



# Maple Ridge School Science Program

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

learning | **as unique** | as every student



Calgary Board  
of Education

## Alternative Programs



## Choice | Alternative Programs

- Indigenous Education
- Arts-Centred
- All Boys
- All Girls
- Languages (French, German, Mandarin, Spanish)
- Montessori
- Science
- Traditional Learning Centre (TLC)

## Alternative Programs



## Why Alternative Programs?

- Providing families choices to appeal to the interests and preferences of each student
- Programs focus on a particular language, culture, subject (Arts, Science), or teaching philosophy
- Informed choice is essential – what is THIS particular program about and how does it meet MY child's needs?



## Alternative Programs



## Inform | Key Messages

- Each program has unique features
- Integrity of the program remains the same across sites
- All sites follow Alberta Programs of Study with ATA certificated teachers
- All schools requiring a lottery follow the CBE lottery process
- Aligned with system timeframe for registration
- There is a designated Alternative Program school for each home address

## Alternative Programs



## Timeline | Registration/Lottery

- Opens **January 15, 2024**
  - Closed noon on Tuesday before Teachers' Convention (**February 13, 2024**)
- Lottery drawn on Wednesday before Teachers' Convention (**February 14, 2024**)
- Results of the lottery draw sent within 10 business days of the draw (**February 29, 2024**)
- Parents must accept/decline within 10 business days from the date of the acceptance letter

## Alternative Programs



## Inform | Lottery Process

- Where a program is oversubscribed the lottery process will be employed
- Registrations are categorized using 3 priorities:
  - Priority 1 - siblings in walk zone
  - Priority 2 - walk zone, no siblings or outside walk zone with sibling
  - Priority 3 – designated attendance area
- Notification of acceptance via letter or email by 10 business days after the lottery ([March 14, 2024](#))



# School Engage | Expression of Interest

## Alternative Programs



**Not** a current CBE student: Registration is required. Go to [www.cbe.ab.ca/registration](http://www.cbe.ab.ca/registration)  
Register your child through School Engage

**Current** CBE student: Complete the Expression of Interest Form through School Engage:

- by noon on February 14, 2024 for schools in lottery; **and**
- until further notice for all other Alternative Programs

All Expression of Interests are based on Priority Lists as stated in Administrative Regulation 6090 | Child and Student Registration and Admission.

- Completing an Expression of interest does not guarantee acceptance into an alternative program.
- Registration will not occur until a family receives an offer of acceptance and an invitation to register.

Please ensure you fill out ALL sections of School Engage when registering, uploading all pertinent documents helps streamline the registration process.

## Alternative Programs



## Inform | Transportation

- K-4 yellow bus transportation provided following CBE congregated stop guidelines for alternative programs
- Parents pay an annual fee for CBE yellow bus service or purchase monthly Calgary Transit passes
- Congregated stops are reviewed annually and informed by pre-registration for transportation, online through **MyCBE/PowerSchool**
- Congregated stops may not be within walking distance and alternate arrangements may be required to access the congregated stop



## Science Program



## Elements of the Science Program

- an emphasis on the development of scientific literacy
- a focus on critical thinking through science and technology perspectives across subject areas using Alberta Education curriculum
- extensive field studies to enhance classroom inquiry (approximately 10 per year) across all seasons

# Differences and similarities with community school programs:

## Science Program



### Differences:

- Students learn through the “lens of science”
- Focus on inquiry-based learning
- Mandatory field studies
- Blended CTF program
- Focus on journaling

### Similarities:

- *Alberta Curriculum*
- Daily Physical Education
- Character
- Citizenship
- Personal Development

## Science Program



## The Science Program classroom:

- engages students through the practice of scientific inquiry and experiential learning
- engages with experts in the field of science and technology
- explores opportunities to participate in science across all areas of the curriculum
- instills a collaborative approach to seeking solutions to complex problems



## Science Program



## A Science Program student...

- has a love of science and curiosity about how the world works
- has a willingness to take risks in learning and is comfortable with ambiguity
- exemplifies a resiliency for learning in outdoor environments in all weather conditions



## Science Program



## Other considerations:

- extra field study fee per student for whole class day trips
- parent commitment to volunteer for field studies (3 times per year per child)
- transportation fee
- lunchroom supervision fee (gr. 1-6)
- student supply fee
- field experience fees

## Science Program



## School-specific information

- Music Specialist
- Educational assistants provide support for students who require additional support. The number of education assistants varies each year.
- Administrative team believes in working closely with students and families to support the social, emotional and academic growth of each child.



# Agenda



- Characteristics of a Science Student
- Science Program
- Field Studies
- Connecting with Experts
- Active Exploration
- Journaling
- Common Practices
- Schoolwide Events
- iLab
- Questions

# Characteristics of a Science School Student

- Willing to share ideas, theories, and ask questions
- Inquisitive and curious
- Able to focus and engage in collaborative tasks, discussions, and independent journaling tasks





- Enjoys and is comfortable learning in the outdoors
- Enjoys going on long walks and being outdoors for extended periods of time
- Able to adjust to changes in routine and environment
- Enjoys collaborative learning
- Comfortable making mistakes





# Science School Program

- Learning through the Lens of Science
- Building authentic learning inquiries from student questions, investigations, interests, and ideas





# Field Studies



- Building on student questions/investigations
- Journaling, documenting experiences, data collection

- Connecting to the outdoors
- Integral part of our program
- Approx. 20 field studies/guest speakers in a year
- Parent Involvement





Field studies learning lives on in the classroom:

- Integration of field studies to support and enhance learning
- Integration of Program of Studies
- Journaling
- Classroom partnerships (ex. FinS)





# Field Study Locations



Some places we have visited include:

- Community Walks & Carburn Park
- Fish Creek Park- various locations
- Calgary Tower
- Canmore Geoscience Museum
- Pearce Estate Park
- St. Patrick's Island
- Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area
- Calgary Zoo
- Kananaskis
- Mt. Yamnuska
- Troll Falls
- Bow Habitat Station
- Leighton Center for the Arts
- Studio Bell
- Telus Spark
- Royal Tyrell Museum
- Ralph Klein Park



# Connecting with Experts



- Disciplinary-based Inquiry





# Active Exploration



# Journals



For:

- Documenting understanding
- Reflecting on experiences
- Showing theories
- Scientific drawings
- Data collection and recording
- Asking questions
- Incorporating scientific language



# Common Practices

- Exploration/Inquiry time
- Large group learning
- Guided literacy and numeracy instruction
- Music
- Journaling (field study, design tasks, math, inquiry, personal writing)
- Collaborative, hands-on tasks
- iLab for STEAM/design thinking
- Outdoor learning
- Healthy snack
- Daily Physical Education
- Lunch/Recess
- Daily reading



# Integrated School Wide Events



- School wide community building (ex. Kindness week)
- Design challenges related to special events (ex. Canstruction)
- 'Follow Your Passion' Fridays
- Cross-grade projects and learning opportunities
- Flexible, common learning spaces
- Outdoor learning environment (ex. Book walk)

# Learning Commons / iLab



- Maker Space
- STEAM design tasks
- Design Thinking
- Exploration
- Tinkering
- Collaboration
- Robotics / Coding

Imagine  
Inquire  
Innovate  
Inspire





# Questions





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