

Kindergarten Parent Information

Welcome to École Holy Cross

This is an exciting time for you and your child. The following information will outline the specific details regarding the Early Learning program at our school. We are sure to have an exciting, fun-filled year of learning!

École Holy Cross offers a unique learning environment as a single-track Catholic French Immersion school. As partners with you and your child, we establish an environment conducive to your child's learning.

Early Numeracy and Literacy

Early numeracy is an umbrella term that encompasses several skills such as verbal **counting**, knowing the number symbols, recognizing quantities, discerning number patterns, comparing numerical magnitudes, and manipulating quantities (i.e. adding and **subtracting** objects from a set). These are skills we focus on during our daily routines in Kindergarten.

Research has shown that a good knowledge base in Early Numeracy has been reliably associated with later math achievement.



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Early literacy is everything children know about reading and writing before they can do it themselves. Research supports the importance of developing early literacy skills. These skills revolve around print motivation (showing interests in books), print awareness (noticing print in the environment), letter knowledge, vocabulary, phonological awareness and narrative skills. All these skills are necessary to develop avid readers. We work on these skills through out our day, every day!

Early Childhood Classroom

(adapted from ECSD Early Learning Guide 2018-2019)

We believe that:

- Children learn by doing, moving, talking and engaging in interactions with adults, other children, and their environment.
- Children are actively engaged, they are clarifying information, integrating ideas from previous experiences, and exploring and experimenting with their environment.
- Children develop their imagination, creativity and ability to solve problems.
- Children actively engage in organized activities, purposeful play, and inquiry-based learning through exploration of materials and their environment. Learner expectations are integrated through learning activities that are developmentally appropriate for young children.
- Children develop confidence and self-esteem.
- Children's social, emotional, intellectual, physical and creative needs are addressed.



Independence

One of the main goals of Kindergarten is for children to develop personal independence.

We work on this by asking our students to try before asking for help. We also teach them that they do not need to be perfect, they need to do their best.

You can help by sending your child to school with clothing, shoes and food containers, which he/she can manage by themselves. At home, you can work with your child to zip coats, do up buttons/snaps and tie laces. It takes a long time to develop these skills and lots of practice.





Here at École Holy Cross, we value our Early Learning Classes. These classes are the base of a life-long learning journey. Our students often come from families that do not speak French at home; we acknowledge this and support our students and their families through these transitions. Our students grow with us through to Grade 9, by which time they can fully understand and communicate in French. This span of grades allows us to create cross-grade projects and activities where the older students are invited to share their knowledge with the younger ones and vice-versa.



The Alberta Project Promoting active Living and healthy Eating (APPLE) Schools, is an innovative school-focused Comprehensive School Health initiative. Healthy, active kids learn better! Developing a healthy school community starts with the school, parents, and community being dedicated to helping improve the healthy eating and active living behaviors of the school as a whole.



Our Makerspaces

At École Holy Cross, students are engaged in their learning! Our two Makerspaces provide the means of engaging students through inquiry. Throughout their units, teachers and students have the opportunity to utilize the multitude of resources in the Makerspaces to enhance or diversify their learning process, and products. Students deepen and personalize their learning through a hands-on minds-on environment, and teachers have a chance to see students collaborating in curriculum-based design projects.



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École Holy Cross accepts students
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Many voices...one world
Unité en diversité