



Riverside School Kindergarten Science Program Information



Alternative
Programs



learning | **as unique** | as every student



Calgary Board
of Education

Alternative Programs



The Calgary Board of Education offers 8 distinct alternative programs in multiple sites:

- Indigenous Education
- Arts-Centred
- All Boys
- All Girls
- Languages (French, German, Mandarin, Spanish)
- Montessori
- **Science**
- Traditional Learning Centre (TLC)



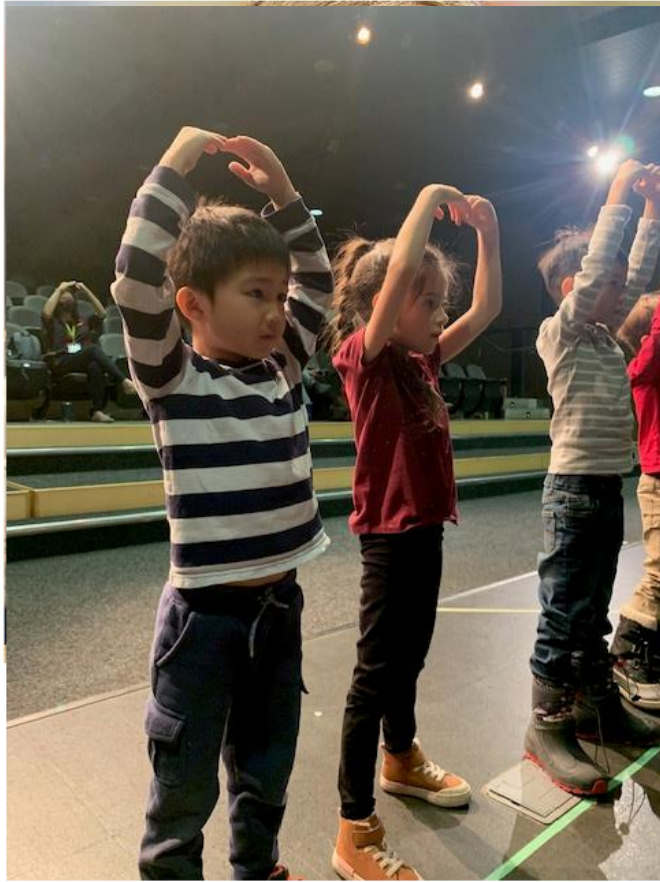
Alternative Programs



Why Alternative Programs?

- Providing families choices to meet the unique learning needs of each student
- Programs focus on a particular language, culture, subject (Arts, Science), or teaching philosophy
- Informed choice is essential – what is THIS particular program about and how does it meet MY child's needs?

Alternative Programs



Key Messages

- Each program has unique features
- Integrity of the program remains the same across sites
- All sites follow Alberta Programs of Study with ATA certificated teachers
- All schools requiring a lottery follow the CBE lottery process
- Aligned with system timeframe for registration

Alternative Programs



Lottery Process

- Where a program is oversubscribed (as Riverside has been) the lottery process will be employed
- Registrations are categorized using 3 priorities:
 - Priority 1 - siblings enrolled, live in walk zone
 - Priority 2 – live in walk zone, no siblings enrolled OR outside walk zone with sibling
 - Priority 3 – designated attendance area
- Notification of acceptance via letter or email by 10 business days after the lottery ([March 1, 2024](#))

Alternative Programs



New Registration Processes

- Siblings registering for Kindergarten must apply through our lottery process in *SchoolEngage* starting January 15, 2024.
 - For students new to the CBE the expression of interest form will be embedded in the registration from through *SchoolEngage*. Should a parent indicate they are interested in an alternative program, they will be prompted to fill in more information within the registration form.
 - We will not be accepting any expression of interest forms through email.
- **NEW** for 2024-25 – lottery applications for all potential incoming students is completed through *SchoolEngage*.
- Due date: Noon February 13, 2024.



Alternative Programs



Timeline for Registration

- Opens [January 15, 2024](#)
- [Register through School Engage](#)
- Closed noon on Tuesday before Teachers' Convention ([February 13, 2024](#))
- Lottery drawn on Wednesday before Teachers' Convention ([February 14, 2024](#))
- Results of the lottery draw sent within 10 business days of the draw ([March 1, 2024](#))
- Parents must accept/decline within 10 days from the date of the acceptance letter

Science Program



Elements of the Science Program

- focus on STEM education
- extensive field studies to enhance classroom inquiry (approximately 10 – 20 per year)
- environmental stewardship and environmental ethics focus
- integrated curricular model



Science Program



Differences and similarities with community school programs:

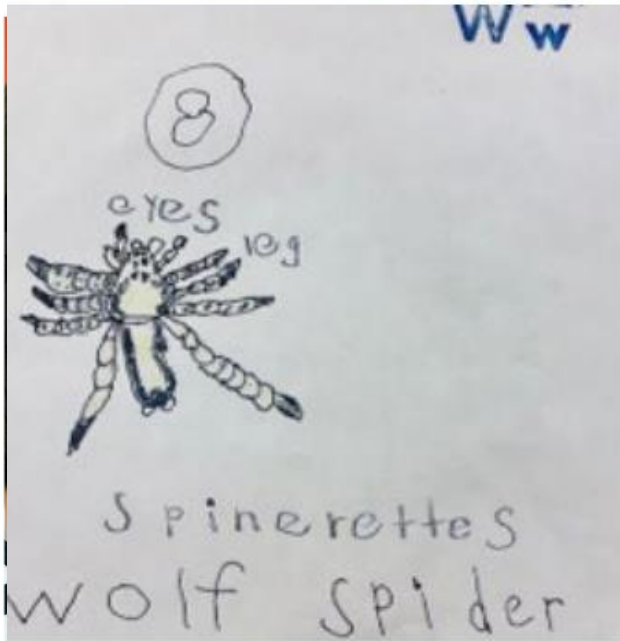
Differences:

- Students learn through the “lens of science”
- Focus on inquiry-based learning
- Mandatory field studies
- Integrated CTF program (rather than traditional ‘option’ courses)
- Focus on journaling

Similarities:

- Student engage in the full *Alberta Programs of Study* in all subject areas
- Daily Physical Education
- Character
- Citizenship
- Personal Development

Science Program



The Science Program classroom:

- is inquiry based
- is grounded in student-directed exploration and investigation
- hosts frequent expert visits
- promotes responsible citizenry and stewardship of the environment
- provides exposure to and awareness of science-oriented careers

Science Program



A Science Program student...

- shows an interest in science, the natural world, and how the world works
- thrives on independent exploration
- loves to be outside
- enjoys collaborating with others
- ability to take initiative
- Prefers direct contact with phenomena
- willing to engage in problem-solving, inquiry, and service through a scientific lens

Science Program



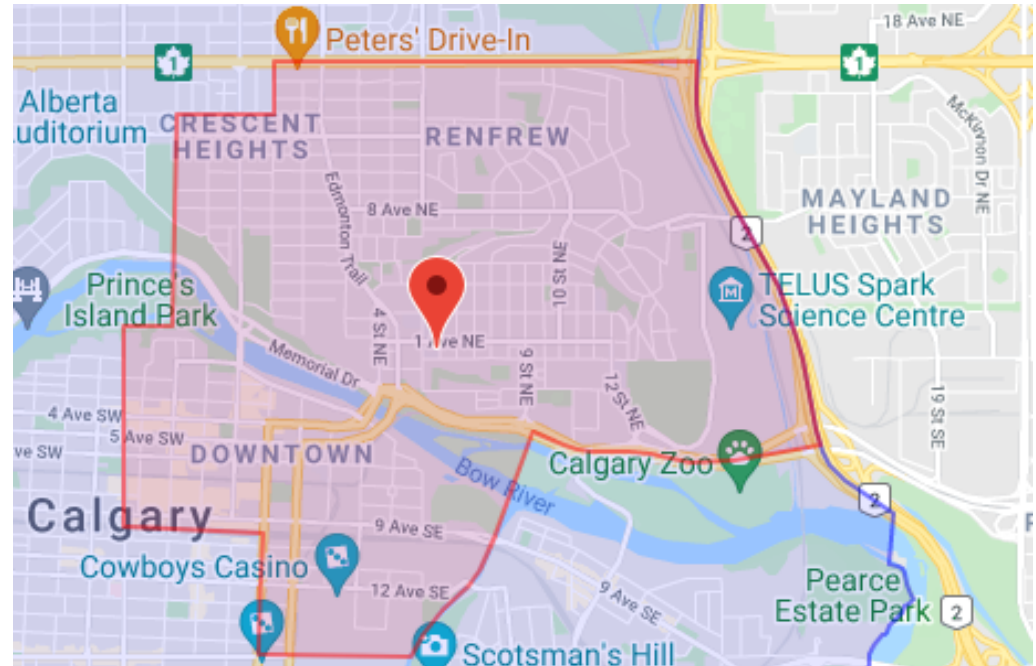
Transportation considerations:

- K-5 yellow bus transportation provided following CBE congregated stop guidelines for alternative programs
- parents pay an annual fee for CBE yellow bus service or purchase monthly Calgary Transit passes
- congregated stops are reviewed annually and informed by pre-registration for transportation, online through [MyCBE/PowerSchool](#)
- congregated stops may not be within walking distance, alternate arrangements may be required to access the congregated stop

Science Program



Tiers and Proof of Address



Proof of Address

The proof of address must have the parent / legal guardian / independent student name and current address. Examples of accepted proof of address documents are:

- bank statement
- GST rebate
- home or renter insurance
- income tax statement
- mortgage statement
- property tax assessment
- utility bill

Science Program



Other considerations:

- extra field study fee per student for whole class day trips (~\$200/year)
- parent commitment to volunteer for field studies (3 times per year per child)
- transportation fee (one way for K)
- student supply fee/ cost of journals
- Full day trips are planned for both classes of students
- When the AM class is oversubscribed, we also do a lottery for these spots.
- Hours:
 - Monday to Thursday
 - 8:10 am - 11:05 AM class
 - 11:55 am - 2:50 PM class
 - Friday - Students attend alternating Fridays.
 - 8:10-11:10 AM

Science Program



Riverside School Considerations:

- Parents new to the program are asked to get the Volunteer Clearance process started by May 2024 (see Main Office)
- Kindergarten intake of 1 morning and 1 afternoon class (approximately 50 students);
- Grade 1-6 often have 1-2 spots open so no guarantee of enrolment for siblings also new to the program
- Grade 7 intake of 1 entire class (approximately 30 students)
- uniform required for 2024-2025 school year (additional fee)

Science Program



Building resilient thinkers:

- Students capture their learning through discussions, asking probing questions and recording in their inquiry journals.
- Students are expected to work collaboratively.
- Investigating means experimenting, research, observing, collecting, guided inquiry and specific skill development.
- Students learn to record their learning through field studies, repeated experiences and through access to experts.
- Failure is part of the learning process. Students are expected to "go back, check, clarify and extend their thinking."

Science Program



Programming & School Supports:

- Kindergarten students may have music with a specialist depending on the funding available.
- Student Support Specialist works with teachers to develop IPP's and works with families to access community supports for mental health and wellness.
- Speech Language Pathologist/ Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist is not resourced through the school budget

Science Program



Programming & School Supports:

- Educational Assistants provide support for students who need cognitive and medical supports. The number of education assistants is variable year to year.
- The administrative team is highly involved to support welcoming, caring and respectful learning environments by being in classes daily. We believe in working closely with students and families to support the social, emotional and academic growth of each child.



Science Program



School Tours and Wait List:

- With over 300 applicants each year we are not able to accommodate individual tours or appointments.
- Families who participated in the lottery but were not chosen are put on a wait list. Families who did not participate are not eligible for entry and can reapply through the lottery process each year held in January.

