



Safe and Caring



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Explore GSACRD's Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Programs

2021 Information Guide

*Great beginnings
start here!*



Faith in Our Students



WELCOME TO

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools

What an exciting time for you and your family!

Kindergarten is the beginning of a new world of learning, discovery and friendship for you and your child. We know that having a child enter kindergarten is a milestone that is met with many emotions including excitement, anticipation, and perhaps, trepidation. It is our hope that we can support you in your child's educational journey beginning with making his/her days with us a wonderful, successful experience.

There are many options and choices for kindergarten. We offer both English and French Immersion programs and several enrollment options. Contact your school principal for more information to find the best fit for your child.

Our **Pre-kindergarten** program is an outstanding option to prepare children of all abilities for success in kindergarten. A screening will be provided to ensure we understand how your child's development can be best supported.

We are an inclusive Division where children of all abilities are welcomed in our classrooms. We support our children to perform academically, thrive socially and become contributing members in their communities. As a Catholic School Division, we know that every child has their own unique God-given gifts and talents. We look forward to exploring your child's talents and developing their strengths.

Great beginnings start here!



Sports & Recreation Academy

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools offers a variety of alternative programming options for your child throughout their educational journey.

SPORTS ACADEMY AND RECREATION ACADEMY - GRADES 4 TO 12

Athletics, Academics, Advantage! The Greater St. Albert Sports Academy is based on the philosophy that students can learn through sport to maintain or improve academic standing and improve sports skills at the same time.

The **Sports Academy** currently is for any grade 4 to 12 boys or girls who have a desire to commit to the program. It is an outstanding opportunity to receive specialized skill and fitness training in hockey, soccer or gymnastics-cheer-dance as well as an enhanced physical education program committed to long term athletic development and physical literacy.

The **Recreation Academy** provides a fun and convenient way to learn new sports, supports long-term athletic development, physical literacy and helps kids develop and expand their physical abilities.

The Academy provides students with individual attention in a Christ-centered environment.

For more information, visit www.sportsacademy.gsacrd.ab.ca

SCHOOLS OFFERING SPORTS OR RECREATION ACADEMY

Albert Lacombe - Gr. 4–6, English Hockey, Soccer, GCD

École Father Jan - Gr. 4–6, French Hockey, Soccer, GCD

Sister Alphonse Academy - Gr. 4–9, English Recreation

Vital Grandin Elementary - Gr. 4–6, English Recreation

Richard S. Fowler - Gr. 7–9, English Hockey, Soccer, GCD, Recreation

St. Kateri Tekakwitha - Gr. 4-5 Hockey and Cheer

Vincent J. Maloney - Gr. 7–9, English Hockey, Soccer, GCD

G.H. Primeau - Gr. 5–8, English and French Imm. Hockey and Cheer

École St. Marguerite d'Youville—Gr. 7–9, French Hockey, Soccer, GCD

École St. Albert Catholic High - Gr. 10–12, English and French (based on demand). Hockey



Pre-Kindergarten

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools' pre-kindergarten program offers learning opportunities in all areas of Early Childhood development. Our staff includes certified teachers, educational assistants and specialists/therapists who help children of all abilities become confident learners.

Your child will gain skills through play, inquiry, creativity, problem solving, social interaction as well as early literacy, language and numeracy activities.

- Our programs are designed for children 2.8 to 4.8 years of age who qualify for Alberta Education funding for a one or two year placement in our program.
- Children who do not qualify for funding may be enrolled for their year prior to kindergarten if space permits. Fees apply.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN LOCATIONS

Bertha Kennedy Catholic Community School 780.458.6101	Vital Grandin Catholic School 780.459.7734
St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy 587.764.0420	Legal School 780.961.3791



PRE-KINDERGARTEN INQUIRY FORM

To find out about a possible placement in one of our programs, parents fill out this **Pre-Kindergarten Inquiry Form**. It is also found on the Pre-K page of our GSACRD website.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN SCREENING

Once the Inquiry Form is completed, our Early Learning Coordinator will contact you if a screen is required. A screening session will help determine if your child will qualify for funding. Note: if an assessment has already been done, a screen may not be required.

INFORMATION

Plan on attending our virtual Expo and school open houses. You may also phone **780.459.7711** for more information.

Parents provide transportation to pre-kindergarten.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is truly a place for your child to grow and learn. Our faith-based kindergarten programs nurture the physical, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual needs of your child.

To enroll in kindergarten, children **must turn 5 years old by December 31**. We offer a range of program options for your child and family. Contact your school regarding the programs they offer.

FRENCH IMMERSION

Getting an early start gives your child more time to become comfortable with a French language classroom before moving to grade one

REGULAR KINDERGARTEN

This is half day programming for children. Programs are offered in either morning or afternoon classes.

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

This is a program choice for families. In the full day program, your child will experience expanded learning opportunities. Fees apply.

PROGRESSIVE KINDERGARTEN

Another program of choice that offers half day classes until the end of March. For the remainder of the year, children attend full day which provides an excellent transition to grade one. Fees apply.

KINDERGARTEN LOCATIONS

Albert Lacombe School (English) 780.459.4478
Bertha Kennedy Catholic Community School (English) 780.458.6101
École Father Jan (French Immersion) 780.458.3300
École Marie Poburan (English) 780.458.1112
J.J. Nearing Catholic Elementary School (English) 780.418.6330
Neil M. Ross Catholic School (English) 780.459.1244
Sister Alphonse Academy (English) 780.809.2996
Vital Grandin Catholic School (English) 780.459.7734
Legal School (English) 780.961.3791
École Notre Dame (English and French Immersion) 780.939.4020
St. Kateri Tekakwitha (English) 780.764.0420



SAY OUI TO

French Immersion

K TO 12

French Immersion is known all over the world as the “Great Canadian Invention” that worked. The French Immersion program is designed for children whose parents do not usually speak French. Children with all types of academic ability can succeed in French Immersion. Many parents and students consider a proficiency of more than one language a valuable investment in the future. Learning subjects in French does not interfere with English language or first language development, in fact, it improves it! Bilingual language program enrolments are on the rise across the country!

Students in French Immersion programs are:

- Accomplished with divergent thinking tasks and with memory ability.
- Strong in their first language skills.
- Better with cross-cultural skills and communicating effectively with people of diverse backgrounds.
- Able to connect with world markets, governments and people; enabling a wide range of opportunities in national and international settings.

- Attractive to employers for their extensive communication, critical thinking, problem solving, and global and cultural citizenship skills.

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools is proud of our French Immersion programs. More than 1,200 GSACRD students are enrolled in this successful program. Our schools that offer French Immersion provide parallel English and French Immersion classes; students are taught the same curriculum as if they were in an English program. Our French Immersion students receive thousands of scholarship dollars, and are ranked at the top provincially for academics.

SCHOOLS OFFERING FRENCH IMMERSION

École Marie Poburan

780.458.1112

École Father Jan

780.458.3300

École Notre Dame

780.939.4020

École Secondaire Sainte Marguerite d'Youville

780.459.5702

École Secondaire St. Albert Catholic High School

780.459.7781

Morinville Community High School

780.939.6891

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WELCOME ALL

Why Attend a Catholic School?

We recognize students as gifts from God and welcome students from all religious backgrounds who wish to participate in a Catholic school environment. Prayer is an integral part of our environment. Many parents of non-Catholic Christian denominations, or no particular faith, are highly satisfied with our programs.

A commitment to a Christ-centered education is reflected in our schools. The uniqueness of our Catholic tradition has been integrated into the curriculum and is evident in the spirit of our schools. We are proud of our very high performing school results. In addition, student engagement in social justice awareness and service, along with placement in highly rated post-secondary schools contribute to fulfilling career paths.

Our school Division continues to provide a heritage of excellence rooted in and centered on the gospel. In this environment, an individual can develop his/her potential to the maximum.

This development includes:

- Christian Attitudes
- Liturgical Formation
- Academic Skills
- Service Opportunities

Our greatest assets are our well-trained dedicated teachers and staff who provide the model and example for our children.