

20/20 VISION

THE **YORK** SCHOOL

STRATEGIC PLAN 2015–2020

MISSION

To develop inquiring,
knowledgeable and
caring young people
who are engaged
citizens of the world.

LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE ENTIRE YORK SCHOOL COMMUNITY, I AM PLEASED TO OUTLINE OUR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2015–2020.

There is uniform agreement throughout the community: we are fulfilling our mission. This consensus has shaped our planning process and encouraged us to build our future on the solid foundation of the past. As a result, most of the strategic directions mapped out here are aligned with developments already underway in the school.

Led by the Steering Committee, the extensive consultation process included input from more than 400 parents and alumni, as well as multiple professional development sessions with the faculty. These contributions gave voice to our collective impressions of the school and created a shared vision for our future.

With this strategic framework in place, we will be able to make clear and focused decisions about our growth. We will capitalize on the creativity and inspiration of our faculty and administration. We will engage our community in new and exciting ways. We will ensure that all aspects of our academic, athletic and social programmes are distinctive and serve our community.

As The York School turns 50, we are enjoying a unique moment in our history. We are old enough to have a well-established tradition of innovation and excellence, and we are young enough to be fluid and adaptive. It is a powerful combination.

Meeting the needs of our current and future students is, much like this planning process, a collective effort. I invite you to embrace the directions outlined in this plan and to actively participate in the implementation phases to come.

Sincerely,



Conor Jones
Head of School

ACADEMICS

INQUIRY

INTERNATIONAL

DELIVER ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

TECHNOLOGY

INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING CAPITALIZE ON RICH TRADITIONS WHILE REIMAGINING METHODOLOGIES AND TOOLS.

Our students are interesting and engaged young people whose experience at The York School has prepared them to think critically and creatively. Our graduates are welcomed at the best universities and colleges around the world, a reflection of their unique interests. Their success is no accident. It is the result of an exceptional academic programme built on a foundation of inquiry, international exposure and innovative technology.

The most influential factor in support of student success is exceptional teaching. The progressive educators who inspire our students are deeply committed and consistently innovative. Our faculty get to know every student and balance challenge with support to inspire them to lead their own learning.

To deliver academic excellence, we will monitor and improve our programmes. We will strike a balance, refining successful practices and incorporating new methods that add value and push us in new directions. We excel at providing our students with the solid foundation of an IB curriculum while seamlessly interweaving creative opportunities afforded by learning technologies and our location in midtown Toronto.

We must envisage an education of the future that challenges us as parents and educators to honour the needs of children in a rapidly changing world.

***“TELL ME AND I FORGET, TEACH ME AND I MAY REMEMBER,
INVOLVE ME AND I LEARN. — Benjamin Franklin***





DEVELOP ENGAGED CITIZENS OF THE WORLD

GLOBAL READINESS FLOWS FROM EXPERIENCES THAT BROADEN PERSPECTIVES AND OPEN MINDS.

The world around us is a fluid and dynamic global community. Our graduates cannot be citizens of a nation; they must be citizens of the world. They will need to communicate across languages, cultures and platforms. Many will live in another country, work on transnational teams and pursue careers with a global focus.

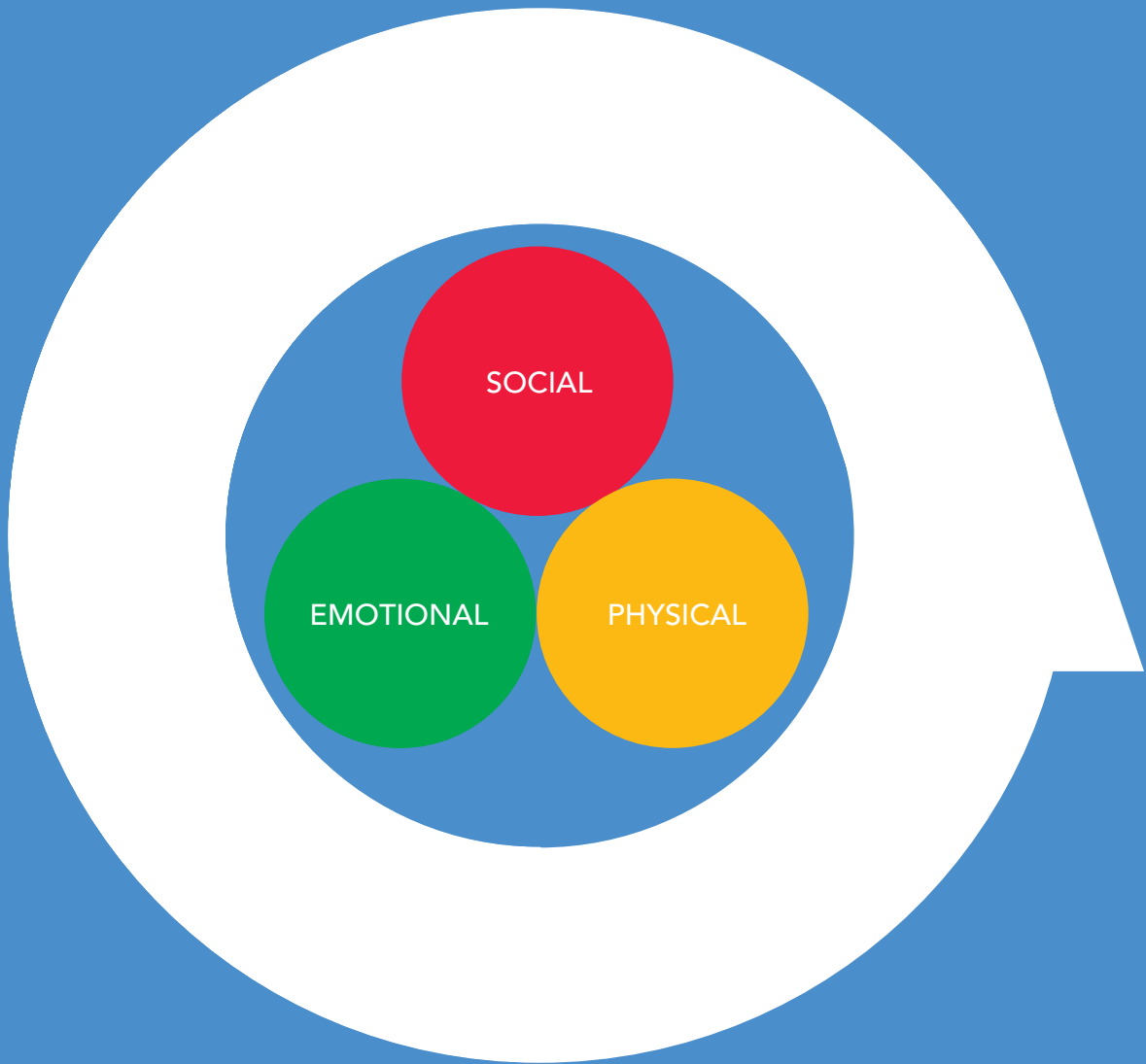
Our students will learn to adapt and manage complex challenges through immersive experiences of a similar kind. They will be exposed to diverse cultures and encouraged to engage with the realities of interconnectivity. They will learn first-hand what it means to be a citizen of the world.

We are uniquely positioned to provide an international experience for our students—firmly rooted in the diverse and multicultural context of Toronto. Our school community currently includes families from more than 20 countries. Our academic programme incorporates both the Ontario curriculum and the International Baccalaureate curriculum, recognized and respected around the world.

The next stage of The York School's global development is to pursue new opportunities for international experiences, language offerings, exchanges and alliances. We are exploring new partnerships locally and around the world and leveraging our extensive technological resources to give our students digital pathways into global experiences.

*“EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH
YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.” —Nelson Mandela*





SUPPORT THE WHOLE STUDENT

INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION AND DIVERSE PROGRAMMING FOSTER WELL-BEING, CREATIVITY AND CHARACTER.

The York School has always been attuned to the individual needs of students. We have a long tradition of diverse co-curricular offerings that support the evolving interests of our students. Educational research has provided deeper insights into the ways in which creativity, social intellect and resilience play essential roles in student success. Our commitment to engaging more extensively with the needs of learners will ensure that our students have the fortitude, self-awareness and confidence they need, now and after graduation.

To ensure our students thrive, we are enhancing opportunities and offerings that will guide the unique talents of every student and provide each one with the right challenges at the right time. Through evidence-based strategies and expanded co-curricular options, we will ensure that The York School experience is as comprehensive as it is responsive.

This strategic direction has widespread implications and will lead to enrichments in all of our curricular and co-curricular programmes. In so doing, we are creating a learning environment that caters to the social, emotional and physical health and well-being of our students.

***“I’VE LEARNED THAT PEOPLE WILL FORGET WHAT YOU SAID,
PEOPLE WILL FORGET WHAT YOU DID, BUT PEOPLE WILL NEVER
FORGET HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.—Maya Angelou***



PROVIDE A DYNAMIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
WITH LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

IMAGINE THE FUTURE REQUIREMENTS OF A YORK SCHOOL STUDENT AND THE RESOURCES REQUIRED TO FULFILL THAT VISION.

Strong schools are grounded in responsible governance, a commitment to financial sustainability and ongoing attention to optimal capacity at each grade. Our fiduciary responsibilities are to build on our solid base and provide a viable, stable future for our school.

We will work together to enrich the facilities of The York School by capitalizing on the unique features of our location in midtown Toronto. We will explore new possibilities for outdoor learning sites, and we will ensure that the creative use of technology is maintained as we continue to build on the momentum generated by our culture of innovation.

The York School's tradition of excellence was established over its first 50 years through a bold, collective effort. Our reputation, brand and identity are strong and increasingly recognized throughout the world. We must build a compelling case for philanthropy and achieve more meaningful levels of engagement with both parents and alumni.

*“THE AIM OF EDUCATION SHOULD BE TO TEACH
THE CHILD TO THINK, NOT WHAT TO THINK.—John Dewey*



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

DELIVER ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- Become a world-leading IB Continuum School
- Cultivate highly qualified and progressive teachers
- Continually pursue innovative use of technology
- Ensure responsive programming and academic course offerings
- Support academic success and excellence for all students

- Establish a comprehensive York School experiential learning continuum
- Enhance diverse international alliances and opportunities
- Provide responsive language offerings
- Foster a harmonious community of international and local students
- Increase post-York School opportunities for graduates

DEVELOP ENGAGED CITIZENS OF THE WORLD

SUPPORT THE WHOLE STUDENT

- Increase focus on wellness—social, emotional and physical health
- Strengthen co-curricular programmes that develop skill and creativity
- Create a character-based education programme and student leadership continuum
- Continue to invest in design, technology, arts and athletics

- Enhance existing facilities, with a focus on 1320 Yonge Street (Middle/Senior School)
- Ensure access to diverse outdoor learning spaces through partnerships
- Maintain status as a leading innovator in technology integration

PROVIDE A DYNAMIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

ENHANCE OUR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

- Develop strong brand reputation and loyalty
- Foster a highly informed and engaged community
- Build a compelling case for philanthropy
- Ensure long-term financial health
- Promote effective governance and school leadership

THE **YORK** SCHOOL

1320 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4T 1X2

www.yorkschooL.com