

**ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2017 – 2018**

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‘UNITING THE ARTS AND GOSPEL VALUES’

VISION STATEMENT

St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary School Community is dedicated to:
Learn Actively
Grow Spiritually
Live Creatively

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary School is a Christ-centered community actively engaging each child spiritually, academically, physically and creatively within a strong academic fine arts program serving the world in meaningful ways.

BELIEF STATEMENT

We believe that every child is a unique and valued gift from God and shall have the opportunity to experience educational success through emphasis on fine arts in an environment that upholds Catholic principles.

Principal – Kathy Jones-Husch



Associate Principal – Cheryle Hanna

Welcome to St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary School

Our 310+ student Kindergarten to Grade 6 school is nestled in the River Stone subdivision on Lethbridge's growing west side, and is the only dedicated fine arts school in Lethbridge. Through the arts, we live our Catholic faith and bring our students' talents to light as we teach and learn daily through the arts including music, visual art, dance and drama. It is with this approach that we study curricula as required by the Alberta Program of Studies. We know that their exposure to the arts will only *strengthen* their other areas of interest and talent!

In 2017-2018, our largest class size is under 25 students, and there are 2 homeroom teachers for each grade (1-6), setting them up for the best in creative collaboration. We consistently seek ways to appropriately integrate technology, and we now utilize 2 iPad carts, 1 laptop cart, 40+ Chromebooks, numerous classroom computers (including the art studio and drama workshop) as well as an increasing number of BYOD learning experiences. Students grow in their digital citizenship skills at every stage, as well, through lessons and practice. Our Learning Commons is where traditional library elements merge with ones of collaboration, research, and creation. This is an entirely new state of mind that contributes to expanded ways of learning and knowing. The possibilities are endless!

All of our students' gifts are worthy of celebration, and students who excel in a wide range of areas have a place at our school. To complement daily instruction, we offer co-curricular club opportunities throughout the year where students are able to pursue their arts interests in choral singing, visual art, drama and dance. Choir and dance clubs often perform at faith celebrations and assemblies. In addition, Division II students can join the Me to We club to learn more about social justice and stewardship. Athletic interests are met in badminton club, as well as grade 5/6 volleyball, grade 5/6 basketball, and possibly badminton this year. Our grade 4-6 students also participate in exploratory LAUNCH classes that change each term, where our teachers share their talents, and attend to the growing changes in future workforce demands for our students.

Our fine arts program is enriched by our students taking their talents to the greater community. St. Patrick choirs have participated in many city events, including Christmas carols at City Hall, singing with the Lethbridge Symphony, and joining district junior high students whenever possible. Each class is entered in the Kiwanis Music and Speech Arts Festival, and have found those experiences to be very rewarding. Our Christmas Concert is a wonderfully traditional 2-evening, and after a very full year of fine arts activities, a year-end variety showcase rounds out the students' performances.

Along with daily religious instruction rooted in Gospel values, our mission as a Catholic school calls for us to reach out to the wider community through classroom social justice projects. We actively support Mission Mexico, the Interfaith Food Bank, Holy Childhood, Development and Peace, as well as other worthy projects. The liturgical year guides our school celebrations, and we gather often as a school to sing and pray together. All students participate in a lively retreat each year, and many will partake in First Holy Eucharist and Confirmation sacraments while attending St. Patrick Fine Arts.

St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary School is a growing, vibrant and energetic school with a proud history and a bright future, providing a fulfilling and rich arts experience for every student. Our parents agree: "...it is a Christ-centered school that encourages our children to grow spiritually and to learn in a creative and active environment. We love the teachers and staff who share their talents and wonderful skills and experiences with our children." We look forward to 'Uniting the Arts and Gospel Values' with you!

God bless,
Kathy Jones-Husch, Principal

LETHBRIDGE HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOLS CALENDAR 2017-2018

AUGUST '17						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Aug 30 First Day for staff
Aug 31 District Opening Mass and Spiritual Development Day

SEPTEMBER '17						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sep 1 School PD Day
Sep 4 Labour Day
Sep 5 First Day for students (1-6)
Sep. 11 Staggered start for Kindergarten
Sep 22 School PD Day

OCTOBER '17						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Oct 9 Thanksgiving Day
Oct 10 School PD Day

NOVEMBER '17						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Nov 9 School PD Day
Nov 10 No School
Nov 11 Remembrance Day

DECEMBER '17						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/ 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Dec 1 School PD Day
Dec 23-31 Christmas Break
Dec 25&26 Christmas & Boxing Day

JANUARY '18						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Jan 1 New Year's Day
Jan 1-7 Christmas Break continues

FEBRUARY '18						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Feb 2 School PD Day
Feb 19 Family Day
Feb 20&21 No School Students and Teachers
Feb 22&23 SWATCA (conference for teachers)

MARCH '18						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Mar 12 Division PD Day
Mar 30 Good Friday

APRIL '18						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Apr 1 Easter Sunday
Apr 1-8 Easter Break
Apr 23 School PD Day

MAY '18						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

May 21 Victoria Day
May 22 School PD Day

JUNE '18						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Jun 11 School PD Day
Jun 28 Last Day students
Jun 29 Last Day staff

JULY '18						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

BELL TIMES

Mon-Thurs	
8:39	Warning Bell
8:39-8:42	Registration
10:24-10:37	Recess
11:45-12:30	Lunch
12:30	Warning Bell
12:30-12:33	Registration
2:15-2:28	Recess
3:35	Dismissal

Friday	
8:39	Warning Bell
8:40-8:42	Registration
10:52-11:33	Lunch
11:33	Warning Bell
11:33-11:36	Registration
1:15	Dismissal

SCHOOL COLORS

Kelly Green and White

TEAM NAME

Crusaders, to honour St. Patrick's lifelong commitment to share Catholicism with everyone he met

SCHOOL TELEPHONE: (403-327-4386) Parents are always welcome to contact the school by phone in regard to any matter. If students need to call parents, they can use a phone in the office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Within our mandate as a Catholic school, students receive religious instruction in direct class time and also permeated throughout other subjects. As a school, we attend Mass at St. Martha's Parish 3-4 times each year. We embrace children of all faiths; however, we expect that all students will attend Mass and participate in all celebrations, retreats, and religious education classes throughout the school year. To discuss any concerns around our Faith Plan or religious instruction, please contact the Principal.

This year we continue our 3-year faith plan, called G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) and Year 2 is all about strengthening our 'stems and trunks' through a rich prayer life. We are excited to continue on this journey within our school community, and share resources home via newsletters and School Council.

UNIVERSAL SUPPORTS FOR LEARNING at SPFAE

All students are gifts from God. All students learn differently and develop at different rates. While there are 'typical' milestones, the staff at St. Patrick Fine Arts recognizes that a keen awareness for making learning different and accessible is key for all students to succeed in their elementary school.

You will see this practice in room configurations, in student groupings, in allowing for a variety of response styles, and in how both low and high forms of technology are used to see kids grow in their student skill confidence. We also know that students need frequent breaks and to stay hydrated; these truths shape teachers' individual lessons, their instructional timing, and their routines.

One area of ongoing attention is a desire to strengthen students' self-regulation skills, sometimes called Executive Function skills. These are rooted in the brain's ability to move away from fight/flight mode to more complex levels of decision making, prioritization, sorting through information, and being emotionally ready for learning. Again, young people do not develop these skills at the same rate; thought must go into best plans for each gender, as well. Our brains are complicated, but worthy of personalized attention.

We believe it is not enough to regulate learning environments for students; we want to see students recognize their own strengths and weaknesses, and take action accordingly, strengthening those weaker skills along the way. We encourage thoughtful problem solving, and adopting mindful strategies to develop greater awareness of both positive stress and negative stress.

A couple of years ago, one grade 3 and one grade 4 class learned specific strategies to become more mindful, with great success. In 2017-2018, our staff is committed to continuing this learning, and can assure students and parents that it is a standard part of mapping out plans for success.

For more information about what this looks like at St. Patrick Fine Arts, please talk with your child's teacher or the principal. The more we all know about supporting the social, emotional, spiritual, academic and physical growth of young people, the stronger our community will be together.

FAMILY-SCHOOL LIAISON COUNSELLOR

Students experiencing emotional, social or academic challenges receive day-to-day support from the classroom teachers. Our Family-School Liaison Counsellor is available to provide more specialized support for children and families, and can also connect families with a network of support agencies. A referral/consent form is available in the office.

PATHS TO PARENT/FAMILY INFORMATION

Monthly calendars and newsletters are posted on our website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca/st.pat. In order to have each month's newsletter emailed to you, please subscribe on our home page. Also, check the website on a regular basis as new information will continually be posted there on our interactive calendar on the bottom right-hand corner of your screen. The website is our main source of up-to-date information for parents. Additional notes may be sent out from time to time in your child's agenda. Early in the year, you will get clear instructions from your child's teacher(s) about how they will communicate with you to support your child's learning (i.e. 'Remind', agenda notes, etc.).

In addition, we have an active parent community through classroom representatives. If you have a keen sense of building community and a few minutes to spare regularly, please consider being your child's class rep to pass along important e-mails or to start a phone-out when necessary.

We encourage parents to contact the school by phone to volunteer, to discuss problems, to ask questions or to offer suggestions in regard to any school matter. The normal communication route is to first contact the classroom teacher who may then refer you to administration. Classroom teachers will return your call as soon as possible. Matters of a more general or emergent nature should be directed to the principal at 403-327-4386. E-mail is also an effective way of communicating (use lastnamefirstinitial@holyspirit.ab.ca) or visit our 'Contact Us' page on the website.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Parent volunteers are a valuable resource and we encourage regular input and participation in our classrooms. Assisting teachers as a volunteer benefits your own and other children and strengthens the ties between home and school.

Volunteer duties may include:

- contributing special talents or knowledge
- helping in the library
- hot lunch volunteers
- field trip supervisors
- being active in School Council
- Christmas Concert volunteers

*Please consider getting involved.
Talk to your child's teachers or
the office for more info.*

REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

In addition to 'Meet the Teacher Night' in September, parent/student/teacher collaboration meetings will take place in the Fall and a 'Showcase of Learning' open house will happen in March. Other meetings may be requested by parents or teachers and held at a mutually agreed-upon time. All get-togethers provide parents with an opportunity to examine a child's program in more detail, to discuss his/her present achievement or to set goals, and to discuss any activities, incidents or problems that relate to positive growth and development. The 'Showcase of Learning' is new this year, and will allow students to show their parents what they are learning through hands-on sharing. Progress reports are printed and sent home three times per year as part of *comprehensive* feedback from your child's teachers, and teachers may utilize other means to regularly advise you of progress.

ATTENDANCE

Students arriving late **must** report directly to the school office. If your child will be absent from school, please call the school office before 9:00 AM. We have voice mail to take your calls outside of office hours. The parent of any absent child will be phoned to stay connected and to ensure the safety of the child. Frequent lateness and unexcused absences will be dealt with as disciplinary matters after trying to work with families to improve attendance. Being on time sets the child up for a successful day without the stress of rushing in. If a child is late in arriving at school more than five times during the month, we will reach out to parents to try to come up with support solutions.

WITHDRAWAL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

A student may not leave the school prior to regular dismissal time without receiving permission, including at lunch. Students wishing to leave the school for medical or dental appointments or other parental requests must present a note to the office or have the parents call to request the dismissal. When leaving the building, the parent must either call the school or sign the student out at the office. Your child's safety is our primary concern.

PICKING STUDENTS UP AT DAY'S END

While we do welcome family involvement at school, we ask that parents wait for their kids at agreed-upon spots on the playground/field or where you plan to park your vehicle. This request is to keep our halls free of additional congestion and to also keep the hallways clean (we would not expect parents to remove soiled footwear). Of course, in inclement weather, you should come in. Also, if you wish to meet with a teacher, you are welcome to come in after the majority of students have left for the day. Calling ahead is appreciated so that teachers can give you their full attention.

Also, if you drive your child to/from school, **do not** leave your car in the loop, as it is first and foremost a fire lane; consider agreeing on a further-out spot for drop-off/pick-up to develop greater independence, to strengthen knowledge of safe pedestrian practices, and to reduce vehicle congestion during peak times. Also, mind all driving laws – safety first!

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE – NEW THIS YEAR! Visit www.holyspirit.schoolcashionline.com to create your own account where all fees for school can be paid. As of July 1, 2017, our schools are no longer able to accept debit, VISA or MC in the office. School Cash Online is a secure site, and should you forget to log in on your computer or phone, a computer is available for purchases in the office. Thank you!

SCHOOL FEES 2017-2018 will see more changes in school fees. The provincial government has directed districts to cease charging a 'basic education fee' and to reduce other fees where possible. An

itemized list of school fees will be provided to you on the first day of school. You are asked to have school fees paid by the end of September using School Cash Online (see above).

SCHOOL BUSES With the exception of those living in Paradise Canyon, the Canyons, and parts of Sunridge, students riding the bus to St. Patrick FAE are required to pay a user transportation fee. This fee varies according to the distance travelled, the number of children per family and whether St. Patrick FAE is your 'school of choice'. Fees vary from \$20.00 to \$35.00 per child per month (subject to change). Parents are asked to remind their children of proper and courteous behaviour while en route to the school and home. In the event of improper behaviour by a student riding a bus, parents will be notified. If the behaviour does not improve, **bus privileges may be removed** for a period of time. Please visit the complete details at <http://holyspiritstudenttransportation.weebly.com/> for transportation support.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS AT SCHOOL

As part of our philosophy at St. Patrick FAE, we attempt to help students develop skills that will assist them to function effectively in society. In order to be good citizens, students must learn to be responsible for their behavior; therefore, we instruct them of our expectations and through frequent reminders, we hope to develop in each individual the Christian values, and the social and personal characteristics that are necessary in a healthy life.

Students experiencing discipline problems at school are initially attended to by the classroom teacher (or others staff). Continued difficulties normally would necessitate conversations with the Principal, as well. Consequences for inappropriate behavior may include: recess detention, writing a letter of apology or, in the case of extreme behavior (ie. aggression or fighting), an in-school or out-of-school suspension. Parents will be notified when deemed appropriate. Ultimately, we want to see students accept responsibility for their actions, seek forgiveness when necessary, and grow in personal strategies to restore damaged relationships afterwards using Catholic values as their guide.

DRESS GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL

Students are expected to dress appropriately for school. Parents are asked to monitor their child's choices. Clothing that is revealing and/or inappropriate for a child's age and physical development is not acceptable, nor are t-shirts with inappropriate slogans or graphics. Shorts are acceptable during warm weather but should be of a decent length. All children are required to wear some form of proper footwear on their feet during the school day. For every day, we ask that the child **keep shoes at school** for classroom/gym wear. All clothing that a child may remove during the school day (e.g. jackets, sweaters, runners, boots, hats, scarves, gloves, etc.) **should be marked with the child's name** to reduce the number of lost or misplaced items of clothing. Lost items are kept in a bin near the front door, and put out for students/parents to see several times in the year. Unclaimed items are donated to local charities.

CELLULAR PHONES

Students who come to school with a cell phone are required to store the phone in their backpack/locker each day. The understanding is that a cell phone at school is for a specific purpose. For example, a student may be approved to use a cellular phone to track homework assignments, to conduct personal research or to create something online, or as a way to contact parents after school. Please talk to your child's teacher(s) for more information and continue to talk with your child about online safety, including intellectual property and social media.

TOYS AND TECHNOLOGY

Students are asked to keep all toys (including stuffed animals or spinners), technology, or hand-held electronic devices at home. These items are important to the child and can be costly; the chance of

accidental damage is certainly greater if the toy/technology is at school. Children at school are always encouraged to play actively on the playground or field as our healthy school climate fully supports physical activity at break time whenever possible. If you believe your child will benefit from personal use of a fidget item or something to increase his/her comfort, please talk first with the teacher.

FIRE DRILLS AND LOCKDOWN DRILLS

Both fire and lockdown drills are conducted frequently throughout the school year to familiarize students with routines and to minimize any problems or dangerous situations that may arise during an emergency situation. Whenever possible, lead time is provided, along with supportive coaching. Often, our Lethbridge Regional Police Officer or Fire Department representatives are present.

MEDICAL ALERTS

Parents are requested to notify the school of any medical concerns that may affect your child's performance or personal safety. If your child has a severe medical condition requiring us to store and perhaps administer medications, please see the office early in September for forms that will need to be filled out. **For those students who have Epipen prescriptions, we would like to have an extra Epipen kept at school in case of emergencies.**

ACCIDENTS, ILLNESS, OR INJURIES AT SCHOOL

Students occasionally need medical attention because of an accident. In addition to providing first aid, the practice at the school is to call the parent to come to the school to take their child for medical treatment. On occasion, the injury is such that the student may be taken directly to Emergency by a staff member. The parent is then contacted to meet the student and staff member at Emergency. If parents are unable to be contacted, the student is taken directly to Emergency for treatment, and necessary follow-up is made when contact can be made. An ambulance will be called if required.

CANTEEN

The purpose of the canteen is to provide a selection of healthy snack items for students. Run by grade 6 students, the canteen sells items to supplement student lunches; it is not meant to replace a healthy lunch sent from home. Should your child forget a lunch, a voucher is provided by the office and repayment for purchased items is expected the following day.

LIBRARY PROGRAM

The school library has a large supply of appropriate books, access to e-books and learning resources that are continually updated. Our library catalog is now available online through our school website (book icon at top), where students can reserve books or read/write reviews. Overdue books are noted and students may not take out additional materials until the overdues are returned. Students who lose or willfully damage books or materials they have borrowed will be charged according to the replacement cost and age of the book. Our library hosts a Scholastic Book Fair twice a year where families can add to their collections. Many teachers choose to run Scholastic programs in their classrooms, as well.



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Grow Spiritually

Live Creatively