

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



Art

Grade 4 students further develop techniques in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, fabric arts, photography and computer graphics, and they mix media for new experiences. They express feelings and ideas through their art and try to make their art look more like things in real life. Your child will study the visual qualities of objects and compare different objects and forms. Improving techniques and artistic work is important this year. For more about Grade 4 Art, refer to the [program of studies](#).

English Language Arts

Grade 4 students ask questions and think about others' ideas. They introduce new words they've learned in other subjects and tell stories in fun ways. They notice new spelling patterns, refine their ability to dig for information and learn new features on their computer to express their personal experiences. By using props, pictures and their own belongings, they share their ideas in more colourful ways. They work together on group projects and learn to respect the ideas of others. For more about Grade 4 English Language Arts, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Health and Life Skills

Your child will come to understand that, to stay healthy, they need to eat many different types of food, be active and avoid the dangers and risks of smoking. They'll learn to stay safe using the Internet, e-mail or Facebook. They'll also recognize the influence that the media has on their image. Your child will learn to help out their friends in hard times and learn how to prevent a disagreement from getting worse. They'll also discover that the things they enjoy doing at this age might lead to an interesting job in the future! For more about Grade 4 Health and Life Skills, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Human Sexuality Education

Schools are required to offer human sexuality education in Grade 4 to Grade 9. Parents have the right to exempt their child from this instruction. Schools will provide alternative learning experiences for those students who have been exempted from human sexuality instruction.

Mathematics

Grade 4 students

- show, describe and compare quantities to 10 000
- add and subtract whole numbers with answers to 10 000
- multiply 2- or 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers
- divide 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers
- understand and apply strategies for multiplication and related division facts to 9×9
- understand and recall multiplication and related division facts to 7×7
- add and subtract whole numbers (answers to 10 000) and decimal numbers (to hundredths)
- compare and order fractions
- relate decimals to fractions and fractions to decimals
- solve one-step equations
- read and record time, using digital and analog clocks
- connect numbers and shapes to everyday life
- understand and describe line symmetry and congruency
- understand and determine the area of regular and irregular shapes
- describe and construct 3-D objects
- explain patterns in charts and tables
- construct and interpret pictographs and bar graphs

For more about Grade 4 Mathematics, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Music

Grade 4 students develop a better understanding of sound and music. Your child will understand that they can experiment with tuned instruments and combine sounds with their classmates to make harmony. They will group instruments into families based on their tonal qualities and identify major and minor chords. In song, they will respond to changing tempo and mood. Grade 4 students use more skill and expression when they interpret and perform music. For more about Grade 4 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 tinker with more complex structures to demonstrate how wheels and levers move things. They'll explore how light behaves in prisms and mirrors, and how shadows form. They'll also investigate how light, temperature and water affect the growth of plants, and they'll take action to reduce waste and make our world a better place. Want to know more about Grade 4 Science? Refer to the [program of studies](#).

Social Studies

Your Grade 4 child will examine the relationship between the geography of Alberta and the history and culture of Alberta's peoples. Exploring Alberta's rich history and development will help them understand the province's diversity, instil a sense of pride and identity, and help them value and respect the province and its people. For more about Grade 4 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 4 Religious Education

Come and See

Grade 4 Religious Education explores the experience of the Church handing on the Good News of Jesus in the written Gospel. Through the Gospel stories of those people who encountered Jesus, we explore the meaning of Jesus Christ for us today. In the Gospels, we hear the invitation given by the Holy Spirit to be disciples and friends of Jesus. The tree stump is used as a symbol of Jesus to evoke many meanings throughout the program.

Your child will explore these themes through the study of 10 units:

Unit 1: The Church hands on the Good News.

Unit 2: The Good News about Jesus Christ.

Unit 3: Jesus tells us about the reign of God.

Unit 4: A light shines in the darkness.

Unit 5: Jesus, "born of a woman."

Unit 6: Jesus reveals the compassion of God.

Unit 7: Jesus says, "I am the Way."

Unit 8: Jesus gives his life for us.

Unit 9: "My Lord and My God."

Unit 10: Jesus' Spirit is with us.

For more about Grade 4 Religious Education, contact your child's teacher.