

Making our Strategy Visible

Our purpose is to prepare young trailblazers, as no two journeys are the same. Over the course of an academic year, each Grade 8–9 class will participate in five Project-Based Learning units designed to bring QMS strategic concepts and meaningful issues to life. Unit concepts include:

- (My) Self
- Service
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Society
- Sustainability

Progressive Approach to Senior School

We believe that the middle years are a time of discovery, which is why all Grade 8–9 students will continue to have the opportunity to choose from interest-based electives taught by specialist teachers in the following areas:

- Physical Education and/or Riding
- French, Spanish or English Language Development
- Cooking and World Foods
- Entrepreneurship
- Music
- Visual Arts
- Drama
- Media Arts
- Robotics
- Woodworking



ALASKA

CANADA

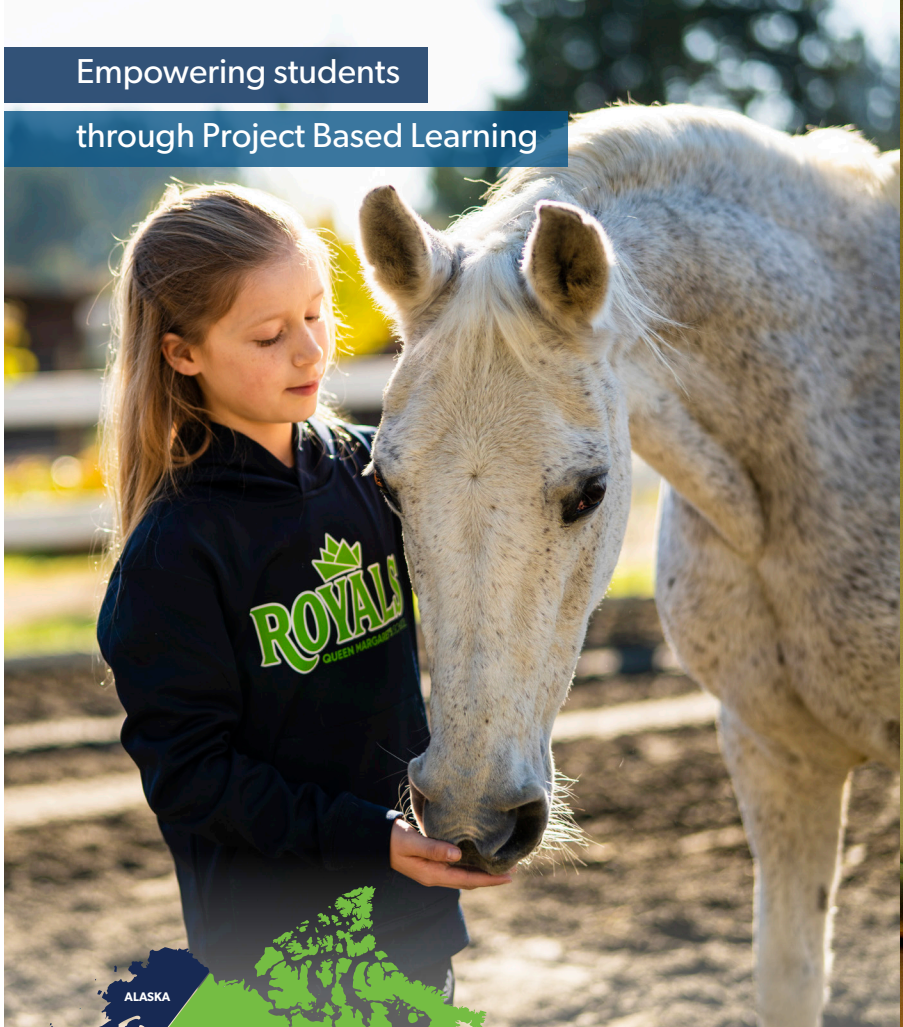
VANCOUVER ISLAND

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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CELEBRATING A CENTURY
1921-2021
QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL

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Grade 8-9 Project Based Learning Program

New world. New challenges. New learning.

Preparing Young Trailblazers



Learning-By-Doing Since 1921

Queen Margaret's School believes strongly that students learn best when they are engaged in "learning by doing." Our pioneering Founders, Norah Denny and Dorothy Geoghegan, thought so too. Did you know that they designed, engineered and built a swimming pool with their students in 1931?

Ahead of their time, the QMS pool was the ultimate Project Based Learning opportunity!

The pool continues to be enjoyed today by our students and has become a fun and enduring reminder of our 100-year legacy of learning-by-doing. Drawing from this inspiration, QMS is ready to take a deep dive into Project Based Learning (PBL) in our Grade 8–9 Middle Years Program.

What big questions will we grapple with as trailblazers in the next 100 years?

What is Project Based Learning?

We want our students to ask big questions! Project Based Learning is a teaching strategy that helps students gain knowledge and skills while working for an extended period of time to tackle an authentic and complex question or challenge.

In our Middle Years Program, learning is relevant, inquiry-based and student centred. Learning does not happen in isolation in the world outside of school so why should it be separated in the classroom?

- Students access the BC curriculum in each unit and gain foundational knowledge to address complex questions – "How might we?"
- PBL is driven by curiosity and sparks hands-on engagement
- Experiential learning opportunities are supported by our 27-acre campus and place-based learning in the Cowichan Valley
- Students gain a deeper understanding of meaningful issues and concepts that are relevant in today's world
- Research shows that PBL prepares students for Senior School and post-secondary education
- Students are empowered to develop their voice; choice is embedded into every unit and questions may be answered in many different ways
- Units are rigorous and provide opportunity for sustained inquiry, reflection, revision and presentation
- Student-centred assessment practices offer feedback and emphasize a growth mindset



A Student-Centred Approach

QMS is proud to offer a Grade 8–9 program that nurtures the developmental and social-emotional needs of students while empowering them to become independent thinkers, problem-solvers, creators and collaborators.

- Students develop important competencies in the areas of self-awareness, responsible decision-making, problem-solving and critical thinking
- Students are supported by a Faculty Advisory (FA)/homeroom co-teaching team consisting of one English/Social Studies specialist and one Science/Math specialist
- FA teams *guide* authentic, integrated learning that encourages wonder while building essential skills in literacy, numeracy, scientific literacy and the humanities
- Co-teaching teams role model collaboration and teamwork as they work toward shared goals
- Small FA's of 12–15 students help foster a culture of care and personalization
- Scheduling flexibility allows for deeper learning, hands-on experiences and a quality over quantity emphasis to learning
- Weekly workshops in our *Equine Facilitated Leadership Development* program emphasize personal growth and leadership skills
- Wellness and social-emotional learning are supported closely by a dedicated Wellness Coordinator, School Counsellor and Learning Support Team

