opportunities to practice leadership and service with school and community
Content	<p>Students have enhanced opportunities for thinking and learning, not just more work.</p> <p>An appropriate pace or rate of learning is facilitated. Curriculum is compacted and enriched at the class level.</p> <p>Topics are explored in-depth, through lateral enrichment and/or interdisciplinary study. Emphasis is on skill development and demonstration of conceptual understanding.</p>	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore enriched, in-depth learning experiences at an appropriate pace • Demonstrate willingness to challenge and master the curriculum • Demonstrate growth in concept and skill development
Process	<p>Instructional tasks and activities are designed to feature higher order, critical and creative thinking. There is a focus on facilitation of problem-solving, research and inquiry skills.</p> <p>Choice, collaboration and challenge are part of the learning process.</p> <p>Students reflect, set goals and self-evaluate throughout learning experiences.</p>	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use higher order, critical and creative thinking skills • Develop problem solving, research and inquiry skills • Demonstrate responsibility for learning, making choices, setting goals and engaging in self-assessment • Develop effective study and organizational strategies • Practice collaborative and cooperative skills
Product	<p>Students explore different ways to demonstrate their learning and thinking.</p> <p>Students are an integral part of the assessment process.</p>	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore different ways to demonstrate learning and thinking • Use organizational time management skills in the development of project and products • Engage in the assessment process

Part A — Student Information

Registering for Grade: _____

Student Legal Name: _____

Student Birthdate: (dd/mm/yyyy) ____/____/____

Gender: _____

Current School: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____

Part B—Parent Support

Parent Name: _____

Parent Phone: _____

Address: _____

Parent Email: _____

I support my child's decision to apply for the D.S. MacKenzie Challenge Program.

I understand that my child may be removed from the Challenge Program if he or she does not continue to meet the academic requirements.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Part C—Student Response

1. What is your favourite subject? Explain what makes this your favourite subject.

2. What is your least favourite subject? Explain what makes this your least favourite subject.

3. What is a project that you completed in the last year or two that you are really proud of? Explain the steps you took to complete this project, and what you are most proud of about the project or the process.

4. Do you enjoy working independently? Explain.

5. Explain what you like and/or dislike about working in groups.

6. What do you think are your greatest strengths in school?

7. What are your strongest interpersonal skills?

8. What activities are you involved with outside of school and how much time do you spend at these? (i.e. volunteering, music, sports, etc.)

9. For what reasons do you want to be a part of the Challenge Program at DSM?

10. Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

Part D—Teacher Recommendation
(Please remit to D.S. MacKenzie independently)

Homeroom Teacher Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Coding:

Gifted/Talented

Coding in Progress

Other: _____

Based on the criteria, are there any other comments you would like to make in regards to this student's suitability for the Challenge Program at D.S. MacKenzie School?

What is your recommendation for this student?

I recommend him/her without reservations for the Challenge Program.

I recommend him/her with some hesitations for the Challenge Program.

This student is not a suitable candidate for the Challenge Program.

This form is to be completed in confidence and remitted independently.

Topic	Exceptionally Strong (Top 5% of Class)	Very Strong (Top 10% of Class)	Strong (Top 20% of Class)	Average (Top 50% of Class)	Other
ACADEMICS					
MA					
SC					
LA (Reading)					
LA (Writing)					
SS					
Second Language					
SKILLS					
Work independently					
Work in a group					
Enthusiasm towards learning					
Willingness to challenge/extend learning					
Uses high order of thinking skills					
Accepts feedback					
Integrated feedback into future work					
Homework completion					
Time management					
Organization					

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