

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

## Art

Grade 3 Art focuses on developing more realistic treatments, refining forms and looking carefully at the qualities of objects. Your child will explore different ways to draw and paint and to do printmaking, sculpture, fabric arts, photography and computer graphics. They will begin to experiment with mixing media. Your child will also express their feelings and ideas through their creations, and work on improving art pieces through critique. For more about Grade 3 Art, refer to the [program of studies](#).

## English Language Arts

Grade 3 students can share their ideas *and* those of others in different ways, using new words, more impressive sounds and more interesting characters. Your child will describe people and things with words like "happy" or "soft" and do so by printing and learning to handwrite like the big kids do! By noticing patterns of letters, they will identify words that are misspelled; and they will be encouraged to ask questions and present ideas, one topic at a time. For more about Grade 3 English Language Arts, refer to the [program of studies](#).

## Health and Life Skills

Grade 3 students understand that turning off the TV or video games to be physically active is a good choice, and as important as eating well. Your child will know how to handle an emergency and how to stay safe in such places as the beach, the farm and their own neighbourhood. They will explore ways to deal with stress and change, and learn how to build stronger friendships, even with people very different than themselves. Your child will also develop their test-taking skills. Still curious? Refer to the [program of studies](#) for more information about Grade 3 Health and Life Skills.

## Mathematics

Grade 3 students

- describe quantities to 1000
- understand, apply and recall addition facts up to and including  $9 + 9$  and related subtraction facts
- understand and recall multiplication facts to  $5 \times 5$  and related division facts
- understand fractions as a part of a whole

- compare fractions with the same denominators
- understand and determine perimeter for regular and irregular shapes
- solve one-step addition and subtraction equations, using symbols
- create increasing and decreasing patterns
- measure time, mass and length
- describe and sort shapes, using more than one characteristic
- collect information and construct bar graphs
- organize data, using charts, lists and graphs, in order to solve problems

For more about Grade 3 Mathematics, refer to the [program of studies](#).

## Music

Students in Grade 3 explore the wide world of music! Through folk, square and traditional ethnic dances, and by singing rounds and partner songs, your child will understand that musical beats can be grouped in different ways and that two or more melodies can exist in one song. Your child will move their body to show what music looks like to them, listen to different kinds of musical instruments and recognize that sounds are made in different ways. For more about Grade 3 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

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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 explore how sound is produced by vibrations and how the size and rate of vibrations relate to loudness and the pitch of a sound. They'll also learn about animal life cycles, such as that of a butterfly, and how animals adapt to their environments. They'll problem-solve and build structures, using various materials they have tested for strength and stability. Your child will also use simple tests and tools to describe and classify rocks and minerals based on characteristics like colour and hardness. For more about Grade 3 Science, refer to the [program of studies](#).

## Social Studies

Your Grade 3 child will study life in other parts of the world and discover shared ground among all people. By examining communities in India, Tunisia, Peru and Ukraine, they will discover common needs and how people's quality of life varies around the world. Your child will explore the concept of a global community and Canada's role within it. For more about Grade 3 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

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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 3 Religious Education**

*Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ*

The Grade 3 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 3 program fits nicely within the Church's evangelizing mission.

In Grade 3, 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 a deeper understanding of the Holy Spirit:

Unit 1: Our Catholic Community

Unit 2: The Road to Bethlehem

Unit 3: Born of the Spirit

Unit 4: Our Journey Through Lent and Easter

Unit 5: The Promise of the Holy Spirit

For more about Grade 3 Religious Education, contact your child's teacher.