

MY CHILD'S LEARNING: A PARENT RESOURCE CUSTOMIZED INFO SHEET



Art

In the Grade 1 Art program, your child will draw and paint and explore printmaking, sculpture, fabric arts, photography and computer graphics. They will interpret and communicate with visual symbols, appreciate the cultural aspects of art, and relate art to their life. Through reflection, depiction, composition and expression, they will notice that objects have form and function and they will develop unique decorative styles for their creations. Still curious? Refer to the [program of studies](#) for more information about Grade 1 Art.

English Language Arts

Grade 1 students learn by listening and speaking, reading and writing, and viewing and representing ideas in different ways. Your child will see and use patterns, like rhyme and sounds, to learn new words, categorize ideas and understand basic story writing. In turn, they will be encouraged to share and interact with peers and teachers in their own words. For more about Grade 1 English Language Arts, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Health and Life Skills

Your child will understand why it is important to have good health habits, such as taking care of their teeth, washing their hands and eating healthy snacks. They'll learn how some things around the house can be dangerous to them. Through their interactions, they'll see that they can express their feelings in ways that sometimes can be good and that sometimes hurt others. Your child will also discover their own skills and interests, seeing that not everyone is the same. For more about Grade 1 Health and Life Skills, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Mathematics

Grade 1 students

- count to 100 in different ways (e.g., skip-counting by 5s and 10s)
- show, describe and compare quantities to 20
- recognize groups of 1–10 objects at a glance
- understand and apply strategies for addition facts up to and including $9 + 9$ and related subtraction facts
- recall addition facts to a sum of 5 and related subtraction

facts

- solve a problem and talk about how they did it and why
- connect numbers to everyday life, such as while reading a story or solving problems that involve the number of people in their family
- recognize and create repeating patterns
- sort objects, using one characteristic, and explain the sorting rule
- compare, sort and reproduce 2-D shapes and 3-D objects
- use measurements to order and compare objects

For more about Grade 1 Mathematics, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Music

Your Grade 1 child will listen to, make and move to music. They will describe the sounds around them and explore beats and rhythms. Through simple action songs and singing games (where students might sing alone or in a group), by following stories told by music, and by using rhythm instruments, they will begin to understand how music can express feelings. Your child will also add their own sounds and rhythms to poems, stories and songs. For more about Grade 1 Music, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Physical Education

Your child will participate in dance, games, gymnastics, individual physical activities and activities outside of school, such as aquatics and outdoor pursuits. Through active and safe participation, they will understand what an active lifestyle involves and how their physical and emotional health will benefit from physical activity. Your child will also discover how positive interactions, through fair play, leadership and teamwork, make physical activity more fun and productive. For more information, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Exemptions from Physical Education

Exemptions from participation in physical education may be given for medical conditions, when a medical certificate from a doctor is presented to the principal; for religious beliefs, when a statement in writing from a parent is presented to the principal; and when access to facilities is prohibitive. When

exemption is granted, activities consistent with the program outcomes should be substituted, where appropriate.

School boards are required to ensure that all students in grades 1 to 9 are physically active for a minimum of 30 minutes daily through activities organized by the school. Schools are responsible for creating and nurturing a learning environment for students that supports the development of healthy and active lifestyles.

Science

Students learn by watching and doing. Through inquiry and problem solving, they discover the environment in which they live and play, and their role in it. In Grade 1 Science, your child will explore colours, how they can be mixed and how they can be transferred to different materials, and they'll explore the pattern of seasons, how the five senses are used to gather information and what plants and animals need in order to live and grow. Your child will recognize the components that make up objects, and they'll problem solve, using common materials, to build their own objects. Want to know more about Grade 1 Science? Refer to the [program of studies](#).

Social Studies

Your Grade 1 child will discover the importance of strong communities. They'll consider their own growth and how they are affected by community members. They'll see the many aspects of communities, including community history, and explore your family history. Your child will accept and identify with those around them, while growing to understand their own responsibilities as an individual. For more about Grade 1 Social Studies, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Religious Education in Separate Schools

New Religious Education Program: *Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ*

In 2012, a new *Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document* was written and accepted by the Catholic Bishops of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories for Catholic education. To respond to the new Catholic Curriculum Policy Document, there is a new program and resource, *Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ*, which is being developed collaboratively by Catholic educators from across Canada and Pearson Education.

The religious education program is structured around the Church liturgical year, which is based on the life of Jesus

Christ. This enables students to live and express faith in an integrated way at school, at home and in the parish community. The new religious education program reflects the contents of faith expressed in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) and follows the rationale and methodology of *The General Directory for Catechesis* (GDC) where the Six Tasks of Catechesis are the basis of the curriculum (GDC 85–86).

Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ mirrors the GDC's Six Tasks of Catechesis:

- Believing (Promoting the Knowledge of Faith)
- Celebrating (Liturgical Education)
- Living a Moral Life (Moral Formation)
- Praying (Teaching to Pray)
- Living in Communion (Education for Community Life)
- Living in Solidarity (Missionary Initiation)

The religious education program is being updated over the next several years. The new program, and its resource, *Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ*, was implemented at the Grade 1 level during the 2015–2016 school year. Grades 2 and 3 will be implemented during the 2016–2017 school year, Grade 4 in 2017–2018, grades 5 and 6 in 2018–2019, and grades 7, 8 and 9 will follow no later than 2019–2020.

General Information about Religious Education

Religious education is an essential and integral part of the life and culture of a Catholic school. Through religious education, students are invited to develop the knowledge, beliefs, skills, values and attitudes needed to build a relationship with God and community through the person of Jesus Christ. In Catholic schools, students participate in a religious education program that is authorized by the Bishop of the local diocese.

Religious education shares the same goals and objectives set forth for all good education; that is, the growth and development of the whole person in all his or her dimensions—physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual.

Religious education has four essential characteristics.

- It is **Trinitarian**. It recognizes God as the creator of all things who gives us Jesus. It is Jesus who reveals God to us, and in turn reveals God's Spirit, through whom we understand our faith.
- It is based on **Sacred Scripture** through which we hear

the mystery of God revealed, we hear the call to be in relationship with God and each other, and we learn how to pray.

- It is based on the **life experience** of the students through which they are invited to discern signs of God in their daily lives.
- It is presented within the tradition of the **Catholic faith community** which, based on Church teachings and sacramental and liturgical life, provides students with experiences of faith, prayer, love and justice.

With an awareness of the uniqueness of each student and a recognition that religious development takes place through a process of stages and within a community, it is expected that program presentation will vary from place to place to meet the diverse learning and religious formation needs of all students. Some school jurisdictions have developed supplementary resources and adapted the program to better meet local needs.

The school, working with the local parish, complements parents in their role as principal educators of their children. Home and family play a vitally important role in the faith development of children. Within the family, seeds of faith are planted. Family relationships and daily experiences are major factors in shaping a child's values, attitudes and Catholic identity. Regular religious practice and the application of classroom learning to daily life are critical parts of religious formation.

Prayer is an integral part of the religious education program and of each school day since intimacy with God is the ultimate goal of catechesis. Respecting the individual differences of children and our changing human needs, prayer is experienced in many different ways: silent reflection, guided imagery, scriptural prayer, song and formal community prayer. As we enter into prayer, we give praise and thanks for God's loving presence, and call upon the Spirit to guide, nourish and empower our lives through Jesus Christ.

Teaching the sacraments occurs within the religious education program. Sacraments celebrate the presence of Christ in our lives. They are effective signs that make God's grace present to us in love, healing and the transformation of our lives. Eucharist and Reconciliation are an essential part of each child's religious formation and a necessary grounding for a mature faith. As with many basic themes, Eucharist and Reconciliation are introduced in Grade 1 but continue to be deepened and intensified in each year thereafter. Children who have not yet celebrated First Communion or First

Reconciliation are always welcome to contact their parish to begin their immediate preparation for the sacraments.

The religious education program interprets for students what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches about our faith in a manner appropriate to the age and development of the students. Not everything in the Catechism is incorporated because, as the Catechism itself points out, what is taught must be adapted to the "differences of culture, age, spiritual maturity, and social and ecclesial conditions among all those to whom it is addressed" (#24). Specific excerpts are quoted for the teacher at the end of each theme to help root the contents and activities of the theme in Church tradition.

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Grade 1 Religious Education

Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ

The Grade 1 program, and its resource, *Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ (2015)*, follows the liturgical year, respecting the different seasons with all the moods and colours found in them. Drawing on various stories from Scripture, children will learn the mood and meaning of all of the Church seasons. Each season has its own theological emphasis, guiding the children through the story of salvation to inform and form them. The Grade 1 program fits within the Church's evangelizing mission that we are all united as one in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

In Grade 1, your child will explore the six tasks of catechesis in an age-appropriate and engaging manner through five units that revolve around the liturgical year:

Unit 1: I Am a Child of God

Unit 2: The Road to Bethlehem

Unit 3: My Life in Jesus

Unit 4: The Story of Lent

Unit 5: Jesus Is Always with Us

For more about Grade 1 Religious Education, contact your child's teacher.