

# Ten Ways Sacred Heart is at the Heart of *Something Special*





## Academic Excellence

Sacred Heart School of Halifax is renowned for its academic excellence. It starts with small classes, a relational approach to teaching from our outstanding faculty, and a love of learning. In the early years, we provide a solid academic foundation with particular attention on the development of the whole child. We then build on that foundation in the Senior School with a rigorous curriculum that includes the Advanced Placement (AP) Program, a focus on critical thinking, and encouragement of a growth mindset. When our students graduate, they're among the best-educated students in Canada, ready to make their mark on our world.





## Faith, Hope, and Love

Our mission is crystal clear and easily articulated thanks to the educational and spiritual philosophy of our Founder St. Madeleine Sophie Barat who believed that education could transform society. That philosophy, articulated in our [Five Goals](#), gives us purpose and direction and sets the tone for our School. As part of that mission, we shower our children with love and expect them to love one another. We help them understand there is always hope even when there are challenges or when the world seems dark. And, we encourage them to discover, question, and mature in the faith that guides them.







## Diversity

At Sacred Heart, everyone is welcome, regardless of faith, culture, ethnicity, or socio-economic status because we believe everyone needs and deserves to see themselves in their community. We also know that a diversity of voices, perspectives, and backgrounds makes for a richer and more realistic experience, one that better reflects our country and our world. This emphasis on diversity is not just nice to have anymore, it's an essential part of our DNA, and our goal is to ensure that cultural competency is considered a core skill of a Sacred Heart graduate.





## Community

Anyone here will tell you that when you join Sacred Heart, you become part of an extended family. And like any family, the bond — Sacred Heart — that joins us together can't be broken. Whether as a teacher, student, parent, grandparent, alum, or past parent, we all feel connected to our heritage, community, and one another. Building community is ingrained in everything we do, and a key part of our Goal 4 "The building of community as a Christian value." When you enroll here, you can have faith that you're part of something bigger; a network that unites over 150 schools in more than 40 countries around the world. And once a child of the Sacred Heart, always a child of the Sacred Heart.





## Tailored Education

Faithful to the spirit of teaching the whole child, our education is not pre-packaged; it's child-specific. We work with our students to make sure they are on the path that's right for them, whether it's as a doctor, artist, architect, engineer, video game developer, or mathematician. We do that by gender, because we know boys and girls think, learn, and develop differently; by aptitude, because some students excel in different subjects and at different times; by interest, because there's something for everyone; and by dream, because whether it's big, small, or in development, every child has a passion in life that we can help them pursue.







## Social Action

As part of our whole-child philosophy guided by our Five Goals, we ensure our students are engaged in social justice and charitable activities in the spirit of our Founder, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat. Here, we encourage students to educate themselves about the issues that are important to them, speak up when their voice needs to be heard, and take action when they want to make a difference. So when our students graduate, the world is theirs to conquer, but it's also theirs to make better. Because we believe Sacred Heart students have a responsibility to give back to their community and their world.





## A Global Outlook

With a global network of schools, we're used to looking beyond our local borders. But thanks to our International Student Program and our Student Exchange Program, we also welcome the world. Students from a variety of countries like China, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Korea and so many others, venture to Halifax to stay with one of our Sacred Heart families while they study at Sacred Heart, improve their language skills, and learn more about the Canadian experience. Annually these students are joined by Exchange students who come for shorter visits but which are no less meaningful. In return, our students join them in their home country and from that experience gain independence, learn about other cultures, better appreciate the joy of travel, and see another Sacred Heart school in action. Add to the mix our annual Service or Adventure Trip for Senior School students, and the world really is our oyster!





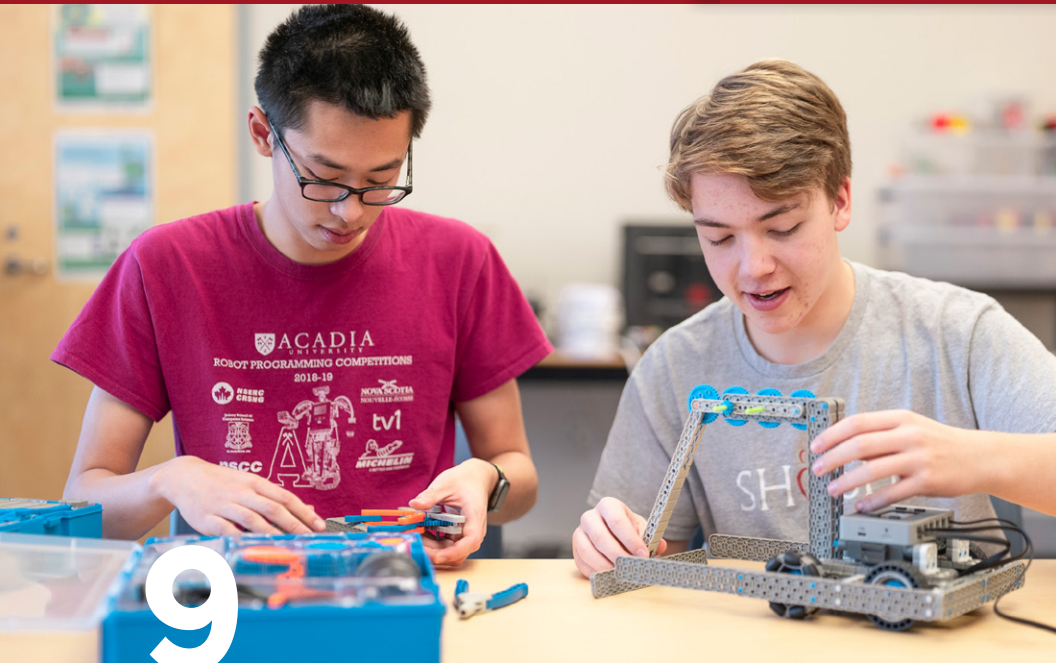


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## Balance — Extracurriculars, Arts, and Athletics

In our post-pandemic world, balance and resiliency are crucial to the health and well-being of our students. We encourage our students to be part of something outside of the classroom and we offer a variety of ways they can do that. When it comes to extra-curricular activities, the options are almost endless, including opportunities like the Performing Arts Club, Karate, Culinary Club, Mathletics, Robotics, the Environment Committee, Creative Writing, Excelsior, Sportsball, Chinese Culture Club, and a whole host of others. And, if a student is interested in something that we don't already offer, we help them find like-minded students who may share their passion. In our Athletics Program, students of all abilities can get active, whether as part of our competitive Sharks program or our recreational program. And, finally, our Arts Program includes music, visual arts, and performing arts, ensuring that our budding artists, thespians, and musicians have the outlets and opportunities to pursue their passion.





## Advanced Placement

In our Senior School, we eschew prescriptive programs, which is why we use the Advanced Placement (AP) Program which offers rigorous, university-credit courses honoured around the globe. The beauty of the AP Program is that it allows students to pick and choose ONLY those subjects they want to concentrate on, they don't have to take a year-long program of all advanced courses. With a score of four or five on an exam, a student will then have a first-year university credit(s) before they even enter university — an excellent head start. And, since we are the only high school in Atlantic Canada offering the AP designation, our students are distinguished from other local students who take the standardized International Baccalaureate (IB) Program.





## Unique Heritage and Traditions

As part of our global Network, we are fortunate to share a rich heritage that dates back to 1800. Our heritage also provides us with ceremonies and traditions unique to us, like Congé, Primes, and the Links of Love and Pinning ceremonies. And in every nook and cranny of our School, which opened in 1849, you can find rich architectural details, noteworthy artwork, elaborate formal spaces, and the spirit of many remarkable educators, leaders, and students who have walked our halls. All of this history, spirituality, and heritage infuse our School with a unique character, one that gives definition to what it means to be a student here.

Call us: 902-422-4459

Visit us: 5820 Spring Garden Road, Halifax

