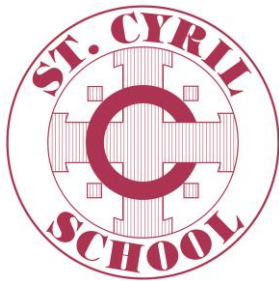


ST. CYRIL SCHOOL

Home of the Sabres



KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

2018-2019

It is our pleasure to welcome you to St Cyril School. We sincerely anticipate that your child's experience in our kindergarten program will be enjoyable, exciting and rewarding. It is also our hope that you, as parents/legal guardians, will become involved in your child's program, either through classroom activities, parent nights and/or field trips.

1. PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN-TEACHER-CHILD CONFERENCE

This is a very important visit for your child, yourself and the teacher. Through the twenty-minute visit, we have an opportunity to become acquainted with you and your child. While your child is in the classroom, we ask you to complete information forms. The conferences will take place on **September 4,5,6 and 7,2018.**

2. STAGGERED ENTRY (SMALL GROUP VISIT) - SEPTEMBER 10 AND 11, 2018

Early in the school year, teachers meet with the kindergarten children in small groups to ease the transition from home to school. This small classroom visit will be determined on registration day. On these days, parents/legal guardians will drop the children off at the elementary doors. The first full day of classes with all kindergarten students present is **Wednesday, September 12, 2018.**

RATIONALE OF THE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Early childhood is a very important stage in human development. Children begin to explore independence, initiative, decision-making, creativity, the ability to learn and explore feelings of self-worth. What children learn at this point in their lives will impact on successful learning experiences in school, on personal development and on future participation in society. The purpose of the kindergarten program is to provide hands-on learning experiences to meet the diverse needs of children and to prepare them for entry into grade one.

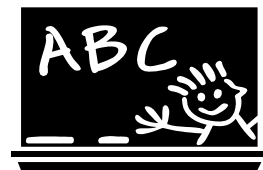
PRINCIPLES OF PROGRAMMING

Your child's kindergarten program will be created based on the following principles:

- 1 Young children develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that prepare them for subsequent learning.
- 2 All children have access to interventions and alternate strategies to meet their needs to prepare them for further learning.
- 3 Young children build a shared set of experiences and participate as active partners in learning.
- 4 Parents/guardians have the opportunity for meaningful involvement in the education of their young children.
- 5 Coordinated community services are available to meet the needs of young children.

PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

Your child will participate in **six major learning areas**:



1. Spiritual Awareness
2. Communication: Literacy and Numeracy
3. Community and Environmental Awareness
4. Creative and Cultural Expression
5. Physical Skills and Well-Being
6. Personal and Social Responsibility

LEARNING AREAS OF THE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SPIRITUAL AWARENESS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐☐ Awareness of God and gifts God has given us ☐☐ Learn about love, friendships, sharing, caring (qualities Jesus demonstrated) ☐☐ Awareness of religious holidays ☐☐ Participate in celebrations ☐☐ Understand and create own prayer to God ☐☐ Learn about some stories in the Bible 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PHYSICAL SKILLS AND WELL-BEING</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐☐ Develops basic movement and coordination skills ☐☐ Manipulates small equipment ☐☐ Ability to move to a beat and music ☐☐☐ Demonstrates dexterity and precision in the use of: scissors, printing, drawing, buttons, zippers ☐☐☐ Understanding the importance of: safety rules, healthy food choices, physical activity, personal information
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PERSONAL/SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐☐☐ Relates positively to adults and cooperates with peers ☐☐☐ Shares and takes turn ☐☐☐ Expresses feelings in an appropriate manner ☐☐☐ Displays self-confidence and demonstrates a positive attitude towards learning ☐☐☐ Demonstrates independence and responsibility ☐☐☐ Follows directions, class rules and routines ☐☐☐ Completes tasks independently and on time ☐☐☐ Respects the property of others 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>LITERACY AND NUMERACY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐☐☐ Expresses ideas through drawings ☐☐☐ Appreciates literature ☐☐☐ Develops pre-reading skills: read pictures, recognize letters, sounds, and words. ☐☐☐ Develops pre-writing skills: labels work, copies words, uses inventive spelling ☐☐☐ Sequences stories/ideas ☐☐☐ Understand story structure, characters ☐☐☐ Build a meaningful vocabulary ☐☐☐ Solve simple problems ☐☐☐ Create, extend, and recognize patterns ☐☐☐ Develop sorting/graphing skills ☐☐☐ Number recognition, order, and counting ☐☐☐ Identifies basic shapes ☐☐☐ Measures length, capacity and weight develops a sense of temperature, time, shape and space
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐☐☐ Uses materials in a variety of ways ☐☐☐ Uses imagination in creative play, drama, written work and paintings ☐☐☐ Develops the skills of asking questions and to give diverse answers to questions ☐☐☐ Participate in songs, poems, and chants 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>COMMUNITY/ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐☐☐ Curious and willing to learn about the environment and community ☐☐☐ Demonstrates awareness of similarities and differences between self and others ☐☐☐ Explores and interprets familiar places and things in the environment and community.

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT

Parent/legal guardian involvement in the program is an important aspect of the kindergarten philosophy. Parents/legal guardians, whether working outside the home or in the home, have many opportunities to become involved with their child's program.

WAYS IN WHICH PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS CAN BE INVOLVED:

1. Attending meetings at school, e.g. parent/legal guardian orientation night.
2. Becoming an active member on the School Council.
3. Volunteering in the classroom and/or on field trips.
4. Attending and/or assisting at special events.
5. Preparing instructional materials for the teacher at home.
6. Attending parent/legal guardian-teacher-student interviews.
7. Enriching the program by sharing special skills, knowledge and interest.



WHY HAVE KINDERGARTEN VOLUNTEERS?

- 1 To enlist and strengthen the cooperation of parents/legal guardians in the education of their children.
- 2 To provide help to the teacher and children.
- 3 To develop an environment that encourages friendly two-way communication between home and school.
- 4 To assist parents in becoming more aware of child development, the learning process and the program.

WHEN DO VOLUNTEERS BEGIN ASSISTING IN THE CLASSROOM?

During the month of September, the children require time to become acquainted with their teacher and adjust to their new environment. **Volunteering in the classroom begins in October.** It is necessary for **all parents/guardians/non-parent volunteers (e.g. grandparents)**, to attend a **Volunteer Orientation** session on your first visitation with the administration team of St. Cyril School. Volunteer packages are available at the main office or on the school website at <https://www.cssd.ab.ca/schools/stcyril>



INDOOR SHOES

Please send a **labelled pair of indoor runners** for your child to wear in the school, which will **remain in the classroom**. Boots or outdoor shoes are not allowed in the classroom. Children must **wear their indoor shoes at all times** for safety and fire drill reasons. *Please ensure that your child knows how to fasten and unfasten their shoes independently.*



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

You can purchase school supplies through **Custom School Supplies**. The supplies will be delivered to the school at the end of August. Pay with credit card or your PayPal account. Order online at www.customschoolsupplies.ca . Just click on "Order Now" The School Code is: CYRIL2018School supplies. Deadline for ordering supplies is June 30, 2018.

SCHOOL BAGS

We ask that **each child have a backpack** to bring to school every day. This ensures that **notes, snack, artwork, etc. will not be lost** on the journey home. Please ensure your child's backpack is an **appropriate size** (must be able to fit a large library book) for carrying school related items.

SNACK

Each child will bring his/her own **nutritious** snack to school each day. Please ensure the snack is **peanut and nut free.**



SCHOOL FEES

The kindergarten school fee is **\$90.00**. Please go to <https://www.cssd.ab.ca/schools/stcyril> and click the **Online Fee Payment** tab on the left-hand side of the page.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL



The most **efficient means of communication** with parents/guardians is through our **updated notes, letters, phone calls, email and monthly newsletters**. Please make note of the information sent home to you. Monthly newsletters will be **posted on the St. Cyril School website** (under the kindergarten tab) as well as emailed to you if you have provided your email address.

Feeling under the weather?

If your **child has not been well**, please **keep them at home** until you are sure they have recovered. Please ensure that we have **up-to-date work and emergency phone contacts** for your child in the event of sudden **illness or injury**. If your child will be absent, please **call the office** prior to **9 am**. You can also **send the office a message regarding attendance** from our school website, click on "Contact Us" (ignore the high volume 48 hours prompt as the email is directly linked to our school secretary) or send an email directly to gayle.walden@ccsd.ab.ca In the email indicate the **first and last name of the student** and the **reason** they will be away - **illness, doctor appointment, etc.** Parents/legal guardians **will be phoned** by our computer system at 10 am (this is a centralized computer program) if you have not notified the school of your child's absence.

Progressive Discipline

The kindergarten program provides a **positive approach to discipline**. Children must be given the opportunity to **resolve difficulties, learn personal responsibility, and develop self-control**. In the event of disruptive behaviour, the **teacher will attempt to re-direct** a child's attention to **more positive behaviour**. If a child does not respond to suggestions he/she will be removed from the present activity to a **"Time-out"** situation (within the classroom) until he/she is able to return in a controlled manner.

St. Cyril School Bell Times for 2018-2019

<u>Kindergarten</u> ❖ Entry bell 8:55 ❖ Dismissal 11:39	<u>Grade 1 to 9</u> ❖ Entry 8:55 to 3:15 ❖ Lunch 12:07 – 12:47 ❖ Recess 2:00 to 2:15 ❖ Dismissal 3:15
--	--

READINESS FOR SCHOOL

Many parents/legal guardians approach the teacher and ask if their child is ready to enter school. Here is a list of characteristics that contributes to the success of kindergarten students entering school.

1. **PUTTING ON CLOTHES:** Your child should be able to put on their coat, outer clothing and shoes. It is helpful if they can button, use zippers or other fasteners.
2. **HYGIENE HABITS:** Please ensure that your child can use washroom facilities independently.
3. **SPEECH AND TALKING:** They can talk in short, easy sentences. Age appropriate speech is necessary for proper communication. Parents/legal guardians should encourage their child to express his/her needs and wants verbally.
4. **FOCUSING SKILLS:** Your child should be able to focus on independent tasks, to listen, and sit quietly for durations of ten minutes.
5. **USING CRAYONS AND SCISSORS:** They should have had experiences using fine motor materials i.e. pencils, crayons, scissors. They should be able to draw with some purpose and express what they have drawn. **(Please ensure your child has had practice printing their name using lower case letters)**
6. **COLOURS AND SHAPES:** Your child should be familiar with colours and shapes.
7. **INTERACTIONS:** Your child should be able to cooperate with their peers and play in large and small group settings.
8. **PARENT DEPARTURE:** Your child can be separated from parent/legal guardian/caregiver without crying easily.

A strong partnership between home and school will reinforce your child's learning. Our objective is to make school a fun, exciting and enjoyable experience. Please give some thought and consideration to additional ways of assuring a positive entry to kindergarten by engaging in some of the following activities during the summer.

1. Join and use the public library--make reading a part of every day.
2. Read books about going to school.
3. Have reading and writing materials available in your home; encouraging exploration.
4. Talk and discuss experiences with your child (i.e.) special trips, road signs, holidays, etc.
5. Praise your child on things they can do. Be patient when your child is learning new tasks.
6. Keep your child healthy--get adequate rest and nutrition.
7. Limit television and electronic screen time viewing to educational programs.
8. Encourage child chores and family responsibilities at home.
9. Practice good manners with your child.
10. Discuss letters, numbers, and words in their everyday environment (i.e.) food signs, phone numbers, names, etc.
11. Discuss what your child will do in school--meet new friends, have play time, have work time, colour, draw, cut, make crafts, count, etc.
- 12.

SCHEDULES EXAMPLE CLASSROOM SCHEDULE

Classroom Routine

The kindergarten classroom is an **ever-changing and dynamic learning environment**. The classroom routine is designed to be **flexible** so as to respond to the **needs of the children**, to make **a place for special events** in the classroom and for scheduled **field trips**.

General Schedule

This is a sample only. A schedule will be developed considering library, physical education, etc., times.

Opening Activities: songs, prayer, attendance, calendar, sharing time

Daily Physical Activity / Health

Theme - discussions, games, new vocabulary, songs, finger plays, early literacy and numeracy

Snack

Shared Writing/ Journal / Math games

Social Skills development

Centre Time

Closing Activities - clean up, story, song and prayers

Themes covered in class vary according to **interests and seasons** and last anywhere from **one week to one month**. Activities, vocabulary and songs are based on these themes.

Thank you for becoming a partner with St. Cyril School

