

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



Art

Your Grade 2 child will draw and paint and explore printmaking, sculpture, fabric arts, photography and computer graphics. They will use various techniques to develop decorative styles for the things they create. Your child will interpret and communicate with visual symbols, appreciate the cultural aspects of art, and relate art to their life. Want to know more about Grade 2 Art? Refer to the [program of studies](#).

English Language Arts

Grade 2 students share ideas and personal experiences with others. They think about how their own stories compare with their friends' stories. By further developing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, your child will create, write and type their stories and use their language skills to help others. Your child will discover new words by sounding them out, thinking about how the words are used and looking at pictures. They will identify main characters, places and events and will invent stories with beginnings, middles and endings. For more about Grade 2 English Language Arts, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Health and Life Skills

Your child will understand how to take care of their body by keeping active and by eating healthy foods. They'll become aware of how to answer the phone and door safely and who to trust in the neighbourhood; e.g., the police or Block Parents. By organizing their desk and volunteering around the school, your child will learn how to set goals and get things done. For more about Grade 2 Health and Life Skills, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Mathematics

Grade 2 students

- count to 100 in many different ways (e.g., count by 5s starting at 35 and going to 100)
- compare and order numbers to 100 and know whether a number is even or odd
- show, describe and compare quantities to 100, using objects, pictures and numbers
- understand and apply strategies for addition facts up to and including $9 + 9$ and related subtraction facts

- recall addition facts up to and including $5 + 5$ and related subtraction facts
- add and subtract numbers to 100
- talk about how they solve problems
- connect numbers, shapes and time frames to everyday life (e.g., relate the number of days to a week)
- recognize and create repeating and increasing patterns
- construct 2-D shapes and 3-D objects
- use graphs to communicate information
- measure using nonstandard tools such as a hand span

For more about Grade 2 Mathematics, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Music

Your Grade 2 child will make their own melodies and play simple rhythms. They will understand that rhythms can be paired with melodies and that printed symbols show the direction of a melody. They will find that melodies rise and fall and that music comes in different tempos. Exposed to many folk, ethnic, seasonal and holiday songs, your child will also explore movements in response to music. For more about Grade 2 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

Your child will compare liquids based on how they interact with other materials. They'll design, test and build floating objects; explore heating and cooling of materials; and learn to measure temperature using a thermometer. Hands-on learning occurs as your child "plays" with magnets to identify, compare and predict how materials can be attracted or repelled. Your child will get outside and in the dirt to describe small flying and crawling creatures, like insects or slugs. They will learn what these critters eat, or who eats them, and what helps them survive. For more about Grade 2 Science, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Social Studies

Your child will closely study an Inuit, an Acadian and a prairie community to help them understand how communities develop. They will explore how geography, language, culture and economics—among other things—help to make each community unique. Your child will also examine the importance of history in shaping each community's values, beliefs and situations. Through their study, they will begin to appreciate Canada's vast and diverse landscape. For more about Grade 2 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.

The religious education program is structured around the Church liturgical year. This enables students to live and express faith in an integrated way at school, at home and in the parish community.

Grade 2 Religious Education

Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ

The Grade 2 program, and its resource, *Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ (2016)*, 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 2 program fits nicely within the Church's evangelizing mission.

In Grade 2, 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 and understanding the Mass:

Unit 1: We Belong to God's Family

Unit 2: The Road to Bethlehem

Unit 3: Jesus Guides Us

Unit 4: The Story of Lent and Easter

Unit 5: We Are Blessed in Faith

For more about Grade 2 Religious Education, contact your child's teacher.