

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



Art

Grade 6 Art students explore how they can change forms and create more complex art by using abstraction and other complicated procedures. Your child will judge whether designs meet certain standards and make improvements to what they see. In drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, fabric arts, photography and computer graphics, they'll refine their work by using less material and becoming more efficient, and they'll explore what they can do by mixing media. For more about Grade 6 Art, refer to the [program of studies](#).

English Language Arts

Your child will expand their ability to communicate, comprehend and question their own thought processes and those of their peers. Through this process, they'll be encouraged to form their own interpretations and opinions and to present their ideas to others. Through group work, they'll gain experience working with others and expressing themselves clearly. For more about Grade 6 English Language Arts, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Health and Life Skills

Your child will understand that in addition to eating well and staying active, sleeping and resting are important. They will learn skills to stay home alone or to babysit and learn strategies to deal well with their stress, such as using humour or playing sports. Your child will understand that family relationships are very important and need to be worked on. They will also see that their success as a student now could show what kind of success they might enjoy when they are older. For more about Grade 6 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 6 students

- understand and use place value
- determine factors (e.g., 6 is a factor of 24) and multiples (e.g., 45 is a multiple of 9) to solve problems
- describe how decimals, fractions, ratios and percents are related
- use graphs and tables to show number patterns and solve problems
- write and solve equations that represent problems or patterns
- classify, measure and draw angles and triangles
- generalize the sum of interior angles for triangles and quadrilaterals
- construct and compare triangles
- describe and compare the angles and sides of regular and irregular polygons
- develop and apply formulas for the perimeter of polygons, the area of rectangles and the volume of right rectangular prisms
- plot whole number points on a grid
- perform reflections, rotations and slides in combination on a 2-D shape
- use line graphs to present and interpret information
- collect and analyze data to graph and solve problems
- understand the differences between experimental and theoretical probability

For more about Grade 6 Mathematics, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Music

Grade 6 students explore the music of the world. They understand that there are many kinds of rhythms and that melodies may be based on many different scales, such as major and minor scales. Studying longer forms of music, they recognize that concerto, opera and symphony combine a variety of structural forms. Singing, they explore the different voice characteristics, and they perform songs written in a variety of scales. For more about Grade 6 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 make observations, develop theories and evaluate their theories based on evidence and investigation. They'll explore the properties of air and construct and modify devices for flight. Your child will recognize that planning, communication, cooperation and flexibility are important to teamwork. They'll describe, model and interpret objects in the night sky, considering, for example, the movement of the Sun and the Moon. They'll also examine local tree species to identify their unique characteristics, such as leaf shape and branching pattern, and to understand their role in the environment. Want to know more? Refer to the [program of studies](#).

Social Studies

Your Grade 6 child may want to get political! Your child will examine the roots of democracy in Ancient Greece and the Iroquois Confederacy to better understand their influences on Canada's democratic system. Your child will also develop an understanding of how Alberta's local and provincial governments are formed, how the rights of Albertans are protected and how democracy allows people to influence change in their communities. For more about Grade 6 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 6 Religious Education

God Believes in Me

The content of Grade 6 Religious Education is the moral life of young Christians. Based on the Bible, the general aim is to explore how young Christians, rooted in the Christian tradition, are witnesses of God's justice and love.

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

Unit 1: "You are my friends."

Unit 2: "I love you with an everlasting love."

Unit 3: "I shall be your God; you shall be my people."

Unit 4: "God so loved the world."

Unit 5: "I am the way, the truth and the life."

Unit 6: "Love your enemies."

Unit 7: "What you do to the least of my brothers and sisters."

Unit 8: "No greater love."

Unit 9: "Do not be afraid."

Unit 10: "You shall be my witnesses."

For more about Grade 6 Religious Education, contact your child's teacher.