

Queen Margaret's School

QMS



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# Welcome to Queen Margaret's School

At Queen Margaret's School we believe in GIRLS. We know young women think, interact, socialize and make decisions in ways that are unique from boys.

Our school thrives because we are so aware of the links between an all-girls learning environment and strong academic performance. Fine arts, athletics, riding and community service are diverse learning opportunities that foster strong character development. Our engaging learning and living community helps girls achieve their goals. Our international students encourage intercultural understanding and bring a global perspective. Long-lasting friendships that reach around the world are forged.

Welcome to a special place with a tradition of taking girls seriously. Since 1921, Queen Margaret's School has been a place where girls learn, thrive and strive to meet their full potential. I encourage you to visit our campus and talk with us about the all-girls advantage.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Wilma Jamieson  
Head of School



*"Our children are thriving at Queen Margaret's with the small class sizes and inspiring learning environment.*

*The staff are amazing; they encourage and support them on a daily basis."*

QMS Parent





## Our School

For 90 years, Queen Margaret's School has served as a day and boarding school delivering a comprehensive university preparatory program.

We proudly offer first-class educational opportunities for Preschool through Grade 12. Small and inspiring classes in science, technology, public speaking, languages, athletics, riding, visual and performing arts prepare young minds for post-secondary education and beyond.

Our picturesque 27-acre campus is located on the west coast of Canada on Vancouver Island in Duncan, British Columbia. Campus amenities include indoor and outdoor sports and equestrian facilities, drama, art and music studios, science and technology centre and residences for boarders. Our small community school offers safety and security with easy access to BC's capital city, Victoria and an international airport only 60 minutes away.

**A School for Girls in Grades 7 through 12** allows young women to excel in a structured and safe learning environment without the social pressures of a co-ed classroom. Young women in an all-girls school gain confidence and leadership skills as they challenge themselves in academics, athletics, arts and service.

**A Boarding School for Girls in Grades 7 through 12** teaches young women to become self-reliant and responsible. Students from around the world join us in our home-away-from-home atmosphere; supported by caring residence staff who oversee many free-time activities and structured homework time.

**An International School** representing over 17 countries. English, French and Japanese are taught by a qualified team of language specialists. Our intensive ESL program leads to rapid integration into Canadian grade levels and culture.

**An Equestrian School** offering the only fully integrated credit-granting high school riding program in Canada. We are proud to be Canada's leading Equestrian Preparatory School with our own on-campus Equestrian Centre. Students may board their own horse here or ride one of ours. QMS has an enviable array of programs to suit all levels from novice riders to those with equestrian career aspirations.

**A Co-Ed Junior School** for Preschool through Grade 6 and Grade 7/8 boys high school prep program that nurtures the whole child, fosters an early love of learning and prepares students for their academic endeavours ahead.

**Parents** are valued members of our school community. Regular interactive contact is established through a variety of effective communication methods.

**Specialist Teachers** deliver diverse subjects in Music, Art, Languages, Information Technology, Athletics, Drama, Math and Sciences.

**Class Sizes** averaging 20 students allow our staff to be responsive and involved with each student.



*"QMS has provided our daughters an intimate, family-like environment where they can grow, both academically and emotionally, without the typical peer pressures to distract them.*

*The interaction with students of all ages and the fact that all staff and administration know the students by name is really special."*

Senior School Parent



# Our University Preparatory Program

In choosing our Senior School your daughter will discover space to thrive, and the opportunity to discover and utilize her full potential. The benefits will last a lifetime.

## **Academic Results**

At Queen Margaret's our goal is to assist students in achieving an average of 85% or higher to ensure students can target the universities of their choice. Our Grade 12 students graduate with more Sciences, Mathematics and other university-preparatory courses, and with higher performance marks than the provincial average. Our graduates are accepted to the finest universities in Canada, the U.S. and abroad.

## **Supportive Environment**

At QMS excellence is encouraged, effort is rewarded, and the individual needs of girls are carefully addressed. Our guiding principle is to bring out the best in each of our students - academically, socially, athletically and artistically.

## **International Perspective**

Over 17 countries are represented at QMS. Our entire school benefits from the international mix of students. We celebrate our differences, share our cultures, religions and traditions. It is a unique opportunity to work, learn and grow together and experience firsthand how nations can be united.

## **Showing Leadership**

Girls face an ever-changing world. Our curriculum is kept current, enabling girls to set the pace later in life. Courses that are unique to Queen Margaret's include Pre-Engineering, Women and Leadership, Financial Literacy and Equine Sciences. We are building partnerships with colleges and universities to enable our graduates to receive first-year credit for specialized courses at QMS.



*"Academic achievement is important to us, and we have found the QMS environment to be one where excellence and achievement are valued and promoted in a supportive, interactive manner.*

*Our daughter loves it there!"*

Senior School Parent



# Our Senior School for Girls

## Grades 7-12

It's a fact. Girls and boys have distinctive ways of learning. Numerous international studies show that between the ages of 12 and 16 years, there are significant differences in the cognitive, social and developmental growth rates of girls and boys. Young women think, interact, make decisions and socialize in ways that are unique from boys both psychologically and developmentally.

All-girls schools provide young women with a structured and comfortable environment without the social pressures or distractions of a co-ed classroom. Consequently they tend to explore a broader range of interests, develop leadership qualities and excel academically – particularly in the sciences and math.

The girls at QMS agree that an all-girls environment just makes life less complicated. As a result, girls develop confidence and participate more freely in the classroom.

The young women at QMS have achieved awards and scholarships in:

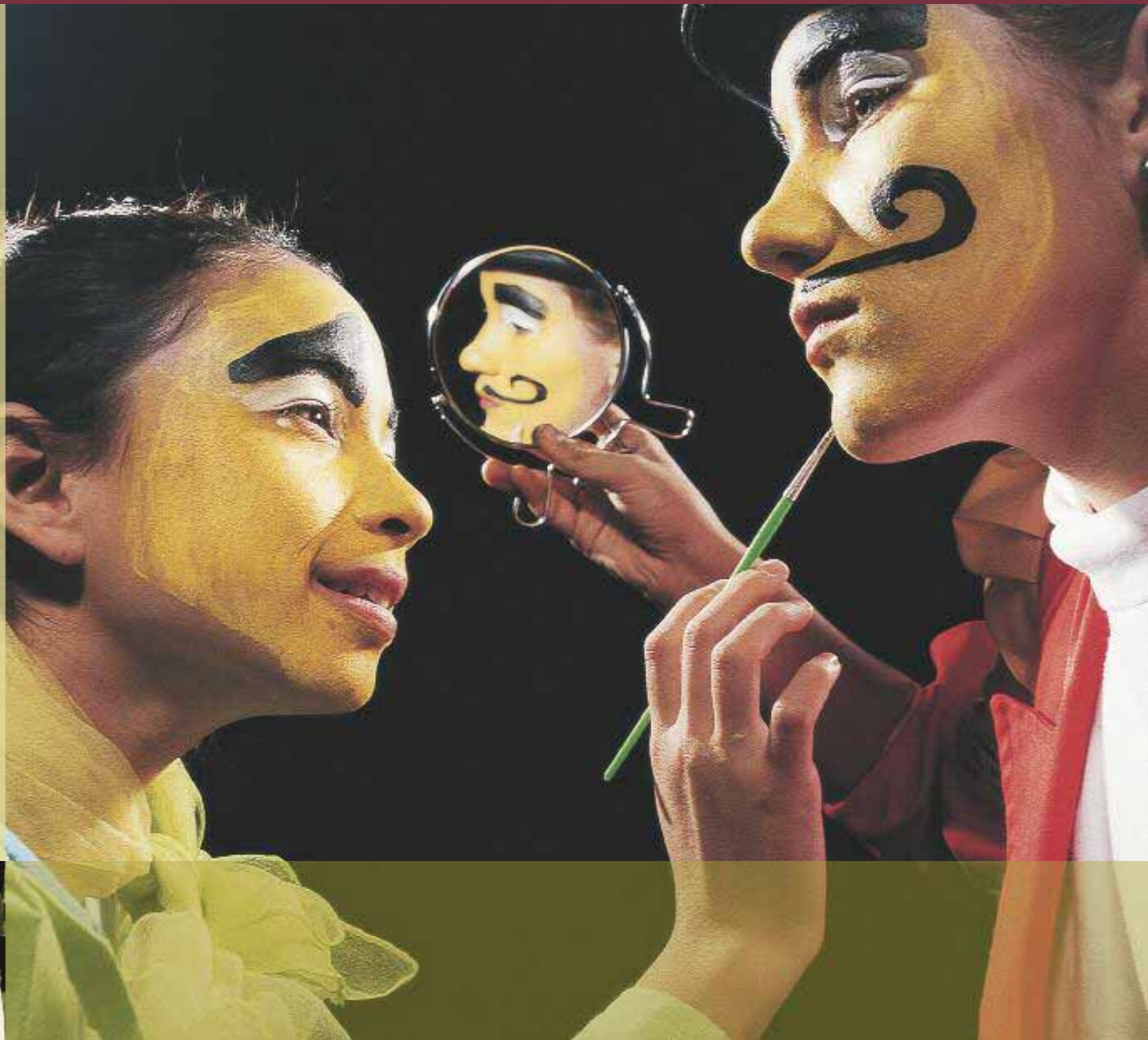
University Entrance	Music Festivals	Information Technology
Mathematics	Equestrian Competition	Fine Arts
Community Service	Public Speaking	Videography
Debating	Media Arts	Regional Athletics

QMS students are encouraged to think beyond high school graduation. The vast majority of our graduates continue their post-secondary education directly out of Grade 12. QMS graduates have been accepted into more than 50 universities throughout Canada, the U.S., Europe and Asia.



*"QMS has such a wide range of personalities! The all-girl structure is an advantage and allows true characters to bloom and try lots of new things because no one is pressured or intimidated by the opposite sex."*

Grade 12 Student



# Our Arts and Cultural Programs

At QMS a balanced education includes unleashing the power and magic of artistic expression. Our excellent Visual and Performing Arts Program offers students a chance to discover their creative spirit and unique talents, and a chance to provide community service through performances.

For the past 60 years we've been presenting musicals in the community. Students create entire performances: writing, lighting, casting, costumes, music, sound and even tickets! From *The Secret Life of Girls* to *the Sound of Music*, our Senior Drama program produces one major public performance annually to rave reviews.

Annual public art events showcase students' imagination in painting, drawing, photography, sculpture and crafts. The electronic kiln in the art studio is fired up with inventive, carefully crafted sculptures.

The halls are alive with the sound of music. Band festivals, string/chamber ensemble, vocal jazz, concert band, and acoustic guitar jam sessions are all part of our comprehensive music program. QMS has proudly competed in local and international festivals and workshops where students showcase their musical abilities and broaden their view of the world.

Arts and cultural activities here are truly an international experience, with students from Mexico, Thailand, Taiwan, China, Korea, Japan, Germany, the U.S., Canada and other countries joining together for a colourful celebration of creativity.

Through all of these artistic endeavours students develop the discipline and ability to tap into their creativity, communicate clearly, work effectively with others and problem-solve. These are core life skills that will serve them well throughout their personal and professional lives.



*"The PE program at QMS allows girls to get out and experience new activities they would not usually gravitate towards, resulting in happier, healthier girls."*

Grade 11 Student



# Our Sports and Recreation Programs

At QMS everyone has a chance to participate and discover the enjoyment and challenge of sports and physical activity. Being a smaller school means more opportunities to join-up and be a team player and more chances to experience leading the team.

Students feel safe and comfortable trying new activities at QMS, and they often discover hidden talents. They gain confidence and skills in many different areas while being active, having fun, and staying fit. Students with a competitive edge can channel their drive and energy on our Senior School teams and compete in local tournaments.

We are pleased to offer an appealing variety of sports and physical activities encouraging students to foster a lifelong enjoyment of health and fitness. We have excellent indoor and outdoor facilities including an outdoor swimming pool, a gymnasium, playing fields, and our own on-site equestrian facilities. QMS has won many awards competing in local and provincial tournaments in basketball, volleyball, and field hockey. Go Royals!

Our Outdoor Education program allows students to develop an appreciation for nature and the outdoors while learning important life skills. The beautiful, natural surroundings of Vancouver Island provide a playground like none other with easy access to world-class provincial parks, forests, mountains, rivers and the sea. Through the Duke of Edinburgh Program, Grades 8 to 12 participate in a one-week wilderness experience each year, including camping, sailing, kayaking, skiing, and hiking.



*"With students here from all over the world we have the opportunity to learn from many new cultures and perspectives. I have made great friends with girls from Mexico, Germany, Norway, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and China. I feel more confident to see new places and try new things."*

Grade 12 Student





## Our Boarding Life

Our residences provide a safe and nurturing environment for young women. Girls from all over the world live and study together in our global-village boarding community where life-long friendships are formed. A secure, supportive environment fosters independence, responsibility and appropriate social skills.

Approximately 100 young women make QMS their home during the school year. Most rooms are home for two girls with some single rooms and on-campus apartment-style living for Grade 12's. Our residence is homey and inviting with a roomy lounge area, TV and music, a kitchen area to fix a snack, a well-stocked library with books for reading and a wireless internet environment.

With structured homework time our girls develop excellent study habits. In their free time, there is always plenty to do. On weekends it may be kayaking, skiing, hiking, swimming, attending a play, school dances, a horse show, shopping...and of course homework, just like home.

Residence staff are on duty 24 hours, 7 days a week. They are caring and supportive and provide the nurturing young girls still need while learning self-reliance. Parents and students can have peace of mind knowing we have a full-time Nurse, a Counsellor and House Moms, too.

Living in residence is like having our own United Nations; it is truly the experience of a lifetime. We are proud of our international boarding community where we celebrate our differences, share our cultures, religions and family traditions, and have fun!



*"I love the small classes;  
it really helps with  
the teacher-student  
relationship.*

*Not only do you get the  
extra help needed to  
excel academically, you  
also gain friendships  
and mentoring from  
people you really respect  
and look up to."*

Grade 12 Student





# Our International/ESL Program

At QMS we recognize that learning a new language can be a daunting experience.

We provide a welcoming, supportive environment designed to quickly integrate ESL students into the full Canadian academic program and culture. Students are encouraged to be curious, ask questions, take opportunities to meet with instructors, and interact with other students in a variety of activities and clubs.

## **Beginner and Advanced ESL, Grades 7 through 10**

Students participate in a blended program of ESL instruction within an immersion environment. Students develop and practice their verbal and written communication skills in intensive, small ESL classes and attend regular classes for other subjects.

Interactive learning and opportunities to hone their English are experienced through field trips, sports, recreational activities, technology training and social events in our school and community. International students are introduced to Canadian culture and learning styles and prepared for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) required for entrance to most universities in North America.



*"The Riding Program at QMS is awesome! The coaches are wonderful and they have taught me so much about riding and horses in general.*

*At QMS you really feel like you're part of a big family. Everyone knows your name and even the kids in Kindergarten interact with the Grade 12s. I think QMS is terrific!"*

Grade 8 Student



# Our Equestrian Program

If you have a passion for riding, saddle-up! QMS has a distinguished and enviable Equestrian Program. At QMS, students have the option to ride for high-school credit in their school day at our on-campus Equestrian Centre. Parents and students don't have to drive to and from lessons before or after school.

At QMS our optional riding program blends education and riding as part of the curriculum.

Beginner and recreational riders are given the opportunity to develop a love for the sport and build their confidence and skills. Junior and Senior School riders become involved in all aspects of horsemanship and stable management. For serious riders, high school credits can be earned through core academics, a unique Equine Sciences Program and equestrian work experience for rewarding careers in equine sciences and other equestrian professions.

Our specialized equestrian team includes a director, manager, coaches, trainers, teachers and stable staff who work together with classroom teachers to help each rider achieve their academic and riding goals.

QMS proudly offers a nationally recognized, integrated Equitation program with Hunter/Jumper, Dressage and Eventing disciplines. Our comprehensive program includes:

- Equine Canada Certified Coaches
- Stable facilities for school and student-owned horses
- Indoor and outdoor riding rings
- On-campus, local and international competitions
- Workshops delivered by qualified high profile clinicians



*"I enjoy making friends  
from all over the world  
and learning about new  
cultures and ideas.*

*At QMS everybody is  
here for one another,  
you never go unnoticed.  
If you need help some-  
one is always right  
there and ready to help."*

Grade 8 Student



# Our History

In 1921 QMS began with two energetic, entrepreneurial women, a dream, two acres and a \$100 loan from one of their fathers. Miss Norah Creina Denny and Miss Dorothy Rachel Geoghegan were well ahead of their time and determined to make a difference in the world.

Miss Denny was born in the UK, attended Queen Margaret's School in Scarborough, England as a boarder, and was a Girl Guide leader, an ambulance driver in France and a member of the Queen Alexander Imperial Military Nursing Service. She immigrated to Canada in 1919.

Miss Geoghegan was born of Irish descent and moved to Canada as a young girl where she attended school and she, too, was a Girl Guide leader. A musical soul, she was a singer and violinist. In 1917 she was one of the first women to graduate from the University of British Columbia.

In 1921 these two adventurous, ambitious leaders established their school naming it after Queen Margaret's School in England. Combining solid academics with the exercise and enjoyment of riding, they were committed to helping children reach their full potential. Their values of integrity, service, and personal responsibility have been embedded into the culture and tradition of QMS for over 90 years.

For a remarkable 42 years Miss Denny and Miss Geoghegan owned and administered QMS. In 1963 they turned the school over to a trust company as a not-for-profit society. Both women lived well into their 90s and enjoyed the rewards of seeing their legacy grow.



*"The Arts and advanced academics really appeal to me. The teachers here make learning fun and challenging and encourage every student to do their best.*

*All the teachers and students make me feel welcome and appreciated. I know I will graduate from QMS as a well-rounded member of society."*

Grade 9 Student





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