



ELK ISLAND  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

*Seeing Christ in Everyone*



# Kindergarten & Early Learning

# Kindergarten: It's Only Just Begun

Independence, initiative, creativity, decision-making, the ability to learn - all have their beginnings in early childhood. *Kindergarten is **the first step** in a child's educational journey!*

Elk Island Catholic Schools believes that each child is unique, and, together with parents as our partner, we build upon children's natural curiosity and spontaneity, encouraging and supporting them as they take their first steps into our faith-based schools. Early education programs are a proven way to prepare children aged 2<sup>1/2</sup> to 6 for the transition from home to Grade 1. We are publicly-funded which means minimal yearly and low-cost transportation fees for our students.

We live our faith throughout the entire school day and we teach our faith in all subjects. Through this unique educational arrangement, students are encouraged to discern and develop their God-given talents and reach academic success. You may be surprised how your family's beliefs are honoured and respected by our family.

Our guide will take you through the steps of getting your child ready for kindergarten within **Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS)**. You will discover the wide range of opportunities offered by our schools and why our faith-focused programming is a great place to begin your child's journey into education.

## Catholic Education = *Quality Education*

Parents send their children to Elk Island Catholic Schools to strengthen overall faith and to learn Gospel values and the quality of service to others necessary for a full and productive life. Quality Catholic education programming for Kindergarten to Grade 12 ensures all students' gifts and talents are celebrated and nurtured through lifelong spiritual and personal experiences. In our faith-based learning environment, students strive toward excellence in state-of-the-art educational facilities. Opportunities abound in academics, athletics, fine arts, and cultural and leadership programs.

Many Parts... One Body in Christ. ***We are EICS.***



# First Steps

## Age Requirement

Children must be **five years of age on or before December 31** in the year they wish to register for Kindergarten (birth certificate required at registration).

## What School Will My Child Attend?

The following link to the boundaries maps for Elk Island Catholic School division will be helpful in determining which is your local or designated school:

<http://www.eics.ab.ca> (*Parents & Students > Boundary Maps*).

## Registration

EICS now offers a convenient Online Registration option! This new tool requires far less paper, reduces transcription errors, and saves you time processing the registration for your student to attend school in EICS. To register visit <https://eics.ab.ca> (*Parents & Students > School Registration*).

As well, if you would like to ask any questions about registration, please contact us at (780) 449-6440.



## Transportation

Transportation is provided to Kindergarten students who attend their designated school and live more than 2.4 km away from this school. Please visit our Transportation website located at <http://www.eics.ab.ca/transportation> for detailed information about transportation services.

## Questions?

Check out our website at [www.eics.ab.ca](http://www.eics.ab.ca) (*Programs > Early Childhood Programming*).



## Brighter Beginnings

Brighter Beginnings is staffed by a team of dedicated, caring professionals who are passionate about celebrating and nurturing the skills of all children. This early intervention program is tailored to meet the individual needs of children between 2<sup>1/2</sup> to 5<sup>1/2</sup> years of age who may have a severe/moderate delay in one or more developmental areas; communication (speech and Language concerns), fine and gross motor skills or a medical condition. Brighter Beginnings is offered at Madonna Catholic School - 15 Main Boulevard, Sherwood Park.

Programming includes: Early Literacy, Natural Teaching Strategies, Assistive Technology, Whole Language, Faith Development and Family Oriented Programs. Program Unit Funding is available through Alberta Education and is available for up to three years. Children attend their community school for Kindergarten, which is consistent with EICS' *Inclusive Education Practices*.

For more information, please contact our Early Learning Consultants via email at: [prekpufinfo@eics.ab.ca](mailto:prekpufinfo@eics.ab.ca)

# A Variety of Programs and Choices

Elk Island Catholic Schools is pleased to offer the following choices in Kindergarten programming:

- Half and Full Day Kindergarten
- Progressive Kindergarten at École Pere Kenneth Kearns and St. Patrick Catholic Schools
- Ukrainian Bilingual Program at Jean Vanier Catholic School
- French Immersion at École Pere Kenneth Kearns Catholic School
- Brighter Beginnings: Pre-Kindergarten Programs
- Nature Kindergarten at Holy Redeemer Catholic School and St. Martin Catholic School
- Junior Entry program at St. Patrick Catholic School



**Kindergarten** and **Pre-Kindergarten** programming is provided in the following schools and communities:

COMMUNITY	SCHOOL	WEBSITE	CONTACT
<b>Camrose</b>	St. Patrick Catholic School 4816 - 53 Avenue	stp.eics.ab.ca	(780) 672-2177
<b>Fort Saskatchewan</b>	St. John XXIII Catholic School 9525 - 89 Street	stj.eics.ab.ca	(780) 998-7777
	Our Lady of the Angels 9622 Sherridon Drive	ola.eics.ab.ca	(780) 998-3716
<b>Sherwood Park</b>	École Pere Kenneth Kearns 8 Sandpiper Drive	epk.eics.ab.ca	(780) 467-2121
	Holy Redeemer Catholic School 53117 RR 222 (Ardrossan)	hr.eics.ab.ca	(780) 922-5422
	Holy Spirit Catholic School 151 Crimson Drive	hs.eics.ab.ca	(780) 416-9526
	Jean Vanier Catholic School 109 Georgian Way	jv.eics.ab.ca	(780) 467-3633
	Madonna Catholic School 15 Main Boulevard	mcs.eics.ab.ca	(780) 467-7972
	St. Luke Catholic School 22139 South Cooking Lake	stl.eics.ab.ca	(780) 922-5920
<b>Vegreville</b>	St. Martin Catholic School 4314 - 54A Avenue	stmn.eics.ab.ca	(780) 632-2266

