

ADMISSION OF NON- RESIDENT STUDENTS

Background

The schools operated by the District exist to serve the educational needs of the residents of the District. District schools have a legal mandate to offer the programs prescribed by Alberta Education and the mandate to do so within the context of the Catholic Church's mission to educate the whole person in the name of Jesus Christ. The overall educational program in District schools must be based on the Catholic concept of the human person, and the objectives and purposes of education, as stated by Alberta Education, must be set in this total Christian concept.

The Congregation for Catholic Education, 1988, declared that the distinctiveness of the Catholic school is its religious dimension, and that is to be found in the:

- ♦ Educational climate;
- ♦ Personal development of each student;
- ♦ Relationship established between culture and the Gospel; and
- ♦ Illumination of all knowledge with the light of faith.

The documents of Vatican II state that, as Catholics, we are called to unity with all believers. We are invited by our Church's teachings to respond to the concept of ecumenism and appreciate the giftedness of other religious traditions.

It is recognized that many parents of the pluralistic and believing community, some of whom are not of the Catholic faith, are seeking an education that includes the spiritual and moral, as well as the cognitive, social and physical domains.

Procedures

1. The District welcomes the children of parents who wish them to:
 - 1.1 Participate in the academic, social, physical and religious education program offered in the District's schools;
 - 1.2 Be educated in the context of the Catholic community, which is a sign of the reign of God as revealed in Jesus Christ; and
 - 1.3 Receive all the benefits and assume all the responsibilities of membership associated with membership in the Catholic school community.
2. Generally speaking, a resident student is a baptized Catholic of school age who lives within the boundaries of the District as per Section 44 of the School Act.

3. The Principal shall, on receiving a request for admission from the parent of a non- Catholic (non-resident) student, interview the parents to ensure that they understand that their children will be expected to participate in all prescribed school programs, including the formal Religious Studies program.
4. The Principal shall make the decision to admit the student dependent on student and parent commitment to respect the Catholic faith and activities within the school, sufficient resources, facilities and programs, as defined by the appropriate District administrative procedures regarding facilities, class size and staffing.

If the student is accepted for admission into a District school, a Statement of Understanding form must be completed and signed by parents who wish to enroll their children in a District school (the form is available at www.gpcsd.ca)

5. The initial interview for non-Catholic students is usually at the Kindergarten level. Once students have been accepted, they will advance to subsequent years with an assured place.
6. Parents who have already obtained approval for a first child should be presumed to have approval for younger siblings when they reach school age. They must, however, complete and sign the Statement of Understanding, even though an interview is not required.

Reference: Section 44, 49, 60, School Act