



## **Information and Application – 2026/27** **Junior High Academic Alternative Program**

Dear Parents:

Thank you for considering Grandview Heights School for your child's junior high education. We would like to provide you with some important information about our **Academic Alternative Program**, our school and our entrance criteria below.

**Our Open House will be on Thursday, January 22, 6:30 pm Session #1 & 7:30 pm Session #2**

**PLEASE NOTE: The sessions are identical. Please only attend ONE session.**

**The Junior High Academic Alternative Program** has been offered at Grandview Heights since 1974. The primary goals of the program are to foster critical, creative and rigorous thinking; create global leaders with a life-long love of learning; and to prepare students well for post-secondary studies. We accomplish this by devoting more instructional time to the core subjects; promoting character traits and attitudes that will empower our students to become 21<sup>st</sup> century citizens and leaders; fostering self-awareness, self-reflection, resilience, concentration, and empathy; and, balancing our programs with strong Arts and Physical Education programs.

This program is targeted to students with a strong early interest in post-secondary studies. They are committed to rigorous academic learning and also have an interest in creative approaches to learning. They demonstrate strong communication skills that can be further developed as they work collaboratively to explore concepts, deepen understanding and engage in interdisciplinary work.

Our **Regular Academic Program** focuses on the areas mentioned above, is academically rigorous, but students do NOT need to meet entrance requirements. For the 2026/27 school year, we may have space in this program. Apply on SchoolZone during pre-enrolment, **February 2 - March 25, 2026**. Please note that if there are more students applying than space permits, a random selection will be made.

Our **Academic Alternative Program** offers an accelerated mathematics and science program, which includes completion of Math 10C and Science 10 by the end of grade 9. As such, only grade 7 students are eligible to enter this program. Students essentially complete 4 years of Math and Science in 3 years and are able to enter grade 10 with credits in these 2 courses. Students who wish to be considered for this stream must meet entrance requirements. **Application deadline is 4:00 pm, Friday, January 30, 2026.**

Students applying to Grandview Heights for the Academic Alternative Program must meet certain entrance requirements. Students will be assessed on their performance on their (1) entrance exam, (2) their current academic marks profile, and (3) their confidential teacher's reference. All students who reach a minimum benchmark on these screening criteria will form a pool of candidates eligible for open spaces. We believe that these criteria will give us the necessary information to select learners who will maintain our tradition of excellence at Grandview Heights. Please note, if there are more students eligible for the program than space permits, a **random selection** will be made of all eligible candidates by **Friday, April 10, 2026**. Please note additional application information on the following pages.

Sincerely,

Jon Carstensen-Sinha  
Principal



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**Entrance Criteria**

Applicants will be screened on the following criteria to ensure they are suited to the program:

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| • <b>Entrance Exams</b> to assess the following:                   | <b>50%</b>        |
| ✓ Mathematics  |                   |
| ✓ Science  |                   |
| ✓ Basic Skills/Critical Thinking                                   |                   |
| ✓ Reading Comprehension  |                   |
| ✓ Writing Skills/Self-Reflection                                   |                   |
| • <b>Current Marks Profile</b>                                     | <b>25%</b>        |
| ✓ Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts                     |                   |
| • <b>A teacher Reference to assess the following:</b>              | <b>25%</b>        |
| ✓ Character, work ethic, independent learner, communication skills |                   |
| ✓ Critical/creative thinking, citizenship, well-roundedness        |                   |
| ✓ Suitability to the program (Math, Science)                       |                   |
|  | <hr/> <b>100%</b> |

**Current Marks Profile/Confidential Teacher Reference**

Once we receive your completed application, GVH will email a digital Reference and Marks Form directly to grade 6 teachers. This is a confidential reference.

**Please note the following:**

**Selection of Students**

All students who reach minimum benchmarks on the screening criteria will form a pool of candidates eligible for open spaces in the programs.

**Bussing**

Please be aware that there is no yellow school bus service to Grandview Heights School. Since the Academic Alternative Program is a program of choice, it is the parent's responsibility to arrange transportation to and from the school within 15 minutes of the school's operational hours (8:30 am – 3:07 pm).

**Sibling Rule Suspension 2026/27**

Due to concerns about limited space and its impact on high quality learning environments, the Superintendent has suspended the sibling rule again. However, if there is space in specific classes, siblings of current students who are returning to the school will be accepted first after resident students (Random Selection would take place if there are more applications than space).

### Key Dates for 2026/27 Grade 7 Academic Alternative Program

January		
January 6, 2026		<b>Applications Open</b>
January 22, 2026	Session #1 @ 6:30 pm Session #2 @ 7:30 pm	<b>Open House</b> Academic Alternative ONLY (JH)

February		
February 2, 2026		<b>SchoolZone Pre-enrolment opens</b> If interested in the Grade 7 Regular Academic Program ONLY, you can pre-enroll at this time. This is not an option for applicants of the Academic Alternative Program.
January 30, 2026	No later than 4:00 pm	<b>Application Deadline</b> for Grade 7 Academic Alternative Program
Saturday February 7	9:00 – 10:30 am or 11:00 – 12:30 pm	<b>Entrance Exam</b> for Grade 7 Academic Alternative *Students will be assigned to one of the two sittings (More information will be provided <b>by email</b> once we receive your application.)
February 11 – March 18, 2026		<b>Confirmation of Entrance Criteria met</b> Parents of applicants will be contacted by email, indicating whether or not they have met the AA entrance requirements and are eligible to be included in the random selection, if one is necessary.

March / April		
March 18, 2026	4:00 pm	<b>SchoolZone Pre-enrolment closes</b>
April 7, 2026		<b>Decision Deadline</b> Deadline for parents to indicate if they wish for their child to participate if necessary, in the random selection.
April 7 - 17, 2026		<b>Random Selection Participants will be contacted:</b> NOT Successful in the random selection – parents are contacted by email . Successful applicants – parents are contacted by phone. Parents must be prepared to accept or decline the spot at the time of the call.
April 10, 2026		<b>Random Selection</b> (if necessary) will take place at the Centre for Education.
April 17, 2026		<b>Confirmation of enrolment by parents is complete</b> 2026/27 Registration for Grandview Heights ends



**Grandview Heights**  
SCHOOL

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Once you read this information and would like to apply for the Grade 7 Academic Alternative Program, please click on the following link:

**APPLICATION FORM**

Information will be collected using a [Google Form](#)

If you are unable to complete the form online, please contact Grandview Heights office at [grandview@epsb.ca](mailto:grandview@epsb.ca) and we will e-mail you a printable copy of the form.