

St. John XXIII Catholic School



Kindergarten 2025-2026 Handbook

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WELCOME TO ST. JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC SCHOOL!

Meet THE TEAM

- Mr. Daniel Holden - Principal
daniel.holden@eics.ab.ca
- Miss Megan Yockey - Kindergarten Teacher
megan.yockey@eics.ab.ca
- Mrs. Sarah Schaub - Early Learning Music Teacher
melanie.doderai@eics.ab.ca
- Mrs. Eleanor Heesing - Family Wellness Worker
eleanor.heesing@eics.ab.ca
- Mrs. Erin Croft- Collaborative Response Coordinator
erinc@eics.ab.ca

CHAPLAIN

Rhonda Ganes

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Erin Croft

SECRETARY

Barb Potter

LIBRARY TECH

May-Lee Buban

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN



Hello, Bonjour, 您好, Привіт, Kumusta

My name is Miss Yockey, and I will be your child's kindergarten teacher this year. Can you believe that your child is about to begin kindergarten? This may bring about feelings of excitement, nervousness, or sadness - please know that all feelings are ok!

We are starting this journey together: you, me, the members of our classroom, the students and staff of the school and God. Together, we will support your child as they grow, learn and play. We will celebrate moments of success and offer a hand during times of difficulty.

It is going to be a year of beautiful growth as your child begins their educational journey. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns!

Megan.yockey@eics.ab.ca



Welcome Students and Parents of St. John XXIII

Welcome to St. John XXIII Catholic School! We are very grateful for the opportunity to share in your child's faith and learning journey. Together with parents, we share the blessing and responsibility of helping our St. John children grow into faith-filled and responsible citizens who will celebrate their gifts and skills with our world. Our dedicated staff will strive to bring out each child's potential and assist them to grow spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. We will provide daily opportunities for students to know and love God.

Kindergarten is an amazing year, full of discovery, growth, milestones, and learning! We are excited to journey with you and your child this year.

God bless you in the good work you do as parents and guardians of such beautiful children and thank-you for helping us, "ensure that every child experiences success while journeying together in Christ's footsteps".

*Mr. Daniel Holden
Principal*

*Mrs. Erin Croft
Assistant Principal*

Staggered Entry

M/R Kindergarten:

Thursday, August 28

Time: 9am-11am

Students with last names A-C

Time: 1pm-3pm

Students with last names D-J

Wednesday, Sept. 3rd (early out)

Time: 9am-11am

Students with last names K-P

Time: 12pm-2pm

Students with last names Q-Z

T/F Kindergarten:

Friday, August 29

Time: 9am-11am

Students with last names A-C

Time: 1pm-3pm

Students with last names D-J

Tuesday, Sept. 2nd

Time 9am-11am

Students with last names K-P

Time 1pm-3pm

Students with last names Q-Z

When?

Where?

St. John XXIII Catholic School:

To help students get a feel for how drop off and pick-up will look each school day, please bring your child to the Kindergarten door as shown in the picture below. To reach this door, walk along the front of the school, pass the main entrance and you will find it where the original school building meets the portables. Please review the parking lot procedures included in this handbook.

Please pick up your child at the same spot every day.

Why?

During your child's staggered entry day, we welcome your child to come explore the classroom and school environment in a smaller grouping. Parents will be asked to enter the school with their child and stay for the first half hour to complete some paperwork to assist the teacher with getting to know you and your child and go on a school tour.



This is an incredible opportunity for your child to begin connecting and building relationships with their new teacher and peers in a small group setting within their new classroom environment.

Let's calm some of those first day jitters and explore what Kindergarten will be like!

Stay Engaged

Classroom Communication

An email will be sent to your personal email with instructions on how to join our classroom Dojo! This communication platform will give you a sneak peek into classroom activities and also serve as a tool to communicate important information between the school and home. Parents can also use the app to communicate with their teacher!



School Communication

Keep up with all school activities, celebrations and protocols by checking out the following:

- St. John XXIII website <https://stj.eics.ab.ca>
- Twitter @St_JohnXXIII
- Weekly School Newsletter “Smore”
- Reporting Absences - refer to our website for instructions

A Child of Kindergarten Age

Each child is created by God as a unique individual with different abilities, tendencies and experiences. Kindergarten contributes to the growth of a child's knowledge of themselves and adds to their understanding of the world around them. In a stimulating, secure and responsive Kindergarten environment, children can experience the joy of discovery and learning as well as receive encouragement to develop their gifts and talents.

We are so excited that your child will be joining us this fall. Starting kindergarten is a big milestone, not only for your child, but your family as well. It is important to remember that all children enter kindergarten with different experiences, abilities and at different developmental levels. The social, emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual development of one child will not be the same for all children in a Kindergarten class. Within one Kindergarten class, it is possible to have an age span of eleven months from the youngest to the oldest, a significant difference considering this is one-sixth of the child's life span at this stage. Therefore, we cannot expect all children to perform at the same level.

What Can Parents Do at Home to Help Children Learn?

Talk with your child. Ask them questions about their day. Ask them to elaborate on stories they heard or discuss your child's interests. Children learn to think by trying to formulate answers. Listen to them and encourage them to listen when people speak. This is a vital skill for learning.

Read with your child. Reading with your child is important because it contributes to vocabulary and oral language development.

Help your child to be independent. in dressing, toileting, tying shoelaces, cleaning up after themselves and caring for their own possessions.

Try to maintain regular sleep habits. Ten to twelve hours of sleep are needed. Lack of sleep interferes with their school progress the next day by making them irritated and upset.

Send your child off on a positive note as this often makes the difference between a happy or unhappy day at school.

Remind your child how they are getting home from school.

Encourage your child to be considerate of others and to develop respect for adults and authority. If they see you support the teacher and the school, they will too.

Be consistent. Follow up what you ask children to do; if they have not done it, wait, keep your expectations, and help them carry through the request. Children feel safe with consistent boundaries and consequences. This shapes our little ones to be resilient and secure in their surroundings.

The Kindergarten Classroom



Personal Development:

School has to be a safe and secure place for learning to happen. When our children learn and use the teachings of love and respect that Jesus taught us, the environment will foster:

- Respect for authority
- Respect for peers. Listening when others speak and speaking appropriately to others.
- Respect for others. Hurt no one physically or emotionally. Be kind and helpful.
- Accepting responsibility for and the consequences of our own behaviour.
- Expressing emotions in an acceptable manner.

Arrival and Dismissal

First bell: 8:35am - This bell signals students to gather by their designated doors. For kindergarten, these double doors are located by the parking lot and basketball court. Please do not allow your child to cross the parking lot to get to the door.

Dismissal: 3:10pm - Students will exit through the same designated doors they entered the building. Bus students will line up on the sidewalk between the school and the parking lot.

- If there is ever a change to how your child will arrive or depart from school, please send a note to school or contact the office so that we are aware of the change.
- To foster a sense of independence, parents are asked to drop students off outside by their designated door to come in. Parents should not be dropping students off in the classroom or front doors of the school.
- After the dismissal bell, parents are to wait outside for their child and not by the classroom door. Please allow your child to get ready for home independently.
- Early dismissal is every Wednesday; dismissal time on these days is 2:10pm.
- There is no supervision prior to 8:30am every morning. Please do not drop your child off prior to that time.
- A child will not be dismissed until there is a parent/guardian present.

School Supplies

Please refer to our kindergarten school supply list on our school website for information regarding school supplies. Students will be given a kanga pouch for papers at the start of the year. Please make sure your child has the following:

- Inside runners which are appropriate for physical education (easy to get on and off footwear with velcro fasteners or step-ins for non-shoe tie-ers is appreciated).
- A regular size backpack big enough for a library book, lunch-kit, kanga pouch (teacher will distribute, cost will be added to your child's PowerSchool account).
- An extra set of clothes including underwear (place in a bag at the bottom of the backpack for emergencies).
- Water bottle with an easy to open and close lid (no screw lids please). Water bottles will be taken home each night for cleaning.

Recess

Children need opportunities to explore, move, and resolve conflict during less structured recess times to build fine and gross motor skills, develop resiliency and confidence, and become responsible and independent students. Kindergarten students go outside for two recesses a day. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather, rain or shine.

The following are our STJXIII rules for recess time:

- Play safe for your body
- Be responsible
- Be respectful

Snacks and Lunches

Please have your child bring their snacks and lunch in a lunch kit. Students do not have access to a microwave. When preparing snacks, please keep in mind that we are a “nut-aware” school. We also ask that students/parents do not share food or bring in food for others. Children will only eat what their parents send them. We will have extra food items available for those who forget a lunch/snack.

Field Trips

Field trips are an important part of education. Teachers plan them carefully with specific educational goals in mind. Parents will be notified when field trips are planned. Field trips take place within school hours.

Birthdays

A birthday is a special day for you and your child and therefore, is a special day for us too! Your child will be recognized and celebrated on their special day. We ask that you do not send food to share with the class. If you wish to share a special birthday treat with the class, please send in a non-food item (a book for the class, pencils, stickers, etc. are wonderful and fun to share).

Volunteering

Children love when their parents/guardians are in the classroom. Volunteering will help you gain insight into what we do and learn in Kindergarten and gives you an opportunity to interact with your child and their peers. There will be many field trips and activities at school that will require volunteers. Parents will be notified about volunteer opportunities throughout the year. St. John XXIII requires that volunteers sign a confidentiality form. This form can be found in the office or can be sent home with your child. Once our routines in the classroom are established, we will begin the process of organizing our Kindergarten volunteers.

Student Redirection/Consequences/Executive Functioning:

Pre-K to Grade 4 School Learning environments are all about growing and learning how to become responsible, independent and respectful learners and citizens. Our staff commits to a responsive teaching, and continuum of supports and interventions approach, that takes into consideration the whole child. Along with homeroom teachers, our Student Support team works together with students and parents to help our students learn and grow in conflict resolution, regulation, accountability, and respect for self and others.

Throughout the year, we will be learning about a variety of strategies to work through conflict, learn how to emotionally regulate, build friendships, and problem solve.



Reporting/Student Learning

Communicating Student Learning:

Report cards are only one piece of the communication system. It is a summary document that communicates student achievement that should have already been shared in some way. There should be no surprises for the student or parent. Alternate forms of communication may include:

- Feedback on student work, evidence of student learning: Class Dojo, three-way conferences, phone calls, emails, meetings, student reflections, Celebrations of Learning, Faith Celebrations, Assemblies.

Report Cards:

Report cards are records of student performance on curriculum outcomes over a period of time.

Evidence of Learning

Evidence of learning is a visual and/or oral history of student's learning over time. Evidence of learning may include feedback from; observations, conversations, or products. Over the course of the year, you will see a variety of EVL shared at St. John XXIII: Class Dojo, Online Portfolios, Writing folders, Growth as a Learner booklets or sheets, Conference assessment, etc. Each of these pieces of evidence share information about your child's learning progress based on professional observations, conversations, and products. Evidence of Learning and progress will be communicated to parents on a timely and on-going basis.

Evidence of Learning is:

- connected to student learning outcomes from the Alberta Program of Studies
- can initiate conversations between the school and home
- is student centered (students articulate their learning)
- demonstrates student growth over time (strengths, areas of growth, and next steps)

Three-Way Conferences/Celebrations of Learning:

An opportunity for the student, parent and teacher to engage in conversations around the strengths, areas of growth, and next steps of the student. These three-way conferences will occur in: November 2025 & March 2026

School Information

School Office Hours:

St. John XXIII Office hours are 8:30-3:30 pm, Monday to Friday

Communication: *Also see information on Class Dojo

Communication is an ongoing process that involves all the key stakeholders; students, parents/guardians, staff, and administration. We use a variety of communication tools to share and celebrate the learning and important information from our school community. Please read our weekly school newsletter: The Good News/Smore (sent Sundays) and stay connected through phone calls, emails, our website, Twitter, etc. Please stay informed and communicate any information, celebrations, and/or questions with our staff.

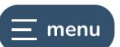
- Weekly Smore: The Good News
- Website: stj.eics.ab.ca
- Twitter: @St_JohnXXIII



ST. JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Quick Links



School Information

St. John XXIII Mission Statement:

St. John XXIII Catholic School is committed to ensuring that every student experiences success while journeying together in Christ's footsteps.

School Council:

Every parent at St. John XXIII School is automatically a member of our School Council. This council advises the school administration, supports school procedures, plans activities, supports our divisional priorities, shares information, and fund-raises to help support the various school programs and initiatives. There is an executive made up of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Meetings are advertised in the weekly Newsletter and are open to all parents. Minutes are shared via our school website. Please consider being a part of our School Council executive team and/or attend meetings to stay connected and informed.

Attendance and Punctuality:

Law requires students, unless exempted by the Minister of Education, to attend school regularly until the full age of sixteen. Regular attendance and punctuality is often directly related to success at school.

Parents are expected to inform the school through PowerSchool, whenever a student is going to be absent.

When a student is absent, and the parent has not contacted us, the automated attendance program will send an email. This is done to ensure that children who leave home, arrive safely at school.

School Visitor Policy

Parents and visitors are required to report to the office upon entering the school where they can sign. This is to assist with the safety and security for all of our students and visitors.

School Information

Parking Lot Procedures:

Safety is a priority at St. John XXIII School and the Parking Lot Procedures must be followed to ensure the safe drop-off and pick-up of students. Your cooperation in this is absolutely necessary in order to achieve an accident free school year.

Student safety will always trump convenience.

Parents are encouraged to park:

- across the street in the Sportsplex parking lot BUT please DO NOT park in Win Ferguson's Staff Parking & Bus Lanes
- down the street
- behind the school in adjacent neighbourhoods and select a meeting spot with your child where you can meet and walk safely to your vehicles.

There are 15 Visitor parking stalls available in our staff parking lot located on the far side of the parking lot, as indicated with signage. It is encouraged to leave these visitor stalls for: volunteers, visiting guests, and parents with babies and toddlers.

Please do not drive in and drop off your child if a stall is not available. Please do not cross the parking lot with your child or allow your child to cross the parking lot.

Little ones are hard to see and need to use the sidewalks and crosswalks to be kept



STJXXIII Playground Rules:

Children need opportunities to explore, move, and resolve conflict during less structured recess times to build fine and gross motor skills, develop resiliency and confidence, and become responsible and independent students. The following are our STJXXIII “rules”:

Play safe for your body

Be responsible

Be respectful

School Information

Accidents/Illness:

If a student is ill or injured at school, every effort will be made to contact parents to come and pick up an injured or sick child. If no parent can be contacted, and circumstances are urgent, it will be at the discretion of administration or designated supervisor to call emergency services and have students taken to the hospital immediately, and the parents will be contacted. It is imperative that the school has an emergency phone number where a responsible adult may be reached if neither parent can be contacted. Please notify the school of any change with respect to home, cell, or emergency contact numbers.

Administering Medication:

If a student must receive medication during the school day or during an extracurricular/field trip activity, please complete one of the “Medical Status Update/Request for Medical Treatment” form. These forms are available in PowerSchool. Please refer to our website then contact the office if you have any questions regarding student medications.



Your 5 Year Old

Children develop at their own pace, but they do learn things in a similar order. Here is what to expect in speech and language development by Kindergarten.

MOST 5 YEAR OLDS...

SOME 5 YEAR OLDS STILL HAVE TROUBLE...

01 Using some sounds:
sh, ch, j, s, z, v, r, and th.
The s and z sounds may be lisps.

02 Asking questions that start with "when"

03 Understanding the words "above" and "below"

VISIT US AT

Central Learning Services
310 Broadview Rd
Sherwood Park, Alberta
T8H 1A4
<https://www.eics.ab.ca/>

Contact:

Reception: 780-467-8896
Toll Free: 1-800-996-9982

• TALKING

- Say most sounds correctly and are easy to understand
- Speak in 5-6 word sentences
- Ask who/what/where/why questions
- Use present, future, and past tenses
- Retell a story (name characters, tell what happened)

• LISTENING/UNDERSTANDING

- Follow 3 directions at a time
- Understand colours, location words, and numbers
- Put things into categories
- Understand most adult conversation
- Understand and answer most questions
- Listen to and make up their own rhymes

• SOCIAL SKILLS

- Make eye contact with children and adults
- Take turns and wait for their turn
- Say hello and goodbye appropriately



KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Going off to kindergarten is a big step for parents and their little ones! Here are a few things to help your child practice before heading off to school in the fall:

• SELF-CARE SKILLS

- Use the bathroom independently
- Blow nose
- Wash hands
- Get dressed independently and do some basic fasteners - put on shoes, jackets (maybe not the zipper yet!) and do large buttons or snaps

• GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

- Throw a ball with one hand
- Catch a ball
- Jump with two feet
- Stand on one leg
- Kick a ball

• FINE MOTOR SKILLS

- Colour with crayons or markers with some control
- Make some basic shapes - lines, circles, crosses, happy faces
- Use scissors to snip, cut across a piece of paper, cut along a line

• SCHOOL READINESS SKILLS

- Recognize their name in print
- Know the letters of the alphabet (recite the alphabet and identify some)
- Count to 10
- Correctly label colours and some basic shapes



KINDERGARTEN READINESS

If your child is still developing these skills, below are some playful ways to practice them over the summer:

- Playground activities - climbing up/over/through; hanging from the monkey bars
- Running, jumping games - tag, skipping
- Play with balls - start with larger balls or balloons to make it easier
- Make letters in the sand with a stick or use a paintbrush and 'paint' with water on the pavement or garage door
- Use sidewalk chalk to draw lines, shapes, and simple pictures on pavement
- Use spray bottles, squeeze/squirt water toys
- Cut unusual items with scissors (child-sized is best) - grass, leaves, plant greenery or cheese strings, french fries, licorice; cut playdough or pictures out of flyers or magazines
- Make shapes, letters, simple pictures with your finger in salt or sugar on a cookie sheet
- Talk about letters and colors that you read in books or see on signs
- Play with playdough and roll snakes, small balls at the fingertips; hide items in the playdough (or egg-free cookie dough!) and have your child dig them out
- Dress dolls in clothing using fasteners, play dress up together
- Talk through self-care routines and break the task down into smaller steps (eg. washroom routine: pull down underwear, sit on toilet, use toilet, flush ...)



**ELK ISLAND
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**
Seeing Christ in Everyone