

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



English Language Arts

Your teen will apply the rules they've learned about spelling to figure out how new words are spelled. They'll take notes and create outlines that show logical flow of their thoughts, and they'll select good information sources to help them write about a specific topic, for a specific audience and purpose. Their writing will become more convincing as they add words to prove their point. Still curious? Refer to the [program of studies](#) for more about Grade 8 English Language Arts.

Knowledge and Employability English Language Arts

Your teen will be shown additional strategies for success. They will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to comprehend and respond to different oral, print and visual/media texts and to create their own texts. They will develop language, comprehension and communication skills by responding to oral, print and media texts/materials (e.g., stories, newspapers, magazines, advertisements, diagrams, media/films, websites) that have practical and everyday home, community and workplace applications. For more about Grade 8 Knowledge and Employability English Language Arts, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Health and Life Skills

Grade 8 students will learn about accepting themselves as they are—as different from others! They will examine the relationship between choices and consequences and see how some choices can have very bad results—like smoking, or drinking and driving. Your teen will study what makes someone a good leader and example for others, and what a good group/team member looks like. By looking at career information, they'll begin to set career goals for themselves. For more about Grade 8 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 8 students

- estimate square roots of numbers
- solve problems involving percents greater than or equal to 0%
- express percents as fractions and decimals
- solve linear equations
- use tables, graphs, equations and words to describe number patterns
- represent 3-D objects as nets and in different views
- determine the surface area of rectangular prisms, triangular prisms and cylinders
- develop and apply formulas for the volume of rectangular prisms, triangular prisms and cylinders
- understand congruency of polygons
- interpret graphs critically

For more about Grade 8 Mathematics, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Knowledge and Employability Mathematics

Grade 8 Knowledge and Employability students

- connect number concepts and operations to career and workplace situations
- describe quantities and represent numbers in multiple ways
- represent, compare and describe proper fractions, mixed numbers and equivalent fractions
- perform operations with whole numbers, decimals and fractions with like denominators
- understand the relationship between percents and decimals
- solve equations with one unknown and with whole numbers
- make predictions, using pattern rules
- estimate and calculate perimeter
- take measurements and convert between metric (SI) and imperial units
- understand the relationships among units of time
- identify and draw lines of symmetry on quadrilaterals and

triangles

- describe motion of shapes in terms of slides, turns or flips
- plot whole number points on a grid, using ordered pairs
- create, examine and manipulate 3-D objects and 2-D shapes
- collect, interpret and display data

For more about Grade 8 Knowledge and Employability Mathematics, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Physical Education

Your teen 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 teen 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

From machines that use energy, to the transport of solutions, to the functioning of the eye, your teen will see first-hand how science affects their daily life, their career and their future. They will investigate the structure of living things, from the smallest cells to the more complex systems in the human body. Your teen will also examine the interactions among water, land and climate to better understand the distribution and health of living things, and they'll learn to appreciate how the knowledge and skills they are applying in class have led to advances in medical and mechanical technologies. For more about Grade 8 Science, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Knowledge and Employability Science

Students explore the properties of fluids and why fluids are important in living things, in the environment and in technological devices. They learn about the role of cells, organs, tissues and organ systems, and how to keep the human body healthy. They also investigate light and its behaviour in different materials and optical devices, like microscopes and telescopes. By working with simple machines, students discover how machines make work easier or faster. They also interpret interactions among water, land and climate to examine the distribution and health of aquatic species. For more about Grade 8 Knowledge and Employability Science, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Social Studies

Contact between peoples who view the world in different ways has shaped society. By using the historical examples of Japan, Renaissance Europe and Spanish and Aztec civilizations, your teen will examine how societies with differing cultures can affect each other when they come into contact. By exploring how people in different places and times have viewed the world, your teen will think about their own worldview. For more about Grade 8 Social Studies, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Knowledge and Employability Social Studies

Grade 8 Knowledge and Employability Social Studies examines issues related to contact between societies with differing worldviews. Contact between peoples who view the world in different ways has shaped society. By exploring how people in different places and times have viewed the world, your teen will think about their own worldview. Examples of worldviews may be drawn from Japan, Renaissance Europe and Spanish and Aztec societies. Your teen will be provided with additional strategies for success in this Knowledge and Employability course. For more about Grade 8 Knowledge and Employability 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 8 Religious Education

Stand by Me

Building on the scriptural themes of Grade 7, the Grade 8 program focuses students' attention on the person of Jesus Christ, revealed as the fullness and perfect image of God. Your teen will reflect on the last part of the Apostles' Creed, which is studied as the summation of the faith that has been handed on to us through the Church. They will study key aspects of the Sacraments and reflect on the Ten Commandments. Your teen is invited to a meaningful life based on Gospel values and morality, a call to hope and personal faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through a study of the various forms of prayer and sacramental celebrations, they are encouraged to make life-affirming choices as a response to Jesus' invitation to live a life of love and service.

Your teen will explore these themes through the study of 8 units:

Unit 1: We believe in the Holy Spirit.

Unit 2: We believe in the holy Church.

Unit 3: We believe in one Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Unit 4: We believe in the communion of saints.

Unit 5: We believe in the forgiveness of sins.

Unit 6: We believe in the resurrection of the body.

Unit 7: We believe in life everlasting.

Unit 8: Amen.

For more about Grade 8 Religious Education, contact your teen's teacher.