

*St. Charles Catholic Elementary School
Kindergarten Handbook
2026-2027*



St. Charles

CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

10423-172 Ave. NW Edmonton, Alberta T5X4X4

Phone: (780) 456-5222

Website: www.stcharles.ecsd.net

Office Hours: 7:30 am - 3:00 pm

A Welcome Message from the School Administration

Dear Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to St. Charles Catholic Elementary, a community where faith, learning, and love come together to nurture the hearts and minds of every child.

We are delighted to welcome your family into our Catholic school community. Starting kindergarten is a wonderful milestone, and we are honored to walk alongside you and your child during this special journey. At St. Charles, we are committed to providing a safe, joyful, and faith-filled environment where each child can grow academically, spiritually, and socially.

Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, our school fosters a deep sense of compassion, respect, and service to others. Through daily prayer, religious education, and the celebration of our Catholic traditions, we guide our students to develop a strong moral foundation and a lifelong love of learning.

We believe that parents are the first teachers of the faith, and we look forward to partnering with you to support your child's growth in both knowledge and character. Thank you for choosing St. Charles—a place where your child will be known, loved, and guided every step of the way.

Have a Blessed 2026/2027 School Year

Laurie Bonanni-McGee - Principal Erin Pruski- Assistant Principal



Hands and Hearts for Christ

Our Namesake - St. Charles



¹¹ If we wish to make any progress in the service of God we must begin every day of our life with new eagerness. We must keep ourselves in the presence of God as much as possible and have no other view or end in all our actions but the divine honor. ¹¹

Saint Charles Borromeo is a Patron Saint of
Catechists
Catechumens
Seminarians

Charles founded schools for the poor, seminaries for clerics, and through his community of Oblates, trained priests for holiness of life. Charles founded hospitals where he himself served the sick. He gave away all his possessions and wore an old, patched cloak. During the great plague, he personally brought aid to the sick and dying. He died in 1583 and was canonized. He was one of the towering figures of the Catholic Reformation, a patron of learning and the arts, and though he achieved a position of great power, he used his authority with humility, personal sanctity, and unselfishness in bringing about reform within the Church.

School Mission: The mission of St. Charles Catholic School is to provide a Catholic education that inspires students to grow in faith, knowledge, and respect, following Jesus' example, to live with kindness and in service to others.



St. Charles Elementary School- HOURS OF OPERATION

Elementary (Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)				
	First Bell	Morning Recess	lunch and Recess	Dismissal
Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri	8:00 am	9:45 am -10:00 am	11:45 am -12:20 pm	2:40 pm
Thursday	8:00 am	9:45 am -10:00 am		11:26 am

Kindergarten AM <i>4 Day Programming- (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday), No Class Thursday</i>		Kindergarten PM <i>4 Day Programming- (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday), No Class Thursday</i>	
8:00 AM	Class Begins	11:38 AM	Class Begins
11:04 AM	Dismissal	2:42 PM	Dismissal

Staggered Entry

Before the regular kindergarten program begins in the fall, each child will participate in one staggered entry session. This allows children to become familiar with the classroom and routines in a smaller group setting.

All kindergarten students will officially begin school on **Friday, September 11**. By **August 28**, you will receive a phone call and an email from your child's teacher with details about the specific date and time of your child's staggered entry session.

<i>Wednesday, September 2</i>	<i>Staggered Entry</i>
<i>Friday September 4</i>	<i>Staggered Entry</i>
<i>Tuesday September 8</i>	<i>Staggered Entry</i>
<i>Wednesday September 9</i>	<i>Staggered Entry</i>
<i>Friday September 11</i>	<i>Kindergarten Program for all students and bussing begins</i>

Kindergarten- Our Philosophy

Our kindergarten program is grounded in a commitment to nurturing the whole child. We strive to:

- Foster a lifelong love of learning and school
- Provide a safe, welcoming, and caring environment where every child feels valued
- Encourage students to take risks, try new things, and build confidence
- Support each child's growth as both a learner and an individual
- Build strong relationships and a sense of classroom community

We honour and celebrate every child's unique journey, as well as each family's journey, as we welcome them into the St. Charles community.

A Day in the Life of Kindergarten

Our kindergarten day follows a consistent sequence with clear and well-established expectations for arrival, transitions, and dismissal. This predictable routine helps children feel safe, confident, and ready to learn.

Play-based learning is intentionally woven throughout the kindergarten program to support children's natural curiosity as they begin to explore and understand curriculum outcomes. Through organized activities and purposeful play, children are given opportunities to interact, imagine, experiment, and explore. These experiences help them build knowledge, develop new skills, and apply their learning in meaningful ways.

Our Catholic faith is integrated throughout the kindergarten program. Prayer, song, stories, and symbols are part of daily classroom life, helping children learn about Christ's teachings and develop a sense of belonging, gratitude, and care for others.



Early Literacy & Numeracy

Early Literacy (English Language Arts)

In kindergarten, early literacy focuses on helping children develop strong language skills through meaningful, play-based, and hands-on experiences. Students actively use language to make sense of the world around them and to communicate their ideas, feelings, and learning.

Children become confident and capable language users through frequent opportunities to listen, speak, view, represent, read, and write.

Students will:

- Develop listening and speaking skills through conversations, storytelling, songs, and play
- Build vocabulary using rich oral language experiences, including stories, poems, rhymes, illustrations, and games
- Explore elements of stories and texts such as characters, settings, events, problems, and solutions
- Participate in daily, explicit, and systematic instruction in phonological and phonemic awareness
- Learn letter names, letter sounds, and correct letter formation
- Engage in phonics instruction focused on blending sounds to read and build words
- Express ideas and understanding through drawing, writing, dramatization, and other forms of representation

Early Numeracy (Mathematics)

In kindergarten, numeracy learning emphasizes developing number sense through concrete, visual, and hands-on experiences. Children explore mathematics by noticing, comparing, and describing quantities, patterns, shapes, and measurement in everyday contexts.

Students will:

- Recognize, represent, compare, and count quantities from 1 to 10
- Develop an understanding of repeating and growing patterns
- Use direct and indirect measurement to compare and describe objects (such

as length, mass, and capacity)

- Identify, describe, and sort 2D shapes and 3D objects based on their attributes
- Explore relationships among numbers, shapes, and objects through play, problem solving, and discussions

For more information, visit Learn Alberta: [Kindergarten at a Glance](#)

Assessment

Your child's progress toward learning outcomes is shared with families through student digital portfolios on Spaces Edu and a June report card completed by the classroom teacher and available on PowerSchool.

Families will also have two opportunities to meet with the teacher for a Demonstration of Learning Conference, held in November and March.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Everyday activities at home, school, and in the community support children's learning and development. Parents and guardians play an important role in nurturing curiosity, independence, and a love of learning.

For practical ideas to support your child, visit [Everyday Activities](#)

Important Dates:

October 1- School PD Day

October 2- Kindergarten Full day at School

November 26- Demonstration of Learning

December 8- Kindergarten Full day at School

January 21- School PD Day

March 4- Demonstration of Learning

March 19- Kindergarten Full day at School

June 25- Kindergarten Full day at School

