

# GIST

K - GRADE 12

*The Guided Intervention Supported Transition (GIST) Classroom supports children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other developmental delays. The model follows best practice intervention guidelines for supporting students with ASD by:*

- *Providing evidence-based intervention techniques in an intensive, modified classroom setting*
- *Building capacity among classroom staff including teachers and educational assistants for success in the regular classroom.*
- *Transitions back to community schools have been successful using this model.*

## WHAT IS AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER AND HOW DO CHILDREN WITH ASD LEARN?

ASD is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by skill deficits in the areas of social communication and interaction and restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviour. It is a well-known, research-based fact that most children with ASD do not learn through observation alone and require intensive intervention and practice to learn the same skills that “typical” learners acquire naturally. To address this, GIST uses techniques based in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) which is the most research-supported intervention for teaching skills to children with ASD. Applied Behaviour Analysis uses the principles of learning and behaviour (e.g. reinforcement) to systematically teach relevant skills and improve functioning in a real world setting.

## WHAT IS GIST?

GIST is a short term transitional program for children identified with ASD and other developmental delays. GIST provides skill-based assessment and short-term intensive behavioural intervention to students who may not yet have all of the skills required to succeed in their classroom. Each child is accompanied to the GIST classroom by their home school Educational Assistant or Therapeutic Assistant who learns how to identify, measure, and implement various strategies to teach new skills. Professional learning is also offered to home school staff on a regular basis.

## LOCATION

**St. Margaret School**  
7114-98 Street NW

### Admission into GIST is based on:

- A referral made in consultation with the community school, parents, Inclusive or Early Learning Consultant, Specialists and GIST staff.
- Priority may be given based on severity of skill deficits, other supports available and additional factors.

Transportation may be provided.

