

St. Charles Catholic Elementary School

Kindergarten Handbook 2025-2026



St. Charles
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

St. Charles Catholic Elementary School

10423 172 Ave. NW | Edmonton, Alberta | T5X 4X4

Phone: 780.456.5222

Website: www.stcharles.ecsd.net

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

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 2025/2026 School Year

Laurie Bonanni-McGee - Principal

Erin Pruski- Assistant Principal



Hands and Hearts for Christ

Our Namesake - St. Charles



"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."

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.



Hands and Hearts for Christ

St. Charles Catholic 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	2:43 pm
Thursday	8:00 am	9:45 am - 10:00 am		11:26 am

Kindergarten AM <i>No Class Thursdays</i>		Kindergarten PM <i>No Class Thursdays</i>	
8:00 am	First Bell	11:31 pm	First Bell
11:12 am	Dismissal	2:43 pm	Dismissal

Important Dates:

October 9 – School PD Day (No Classes)

October 17– Kindergarten Full Day

November 20– Demonstration of Learning

January 29– School PD Day (No Classes)

March 5– Demonstration of Learning

June 12– Kindergarten Full Day



St. Charles Catholic Elementary School - What Do We Offer?

• Kindergarten-Grade 6 • Faith Based Education • Emphasis on the spiritual, emotional, physical, and academic growth of all students • Half-Day- AM/PM Kindergarten Programming • Inclusive Education Philosophy- S.P.A.C.E • St. Charles Faith Day/ Cultural Day • Reading Intervention Program • English Language Learning Support • School Liturgies- All Are Welcome • Strong School / Parish Connection- regular priest visits • Music Program/ Choir • French as a Second Language (Grades 4-6)	• FLEX Options for Grades 1-6 this year • Student Recognition at Monthly Assemblies (Christian Values, Sacraments, Birthdays, Reading Goals) • Weekly Wellness Dog visits • Extracurricular- Sports Teams/ Clubs/ Intramurals • Student Leadership/ Social Justice/ Wellness Team • Makerspace • Sensory Room • Parent Engagement Evenings • On Site Before and After School Care

Kindergarten- Our Philosophy

- To create a love for school
- To provide a safe learning environment that is welcoming and caring
- Encourage the students to take risks and try new things to build confidence
- To help every child grow as a learner and person
- To help build relationships in the classroom and create a class community
- We always honour and celebrate every student's journey, and every family's journey, as we welcome them to St. Charles.

A Day in Kindergarten

The daily schedule happens in a sequence that occurs the same way every day with clear, established expectations for arrival, transitions and dismissal

- Play-based opportunities are woven through the Kindergarten Program to support the child's natural curiosity as they begin to conceptualize the curriculum outcomes being taught.
- In this exciting new community, children's natural curiosity and eagerness to learn are structured through organized activities and purposeful play. Your child will interact, imagine, experiment, and explore to add to their knowledge, learn new skills, and practice what they've learned.
- The Catholic faith is permeated throughout our Kindergarten programs. Song, prayer, stories, and symbols are just a few examples of how Christ's teachings may be integrated into your child's daily routine.

Staggered Entry

Each child will attend one staggered entry time slot. Then, all kindergarten students will start school on Monday, September 8. You will receive a phone call from the teacher by August 29th to let you know what day and time your child will attend staggered entry.

4 Day Programming - (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)	
Tuesday, September 2, 2025	Staggered entry
Wednesday, September 3, 2025	Staggered entry
Friday, September 5, 2025	Staggered entry
Monday, September 8, 2025	Kindergarten bussing begins Programming with full class begins

Early Literacy in Kindergarten

Early literacy in kindergarten focuses on children being actively engaged in acquiring language and constructing their own understandings of how language works.

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

Students will:

- Explores listening and speaking skills
- Focuses on developing new vocabulary through stories, poems, rhymes, illustrations and games.
- Learn about various story elements such as character, setting, problem, and resolution.
- Engage in daily explicit and systematic phonological and phonemic awareness lessons
- Learn letter names, sounds and proper formation.
- Engage in phonics lessons that focus on making words through sounds.

Early Numeracy in Kindergarten

In Kindergarten students will develop number sense by comparing, representing and recognizing quantities of numbers 1 through 10.

Students will demonstrate an understanding of repeating patterns and how to use direct and indirect measurement to compare objects

Lastly, children will also learn to describe the characteristics of 3D objects and 2D shapes, while analyzing the relationships among them.

Physical Skills and Well Being

A healthy body is part of a healthy life. Your child will begin to develop a love for physical activity through movement, games, and activities, while developing both fine motor and gross motor skills. They will use a variety of equipment, learn basic locomotor and non-locomotor skills and learn about what it means to be healthy.

Assessment

Your child's understanding of the learning outcomes is reported to parents through student portfolios (digital – Spaces Edu) and a June report card on PowerSchool completed by the classroom teacher.

ECSD SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025-2026



First Day of Operation
August 28, 2025

First Day of Instruction
September 2, 2025

Last Day of Instruction
June 23, 2026

Last Day of Operation
June 24, 2026

July 2025							August 2025							September 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													
October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
							30													
January 2026							February 2026							March 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				
April 2026							May 2026							June 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													

Non-instructional day
 Non-operational day

Cancellation of early dismissal
 Early dismissal
 Statutory Holiday - Office/School Closed
 Named Holiday - Office/School Closed

Labour Day	Sept 1
Truth & Reconciliation Day	Sept 30
Thanksgiving Day	Oct 13
Remembrance Day/Fall Brk	Nov 10-12
Christmas Vacation	Dec 22 to Jan 2
Family Day	Feb 16
Faith Development Day/PD	Feb 25
Teachers' Convention	Feb 26-27
Spring Break	Mar 30 to Apr 6
Good Friday	Apr 3
Easter Monday	Apr 6
Victoria Day Weekend	May 15-18

MONTH	Operational Days	Instructional Days
August	2	0
September	20	20
October	22	22
November	17	17
December	15	15
January	20	20
February	19	16
March	20	20
April	18	18
May	19	19
June	18	17
Total	190	184

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FEBRUARY 2025

**Dates are subject to change*
 Check our website www.stcharles.ecsd.net
 regularly for the most current dates.