

STORIES

from the Journey:



KCS Head of Senior School Update

11 . 19 . 2024



Our biggest year has begun. KCS is now a K-12 school. Our founding Grade 9 students are now applying to university and early offers have started rolling in (16 and counting!). The impact of our distinct program is evident in their confidence, leadership, and readiness for life after high school. Enjoy this update, the first since our [April 2024 issue of Stories from the Journey](#).

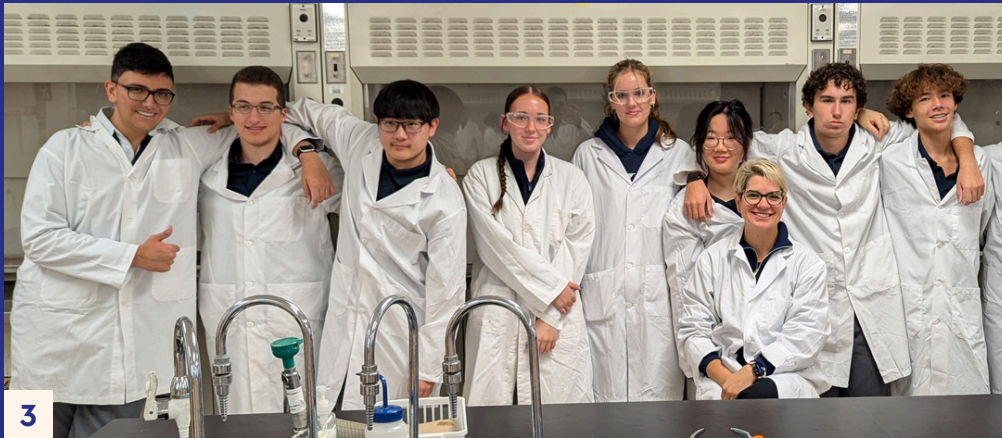
AN MIT INTERNSHIP FOR A SELECT KCS SENIOR SCHOOL STUDENT

Thanks to a partnership between KCS and West Nottingham Academy (WNA) in Maryland, U.S.A., KCS Senior School students had the unique opportunity to apply for a secondment to WNA where they would join a group of up to four "MIT-worthy" students in an AI-based research project with Dr. Manolis Kellis of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

One of our Grade 11 students, Trenton, was selected for his record of hard work, team work, passion for mechanical engineering, and evident leadership traits. He is now playing a lead role in weekly meetings with Dr. Kellis. We're proud of Trenton and excited by the possibilities for him and KCS thanks to this new relationship.



KCS SENIOR SCHOOL MOMENTS



- 1: Pin and Tie Ceremony
- 2: Growing Partnerships Session
- 3: Grade 11 Chemistry at TMU
- 4: Cross Country Provincial OFSAA Meet
- 5: Martha Coffey Frostbite Regatta Event



Sailing Club on Lake Ontario

PLACE-BASED LEARNING

There's nothing like seeing subjects in action for students to appreciate the real-world implications of what they're learning. Wherever relevant, the KCS Senior School program includes offsite learning in courses, co-curricular programs, and extracurricular activities.



Nidolio

Aria's necklace and the products and services of other student-led ventures will be featured at our upcoming Winter Wonders gathering.



Great Citywide Scavenger Hunt

Students explored landmarks from Queen's Park to High Park and along the Lakeshore.

The year began with our 3rd Annual Great Citywide Scavenger Hunt. Groups of students, with a teacher for backup, were dropped off in different parts of the city. Each had a list of places to visit and things to do when there. The time management challenge was to arrive at a destination by a specific time. While many enjoyed success, others met gridlock and experienced the fate of Toronto drivers. Through it all, they worked together, solved problems, and had a memorable orientation to navigating the city.

Our Grade 10 Business class has begun their learning partnership with Humber College, participating in workshops at the Longo Faculty of Business that will prepare them to design their own venture. Last year's students submitted their business pitches to the HC 'Be Your Own Boss' Challenge and swept the podium with awards and cash prizes. The student who earned first prize used awarded seed money to secure a Shopify account and build her prototype, a necklace uniquely designed to offer aromatherapy.

Lake Ontario is a special destination for learning. We're the only school east of British Columbia with rowing available as a physical education course. Another special addition to place-based learning is our new sailing club. Initiated by two students and thanks to our partnership with the Boulevard Club, students have been out on Lake Ontario multiple times this fall and plan to do so again in the spring.

POST-SECONDARY GUIDANCE

For our first Grade 12 class, this year marks the culmination of one learning journey and preparation for a remarkable next one. University and College applications are underway and offers to our students have already started coming in. Marks and differentiating stories are what post-secondary institutions seek. The Senior School distinctly helps students do their best academically and build those stories. Here's how:



- Our outstanding faculty deliver enriched instruction within a framework that makes learning unforgettable, engaging, and challenging in breadth and depth.
- Our Director of Guidance, Jen Lillie, meets with students from Grades 9 through Grade 12 to support individualized academic planning, oversee their growth, and guide them through the post-secondary process from early exploration to applications and scholarships.
- Each student has a Faculty Advisor and a small group of grade-peers who will be their core group and source of academic support and guidance at bi-weekly meetings over four years.
- Our assessment process prioritizes feedback and next steps so students focus on learning and opportunities to demonstrate increasing mastery throughout the course.
- Thanks to place-based learning and regular opportunities to meet external experts, our students have an uncommon awareness of the world and have been inspired by a wide array of people who help shape it.
- Our students have visited or engaged with personnel from over a dozen universities and colleges, not just for campus tours but more commonly for professor-led workshops in game design labs, science labs, math departments, and entrepreneurship incubators.
- The [KCS Path Program](#) pushes students to grow each week as intrinsically-driven, resourceful learners and leaders, precisely the traits that will help them choose next steps and then thrive in post-secondary schools.
- The KCS By Design program develops an entrepreneurial mindset, immersing students each week in a design thinking process rooted in industry and complex difference-making ventures. Our two signature co-curriculars, KCS By Design and the KCS Path Program, ensure every student builds a differentiating record of self-driven learning and leadership.
- Our Grade 12 students have a steady stream of opportunities to meet admissions representatives from Queens, University of Toronto, UBC, and more at school, plus weekly notifications of campus tours and post-secondary fairs to attend.



Admissions' officers are enthusiastic about our school. Many have already met our students and have commented on how mature, interesting, and articulate they are. We're proud of our students and know they'll continue making us proud wherever they choose to start their next journey.



AWARD-WINNING CONSTRUCTION

By the start of spring, construction will be complete and the Senior School community will have 40,000 sq. ft. of space in which to learn and lead.

The final phase includes a dedicated Student Services Hub, a communications technology lab, a prototyping makerspace, a large multipurpose space called MacLachlan Hall (recognizing the generous support of the MacLachlan family), a music room, a media studio and multiple classroom, seminar, and breakout spaces.

We recently won our third award for the Phase 1 space. Canadian Interiors awarded our architects at Architecture Counsel Inc. (ACI) with a [Best in Canada designation for the KCS Senior School](#). This is the third award earned by ACI for our school.



CLUBS AND TEAMS

The fall term included 19 clubs and teams, including:

- Coding/Programming
- Cross-Country Running
- DECA
- Debate Club
- Design Tech/Media
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Eco/Environment Club
- E-sports
- Flag Football
- Girls Alliance
- Girls Sports Club
- House Captains
- Investment Club
- Library Club
- Music Club
- Sailing Club
- Service Club
- Student-led Café
- Weightlifting Club

KCS PATH PROGRAM

Thanks to the KCS Path Program, areas of learning at the Senior School now include cardiology, acting, transportation, corporate law, aerospace engineering, hockey, medicine, manga, video editing, literature, coding, interior design, and more.



Two of our Grade 12 students kicked off the KCS Path Program orientation for new students with inspiring stories of what they did and how they grew through the program. Aria shared artifacts from the past two years, where she chose to learn about both dermatology and law through a field placement, summer courses at University of Toronto, organizing a fundraiser, and now serving as a volunteer mentor to a young refugee, among other initiatives.

Ricky shared his own journey in the KCS Path Program, one that began with sports nutrition and then landed with his true passion, design and architecture, and led to a wide array of learning and creating, including his help designing our library space.

All students have a dedicated hour each week from Grades 9-11 where they lead their learning on the topic they choose. They're challenged to learn from multiple perspectives, including through leadership and offsite experiences. Our KCS [Path Program webpage](#) shares more details of this unique offering.

KCS AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP BY DESIGN

KCS has long held that growth as a leader shouldn't be optional. The world needs people who know how to make a positive difference, and school is the place where this learning should begin.

[Student leadership](#) is a core part of the Senior School experience.

- In KCS By Design, students have joined committees in areas of their choosing and will follow a design thinking process to make a difference either within the school or outside in the broader community. This year's committees include Media and Tech; Sustainability; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging; Sewing and more.
- In Path, all students in Grades 9-11 are challenged to apply what they know of their chosen topic in a way that has a positive impact. Awareness-raising, fundraising, volunteering, and leading new offerings are common products of Path.
- In Grade 12, students will earn a Ministry credit in Healthy Active Living and Leadership as part of their Advisor program (PLF4M). They have been called upon to exercise leadership as part of the course since the second day of school.
- In courses, wherever possible, teachers challenge students to apply course knowledge and skill to address authentic real-world problems.



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

CAMP ONONDAGA

This year's Outdoor Education trip took place on the shores of Little Bob Lake almost three hours northeast of our Lake Shore campus. The week included polar dips, canoeing, a ropes course, an Amazing Race, group challenges, and reflections on leadership.

For the first time, Grade 7 and 8 House Captains joined the Senior School students for three of the five days to collaborate on building spirit K-12.



OPEN HOUSES

We have many Open Houses scheduled this year, including one on Monday, December 2, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Senior School.

Please visit www.kcs.on.ca/academics/senior-school to learn more about the KCS Senior School and how it allows students to thrive at school and beyond. Even better, [sign up for an Open House](#) so you can see for yourself!

If you have questions or wish to book a personal tour, please reach out to Nichola Taiwo, Senior School Registrar and Office Manager, at ntaiwo@kcs.on.ca.

I hope you've enjoyed this update as much as we're enjoying the journey.

Kind regards,



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