

# St. Joseph's Education Centre



“Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families.” (Pope St. John Paul II)



Medicine Hat Catholic  
Board of Education

**St. Joseph's Education Center**

202- 8th Street NE

Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A-5R6

Phone (403) 527-8161 Fax (403) 5278209

24 Hour Attendance Line (403) 526-4349

<https://www.mccoyschool.ca/>

St. Joseph's Education Centre offers the Alberta Education curriculum for students who benefit from learning in a non-traditional individualized setting. This handbook has been created to help students and families have a greater understanding of St. Joseph's Educational Center.

**St. Joseph's Educational Centre Staff**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Mr. Paul Bauche<br>Principal<br><a href="mailto:paul.bauche@mhcbe.ab.ca">paul.bauche@mhcbe.ab.ca</a>                              | Mr. Robert Burzminski<br>Vice-Principal<br><a href="mailto:robert.burzminski@mhcbe.ab.ca">robert.burzminski@mhcbe.ab.ca</a>        |
|   | Mrs. Natasha Taylor<br>Learning Services Facilitator<br><a href="mailto:natasha.taylor@mhcbe.ab.ca">natasha.taylor@mhcbe.ab.ca</a> |
|   | Ms. Haylee Ferneti<br>Support Teacher<br><a href="mailto:haylee.ferneti@mhcbe.ab.ca">haylee.ferneti@mhcbe.ab.ca</a>                |
| Ms. Kathy Marchant<br>Administrative Lead Support<br><a href="mailto:kathy.marachant@mhche.ab.ca">kathy.marachant@mhche.ab.ca</a> | Mrs. Deni Watson<br>School Liaison Counsellor<br><a href="mailto:deni.watson@mhcbe.ab.ca">deni.watson@mhcbe.ab.ca</a>              |

## **Welcome**

We are extremely excited to be offering a faith filled, flexible and student centered learning opportunity for high school students at St. Joseph's Education Centre. We recognize that some learners, as they journey through high school, need choices and flexible programming to meet their needs.

## **Our Vision**

St. Joseph Education Center is committed to providing an educational environment focused on faith, relationships and flexibility

## **Our Mission**

The goal of the Education Center is to deliver diverse learning opportunities to meet the needs of our students. We believe learning is:

- Faith filled
- Relationship based
- Individualized
- Student-centred
- Facilitated by teachers
- Developing a readiness for life beyond high school

At St. Joseph's we value the importance of giving students the time and attention they need each week to successfully meet their learning goals. We believe the learning journey may look different for each student. To help meet the needs of the students at St. Joseph's we employ a blended learning approach.

- Students have access to course lessons and materials online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through partnerships.
- Students also have access to individual instruction and teacher support during regular school hours.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What type of high school learner is an ideal student to attend St. Joseph Education Center?**

Saint Joseph's students are learners who find challenges with the typical timetable for a variety of reasons. St. Joseph's Education Center responds to students' particular circumstances and is flexible to adapt to students' diverse learning needs.

### **As a high school student am I required to attend classes daily?**

Consistent attendance is recommended in order for students to experience academic success. Teachers will require students to remain in contact with them throughout the year. Support plans are developed on an ongoing basis depending on the needs of the student.

### **Help me understand about St. Joseph's Education Center?**

- With teacher assistance, students build their own program from Alberta Education-approved courses and set their goals in order to complete the requirements for a high school diploma.
- Students do independent work, some self-directed and some teacher-directed, in a comfortable, friendly environment.
- Courses, activities and learning packages are set up so students can successfully complete one module per week. For the 30-level courses, students can complete one module every two weeks.
- The program can accommodate students who require flexible hours and individualized programs.
- High school credits are awarded upon course completion.

### **What high school courses are offered?**

St. Joseph's Education Center students may take two core courses at a time. They may also be enrolled in one complimentary course.

- Math 10-3, 20-3, 30-3, 10C, 20-1, 20-2, 30-1, 30-2, 30-3 & 31
- Science 10, 14, 24, Biology 20 & 30, Science 20 & 30, Chemistry 20 & 30, Physics 20 & 30
- English 10-1, 20-1, 30-1, 10-2, 20-2, 30-2, 10-4, 20-4, 30-4
- Social 10-1, 20-1, 30-1, 10-2, 20-2, 30-2, 10-4, 20-4, 30-4
- Religion 15, 25, 35
- CALM
- HCS 3010/3000
- Work Experience 15, 25, 35
- Physical Education 10
- Options/Complementary Courses-Contact school directly for an array of courses

### **If I am an at home learner, do I need to attend St. Joseph's Education Centre?**

A method of checking in with school staff on a regular basis will be established for every at home learner.

### **How do I check on my child's progress?**

Contact the St. Joseph's Education Centre facilitator for updates on all courses.

### **Am I required to take Religion classes?**

For each year you are enrolled as a student with us, you will be required to take a religion class if your intentions are to participate in graduation ceremonies.

### **Is there a minimum number of credits that I need to be enrolled in?**

When you enroll with us an intake meeting will take place designed to help you set up your programming for the year. An effort will be made to help you balance your timetable so that you remain on track for graduation.

### **Can I earn my high school diploma at St. Joseph's Education Center?**

If you meet the requirements of Alberta Education, you can earn your high school diploma at St. Joseph's Education Center.

### **Is there someone available to help me choose the courses that I need to take?**

When you enroll with us, an intake meeting will take place. At this meeting, you will discuss the courses that you would like to take with your teacher and administrator.

### **I am an upgrading student, can I take courses through St. Joseph's Education Center?**

Students must be 19 years old, or younger as of September 1 in order to be enrolled.

### **What supports are in place for students?**

We have a variety of supports available for students that include our school staff, on-site mental health, academic counselors, learning services support, social worker and numerous community agencies.

## **School Fee Schedule**

| <b><u>Basic Fee</u></b>   | <b><u>Grade 10</u></b> | <b><u>Grade 11</u></b> | <b><u>Grade 12</u></b> |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| *Graduation Fee   |                        |                        | \$85.00                |
| *Program Fee (per semester)   | \$40.00                | \$40.00                | \$40.00                |
| Student Council   | \$30.00                | \$30.00                | \$30.00                |
| Book Deposit/Completion Bond<br>Refundable upon return of<br>materials in good condition and<br>with the completion of course | Varies                 | Varies                 | Varies                 |

## **St. Joseph's Education Center Code of Student Conduct**

St. Joseph's Education Center is committed to building a safe and faith filled learning culture that allows students to adhere to the vision, mission and values of our school. When supporting students, staff will use an array of teaching strategies, while using a trauma informed and mental health lens, when meeting with students and families. To achieve this, students are called upon to know, respect and comply with the guidelines as set out in the Alberta School Act, Section 12:

A student shall conduct himself or herself so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct:

- (a) Be diligent in pursuing his/her studies;
- (b) Attend school regularly and punctually;
- (c) Cooperate fully with everyone authorized by the Board to provide education programs and other services;
- (d) Comply with the rules of the school;
- (e) Account to the student's teachers for the student's conduct;
- (f) Respect the rights of others.

It is an expectation that St. Joseph students honour the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education Student Code of Conduct and the St. Joseph's St. Joseph's Education Centre.

## **Administrative Procedure 351-Student Conduct**

1. **Statement of Purpose** - Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education is committed to providing welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that respect diversity and a sense of belonging for students that includes the establishment of a code of conduct for students that address bullying behaviour. Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education affirms the rights, as provided for in the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, of the students enrolled in a school operated by the board. Students will not be discriminated against as provided for in the Alberta Human Rights Act or the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. (School Act Sec 45.1). The treatment of all persons with respect and dignity is a core value within the District. Expectations for student conduct arise from School Act requirements and the school district's Catholic values.

In our ministry, we value and celebrate:

- Teaching and living our Catholic faith
- Our Catholic traditions
- Our ability to offer a full range of educational programs for all students
- That every child is a unique creation who possesses an intrinsic dignity which must always be respected
- Parents as primary educators. Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children

2. **Definition of Bullying** - Section 1.1 (b.1) Alberta School Act, defines "bullying" as " repeated and hostile or demeaning behaviour by an individual in the school community where the behaviour is intended to cause harm, fear or distress to one or more other individuals in the school community, including psychological harm or harm to an individual's reputation."

3. **The Student Code of Conduct is:**

- Made publicly available
- Reviewed every year, and
- Provided to all staff, students and parents/legal guardians

4. **The Alberta Human Rights Act** - Our priority is to ensure that all of our students are provided with a respectful and compassionate school environment rooted in Catholic values and teachings.

This includes

- Adhering to the Alberta Human Rights Act
- Respecting School authorities and School and District property, as well as, the property of others

**5. Shared Responsibility** - Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education recognizes that responsibility for student conduct is a shared responsibility between the District, students, their parents/guardians and the broader community. The students in our District are expected to behave in a virtuous manner that is charitable, courteous, respectful of others and supportive of the school philosophy and the goals of Catholic education.

**6. Acceptable and Unacceptable Behavior** - As required in Section 12 and Section 45.1(3) of the School Act the following behaviors are deemed acceptable and unacceptable within the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education.

### **6.1 Acceptable Behaviors**

Students are expected to meet the requirements of the School Act (Section 12) which states a student shall conduct himself or herself so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct:

- Be diligent in pursuing the student's studies
- Attend school regularly and punctually
- Cooperate fully with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services
- Comply with the rules of the school
- Account to the student's teachers for the student's conduct
- Respect the rights of others
- Ensure that the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging
- Refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means
- Positively contribute to the student's school and community

### **6.2 Unacceptable Behaviors**

The following are examples of unacceptable behaviors with regard to student conduct in schools that interfere with the establishment of welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that respect diversity and a sense of belonging for students in school, online or in our community:

- Defiance and disrespect
- Inappropriate use of language
- Behaviors that interfere with the learning of others and/or the school environment or that create unsafe conditions whether or not the behavior occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means.
- Open opposition to authority
- Bullying, including cyber-bullying



- Breaches of digital on-line safety Physical harm/assault; Personal and/or sexual harassment
- Possession or use of weapons
- Drug, tobacco, e-cigarette, alcohol use, possession or distribution
- Inappropriate student dress
- Inappropriate use of mobile devices
- Theft and vandalism; Threats or intimidation
- Extortion; Discrimination

**7. Progressive Discipline Plan** -The school's discipline plan outlines the expectations, consequences and the progression of actions to be taken depending on the severity and/or frequency of the occurrences and will take into account the student's age, maturity and individual circumstances, and must ensure that support is provided for students who are impacted by inappropriate behaviour, as well as for students who engage in inappropriate behaviour. As well, parental and district involvement may be requested to support school discipline procedures. At all times, teachers and administrators will use their professional judgment in applying consequences. Each school will keep a record of any disciplinary action taken with a student or group of students.

Consequences are intended to have a positive effect on the student's journey through reconciliation, either formally or informally, with the school community and those affected by the student's behaviour.

The following consequences are progressive in their degree of intervention and will be enacted depending on the frequency and severity of occurrences. They will be applied consistently and fairly to all students, notwithstanding the individual differences of children and the uniqueness of specific circumstances and situations.

Progressive discipline is a whole school approach that utilizes a continuum of interventions, supports, and consequences, including:

Prevention measures and initiatives:

- Early and ongoing intervention strategies
- Strategies to address unacceptable behavior Interventions and consequences increase when:
  - The concerning behavior is persistent
  - The concerning behavior escalates
  - There is a very serious infraction of the code of conduct

Interventions and consequences may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Informal Conferences

- Restriction of Privileges
- Parent Conferences
- In School Suspensions
- Risk Assessment Suspension / Expulsion (AP 357)
- Student Redirection
- Safety and Regulation Support Plan
- Learner Support Plan
- Involvement of Instructional Services and Supports
- Involvement of External Services and Supports

The Principal may involve police in disciplinary matters when criminal activity has become evident. When police are involved, the Principal will conduct a separate, parallel investigation at the school level and provide disciplinary action separate from any criminal charges that may be issued.

**8. Student Support** - Support will be offered to students impacted by inappropriate behaviour and to those students who engage in inappropriate behaviour. This is significant because while the student code of conduct must address the consequences for inappropriate behaviour, it also ensures that support (not just consequences) is provided to those students who engage in unacceptable behaviour. Examples of how support could be provided to students who have engaged in unacceptable behaviour include mentoring, restorative processes, regular check-ins with teachers or schools counsellors, counselling, etc.

**9. Consideration of Student Diversity** - The School Act requires that the student code of conduct address consequences for unacceptable behaviour and that these reasonable consequences take into account the student's age, maturity, and individual circumstances. The specific circumstances of the situation and of the student need to be taken into account when determining appropriate consequences. For example, any diverse needs that the student has – whether they are physical, behavioural, communicational, mental health, trauma, etc. must be considered.

**References:**

School Act, Section 15, 20, 23, 39, 40, 41, 43, 60, 61, 96, 113, 123, 124  
 Alberta Human Rights Act  
 Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act  
 Public Health Act, Social Development Act, Vital Statistics Act Youth Justice Act  
 Section 23 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms  
 Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Regulation 200/95  
 Student Record Regulation 225/2006  
 Student Evaluation Regulation 177/2003  
 Calgary Catholic Student Code of Conduct-Appendix A  
 Children First Act Disclosure of Information Regulation 231/2013

