



Alternative
Programs



Ian Bazalgette and
Valley View Schools

Science Program

Thurs., Jan. 19, 2023

learning | as unique | as every student



Calgary Board
of Education

Alternative Programs



We have 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 the lottery process will be employed
- Registrations are categorized using 3 priorities:
 - Priority 1 - siblings in walk zone
 - Priority 2 - walk zone, no siblings 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 16, 2023](#))

Alternative Programs



Timeline for Registration

- § Opens [January 16, 2023](#)
- § Closed noon on Tuesday before Teachers' Convention ([February 14, 2023](#))
- § Lottery drawn on Wednesday before Teachers' Convention ([February 15, 2023](#))
- § Results of the lottery draw sent within 10 business days of the draw ([March 2, 2023](#))
- § 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:

- *Alberta Programs of Study*
- 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**
- 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
- transportation for Grades 6-9 may be offered through congregated yellow bus stops or Calgary Transit (no rebates are provided)
- 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



Other considerations:

- extra field study fee per student for whole class day trips
- parent commitment to volunteer for field studies (3 times per year per child)
- transportation fee
- lunchroom supervision fee
- student supply fee

Science Program



Valley View Kindergarten

- Kindergarten is a half day program
- Due to transportation students attend Mon/Wed and alternating Fri or Tues/Thurs and alternating Fri
- Which days depend on your address
- There is a pro-rated fee for lunchroom supervision and transportation



Thank You



Please contact the school if you
have any further questions or
concerns

