

Yellowknife Catholic Schools Curriculum

In our schools we follow the Northwest Territories curriculum for all subject areas except Religion and Health from Kindergarten to Grade

9. At the high school level the Alberta curriculum is followed, as adopted by Education, Culture & Employment (ECE,) with the exemption of Northern Studies, which is a NWT developed program, and Religion.

We have an agreement with ECE and Edmonton Catholic Schools to use their program "Health and Life Skills" instead of the NWT Health Curriculum. This is the Alberta Health curriculum that has been adapted to meet the needs of Catholic Schools.

The CARE program and Second Step program are also integrated into our Health curriculum. CARE is an education program offered to at the Grade 1,3 and 5 level on Personal Safety around the topic of child sexual abuse. Second Step is a violence prevention program that teaches children to change the attitudes and behaviors that contribute to violence. This program includes a process for problem solving which is to be implemented with all K-8 students within our schools. Our schools have adopted a "Positive Behavior Support" program that focuses on the development of positive student behavior both in and out of the classroom setting.

In the area of "Religion" we follow the "Born of the Spirit" series that has been approved by the Canadian Catholic Council of Bishops. This program is available for Kindergarten to Grade 9. At the high school level we have had to develop our own program following the themes indicated below:
Religion 15 Jesus' Journey; Church's Journey; My Own Personal Journey

Religion 25 Looking At Our Journey From A More Global Context; Justice and Christian Faith; Justice and Human Needs; Peace and Christian Faith; Careers and the World of Work (This program is integrated with the CALM 15 program.)

Religion 35 Series of workshops, retreats and seminars on topics such as World Religions, lifestyles, relationships, parenting, marriage, confirmation, sacraments, illness/aging, death/dying, spirituality, abuse and violence, suicide, homosexuality, and roles in the Church.

Second Language Programs

Language Programs are important to our district. There are two language programs offered within our schools Dogrib and French.

Weledeh Catholic Schools offers students the choice between learning Dogrib or Core French from grades 1-8. Both of these programs offer students exposure to the language while at the same time integrating cultural activities.

At École St. Joseph School we offer an Early French Immersion program beginning at Kindergarten. Students are completely immersed into the language from day one. It has been our goal to offer all courses in French at the K-3 level but there have been some instances where it has been necessary to offer Physical Education and Music in English. At the Grade 3 level students begin their formal instruction in English.

For those students who are not enrolled in French Immersion, we offer a Core French program beginning at Grade 1. This program offers students basic functional vocabulary but does not have the goal of making the student bilingual. These programs are enhanced through cultural experiences.

The French Immersion program continues into our high school, École St. Patrick School. Students are given the opportunity to continue learning in the French language in 50% of their course offerings allowing them to graduate with a bilingual certificate.