

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Bienvenue/Welcome to École St. Gerard School!! Beginning Kindergarten is an exciting time for both child and parent and I would like to sincerely welcome you to the school community. This handbook will provide you with an overview of the Kindergarten programming as well as provide answers to questions you might have.

The staff at École St. Gerard School strives to provide a Christian atmosphere of love, cooperation and security in which students are given the opportunity to grow in faith, in their academic work and in their social, emotional and physical development. Offering all this in a French Immersion environment also provides students with unique experiences, challenges and advantages.

Parents are integral part of a child's journey as a learner. We look forward to working with you to make this a most enjoyable and successful educational opportunity for your child. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

Mme Gisèle Bundgaard
Directrice/Principal

Kindergarten - A Perspective

The first year in Kindergarten is an extremely important time in a child's growth and development. Planning this program for the children requires the consideration of many factors.

- an understanding of child growth and development
- an appreciation of the individuality of each child
- a sensitive awareness of individual differences
- a knowledge of learning activities which are age appropriate
- the establishment of objectives that will help each child develop his/her abilities.

The Kindergarten program provides many opportunities for children to develop socially. Your child will continue the learning process already begun at home since birth. Learning to share, cooperate, be considerate toward others, follow directions, take care of belongings and develop new skills, couple with being separated parents for a large portion of the day, are but a few of the many facets of the challenge in Kindergarten.

The Kindergarten program introduces the child to the French language and culture. Learning a second language occurs in much the same way that you child learned the first one. Auditory and visual perceptions are the key factors in this process. At first, there may be some confusion, but with daily repetition and re-enforcement, the assimilation process begins to take place.

By living this language throughout the day, your child will slowly begin to understand what is being said, to repeat words and phrases, and to express certain basic sentences. Comprehension of this second language is enhanced through the use of pictures, gestures, songs and stories related to the vocabulary and concepts being taught. Connections are constantly being made to previous experiences in the child's life.

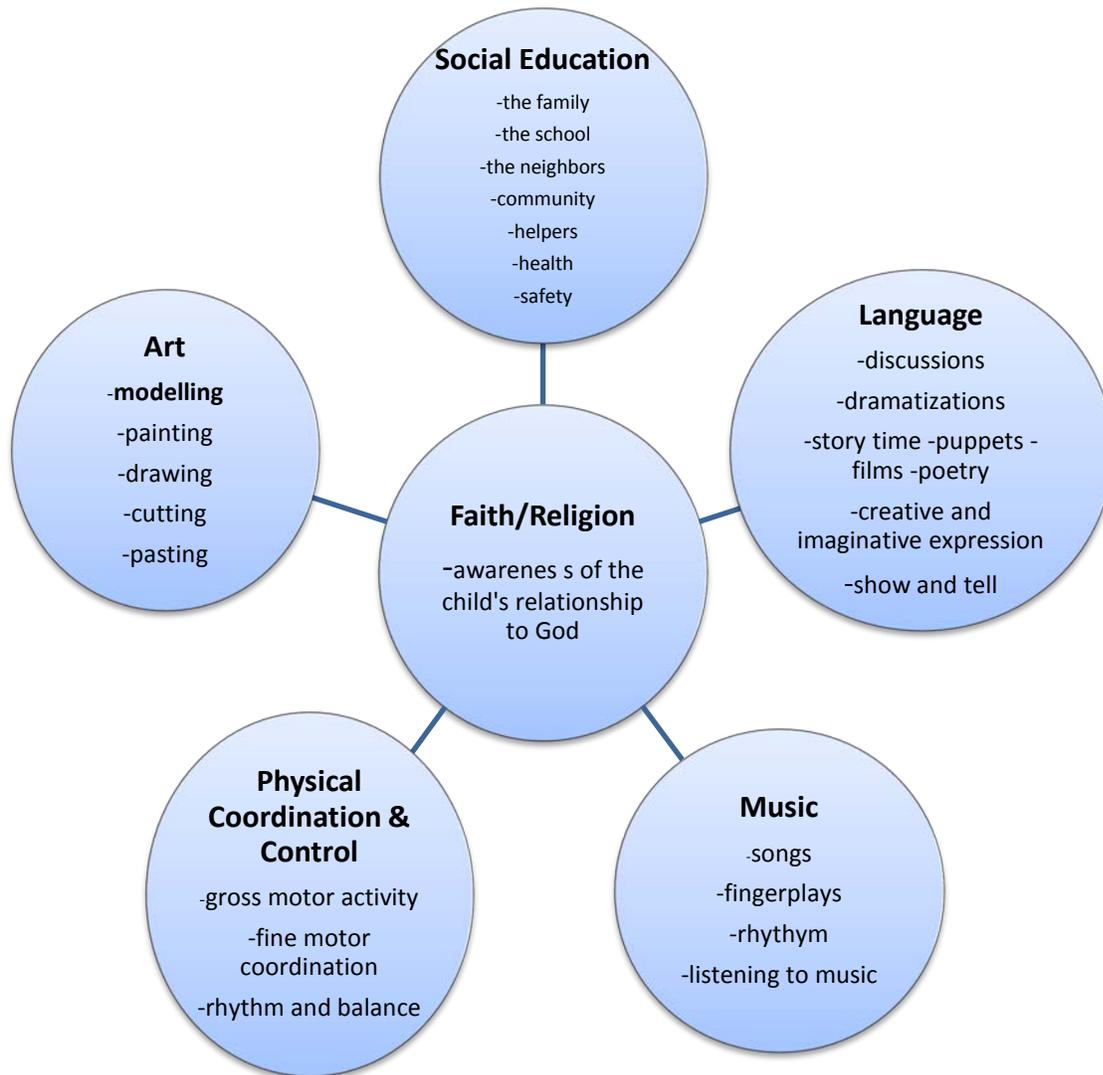
The Kindergarten program also provides for the basic needs of the child:

- to meet daily requirements for food and rest
- to gain acceptance and approval
- to obtain affection
- to have a sense of purpose (to help the child make healthy choices
- to have a feeling of accomplishment and personal worth



French Immersion Kindergarten Program

The following web outlines our Kindergarten program. It is with this program that we will answer the needs of your child through the following areas of curriculum.



The Kindergarten Experience:

- ⇒ enhances the early learning experiences of children
- ⇒ provides a pre-grade one experience
- ⇒ assists students in understanding French before entering grade one

French Immersion Kindergarten Objectives

- 1) To assist the child in making transition from home and family to school.
- 2) To make the child feel secure as learner; having no fear to try new things.
- 3) To guide the child in making decisions.
- 4) To use play and problem solving as learning processes
- 5) To foster the development of a positive self-concept
- 6) To provide a rich and stimulating environment for learning
- 7) To foster the development of whole child -cognitive, affective, language and physical motor development
- 8) To assist the child to begin to learn self-reliance and initiative, the ability to give and follow directions, to judge and control his/her impulses and to cope with failure.
- 9) To foster creative thinking, curiosity and self direction.
- 10) To develop an appreciation of the aesthetics -art, music, literature, etc.
- 11) To foster the development of appropriate psycho-physical-motor and oral language experiences which are prerequisites or conditional to formal readiness for reading, writing and computational instruction.
- 12) To foster a love of learning at the very beginning of their school life.
- 13) To develop a proficiency and ease with the French language.



What Will Your Child Learn in Kindergarten

Along with acquiring a second language, your child will learn:

- to experience the satisfaction of learning new skills and ideas
- to get along with different adults
- to work and play with other children
- to share games, ideas and experiences
- to express himself/herself in words, drawings, music and play
- to care for himself/herself and personal belongings
- to look at books and to handle them with care
- to listen
- to follow directions
- to print capital and small letters
- to learn the alphabet sounds in French
- to recognize numbers and to understand simple number concepts
- to think of others, but also to stand up for himself/herself
- to develop good work habits



School Readiness

Every child is unique. Each differs from others in ability to learn in speed of learning, and in the age at which specific ideas are learned. You can help your child be more fully prepared for Kindergarten by helping him/her with the following skills:

- to recognize his/her printed name
- to print his/her name
- to know his/her last name
- to know his/her address and phone number
- to know his/her birthday
- to follow simple directions
- to listen quietly to stories
- to take care of personal property
- to care about personal cleanliness
- to eat his/her food properly and quietly in one place
- to take turns
- to let other speak without interrupting
- to respect the property of others
- to play with others without hurting them
- to recognize safety hazards for himself/herself and others

Home & School Relationships

1) Roles and Responsibilities

The Teacher is Responsible:

- to plan and organize activities to suit individual needs
- to give assistance and encouragement
- to help with a variety of on-going activities
- to structure activities which allow the child to make discoveries
- to create a friendly, accepting, supportive and relaxed atmosphere in which learning takes place
- to keep parents informed about the academic and social progress of their child

Parents Are Required To:

- provide information regarding their child's health and/or other problems
- always send two nutritional snacks and a lunch
- help their child learn personal information -first and last name, address, phone number and birthday
- take the time at home to review skills taught in school
- assist when possible with activities such as field trips or excursions
- clearly mark all their child's clothing and personal belongings such as shoes, lunch bags, backpacks etc...
- help their child with his/her lessons, since repetition is an important part of learning
- inform the school by 9:00a.m. if their child will be late or absent
(Parents can leave a message on the Message Manager at anytime)

2) School Organization

General information about St. Gerard School:

Address: 205 Montreal Ave. North. S7L 3N6

Phone Number: 659-7330

School Hours: 8:55 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Lunch Hour: 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Recesses: 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.



3) Transportation

The Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Board of Education provides transportation to students in the Immersion program. The company name is First Student Canada Ltd and the contact number is 343-2125. You are responsible for transporting your child to school until you hear from the bus driver by phone. The bus driver will contact you prior to with information about pick up and drop off times as well as the bus drop location.



4) Registration Fee

A school fee is not collected for Kindergarten students.

5) Newsletters

School newsletters are always sent out every second Tuesday. Monday and Wednesday students will receive their newsletters on Wednesdays. Please check your child's school bag. It is important to read the newsletters, as children may feel left out if they are not included in special days. At the end of each month your child will receive a Kindergarten calendar indicating which days your child is to be at school as well as events for the following month.

6) Nut Alert School/ Birthdays

We celebrate each child's birthday in a special way. If you choose, kindly send one cupcake, cookie or treat per child. These are easy to serve and they are all the same. Arrangements will be made for children with summer birthdays.



**** PLEASE NOTE: École St. Gerard is a "NUT ALERT SCHOOL"**
Please do not send anything that might contain nuts or nut products**

7) Practical Hints



- a) Label all of your child's clothing and personal belongings
- b) Wake your child early enough to have a good breakfast
- c) Keep the consumption of candy, potato chips and soft drinks at a low level.
- d) Provide your child with an adequate, nutritious lunch and include something for snack times.
- e) Keep your child home if he/she shows of possible illness such as sore throat, chills, skin rash, coughing, fever etc..
- f) Make the teacher aware of emotional upsets which originate at home.
- g) Discuss with the teacher any medical problems your child has.
- h) Check your child regularly for head lice and, if necessary contact the Public Health Nurse or your family doctor for treatment.
- i) Call the school to notify us when your child is absent for any reason.
- j) Any violent video games and limit time spend playing video games and/or watching t.v.



8) Questions You May Have

Q: What is the best way to get in touch with the teacher if the need should arise?

A: Please phone the school (659-7330) and leave a message with the Office Coordinator for the teacher to call back when he/she can, or try to call outside of class hours. However, if there is an urgent need to get

in touch with the teacher during class hours, the Office Coordinator would be able to contact the teacher in the classroom, or email us.

Q: What steps are taken if my child becomes sick while at school?

A: The school attempts to first contact the parent/guardian to home or at work, then the child's babysitter or contact person. The child can lie down in the nurse's office until someone can come and get him/her. If we are unable to contact someone and the child must go to the hospital, a teacher or staff member will stay with the child until someone is contacted.

Q: If I am planning to take my child out of school for part of the day or for an extended vacation, who should I contact?

A: The teacher needs to be notified if the child is to be taken out for part of the day or for lunch or recess. For an extended absence, the principal or vice-principal should be notified.

Q: If I or someone I designate is to pick up my child at the end of the day instead of the child going on the bus as usual, who should I notify?

A: If your child is not going home by bus as usual, the teacher and the bus driver must be notified by phone or note.



Q: What time is the lunch time routine?

A: Lunchtime begins at 12:00 p.m. and the children have 20 minutes to eat lunch before they are expected to go outside. Play time 12:20 -12:45.

Q: Are the children supervised at lunch time?

A: Yes, there is adult supervision in the hallways while the children have their lunch. Also students from an older grade are assigned to help in the classroom at this time.

Q: Are parents welcomed to volunteer their time in Kindergarten?

A: Yes, help is always needed to:

- supervise students during centres while the teachers work one on one
- help with some classroom duties such as photocopying, coloring, cutting, etc...
- wash toys at the end of the school year
- help with cooking

Q: Are there routine visits to the school by health personnel?

A: Yes, regular visits are made by public health nurse, a speech and hearing therapist, as well as a social worker.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time (659 - 7330)

Mme. Louis -Teacher
Mlle Turner - Teacher
Mme. Bundgaard - Principal