



*Inspiring Futures*  
*Teaching Excellence, Shaping Character*

*For all students to achieve academic excellence and realize potential in a progressive educational environment.*

*To equip students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to have success at University, and to lead meaningful, fulfilling lives as compassionate and contributing citizens*

**April 24, 2011 - Message from the Head of School**



## ***Core Competencies - Professional Skill Set 2025*** ***--Providing a competitive advantage--***

Dear Parents,

The year was 1976 – Canada’s Prime Minister was Pierre Trudeau, Guy Lafleur was leading Les Habitants to the Stanley Cup, and the top musical performers were Dolly Parton, Elton John and Bob Dylan. The corded lap top television converter had recently been developed and no one (except for Steve Jobs and Bill Gates) knew what a computer was. I was in a 4-5 split at John Ross Robertson Elementary School in Toronto under the tutelage of an excellent teacher named Mrs. Kennedy. She taught me how to enjoy learning.

When I hit the workplace 15 years later, I felt that I had a solid education, but was not fully prepared in the area of computer skills. Although for the most part I have closed the gap, I often wonder how my work would differ if I had more proficient skills in Excel, and higher level programming.

The Grade Fivers today at Aberdeen Hall are a happy lot who think Mr. Gareau is super human. They will be looking for their first “real” jobs in 2025 and we ponder long and hard what professional field awaits them. If the last 20 years are an indication one thing is for certain, they will be surrounded by screens and electronic media.

If we take a moment to briefly explore career compensation and levels of satisfaction, consider the following:

The Top Ten Highest Earning Professions: (MSN Canada)

1. Specialist physicians
2. Judges
3. Senior financial managers
4. Senior managers of goods production, utilities and transportation
5. General practitioners and family physicians
6. Dentists
7. Senior managers of trade broadcasting and other services
8. Lawyers
9. Engineering manager
10. Banking, credit and investment managers

The Top Ten -- Highest Job Satisfaction: (myplan.com)

1. Singers
2. Municipal firefighters
3. Aircraft assemblers

950 Academy Way  
Kelowna, BC  
Canada V1V 3A4

T: 250 491 1270  
F: 250 491 1289

www.aberdeenhall.com  
info@aberdeenhall.com

4. Pediatricians – General.
5. College professors-communications
6. Educational, vocational and school counselors
7. Managers/supervisors and animal husbandry and animal care workers
8. Criminal investigators and special agents
9. College instructors
10. Therapists

The Lowest Job Satisfaction:

1. Mail clerks and mail machine operators
2. Program directors
3. Municipal clerks
4. Food preparation and serving workers (other)
5. Housekeeping cleaners
6. Insurance policy processing clerks
7. Hotel, motel and resort desk clerks
8. Food preparation and serving workers (incl. fast food)
9. Telemarketers
10. Aircraft cargo handling supervisors

When determining future skill sets, we examine these lists and look at the demographics. Our goal is to give our students a long-term competitive advantage.

Ian Cull, UBC's VP of Students, and an Aberdeen Hall Board Member states: "Today's high schools are producing good test-takers, but the students often lack the capacity to be well rounded and engaged students with an interest and facility in sport, music, art, volunteerism and leadership." Further research indicates that professors and managers have identified general deficiencies in:

1. Financial and economic literacy
2. Time management skills
3. Character based education

Aberdeen Hall is working to address these deficiencies. Examples include the implementation of a financial literacy curriculum in the junior grades, the daily and weekly use of our organizational Prep books, and our Character Counts and Cornerstones Programme.

As we design and modify programmes to meet the needs of the future, we work hard to guard the integrity of classic knowledge, values and attitudes, while at the same time, create innovative, relevant and interesting courses.

Aberdeen Hall is creating tomorrow's leaders, and perhaps one of our future alumni will be the next Trudeau, Lafleur or Dylan. If you have comments, please send your thoughts and we will review them in our planning meetings.

Best Regards, *Chris Grieve*

christopher.grieve@aberdeenhall.com